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



## **MEDIA MONITORING**

**9 June 2015**

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**DRC**

### **Congo slams US for political 'interference' in elections**

Source: Associated Press

**Kinshasa, 8 June 2015** - The Congolese government has slammed statements by a visiting U.S. official about the ongoing election dialogue as "unacceptable" and "intolerable" interference in the country's internal affairs.

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Human Rights, Tom Malinowski, said during a visit last week that the president's electoral dialogue should not be used as an excuse to delay elections.

Government spokesman Lambert Mende said Monday that Malinowski was repeating the negative messages of the opposition.

President Laurent Kabila, in power since 2001, began the dialogue on June 1 but the largest opposition parties are refusing to participate.

In January, mass protests erupted against proposed changes to the electoral law, widely seen as a ploy to delay the 2016 presidential elections and to allow Kabila to prolong his time in power.

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## **News Analysis: DR Congo's main opposition parties oppose dialogue**

Source: Xinhua

**Kinshasa, 8 June 2015** - Consultative meetings launched last week by Democratic Republic of Congo (DR Congo) President Joseph Kabila went on with civil society actors, religious leaders and leaders of political parties, although the main opposition parties in the country continued to oppose the president's offer for talks.

The talks are meant to lead to holding of national dialogue to resolve the current political crisis in the country before the presidential and legislative elections in 2016.

The electoral timetable that was published in February by the National Independent Electoral Commission (CENI) has been disputed by the political opposition.

Even though the Constitution bars him from contesting for a third term, Kabila who has been in power since 2001 has not yet declared his possible candidature. What is clear though is that the president wants to listen to all sides in order to lay the ground for national dialogue.

But, five days since the president began holding consultative meetings with various stakeholders, the opposition parties have continued to express scepticism towards his intentions.

After meeting with religious leaders, on Friday the president met with heads of political parties. Three opposition parties believed to be allied to the president's camp, the Congolese Rally for Democracy, Movement for Renewal and Labor Party, agreed to meet with the president.

On the other hand, the main opposition parties have remained firm on their refusal to dialogue with the president.

According to the Union for Democracy and Social Progress (UDPS), there's no need to hold prior consultations, but rather hold direct dialogue, which must be led by international mediators.

The Union for the Congolese Nation (UNC) and the Movement for the Liberation of Congo (MLC) have categorically rejected any idea of holding dialogue.

According to these two parties, the key concern now is to resolve the problems associated with the electoral timetable, something that falls under the mandate of CENI and not the president.

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"We cannot dialogue with someone who has imprisoned our colleagues. Our party president Diomi Ndongala is in prison over baseless accusations. His arrest was a form of punishment because he refused to recognize Kabila as the president of the republic. Our other colleagues Jean-Claude Muyambu, Jean-Bertrand Ewanga and Zando Moyindo are equally in prison without any reasons," said Freddy Kita, the secretary general of Christian Democrats, Ndongala's party.

"Dialogue would have been acceptable in 2012 just after the presidential elections and the political crisis that ensued. Today, with just one year before the end of Kabila's second term, we demand that he respects the Constitution which does not allow him to contest for a third term. This is why we as Christian Democrats will not take part in the national dialogue," he added.

Inside the country as well as outside, calls have been increasing for the respect of the Constitution as well as finding consensus on the objectives of the proposed national dialogue.

Even though no one knows exactly why Kabila wants to hold national dialogue, what is clear for everyone, including those opposed to national dialogue, is that there's need to make the electoral timetable workable and to ensure that it respects constitutional time-lines for organizing presidential elections in 2016.

Another contentious issue raised by the opposition is that of majority of youths who attained the age of 18 years between 2011 and 2015, and who are supposed to participate in the forthcoming elections.

The hardline position taken by opposition parties signify that President Kabila will continue facing difficulties to achieve his desired goal of holding national dialogue in the run up to the 2016 elections.

## **Congo families call for exhumation of mass grave**

Source: Reuters

**Kinshasa, 8 June 2015** - Families in the Democratic Republic of Congo have called on the government to exhume a mass grave they say may contain the bodies of 34 of their relatives feared detained and executed by the security forces.

Some of the people have not been seen since violent demonstrations broke out in January against a proposed election law that critics said was a ploy to keep President Joseph Kabila in office beyond the end of his mandate in 2016.

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Twenty-six have been missing since a crackdown on street gangs in the capital Kinshasa in late 2013 and early 2014, named Operation Likofi, or "punch" in the national Lingala language.

The family members said in a letter to the national prosecutor, Floribert Kabange Numbi, made public on Monday, they are yet to recover the bodies of those believed killed.

"We ... demand an independent, credible investigation of the mass grave in Maluku, without political interference and with the participation of Congolese and international investigators who will exhume the bodies and perform DNA tests," they wrote.

The names of the alleged victims were printed alongside the signatures of the family members.

Provincial authorities say they buried 421 fetuses, still-born babies and unclaimed corpses early on March 19 in a rural commune of the capital Kinshasa to clear space at the overcrowded central morgue.

Rights groups say they suspect the grave contains bodies of people killed by security forces during the January protests and Operation Likofi.

New York-based Human Rights Watch (HRW) also called on Monday for an exhumation and said security forces killed at least 38 civilians during the January protests and summarily executed at least 51 in Kinshasa during the anti-gang crackdown.

A prosecutor in Kinshasa is investigating the burial.

The government is aware of only two complaints filed by family members over the mass grave, government spokesman Lambert Mende told a news conference. Those two deaths had nothing to do with the protests or Operation Likofi, he said.

The U.N. mission in Congo and the U.S. government have urged the government to exhume the bodies.

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## **Fosse commune de Maluku: l'exhumation des corps se fait de plus en plus pressante**

Source: Agence d'Information d'Afrique centrale

Par Alain Diasso

**Pour l'ONG américaine Human rights watch, « les familles de victimes de violations des droits humains ont le droit de savoir si leurs proches sont parmi les personnes qui étaient ensevelies, le 19 mars, à la lisière du cimetière de Fula-Fula à Maluku, dans la périphérie est de Kinshasa.**

**8 Juin 2015** - Deux mois se sont écoulés depuis la découverte de la fosse commune de Maluku. Le mystère reste toujours entier sur l'identité des personnes enterrées dans le cimetière de Fula-Fula dans la périphérie est de Kinshasa. Les familles des victimes n'arrêtent pas de faire pression pour amener le gouvernement à tenir sa promesse d'exhumer les cadavres si besoin s'en fait pour dissiper le doute à ce sujet. Aujourd'hui plus qu'hier, la pression est montée d'un cran. Déjà, l'on apprend que douze familles des personnes présumées tuées ou victimes de disparitions forcées imputées aux forces de sécurité entre 2013 et 2014 avaient individuellement déposé des plaintes en justice réclamant l'exhumation des corps. Trente-quatre autres familles avaient également déposé, depuis le 5 juin, une plainte publique auprès du procureur général de la République réclamant justice et l'exhumation des corps inhumés dans la fosse commune de Maluku.

Ces familles craignent, en effet, que la fosse commune de Maluku ne contienne les cadavres de victimes des forces de sécurité et non des indigents comme soutenu par le gouvernement. A la pression des familles éplorées cherchant à identifier les corps de leurs membres, il faudrait ajouter celle de l'ONG américaine Human rights watch (HRW) qui, dans un récent rapport, invite les autorités de la RDC à se plier à l'exigence d'exhumation des corps. « Les familles de victimes de violations des droits humains ont le droit de savoir si leurs proches sont parmi les personnes ensevelies dans cette fosse. Les autorités devraient effectuer immédiatement une opération d'exhumation en bonne et due forme, avec l'aide d'experts internationaux », fait savoir HRW.

L'ONG estime que pour plus de crédibilité, il faudrait impliquer dans cet exercice les gouvernements étrangers et les Nations unies, sans oublier les experts en médecine légale qui seraient chargés d'aider à exhumer les corps et d'effectuer des analyses d'ADN. HRW enfonce le clou en ces termes : « Le nombre croissant de plaintes en justice déposées par des familles dont certains membres ont disparu souligne qu'il est urgent d'exhumer le contenu de cette fosse commune (...) Le gouvernement congolais

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devrait honorer sa promesse d'exhumer les corps et donc protéger adéquatement la fosse en attendant ».

Rappelons que le gouvernement avait reconnu, via le Vice-ministre de l'intérieur et sécurité Evariste Boshab que 421 corps avaient été inhumés le 19 mars 2015 dans une fosse commune. Les dépouilles, à en croire des sources officielles, étaient celles d'indigents dont les familles n'avaient pas les moyens de financer un enterrement classique, de personnes décédées non identifiées et de bébés mort-nés. Nonobstant sa promesse d'exhumer au besoin les corps en cas de doute, le gouvernement n'a jusqu'à présent ni exhumé les dépouilles ni révélé les identités des personnes enterrées.

## **RDC: 8000 Congolais expulsés d'Angola en cinq mois**

Source: Radio Okapi (RDC)

**8 Juin 2015** - Huit mille cent vingt-huit ressortissants de la RDC ont été expulsés de provinces angolaises de Soyo et Cabinda pour la période allant du 1er janvier au 30 mai 2015. La Police nationale congolaise (PNC) de Moanda l'a indiqué samedi 6 juin dans un rapport publié dans ce territoire situé à environ 200 kilomètres à l'Ouest de Matadi, au Kongo central. La société civile locale de son côté plaide pour une sensibilisation de la population sur les méfaits de l'immigration clandestine.

Parmi ces expulsés, il y a 4 891 hommes, 1 846 femmes et 1 391 enfants. Ils viennent de Soyo et Cabinda, selon le rapport du service de la PNC dans le territoire de Moanda.

C'est sur base des rapports manuscrits que ces hommes, femmes et enfants étaient enregistrés à leur arrivée aux postes frontaliers de Yema et Yatch, dans la province du Kongo central.

Selon toujours ce document, la police angolaise de migration accuse ces personnes expulsées de séjour irrégulier sur leur territoire.

De son côté, la société civile qui dénonce cette situation dit chercher de financements pour organiser des campagnes de sensibilisation de la population des villages frontaliers sur les effets néfastes de l'immigration clandestine.

Depuis quelques années, des ONG humanitaires ont dénoncé des expulsions des Congolais d'Angola, perpétrées par les services de sécurités angolaises parfois dans la violence.

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Le nombre d'expulsions record avait été atteint en mai 2013 lorsque 52 231 Congolais avaient été expulsés en trois semaines de l'Angola, via le poste frontalier de Kamonia, dans le Kasai-Occidental?

**« On est mieux chez soi »**

Le vice-ministre en charge des Congolais de l'étranger, Antoine Boyamba, a indiqué que le Gouvernement mène des actions diplomatiques avec d'autres pays pour remédier aux actes des violences qui accompagnent souvent les expulsions de ses compatriotes.

« A chaque fois qu'il se pose ce genre de problème, je convoque et selon les règles diplomatiques les ambassadeurs qui sont accrédités chez nous. J'ai fait ça avec celui d'Afrique du sud et je viens de le faire avec celui du Congo-Brazzaville, pour leur faire part de nos préoccupations, mais aussi de notre indignation. C'est ce que nous pouvons faire d'abord sur le plan diplomatique », a déclaré Antoine Boyamba.

Il a indiqué que la RDC n'enverra pas son armée dans les pays où des expulsions se passent.

« S'il vous plait n'attendez pas non plus que l'on puisse envoyer l'armée dans ces pays-là. Nous appelons leurs ambassadeurs accrédités à Kinshasa pour leur poser la question pourquoi ce genre d'acte à l'encontre de nos compatriotes », a souligné Antoine Boyamba.

Le vice-ministre des Congolais de l'Etranger, a aussi invité les Congolais à rester chez eux, parce que selon lui, la vie n'est pas toujours meilleure ailleurs.

« A travers la maison des congolais de l'étranger que nous sommes en train d'installer, nous allons commencer une campagne pour expliquer à nos compatriotes qui veulent sortir du pays. Voici dans tel pays, les problèmes que vous allez rencontrer et les avantages s'il y en a. Nous essayerons d'expliquer à nos compatriotes femmes le danger qu'elles peuvent rencontrer en allant dans certains pays du Moyen-Orient où elles sont transformées en esclave sexuel. Donc on est mieux que chez soi », a précisé Antoine Boyamba.



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## L'ONU appelle à « une utilisation rationnelle des ressources naturelles » en RDC

Source: Le Potentiel (DRC)

Par Stanislas Ntambwe

**8 Juin 2015** - Le chef de la MONUSCO Martin Kobler, et Achim Steiner, directeur exécutif du Programme des Nations-Unies pour l'environnement (PNUE), appellent à « une utilisation rationnelle et modérée des ressources naturelles » en RD Congo. Ils l'ont fait savoir dans un communiqué conjoint publié, vendredi 05 juin 2015 à Kinshasa, à l'occasion de la Journée mondiale de l'environnement.

« Nous ne pouvons pas nous permettre de gaspiller, alors que les ressources se raréfient et que les prix augmentent. Malgré tout, il est encore possible de relever le défi de la diminution et de la restriction des ressources et de créer des opportunités qui déboucheront sur des économies prospères et une planète saine pour les générations à venir », a souligné le directeur exécutif du PNUE.

« Sept milliards de rêves. Une seule planète. Consommons avec modération », est le thème choisi cette année pour célébrer la Journée de l'Environnement. Selon le PNUE, ce thème souligne « la responsabilité individuelle de chacun d'entre nous de rendre possible un développement économique durable et accessible à tous, tout en stabilisant et en diminuant le taux d'utilisation des ressources mondiales ».

Car, selon l'ONU, « les habitudes de consommation actuelles de la population mondiale constituent une réelle menace qui pèse lourdement sur de nombreux écosystèmes qui approchent dangereusement du point de non-retour ». « Il est donc essentiel, que les comportements en matière de consommation changent, que ce soit en matière d'énergie, d'eau ou de toute autre ressource non renouvelable, pour ne pas compromettre l'héritage qui sera légué aux générations futures », pense-t-elle.

### « Une obligation morale »

« La RDC possède la moitié des forêts et des ressources en eau de l'Afrique. Dans ce contexte, pour la RDC, l'exploitation raisonnée et efficace des ressources, ce n'est pas seulement une nécessité économique, mais une obligation morale et l'ONU ne cesse de croire son soutien au gouvernement afin de lier développement humain et préservation naturelle », a déclaré Martin Kobler, Représentant spécial du Secrétaire général des Nations Unies en RDC.



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Le communiqué relève qu'en dépit de « certaines tendances alarmantes, telles que la déforestation croissante, la diminution des espèces ou encore la pollution aux métaux lourds due à l'exploitation des ressources minières, la majeure partie de la dégradation environnementale de la RDC n'est pas irréversible et une amélioration de la gouvernance environnementale a déjà conduit à des progrès notables ».

Une récente étude coordonnée par le PNUE et la MONUSCO en 2015, révèle le rôle majeur que joue l'exploitation et le commerce illicite de nombreuses ressources naturelles. Selon les estimations du rapport, « de l'or, des minéraux, du bois, du charbon et de la faune sauvage d'une valeur de 0,7 à 1,3 milliards de dollars américains sont exploités et trafiqués chaque année à partir de l'Est de la RDC ». Il affirme que « la vaste majorité des bénéfices de ce commerce illicite vont aux réseaux transnationaux de crime organisé, et que ces opérations financent au moins 25 groupes armés qui continuent de déstabiliser l'Est du pays ».

Un autre rapport accablant de l'ONG britannique Global Witness (GW) publié, mercredi 3 juin 2015, s'appuie sur le travail de compilation des cas d'infractions relevés entre 2011 et 2014 par l'Observatoire de la gouvernance forestière (OGF) sur plusieurs concessions forestières inspectées en RDC. Ce rapport intitulé « l'impunité exportée », indique que « l'impunité dans ce secteur est généralisée et la corruption gangrène le pays ». Il dénonce les pratiques de grandes entreprises forestières opérant en RDC où l'exploitation illégale du bois bénéficierait de la complicité notoire de l'administration.

Il faut avouer que ce rapport a provoqué une réaction musclée de la part du gouvernement congolais. Le Ministère de l'Environnement, premier concerné par cette question forestière, n'a pas tardé de réagir. « GW reprend un certain nombre de vieilles rengaines, déjà publiées maintes et maintes fois, comme l'a fait il y a quelques semaines l'ONG Greenpeace, également spécialisée dans la critique systématique des actions menées par le gouvernement de la RDC en la matière », lit-on dans communiqué officiel du Ministère de l'Environnement et Développement Durable (MEDD), publié le jeudi 04 juin 2015.

Selon le MEDD de la RDC, « GW s'en prend délibérément aux compagnies forestières détentrices de concessions qui sont pourtant engagées dans le processus de gestion durable des ressources forestières: actuellement 57 titres forestiers font l'objet de contrats de concessions et sont tous, contrairement à ce que prétend GW, dotés d'un plan de gestion validé par l'administration et d'une clause sociale cosignée par les populations riveraines ».

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**« Une action concertée »**

Le gouvernement congolais entend s'employer à mettre en place « un cadre de meilleure gouvernance forestière qui assure la gestion durable du patrimoine forestier et améliore la valorisation des biens et services des écosystèmes forestiers ». Mais, souligne que « le chantier est vaste et s'inscrit dans la durée ».

En outre, il indique que « des progrès significatifs ont déjà été accomplis, notamment dans le secteur forestier industriel ». Cependant, « il reste beaucoup à faire, en particulier dans la structuration du secteur artisanal et la normalisation du secteur informel », reconnaît-il.

L'évaluation environnementale post-conflits du PNUE en RDC, se focalise sur les problèmes relatifs à l'environnement et à la gestion des ressources naturelles affectant le pays. Le rapport de l'Onu propose un certain nombre de mesures à prendre pour répondre à la menace croissante du crime organisé en RD Congo, et appelle à « une action concertée » pour stopper ce commerce illicite.

« Pour répondre à l'appel de cette Journée mondiale de l'Environnement, il sera également essentiel que la RDC s'engage dans la voie de l'économie verte, visant à réaliser un développement véritablement durable au profit d'environ 70 millions d'habitants », concluent Martin Kobler et Achim Steiner.

## **Opinion: Why Is Kabila Dividing D.R Congo?**

Source: Zambia Reports

By: Peter Adamu

**9 June 2015** - In the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) – a country the size of Western Europe with a population of about 70 million – plans are underway to divide its existing 11 provinces into 26. Known in the DRC as *découpage*, this policy was mandated in the new 2006 constitution, but has yet to be carried out. Incumbent President Joseph Kabila has set a June 30 deadline for finally implementing *découpage*.

Dividing regional political units, such as provinces or districts, in order to create new ones is common around the world. In a recent article, we document that almost half of all sub-Saharan African countries have substantially increased their number of regional political units since 1990. Fragmenting regional governments has also occurred in the

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wake of decentralization reforms in numerous countries, from Hungary to Indonesia and Brazil.

Why does the creation of new regional governments happen, and why does it matter?

Our research, along with others' (...) finds that new regions are often created as a consequence of political bargains between national elites and marginalized local groups – those with relatively limited political representation and access to services, such as health care, schools, and roads.

We find that citizens and leaders in marginalized areas are most likely to lobby national elites for the creation of new regional governments. Voters in areas granted a new regional government give national leaders a significant electoral boost in elections that follow the old region's split.

Why do people in marginalized areas want a new province? At a basic level, the creation of new, smaller political units can fundamentally change citizens' day-to-day interactions with their regional government. Especially in rural areas of developing countries like the DRC, where roads are often barely passable and cars are rarely afforded, smaller provinces bring valuable improvements in citizens' physical proximity to services and high-ranking elected representatives.

Creating new regional governments also often brings new fiscal resources, government jobs, and administrative attention to underserved areas.

A new study by one of us underscores why these new districts are so popular. Significant reductions in child mortality, on average, result from the newly created provincial governments. On average, as countries increase the number of top-tier regional government units (e.g. states in Nigeria, and provinces in Kenya), their overall level of public service delivery tends to improve.

Of course, it's not just marginalized populations who stand to benefit – but aspiring politicians, too. Creating new provinces creates new provincial leadership positions. As a result, more aspiring local leaders – especially those from previously marginalized areas – can enter politics, widening the talent pool from which local political leaders are drawn.

This pattern, in turn, makes national politics more competitive. The larger the pool of governors, the greater the likelihood that at least some of them will use their offices to mount a credible challenge to the president. This greater competition in national politics often forces the incumbent president to rule more responsibly.

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But creating new provinces also comes with costs – especially if countries take division too far. For starters, for the benefits of increased competition in national politics described above to take hold, provinces must be large enough so that the powers of provincial governors matter. That is, a governorship needs to be a useful qualification for national-level office to have any impact on the future talent pool of nationally competitive candidates capable of challenging the president.

Furthermore, fragmenting regional governments too much may introduce administrative bloat. Fewer, larger provinces can more likely benefit from economies of scale in providing services than numerous, smaller ones.

Our research in Uganda suggests that extreme fragmentation also can allow the central government to consolidate power vis-à-vis the local governments. Power struggles are common between central and local governments, and when more units are created, the power of localities as a whole diminishes. The larger the number of local governments, the more onerous it is to coordinate with one another to present a united front against the central government. In Uganda, the creation of more and more districts has coincided with less policy and fiscal autonomy for each individual district.

In short, research suggests good reasons for both optimism and pessimism if DRC goes through with its plans for *découpage*. On one hand, citizens – at least those in formerly marginalized areas – can expect better access to and quality of local public services, as well as more opportunities to hold office.

On the other hand, this policy may allow the center to consolidate power, which would be an ironic outcome given that creating new units is aimed at decentralizing power. Given recent democratic backsliding in sub-Saharan Africa and especially central and east Africa, such recentralization would be worrisome.

## RWANDA

### Constitutional reform in Rwanda is indeed imperative

Source: The East African (Kenya).

By: Roger Munyampenda

**8 June 2015** - Rwanda's constitutional reform should be considered a democratic right and strategic imperative!

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The debate on constitutional reform is Rwanda's hottest topic, passionate and lively, touching every level of society, thanks to the media.

Judging from the stack of petitions piling up at the parliament every day, citizens through their co-operatives, political parties and civil society organisations want the lifting of term limits so President Paul Kagame can stand for re-election as urgently as yesterday.

Will the advocates of the "universal model" of democracy chose to ignore the agency of electors?

Probably, but it will be a hard sell, especially in Rwanda. Even his sternest critics recognise Kagame's effectiveness and his transformational leadership. He leads an effective public service, and the country boasts clean streets and overall security.

His supporters applaud the way he engages citizens — especially young people — and potential investors continue to flock into Rwanda with full confidence because they see a solid track record and a conducive environment regardless of the 2017 debate.

In fact, Kagame's leadership goes beyond borders, with some Africans jokingly saying that Rwanda should lend them Kagame for a limited time to put their house in order.

But the usual pundits have written off the whole discussion around constitutional reform as biased, coerced or manipulated. They forget that social media has already passed a positive real time referendum, going by Kagame's growing following on social media.

It is interesting to see the arguments floating around — some wish to see Kagame retired in some honorary meaningless role, on Mo Ibrahim's payroll. Others wish to see him in a global role, forgetting that he is able to speak up for Africans precisely because of his position as president of Rwanda. Those who did not wish to see him as president in the first place are now running his grandiose retirement campaign.

Rwandans, from what I can see, are not deterred or trapped into intellectual conformism. Is this not precisely democracy at work? After all, Rwandans are better informed today than they were in 2002 thanks to government investment in access to information, ICT technologies and education.

At its Independence, Rwanda had only a handful of educated leaders who ruled without resources, a national army or a functioning endogenous administration, purposely obliterated by the colonial power ahead of the handover.

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Arbitrary ethnic pogroms became the norm of an obscurantist society. In the 1990s, the Genocide against the Tutsi was planned and carried out openly, actually glorified by the local media as a national duty while the world looked the other way.

So bold were the genocidaires that after they were defeated, they demanded immediate elections, ironically backed by some international NGOs and foreign powers that lecture Rwandans on democracy today. You can understand why we hardly trust this model.

What of Rwandans today? They want to be reassured psychologically and politically. They want continued stability to achieve inclusive economic growth and national unity as they look to the future with optimism and confidence. Ordinary people do not want to live through a situation like the one we are seeing in Burundi, a slow descent into deadly instability.

The “one size fits all” model has failed to take note of contextual complexities or to gauge the participation of the people themselves, the voice that actually matters. The same eternal naysayers have a similar attitude when assessing Rwanda’s successful homegrown solutions — such as traditional Gacaca justice system.

Its overall positive impact is lost to familiar critics who focus on flaws in procedures but miss the big picture: The right to justice for victims and survivors and the restorative process for perpetrators.

In fine, constitutional reform should go beyond the restrictive aspect of the presidential term, which is not a condition necessary or sufficient to resolve the complex issues of development and democratisation. Rwandans have the legitimate and inalienable right to choose how they wish to be governed and by whom.

The vast majority of Rwandans trust Kagame to lead them to middle-income country status, sooner rather than later. He has been the captain at the wheel of a bumpy journey started two decades ago and that has achieved the rebirth of a nation despite tremendous challenges, rear-guard conspiracies, scepticism and very limited resources.

In Kagame, Rwandans have found a pan-African pragmatist who is above partisan bickering and uncompromising about individual and institutional accountability.

He has expanded Rwanda’s geopolitical space through ambitious regional integration projects that will propel East Africa to the next level of prosperity and stability; he has also built global partnerships that benefit all Rwandans.

With all the above in mind, Rwanda’s constitutional reform should be considered a democratic right and strategic imperative!

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Roger Munyampenda is an engineer and management consultant. He is the former CEO of Rwanda's Private Sector Federation.

## BURUNDI

### Burundi's electoral commission proposes dates for delayed vote

Source: Reuters

By Clement Manirabarusha

**Bujumbura, 8 June 2015** - Burundi's electoral commission on Monday proposed possible dates for upcoming elections, though the move is unlikely to satisfy government opponents who have held weeks of protests calling the president's bid for a third term unlawful.

The dispute over the upcoming presidential vote, originally scheduled for June 26, has thrown the country into weeks of chaos. The protesters say President Pierre Nkurunziza is violating the constitution by running, and Nkurunziza, backed by Burundi's constitutional court, saying he can run.

The commission, known as CENI, proposed holding the presidential vote on July 15 and parliamentary elections - originally slated for June 5 and already delayed once - on June 26.

The commission also vowed to create a more open process, including allowing media houses closed during the protests to reopen.

No one from the opposition attended the meeting. Earlier in the day, a group of 17 opposition parties said it was committed to dialogue to resolve the crisis but also said they were committed to continuing the political fight to ensure Nkurunziza quit.

Also on Monday, Burundi's presidential spokesman said the government had received donations from citizens to help fund the presidential polls and other elections, and expressed hope that Western donors will reverse a decision to halt election aid to avert more chaos.

Gervais Abayeho said the government had earmarked its own election funds and guaranteed voting would go ahead before Aug. 26, the end of the current term of President Pierre Nkurunziza, whose bid for a third mandate has led to protests.



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The European Union, Belgium and the Netherlands suspended some aid last month to support the delayed elections. Diplomats said unrest meant the conditions were not right for a fair vote.

"We believe this was a very harsh decision," Abayeho said of the aid suspension. "We hope it will be reviewed.

"If there are no elections here, the country will sink into chaos," he said. "There will be lawlessness, there will be no elected institutions. What would happen here would be even worse than what they are imagining now."

Although protests have subsided in recent days, Burundi is facing its worst crisis since the end of an ethnically charged civil war in 2005.

That conflict pitted majority Hutu rebel groups, including one led by Nkurunziza, against an army led by minority Tutsis. The latest tensions worry a region with a history of ethnic conflict, particularly Rwanda, victim of a 1994 genocide.

The government of Burundi, one of the world's poorest nations, has earmarked 44 billion Burundi francs (\$29 million). "If that is not enough, Burundi will knock on other doors," he said, without citing other donors.

He said the government had received donations after an appeal to citizens in Burundi and abroad, without giving figures.

"The elections will take place," he said. "That is guaranteed, because Burundians are contributing now, Burundians from inside and outside the country."

## **Burundi: la Céli propose un nouveau calendrier électoral**

Source: RFI

**Huit jours après le sommet des chefs d'Etat d'Afrique de l'Est, la Commission électorale nationale indépendante (Céli) du Burundi a annoncé un nouveau calendrier électoral. Une proposition faite en l'absence de l'opposition et de la société civile, qui ne reconnaissent plus une Céli diminuée par la fuite de deux de ses membres. Une société civile qui, par ailleurs, a récusé à son tour le médiateur de l'ONU, Saïd Djinnit, dans une lettre adressée à Ban Ki-moon.**

**Bujumbura, 8 June 2015** - Officiellement, la Céli - qui compte désormais trois membres sur les cinq prévus par la Constitution du Burundi - n'a fait qu'une simple proposition et son président, Pierre-Claver Ndayicariye, assure qu'elle respecte la

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recommandation des chefs d'Etat de la région d'un report des élections d'un mois et demi.

Le premier tour de la présidentielle serait donc organisé le 15 juillet, « un mois et demi après le sommet de Dar es Salaam », souligne le président de la Céli. Mais avant cette élection, il y a bien sûr des législatives et des communales renvoyées au 26 juin, c'est-à-dire dans moins de trois semaines. Et comme le précise le président de la Céli, la campagne électorale en vue de ce double scrutin devrait donc commencer ce mercredi.

Cette proposition n'a recueilli que quelques applaudissements, mais personne ne l'a remise en cause. Il faut dire que dans la salle, on ne voyait que des politiciens de la mouvance présidentielle. La société civile et l'opposition radicale burundaise avaient boycotté la séance, parce que « nous ne pouvons pas participer dans une réunion convoquée par une Céli qui n'existe plus constitutionnellement », a justifié Charles Nditijé, au nom de l'opposition. Il se réfère à l'article 90 de la Constitution du Burundi, qui dit que la Céli est composée de cinq membres.

### **La société civile récuse le médiateur de l'ONU**

Pour lui, le calendrier « est nul et de nul effet », parce qu'il est proposé par un organe qui « n'a plus d'existence légale ». Il s'agit d'un « forcing » tant au niveau du troisième mandat que du calendrier, selon Charles Nditijé, qui estime que la Céli « ne peut pas fonctionner », notamment parce que les décisions de cette commission sont prises par consensus aux 4/5 des voix. Après la fuite de deux de ses membres, cet organe est théoriquement paralysé. L'opposition exige désormais des négociations pour la mise en place d'une nouvelle Céli.

Par ailleurs, la société civile a adressé lundi 8 [juin] une lettre au secrétaire général des Nations unies pour récuser le médiateur de l'ONU, Saïd Djinnit. « La médiation de Saïd Djinnit a une certaine faiblesse : il n'est pas parvenu à nous trouver un espace où nous pouvons nous sentir en sécurité. Jusque-là, les responsables du mouvement de contestation contre la troisième candidature de Nkurunziza ne sont pas dans ce dialogue. Et ça, c'est très faible, qu'un médiateur continue ce processus sans pouvoir trouver un lieu où les leaders pourront se sentir en sécurité », a précisé Pacifique Nininahazwe, président du Focode, l'une des organisations membres du collectif « Halte au troisième mandat ».

### **Le parti au pouvoir applaudit l'annonce de la Céli**

En face, le ministre de l'Intérieur Edouard Nduwimana assure que « le gouvernement a déjà consulté les partis politiques de l'opposition dans le but de combler le vide laissé par le départ de deux commissaires », et il « espère recevoir les noms de ces

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commissaires le plus tôt possible ». Cela dans l'objectif, selon lui, de rétablir « un climat de confiance » avec l'opposition. Un satisfecit, aussi, du côté du parti au pouvoir.

Le président du CNDD-FDD, Pascal Nyabenda, juge ainsi au micro de RFI qu'il « n'y a pas une autre voie qui peut sauver le Burundi que les élections. Si on ne fait pas attention, on peut tomber dans un vide constitutionnel. Il faut des dates précises pour qu'on puisse faire des élections. » Pour le leader du parti de Pierre Nkurunziza, « ce qui prime, c'est la constitutionnalité. Parce que l'on ne doit pas tomber dans le gouffre quand on le voit. On doit rester dans les limites de la Constitution, parce que c'est le souhait des chefs d'Etat de la région. C'est pourquoi les techniciens qui sont les membres de la Céli nous ont montré les dates rouges, là où l'on ne peut pas dépasser. »

## **Burundi Opposition Rejects New Election Timetable**

Source: VOA

**9 June 2015** - A spokesman for Burundi's independent opposition coalition said the proposal by the electoral commission to change the dates for national elections has no standing because Burundi has no legally constituted electoral commission.

Francois Bizimana, spokesman for Mizero Y'Barundi, or "Hope for All Burundians," said the commission lacks a quorum because three of its five members have fled the country.

Burundi's constitution stipulates that the commission must make decisions by consensus which requires that four out of its five members be present.

The National Independent Election Commission Monday proposed June 26 as the date for legislative polls, followed by the presidential election July 15, and a senatorial vote July 24. A senior adviser to President Pierre Nkurunziza told VOA the president must agree to the proposed dates by decree.

Bizimana, however, said the electoral commission's proposal is not valid.

"Article 19 of our constitution says that the electoral commission is composed by five members. Now, we have only three members out of five and for taking decisions. We need four members out of five. The proposal made by our electoral commission is not valid because we don't have the quorum for taking decisions," he said.

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Burundi's powerful Roman Catholic Church late last month asked its clergy on electoral commissions to step down from those commissions. The vice president of the election commission, Spes-Caritas Ndironkeye, has fled the country.

"Two members of our electoral commission are not now members of the electoral commission because we have heard they are no longer in the country. They have gone out of our country and I don't know where they are right now," Bizimana said.

He said that even if the electoral commission were to successfully postpone the elections, it would not satisfy protesters who say Nkurunziza's third term bid is unconstitutional. Bizimana said elections can only be held with two conditions.

"First of all, we must have an electoral commission in accordance with our constitution, particularly Article 19, which provides that members of the electoral commission are five members. Now, we have only three members out of five," he said.

In addition, Bizimana said, the law enacting the electoral commission also mandates that the commission can take decisions by consensus. If it cannot reach a consensus, it can only make its decisions when four members out of five are present.

"The second condition is that President Nkurunziza must withdraw his decision to run for [a] third [term] to be president of Burundi. If protesters don't have a response to their demands, they will again be in the streets," Bizimana said.

## **Burundi opposition leader says elections must be held by August**

Source: Reuters

**Bujumbura, 8 June 2015** - Burundi opposition leader Agathon Rwasa said a presidential election must be held by August at the latest, but a fair vote was unlikely without security and a free media.

A planned June 26 poll looks increasingly untenable after more than a month of protests against President Pierre Nkurunziza's bid for a third term. Parliamentary and local elections have already been postponed due to the unrest in which more than 30 people have been killed, according to activists.

Burundi emerged from an ethnically fuelled civil war in 2005, and the crisis has stirred fears of a new bout of violent instability in Africa's Great Lakes region. The country has a similar ethnic make-up to neighbouring Rwanda, where 800,000 people died in a 1994 genocide.

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Rwasa, a presidential candidate and, like Nkurunziza, a former rebel leader, told Reuters in an interview that it was essential to have an elected government in place by Aug. 26, when the president's current term ends.

"There is no room for a transitional government. We will have to comply with the constitution. We knew ahead of these elections that we should hold it so that we can have a newly elected president, and MPs and so on, by August this year," Rwasa said.

Election commission CENI said on Wednesday it was delaying the local and parliamentary votes and was working on a new schedule. It made no mention of the presidential election.

Opponents say Nkurunziza's bid for a third term would violate the constitution and the Arusha peace deal that ended the 12-year civil war. Both stipulate no one should be president for longer than 10 years.

Nkurunziza's backers argue that his first term should not count since he was picked by lawmakers rather than voted in. He has shown no signs of backing down, citing a court ruling that says he can run.

Burundi is facing its worst crisis since the civil war that pitted the army, which was then led by the Tutsi minority, against rebel Hutu groups, one of which was led by Nkurunziza and another by Rwasa.

**Disarm Militia**

Rwasa also called for the Imbonerakure, the youth wing of the ruling CNDD-FDD, to be disarmed. The ruling party denies claims the group acts as a militia.

"I think it isn't easy to succeed in disarming these Imbonerakure within a few weeks' time and we cannot even rely on the police as defence forces who are under the command of Pierre Nkurunziza. We cannot expect them to do that task."

He said international partners should help disarm them, but did not elaborate.

"Given the fact that Nkurunziza cannot, then we have to call for an international force. And I am sure that partners of Burundi may contribute to that."

Rwasa said it was important to rebuild the country's media. Independent private radio stations have been shut and their equipment damaged in the unrest. The government has said it is investigating the attacks.

"The media must be rehabilitated so that people can know what is happening in the country," Rwasa said.

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He reiterated that the president should give up his bid for a third term.

"Once Nkurunziza will give up his selfish interests and think big, then we can hope that it is easy to schedule a free and fair election in a very short time."

## **Prosecutor arrests opposition party representative in Burundi's Ngozi province**

Source: Xinhua

**9 June 2015** - The representative of the Movement for Solidarity and Democracy (MSD) opposition party in Burundi's Ngozi province Deo Gasamagera was arrested Sunday as he was attempting to flee to Rwanda, Burundi National Radio reported Monday.

According to the state-run radio, MSD representative in Ngozi Deo Gasamagera was arrested at Akanyaru border post as he was about to cross to Rwanda.

The radio indicated that the prosecutor in Ngozi had issued an arrest warrant against Gasamagera in April over "defaming" Burundian President Pierre Nkurunziza and "rebellious" against a decision of the Home Affairs Ministry preventing collective sports.

In April, members of the MSD opposition party, most of them youths, took to the streets in Ngozi town, singing and shouting that Burundian President Pierre Nkurunziza "has no right to run for a third term" and that he has to "face trial at the International Criminal Court (ICC) at The Hague" for crimes against humanity that he committed.

Burundi has been in turmoil since April 25 when Burundian President Pierre Nkurunziza's party, the National Council for the Defense of Democracy-Forces for the Defense of Democracy (CNDD-FDD), announced that he will run for a third term in the forthcoming presidential election, despite warnings at home and abroad.

Clashes between protesters and police, mainly in the capital Bujumbura, have left more than 30 dead, according to Burundi's civil society groups.

Nkurunziza has been in power since 2005.

Opponents say his decision violates the constitution and the 2000 Arusha Agreement that limits the president to two terms in office.

His supporters argue that his first term does not count as he was appointed by parliament, not elected by people.

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Burundi is organizing elections until August to avoid an institutional vacuum.

The first polls have been postponed twice, respectively on May 26 and on June 5 and a new election schedule should be announced soon by the Burundian president's office.

## EU Increases Burundi Aid

Source: VOA

**8 June 2015** - Burundi's electoral commission has recommended pushing back national elections, after unrest sparked by President Pierre Nkurunziza's decision to seek a third term.

The presidential election originally was set for June 26, but there has been no campaigning in the wake of violent protests and a failed coup attempt last month in the capital, Bujumbura.

The European Union released nearly four-million dollars Monday to help fund humanitarian operations for Burundi refugees.

An EU commissioner said, "The wave of refugees fleeing Burundi has been ongoing and increasing in intensity. He added that the additional funding is a "strong signal that the European Union stands by the people of Burundi and the Great lakes region."

Alexandre Polack is the European Commission spokesman for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management. From Brussels, he spoke to VOA's Joe De Capua about Burundi's humanitarian needs.

## Burundi Crisis a Key Issue for AU Summit

Source: Prensa Latina

([http://www.plenglish.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=3874191&Itemid=1](http://www.plenglish.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=3874191&Itemid=1))

**8 June 2015** - The crisis in Burundi will be a key topic for discussion at the 25th African Union Summit that will be held in the South African city of Johannesburg this week.

According to local press reports, the heads of State and Government to attend this high-level meeting on June 14-15, will debate the thorny topic of changing constitutions by some African leaders in order to extend their mandates.



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The decision of Burundi's President Pierre Nkuruziza of running for a third mandate has unleashed violent and deadly protests in Bujumbura, capital of that eastern African nation, since last April 26.

Demonstrators say Nkuruziza movement violates the Constitution, which establishes only two mandates.

More than 30 people have died since protests broke out in Burundi, while tens of thousands escaped to the neighboring nations of Rwanda and Tanzania.

Analysts say that there are few possibilities that Nkuruziza attends the AU Summit, due to the unstable security situation in that nation.

## UGANDA

### Uganda attacks trial resumes after murder of prosecutor

Source: Agence France Presse

**Kampala, 8 June 2015** - The trial of 13 men accused of taking part in the 2010 Shebab bombings, which killed 76 people in Uganda's capital Kampala, resumed on Monday without the lead prosecutor, who was murdered in March.

Joan Kagezi, Uganda's acting assistant director of public prosecution, was killed by men on a motorbike in front of three of her children. Police are still hunting for the killers and have made several arrests.

The trial of the accused -- seven Kenyans, five Ugandans and one Tanzanian -- had begun earlier in March at Uganda's High Court, but was postponed after the murder. They are facing a range of charges including terrorism, murder and membership of a terrorist organisation.

The July 2010 suicide bombings claimed by Somalia's Al-Qaeda-affiliated Shebab targeted football fans watching the World Cup final between the Netherlands and Spain at a restaurant and a rugby club in Kampala, and were the region's worst attacks in more than a decade.

The suspects filled nearly two rows of seats on Monday in the packed courtroom, where there was standing space only and tight security. Media reports said bodyguards have now been assigned to all lawyers working on the case.

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Justice Mike Chibita, Director of Public Prosecution (DPP), told Justice Alphonse Owiny-Dollo that the prosecution had "deemed it important" to come to court to introduce his new team, making mention of "our fallen colleague".

He said they owed it to "this court and the nation at large" to assure them that "justice is done". Defence lawyer Caleb Alaka said his team had the "same sentiment about the loss of our colleague".

"It (Kagezi's murder) was a terrible thing, not only for the DPP, but also for us in defence, because we were working closely together," he said. "We call upon the powers that be to make sure that the perpetrators are brought to justice."

The trial resumed with the defence cross examination of key witness Muhamoud Mugisha. He was sentenced to five years in jail in 2011, after pleading guilty to conspiracy to commit acts of terrorism over the twin bombings, but was released in January.

During the cross examination, the court was told that Mugisha, a Christian until he converted to Islam, had joined the Shebab in 2008.

He admitted that he had done "military training" in Somalia, and asked the court for "forgiveness".

The trial continues.

## ANGOLA

### Angola: Dos Santos en Chine à la recherche de soutien financier

Source: AFP

**Luanda, 8 juin 2015** - Le président angolais José Eduardo dos Santos [a entamé] lundi une visite officielle en Chine, la première depuis sept ans et alors que son pays, deuxième producteur d'or noir d'Afrique, traverse des difficultés budgétaires en raison de la chute du cours du pétrole.

Le président de la République est attendu aujourd'hui en Chine, où il réalise une visite de trois jours sur invitation de son homologue Xi Jinping, a indiqué le quotidien gouvernemental Jornal de Angola, parlant d'une nouvelle impulsion donnée aux relations bilatérales.

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Première depuis 2008, cette visite intervient alors que l'économie angolaise est mise à mal par la chute du cours du pétrole. Le président angolais, qui limite ses déplacements à l'étranger au maximum, devrait négocier une nouvelle ligne de crédit avec Pékin, selon la presse portugaise.

Depuis 2004, la Chine a accordé près de 15 milliards de dollars de ligne de crédit à l'Angola, convertis en travaux exécutés par des entreprises chinoises dans le pays. En retour, Luanda rembourse Pékin en pétrole, exportant près de la moitié de son brut en Chine.

En début d'année, l'Angola, qui produit 1,7 million de barils de pétrole par jour, a vu son budget diminuer d'un quart en raison de l'effondrement de ses recettes pétrolières. Depuis, le pays fait face à un manque de liquidités, sa monnaie se dévalorise et l'activité économique tourne au ralenti.

Malgré ces difficultés, la défense et la sécurité continuent à absorber la plus grosse part du budget angolais, devant l'éducation et la santé, une constante depuis 2002, en dépit des vives critiques de la société civile.

Les dépenses militaires angolaises ont atteint 6,8 milliards de dollars en 2014, les deuxièmes plus importantes d'Afrique derrière l'Algérie, selon une étude de l'Institut international sur la paix de Stockholm publiée en avril.

Sorti d'une violente guerre civile en 2002, l'Angola connaît depuis un fort développement économique grâce à son pétrole. Malgré cette richesse, plus de la moitié des Angolais vivent avec moins de deux dollars par jour.

## CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

### US calls for investigations into child abuse allegations in CAR

Source: APA

**8 June 2015** - The United States has called for a full and impartial investigation into the allegations that peacekeepers may have abused children in the Central African Republic (CAR) and the manner in which they were handled.

In a statement issued Monday, the US permanent representative at the United Nations, Samantha Power said "thus welcome the Secretary General's recent announcement of the establishment of an External Independent Review to examine the UN system's

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response to the allegations," calling the establishment of the review as an opportunity for the UN to learn how it and member states can best safeguard the dignity and welfare of vulnerable people; ensure swift action to make certain potential abuses are investigated and halted; protect those who expose abuses; and provide appropriate privacy and other protection for witnesses who come forward with allegations of abuse. There are many questions that need to be answered, and we view this as an important opportunity for member states and the people of the Central African Republic - to learn what went wrong at every point in this process."

Alongside this independent review, she said it is essential that all countries whose soldiers are alleged to have been involved in such abuses fully, urgently, and transparently investigate all claims to ensure that justice is served. Adding that any individual found to have committed such heinous abuses must be held accountable.

## SOUTH SUDAN

### South Sudan denies president Kiir plans resignation over poor health

Source: Sudan Tribune

**8 June 2015** - South Sudanese presidency on Sunday dismissed as "unfounded" media reports that president Salva Kiir has been ill and was secretly preparing outside party structure to hand over power to defence minister, Kuol Manyang Juuk, in violation of constitutional provisions sidelining the serving vice president, James Wani Igga.

Reports said confidential discussions about the health of the president and plans for his replacement in case of deterioration have been going on behind the scene by selected inner circles in which defence minister was recommended by many to take over.

The speculations said the discussants rejected succession by Igga, describing him as a weak personality with no vision for the country.

It was also alleged that a power struggle ensued as chief of general staff, Paul Malong Awan, also disapproved of the defence minister and nominated himself to replace the president.

But senior officials in the office of the president dismissed the widely circulated allegations, saying president Kiir was healthy.

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“These are fabrications which you people in the media should not even ask for comments. The president is not sick. He is healthy,” presidential advisor on decentralization and intergovernmental linkages, Tor Deng Mawien, told Sudan Tribune on Sunday.

“All that is reported on the social media is just about character assassination. They are unfounded allegations,” he said.

The denial came after several social media forums carried reports purporting to have been confidential information from the presidency that the president might soon resign from the office on grounds of poor health.

The speculations claimed that president Kiir, who was recently in Luanda, Angola, to participate in the international conference on Great Lakes region, purportedly sought a medical check-up during which he was diagnosed with kidney and liver diseases and was advised to reduce working hours on account of “poor health.”

The rumours surfaced particularly when president Kiir delegated defence minister Kuol Manyang Juuk to represent him at the recent Northern Corridor meeting in Kampala, Uganda, where East African heads of state attended, instead of delegating vice president, James Wani Igga.

Mawien denied any knowledge of secret plans and arrangements to hand over power to defence Minister Kuol Manyang, saying it was the making of enemies of peace and unity.

The presidential aide explained that defence minister was delegated by the president to represent him at the Northern Corridor meeting in Kampala because vice president Wani Igga was outside the capital, Juba in Nigeria, attending inauguration of the new Nigerian president, Mohamed Buhari.

“All these are the machinations and making of enemies of peace and unity of our people. The president is not sick and there is no such arrangement. I am not aware,” Mawien added.

Mawien did not however explain why the president failed to attend the Northern Corridor meeting of heads of state and government and had to delegate someone else.

President Kiir in March suddenly felt weak and experience nose bleed in Addis Ababa where he was rushed to hospital while on mission to Ethiopia for direct talks with the armed opposition leader, Riek Machar.

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Commentators on the social media however argued that the defence minister was not by protocol the next official after president and vice president to represent the government at the summit of heads of state and government.

## **Soudan du Sud: les rebelles affirment contrôler des champs pétroliers**

Source: RFI

**Les rebelles du Soudan du Sud affirment avoir pris samedi le contrôle d'importantes infrastructures pétrolières dans le nord du pays, dans l'Etat d'Unité. Ils tentent désormais de s'emparer de celles de l'Etat voisin du Haut-Nil. Leur but : stopper la production. Ils accusent le président Salva Kiir de profiter des revenus du pétrole pour financer l'achat d'armes.**

**8 Juin 2015** - « Nous avons pris le contrôle d'un des plus grands champs pétroliers de l'Etat d'Unité, soutient le porte-parole des rebelles James Gatdt Dak. Les forces armées gouvernementales ont attaqué nos positions et nous avons répliqué. Au terme des combats, nous sommes parvenus à nous imposer. » Des informations à prendre avec précautions, car depuis plusieurs semaines, gouvernement et rebelles se disputent le contrôle des zones pétrolières du nord du Soudan du Sud, tant sur le terrain que sur le plan médiatique, chaque partie revendiquant régulièrement le contrôle des champs pétroliers.

En tout cas, les rebelles fidèles à l'ex-vice-président Riek Machar disent ne pas compter en rester là, car le pétrole, affirme leur porte-parole, est une importante source de financement pour la guerre menée par le président sud-soudanais. « Maintenant, nous mobilisons nos troupes pour prendre le contrôle d'un autre champ pétrolier très important, celui de Paloich car nous réalisons que le gouvernement utilise les revenus du pétrole pour financer la guerre, justifie James Gatdt Dak. Donc nous avons décidé de prendre le contrôle de tous les champs pétroliers du pays. Nous voulons couper la production pour stopper ces revenus qui permettent au président Salva Kiir d'acheter des armes au lieu d'en faire profiter la population. Il n'y a pas de routes, pas d'hôpitaux, pas d'écoles dans la majeure partie du pays. Nous n'avons plus de nourriture parce qu'il n'y a plus d'agriculture. »

La reprise des combats, en avril dernier, entre les forces loyales au président Salva Kiir et celles de Riek Machar a des conséquences humanitaires immenses pour les populations civiles.

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## **Soudan du Sud: la bataille pour le pétrole**

Source: BBC Afrique

### **Les rebelles sud-soudanais ont annoncé qu'ils contrôlent désormais les infrastructures pétrolières de l'État de l'Unité dans le nord du pays.**

**7 Juin 2015** - Cette annonce fait suite à des semaines de combats avec les forces gouvernementales.

Les rebelles cherchent maintenant à capturer les champs pétroliers dans l'État voisin du Haut Nil pour priver le gouvernement des recettes du pétrole.

Le gouvernement a confirmé qu'il y avait des combats dans cette zone mais ses porte-paroles n'ont pas donné plus de détails.

Les deux camps ont confirmé que des affrontements avaient lieu aux alentours de Malakal, la capitale de l'État du Haut Nil.

Il s'agit de la dernière zone avant les derniers gros champs pétroliers.

Cette ville est régulièrement passée sous le contrôle des deux camps depuis le début de la guerre civile en décembre 2013. Actuellement, elle est administrée par le gouvernement.

Le conflit a commencé lorsque le président Salva Kiir a accusé son ancien vice-président Riek Machar de préparer un coup d'État.

Les violences qui ont démarré dans la capitale Juba se sont ensuite répandues dans le reste du pays.

Six cent cinquante mille personnes sont privées d'aide humanitaire à cause des combats.

Les ONG et les Nations Unies ont récemment dénoncé les meurtres, viols et le pillage de l'aide humanitaires par des hommes armés.



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## SUDAN

### Sudanese opposition members prevented from flying to Europe

Source: Reuters

By: Khalid Abdelaziz; Writing by Yara Bayoumy; Editing by Kevin Liffey

**8 June 2015** - A Sudanese opposition delegation were prevented on Monday from flying to Europe to meet other opposition leaders and address the European Parliament, one of the delegation said.

Siddiq Youssef, a leader of Sudan's Communist Party, said members of the seven-strong delegation had been due to meet other opposition leaders abroad, as well as representatives of the Sudanese Revolutionary Front, an alliance of two rebel factions fighting government forces in the Darfur region.

He said they had also been scheduled to meet the European Parliament's foreign affairs committee in Paris, and to address a session of the parliament in Brussels on June 12.

Security officials at Khartoum airport told the delegation they were on a blacklist and confiscated their passports, Youssef said. The Information Ministry was not immediately available for comment.

President Omar Hassan al-Bashir's opponents say he allowed security forces to crack down on the opposition and civil society in the months leading up to April's elections, after initially opening up political space last year. Opposition groups boycotted the elections, saying they had no chance of competing fairly.

As he started his new term last week, Bashir said Sudan was open to dialogue with Western nations, an unusually conciliatory comment from a leader charged at the International Criminal Court with masterminding genocide and other atrocities in his campaign to crush the revolt in Darfur.

He denies the charges, which have contributed to Sudan's isolation from global financial and political institutions.

"Stopping us travelling shows that the president's talk at his inauguration about opening up to the West was just talk without action. This government is continuing in its way of being against freedoms and against dialogue," Youssef told Reuters.

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"The European Parliament wants to listen to the point of view of the Sudanese opposition, both the political and military wings. We were going to make clear that we do not reject dialogue with the government but we have conditions," he said.

Maryam al-Sadeq al-Mahdi, vice president of the Umma Party, one of the main opposition groups, confirmed that the delegation had been prevented from flying out.

## **Au Soudan, des figures de l'opposition empêchées d'aller à Strasbourg**

Source: internet@lesoir.be (Avec les rédactions du Soir en ligne, du Soir, d'AFP, d'AP et de Belga)

**8 Juin 2015** - Les forces de sécurité soudanaises ont empêché lundi sept figures de l'opposition de se rendre à Strasbourg pour assister à une réunion du Parlement européen et confisqué leur passeport, a indiqué l'un des opposants visés par cette mesure. Les membres de ce groupe avaient été invités à assister à une réunion du Parlement européen à Strasbourg mais ont été stoppés à l'aéroport de Khartoum au moment où ils allaient prendre un vol pour Istanbul. Les sept personnes empêchées de partir appartiennent à l'Appel du Soudan, une alliance regroupant des groupes rebelles, des partis politiques et des organisations de la société civile opposés au régime du président Omar el-Béehir.

## **Soudan: Omar El Béehir annonce la formation d'un nouveau gouvernement**

Source: Agence de presse Xinhua

**7 Juin 2015** - Le président soudanais Omar El Béehir a annoncé samedi la formation d'un nouveau gouvernement avec des changements à des postes ministériels clés, dont les portes-feuilles de la Défense, des Affaires étrangères et du Pétrole, a rapporté la chaîne de télévision officielle du Soudan.

L'annonce est intervenue quelques jours après l'investiture du président Omar al-Bashir pour un nouveau mandat de cinq ans.

Selon le rapport, Ibrahim Ghandour sera le ministre des Affaires étrangères et Mohamed Zayed le nouveau ministre du Pétrole. Le lieutenant-général Mostafa Osman Abeer a été nommé ministre de la Défense par intérim.

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Le président Omar al-Bashir a maintenu Bakri Hassan Saleh et Hassabo Mohamed Abdul-Rahman aux postes de vice-présidents.

Mardi, lors de sa cérémonie d'investiture, M. El Béchir a promis d'être fidèle et honnête dans l'exercice de ses fonctions, de respecter la loi et la constitution.

En 2003, une insurrection ethnique a éclaté dans la région occidentale du Darfour. Selon l'Organisation des Nations Unies, plus de 300.000 personnes ont été tuées dans le conflit, qui a fait plus de deux millions de déplacés.

Peu de temps après son investiture, le président a amnistié les rebelles et les a invités à participer à des négociations de paix nationales.

En Avril dernier, Omar El-Béchir, a été réélu pour cinq ans avec 94,5 % des voix, selon la commission électorale. Cette victoire était largement prévisible, à l'issue d'un scrutin boycotté par l'opposition.