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



## MEDIA MONITORING

13 May 2015

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### D.R. CONGO

#### Nouvelles violences en République démocratique du Congo

Source: Radio Vatican

**12 Mai 2015** - Un nouveau massacre s'est produit à Béni, dans l'Est de la République démocratique du Congo. Lundi soir, des hommes armés ont attaqué une position de l'armée, ainsi que plusieurs personnes, des civils, qui revenaient des champs. On compte 5 morts.

Les autorités congolaises soupçonnent les rebelles ougandais des Forces démocratiques alliées, qui n'en seraient pas à leur première incursion meurtrière dans la région. Elles seraient en effet responsables d'une série de massacres depuis le mois d'octobre 2014, massacres au cours desquels quelque 300 civils auraient perdu la vie.

La situation est devenue intenable pour la population de Béni. Lundi, de nombreux habitants avaient lancé une opération « ville morte », pour protester contre l'insécurité grandissante, et surtout l'apathie des autorités et l'inefficacité de l'armée pourtant présente en force dans la région.

#### Five Killed in New DR Congo Rebel Attack near Beni

Source: AFP

**12 May 2015** - Five people were killed in a new attack blamed on Ugandan rebels near Beni in the east of the Democratic Republic of Congo, officials said Tuesday.

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More than 300 people have been killed in seven months of massacres in the troubled North Kivu province by rebels of the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF).

The latest attack happened late Monday at Mavivi, close to Beni, a major trading hub around which much of the bloodshed has been centered.

"We found the bodies of five people killed with machetes and axes, and seven injured," regional official Amisi Kalonda told AFP.

He said the victims had been coming back from the fields at nightfall when they were set upon by attackers, "presumed" to be from the ADF.

Major Victor Masandi, spokesman for the Congolese military operation against the rebels, said one group of guerillas attacked an army position while another set upon the civilians.

The new killings came as students and locals gathered in Beni Tuesday to demand more action against the attacks, with police ordered to break up the protest, the town's interim mayor Angele Nyirabitano told AFP.

The security situation in the area has dramatically deteriorated in the past week with seven more people killed in another massacre similar to the Mavivi attack on Friday, while two U.N. peacekeepers from its MONUSCO mission died in an ambush on May 5.

The U.N. forces launched a joint operation with the Congolese army against the ADF in December, but the killings -- mostly by machete -- have continued.

The mostly Muslim Ugandan rebels set up bases in the east of DR Congo in the mid-1990s during an unsuccessful insurgency against President Yoweri Museveni, before being finally forced to retreat over the border.

## **Killings by suspected Ugandan rebels draw protest in eastern Congo**

Source: Reuters

Reporting by Aaron Ross; Editing by Bate Felix; Editing by Mark Trevelyan

**Kinshasa, 12 May 2015** - Hundreds of people protested in the east of Democratic Republic of Congo on Tuesday after a machete attack by suspected Ugandan rebels in which a local activist said at least six people were killed.

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Activist Teddy Kataliko told Reuters that seven other people were wounded and two missing after men with machetes and hatchets attacked a village on Monday evening. An army spokesman, Major Victor Masandi, said he know of three deaths.

Witnesses said police fired in the air on Tuesday to disperse a crowd protesting in the nearby town of Beni over the lack of security in the volatile region.

Millions died in eastern Congo in a 1998-2003 war that sucked in more than a half dozen neighbouring countries, and the region remains ravaged by dozens of armed groups who contest its vast reserves of gold, diamonds and tin.

Masandi blamed the attack on the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), an Islamist rebel group formed in the 1990s to fight the Ugandan government, but which now operates primarily on the Congolese side of the border.

He said Congolese troops exchanged fire with the assailants, forcing them to flee.

A spate of overnight massacres near Beni since October has killed more than 300 civilians. The government and local activists have blamed the ADF, though analysts say other groups are likely to be involved as well.

The Congolese army launched a major operation against the ADF last year and says it has dramatically weakened the group.

But regular attacks against civilians in the region have continued, and the army blamed ADF fighters for an ambush on U.N. peacekeepers last week that killed two and wounded 13 Tanzanian troops.

The U.N. mission in the country has so far declined to officially assign responsibility for the ambush.

The ADF's leader, Jamil Mukulu, was arrested last month in Tanzania. Congo and Uganda have both sent teams to Tanzania to lobby for his extradition.

## **Congo seeks extradition of Islamist rebel chief from Tanzania**

Source: Reuters

Reporting by Aaron Ross; Additional reporting by Elias Biryabarema in Kampala; Editing by Andrew Roche

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**11 May 2015** - Democratic Republic of Congo has sent a delegation to Tanzania to request the extradition of the leader of a Ugandan Islamist group blamed for massacres in eastern Congo, Congo's justice minister said on Monday.

Jamil Mukulu, head of the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), was arrested in Tanzania in late April. His group was formed in the 1990s to fight the Ugandan government but now operates primarily on the Congolese side of the border.

"There is a delegation that left for Tanzania yesterday with the dossier," Minister Alexis Thambwe told Reuters.

Thambwe said he had assured the Tanzanian government Mukulu would not be executed.

A Ugandan team is also in Tanzania to lobby for Mukulu's extradition, Ugandan security sources told Reuters. They said they were not aware of Congo's wish to extradite but would be willing to discuss the issue.

Mukulu, who has been under U.N. sanctions since 2011, is a Ugandan national but Thambwe said he should be extradited to Congo because he had committed his most serious crimes there.

Attacks by the group in western Uganda and the capital Kampala killed 1,000 people between 1998 and 2000, according to International Crisis Group, but ADF relocated to the Congolese side of the border following operations by the Ugandan army.

From eastern Congo, the group has profited through lucrative cross-border trade in timber and minerals and is responsible for executions, kidnappings, torture and rape, according to rights groups.

The Congolese army launched a major operation against the ADF last year that it says has dramatically weakened the group, and estimates its current strength at as few as 50 fighters.

But that has failed to prevent a string of overnight massacres since October near the town of Beni in North Kivu province, most carried out with machetes and hatchets, that the government has blamed on the ADF, though analysts caution that other groups are likely to be involved as well.

The army has also blamed ADF fighters for an ambush on U.N. peacekeepers last week that killed two and wounded 13 Tanzanian troops.

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## Acquitted ex-militia boss touches down in DR Congo

Source: AFP

**Kinshasa: Ex-militia leader Mathieu Ngudjolo Chui on Monday arrived back in the Democratic Republic of Congo after a failed Dutch asylum attempt following his acquittal by the International Criminal Court earlier this year.**

**12 May 2015** - Ngudjolo arrived in Kinshasa's international airport escorted by five European police officers before leaving surrounded by friends and family, according to an AFP reporter on the scene.

The 44-year-old former leader of the Nationalist Integrationist Front (FNI) militia was the first person ever to be tried and acquitted by The Hague-based ICC, the world's only permanent war crimes tribunal, in February.

He was accused of war crimes for playing a commanding role in a 2003 attack by ethnic Lendu forces on Bogoro village in the vast country's restive northeastern Ituri region in which more than 200 villagers were slaughtered.

Ngudjolo had applied to stay in the Netherlands due to fears for his safety but Dutch authorities dismissed his application.

"I can confirm that Mr Ngudjolo Chui has been deported from the Netherlands and sent back to the Democratic Republic of Congo this afternoon," Justice Ministry spokesman Jaap Oosterveer told AFP.

Resource-rich eastern Ituri has been the scene of terrible clashes between rival militias which cost more than 60,000 lives between 1999 and 2007.

Ngudjolo helped to negotiate a peace deal with Kinshasa in exchange for his promotion to the rank of colonel in the Congolese army in 2006, just months before he was arrested.

In a statement, Human Rights Watch said they "and others will be looking to the Congolese authorities to ensure Mathieu Ngudjolo's safety and security".

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## **Le premier prévenu acquitté par la CPI rapatrié en RD Congo**

Source: APA

**Nairobi, 12 Mai 2015** - Mathieu Ngudjolo, le premier prévenu à être acquitté par la Cour pénale internationale (CPI), a été renvoyé à Kinshasa, en République démocratique du Congo, selon un communiqué publié mardi à Nairobi par Human Rights Watch.

Pourtant, souligne le communiqué, Ngudjolo a dit qu'il craignait pour sa sécurité en cas de retour dans son pays, mais les autorités d'immigration néerlandaises n'ont pas estimé ses craintes suffisamment convaincantes pour lui accorder l'asile.

"Nous attendons des autorités congolaises qu'elles assurent la sécurité de Mathieu Ngudjolo une fois qu'il sera de retour au Congo", a affirmé Géraldine Mattioli-Zeltner, directeur international de la défense en matière de justice à Human Rights Watch.

Ngudjolo était l'ancien chef d'état-major du Front for National Integration (FNI, Front des nationalistes et intégrationnistes), un groupe armé impliqué dans le conflit local et régional qui a ravagé la province de l'Ituri, dans l'est du Congo au début des années 2000.

Il avait été arrêté à Kinshasa par les autorités congolaises en 2008 en vertu d'un mandat d'arrêt de la CPI relatif à des accusations de crimes de guerre et de crimes contre l'humanité perpétrés dans le village de Bogoro, en Ituri, en février 2003. La chambre de première instance de la CPI a, en décembre 2012, acquitté Ngudjolo de toutes les accusations dont il faisait objet.

L'acquittement a été confirmé en appel le 27 février 2015. Ngudjolo a déposé une indemnisation à la CPI suite à son acquittement.

## **RDC: pour dénoncer l'insécurité, opération "ville morte" dans le Nord-Kivu**

Source: Jeune Afrique

**Les habitants de Beni, localité dans l'est de la RDC, s'insurgent contre l'inefficacité de l'armée et des autorités, après un énième massacre de civils dans la région.**

**12 Mai 2015** - Écoles fermées, boutiques closes, entreprises désertées... Beni, dans l'est de la République démocratique du Congo, avait des allures de ville fantôme lundi.

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Et pour cause: les habitants y ont observé une opération "ville morte" pour dénoncer l'inefficacité de l'armée et des autorités, après un énième massacre de civils dans la région. "Nous demandons aux autorités de procéder au changement du commandement des opérations Sukola 1 qui ont failli à leur mission de sécuriser les populations", a déclaré Gilbert Kambale, l'un des dirigeants de la Société civile de Beni, une ONG locale.

Qu'est-ce-que l'opération Sukola 1?

Cette opération militaire a été lancée par l'armée congolaise début 2014 contre les rebelles ougandais musulmans des Forces démocratiques alliées (ADF), installés dans l'est du Congo depuis 1995. Elle est dirigée par un proche du président congolais Joseph Kabila, le général Muhindo Akili "Mundos".

Les miliciens des ADF sont soupçonnés d'avoir tué plus de 300 civils dans une série de massacres commis depuis octobre dans la région de Beni. Vendredi, la dernière attaque en date a coûté la vie à sept personnes.

"On nous tue et ils font comme si de rien n'était"

"Nous n'avons pas ouvert la boutique aujourd'hui", a affirmé le propriétaire d'un magasin de vêtements à Beni. La ville, importante place commerciale à 250 km au nord de Goma, compte environ 500 000 habitants. "Les autorités n'assurent pas notre sécurité", s'est indigné ce trentenaire, "on nous tue et ils font comme si de rien n'était".

"Je comprends l'inquiétude de notre population, mais la solution ne sera pas trouvée comme par un coup de baguette magique", a déclaré le maire par intérim de Beni, Angèle Nyirabitaro, invitant les habitants à "faire confiance" aux autorités.

**Forte dégradation de la situation sécuritaire**

La sécurité dans la région de Beni s'est fortement dégradée depuis le début du mois. Le 5 mai deux Casques bleus de la Mission de l'ONU au Congo (Monusco) et deux civils ont été tués dans une embuscade. La veille, un hélicoptère de l'ONU avait été obligé d'atterrir en urgence après avoir essuyé des tirs.

En décembre, une opération conjointe de l'armée congolaise et de la Monusco avait contribué à ramener le calme dans la zone, sans que les massacres de civils ne cessent totalement.

Cette opération a par ailleurs fait les frais de la brouille entre la Monusco et les autorités de Kinshasa. Depuis quelques mois, les deux forces n'entretiennent pratiquement plus de coopération militaire.

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## BURUNDI

### Regional security chiefs meet over Burundi

Source: New Vision

By David Lumu

**An extra-ordinary meeting of defence ministers from member states of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) will Wednesday meet in Angola to discuss the ongoing political impasse in Burundi over changes in the country's constitution.**

**13 May 2015** - Tuesday security and intelligence chiefs from ICGLR member states also met in Luanda, Angola and discussed the Burundi question, among other regional issues.

Currently, Burundi is embroiled in violent clashes on the streets of Bujumbura between security forces and protesters, who have in the second week running, revolted against President Pierre Nkurunziza's third term presidential bid.

According to a statement issued by the ICGLR communication officer, Macdonald Mwakasendile, the defence ministers will consider the report security and intelligence chiefs on how to move on Burundi.

The defence ministers will also discuss the developments in the conflict-riddled Central Africa Republic, South Sudan and parts of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

Dr. Crispus Kiyonga, the minister of defence is expected to represent Uganda.

The meeting will be chaired by the President of Angola, Jos Eduardo Dos Santos, who on May 7 sent a special message to Nkurunziza on the current situation in Burundi.

Mwakasendile said defence ministers will discuss the "security and humanitarian situation in the region with special focus on Burundi, Central African Republic, Democratic republic of Congo, Republic of South Sudan and the menace of terrorism."

After the meeting of defence minister, the ICGLR will hold a special summit of Heads of States to discuss security situation in the region.

Member states of ICGLR include; Uganda, Angola, Burundi, DRC, Kenya, Congo Brazzaville, Rwanda, Sudan, Tanzania, Zambia and South Sudan.



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During last week's working tour in the U.S, President Yoweri Museveni held talks with President Barack Obama's national security adviser, Suzan Rice, on conflicts in the Great Lakes Region.

Since December 2013, South Sudan has been engulfed into a power-struggle conflict pitting President Salva Kiir against his former vice-president Dr. Riek Machar.

In Somalia, the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), the UPDF is working with troops from other countries to keep peace and re-build the war-torn country, which is acting as terrorism nursery bed.

Similar efforts are being applied to solve the Central African Republic conflict by flushing out rebel groups such as the Lord's Resistance Army that is led by the Uganda elusive rebel kingpin Joseph Kony.

## **UN sommet régional en Tanzanie pour résoudre la crise burundaise**

Source: RFI

**La Tanzanie accueille mercredi 13 mai un sommet régional de la Communauté de l'Afrique de l'Est consacré à la crise au Burundi. Outre le président Nkurunziza, on y attend ses homologues Kagame du Rwanda, Museveni d'Ouganda, Kenyatta du Kenya. Joseph Kabila de la RDC est également invité, ainsi que le vice-président sud-africain Cyril Ramaphosa. Il semble peu probable, disent la plupart des observateurs, que cette réunion résolve la crise.**

**12 Mai 2015** - Le ministre tanzanien des Affaires étrangères Bernard Membe a fait une brève annonce à la presse à l'occasion d'une réunion de préparation du sommet. Il a dit que les deux principales questions seront « la sécurité au Burundi », et le « problème des réfugiés ».

Il n'a cependant pas évoqué la cause de la crise politique : la candidature pour un troisième mandat du président sortant Pierre Nkurunziza. De l'avis de plusieurs diplomates, il ne faut pas s'attendre à ce que ce sommet puisse trancher de manière claire sur la légalité ou non de cette course au troisième mandat.

D'abord parce que c'est une question de souveraineté et de politique intérieure. Les chefs d'Etat de la région répugnent à se mêler publiquement des affaires de leurs voisins. « C'est d'autant plus délicat, souligne un analyste tanzanien, que plusieurs de ces présidents sont eux même à la recherche d'une bonne recette pour rester au pouvoir. »

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Ce n'est pas le cas en Tanzanie. Le pays hôte pourrait tenter d'obtenir deux choses : que le dialogue s'instaure entre Nkurunziza et l'opposition et que les élections soient reportées.

## **Burundi protests rage as regional leaders prepare to push for peace**

Source: AFP World News

**Bujumbura, 12 May 2015** - Burundi police opened fire on protesters Tuesday as President Pierre Nkurunziza defied international pressure to end a controversial third term bid, ahead of a regional summit to address the crisis.

One protester died in fresh clashes with police on the streets of Burundi's capital Bujumbura, while two others were reported killed overnight in a grenade explosion.

The latest deaths bring the number killed in more than two weeks of anti-government demonstrations to over 20 and come as East African leaders prepare to hold an emergency meeting in Tanzania on Wednesday.

Over 50,000 Burundians have fled into neighbouring nations since the unrest began.

Leaders of the five-nation East African Community -- made up of Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda as well as Burundi -- are due to meet in Dar es Salaam.

Democratic Republic of Congo President Joseph Kabila, South Africa's Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa and the US top diplomat for Africa Linda Thomas-Greenfield are also expected to attend.

On Tuesday police in Bujumbura opened fire on protesters in an apparent attempt to scatter crowds who wanted to attack the house of a police officer.

An AFP journalist at the scene also saw two other people with gunshot wounds, one of them a boy of around 10, hit in the arm.

In another part of the capital, officers fired tear gas to break up a crowd of some 200 youths.

While the police have ripped down barricades on main roads, side streets in key opposition areas remain blocked, guarded by angry demonstrators.

Nkurunziza, a former rebel leader from the Hutu majority who has been in power since 2005, has come under intense international pressure to withdraw from next month's election and stand down.

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**- 'Many violence, many problems' -**

Nkurunziza, a former rebel leader from the Hutu majority who has been in power since 2005, has come under intense international pressure to withdraw from next month's election and stand down.

Opposition groups insist that it is unconstitutional for Nkurunziza to run for more than two terms.

But he argues that his first presidential term did not count as he was elected by parliament, not directly by the people.

"The presidents should be clear with Nkurunziza... they must tell him to leave for the good of everybody," said Aremus, a 24-year old protester.

"The summit tomorrow is a test... the heads of state must show their maturity in crisis management by telling Nkurunziza to leave," said Donatien, manning one of the street barricades.

The clashes between security forces and demonstrators have raised fears of a return to violence in the central African state, which is still recovering from a brutal 13-year civil war that ended in 2006.

The European Union and United States called Monday for the elections set for late June to be delayed.

African Union Commission chief Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma last week warned the time was not right for elections, and that it was "clear that there shouldn't be a third term."

But Nkurunziza said in a BBC interview that postponing the vote would worsen the situation.

"I can tell you that for enduring stability in Burundi you can't say that you can't organise elections," Nkurunziza said. "There would be many violence and many problems."

In Bujumbura's Musaga district, some 300 women marched singing and chanting slogans against a third term.

"No to the third term for Nkurunziza," one group shouted.

Asked to rule on the third-term issue, the constitutional court found in Nkurunziza's favour but not before one of the judges fled the country claiming its members were subject to death threats.

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"Today we are optimistic that the elections will be very peaceful, transparent and also fair," Nkurunziza said. "We can assure (you) that we will accept the outcome of the ballot box."

## **EU cuts off Burundi's election funding due to crackdown on protests**

Source: CCTV

**12 May 2015** - Pressure's growing on Burundi's president to postpone elections set for later this month or accommodate protestors. The European Union has cut off its funding for the vote. The US is also signalling it will freeze aid.

A third week of protests against Pierre Nkurunziza's decision to run again for president. On Monday, there was heavy security in Bujumbura to quash any rally before it got started.

And Pierre Nkurunziza was in Muyinga - a town on the other side of the country - pushing ahead with his campaign for a third term. But if Nkurunziza's ignoring the protesters, international donors are determined to be heard. Belgium has cut off funding worth more than two million dollars. The European Union has frozen the same amount.

"The message we are passing across is that this is a collective agreement from EU countries. We want the government of Burundi to create a conducive environment for elections."

"We want them to ensure there is freedom of the press, allow protesters to have their voices heard without intimidating them and ensure the immediate release of all those who were arrested during the protests," said Koen Vernaek of EU Senior Coordinator Great Lakes Region.

"Officials from America - Burundi's biggest donor - and from Switzerland met government representatives on Monday. They're also concerned about how the government is treating its people," said Kofa Mrenje in Bujumbura.

Nkurunziza's government insists it can find a solution.

"They have just given us certain conditions which we shall try to meet. We will try to engage everyone involved before we get to the elections. And they have promised that if they do so, then the funds will be available for us," said Laurent Kavakure, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Burundi.

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The African Union already has urged Burundi to postpone the vote. But the presidency so far is ignoring that plea.

## **Burundi: Civilians will take up arms if African leaders fail to act, says former rebel leader**

Source: International Business Times

**12 May 2015** - A former Hutu rebel leader has warned that civilians could take up arms if East African leaders fail to take action against Burundi President Pierre Nkurunziza who is running for a third term in office.

Speaking ahead of the East African leaders' emergency summit to discuss the Burundi crisis tomorrow (13 May) in Tanzania, Burundi's main opposition leader Agathon Rwaswa told IBTimes UK that the outcome of the meeting would determine whether Burundians became civilian warriors.

The meeting is aimed at breaking the political deadlock in Burundi and ensuring the country holds peaceful elections.

Twenty people have been killed and scores wounded since 26 April, when Burundi's ruling CNDD-FDD party nominated Nkurunziza to stand for re-election, triggering daily, often violent protests.

Demonstrators' claim Nkurunziza's bid to prolong his 10-year tenure is "unconstitutional" and violates the Arusha Accords, agreed to at the end of a 13-year civil war (1993-2005) that killed an estimated 300,000.

### **Civilians have the right to take up arms**

"We are saying that the violation of the Arusha Accords is not a Burundo-Burundian affair, but one that is both Burundian and international," Rwaswa, leader of the former ethnic Hutu rebel group National Forces of Liberation (known by its French acronym FNL), told IBTimes UK from his home.

Rwaswa, who registered his candidacy for the presidential election under the FNL banner on Saturday 9 May, is demanding that there is a regional initiative led by the East African leaders who helped draft the agreement as well as the United Nations and European Union, who financed it.

"They must break their silence and come out of their diplomacy to tell Nkurunziza that his third term is unacceptable. If they don't manage to say it [during the 13 May meeting]

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and if Nkurunziza continues to fire on civilians, protesters will also have the right to take to arms to defend themselves. Then, that will be catastrophic, and worse."

So far, Nkurunziza has insisted he would stamp out the protests that have rocked the country, as presidential communications chief Willy Nyamitwe told IBTimes UK on 7 May.

"If protesters say they will fight to the death, they have opted for the path of war. If they choose the path of war, the country has defence and security forces that it will use to defend the state against this attack. And we will use these tools to stamp out this attack and bring some order in our country," Nyamitwe said at the time.

### **Millions of refugees**

If people are armed, Rwasa claims, Nkurunziza would be the first person to have to answer to them, because the protest "is only against his candidacy".

"Winning this election paves the way for him to reign in the most dictatorial way possible that has ever existed in this country. The international community is going to isolate us because they will not collaborate with someone like that. With our growing population and no allies, this country will become unliveable."

If the elections take place as planned on 26 June, and if Nkurunziza wins, Rwasa warns Burundi will face an outpouring of migrants "in the millions" trying to reach neighbouring and far-flung countries.

"Is the international community ready to welcome this flow of refugees?" he asked.

"For the interest of Burundi and that of the stability of our region and the entire Africa, everyone must be unanimous that the president must not run for elections. The international community must get it across to him during Wednesday's meeting in Dar es Salaam."

Impose sanctions, says Rwasa

According to the former militia chief, leaders at the meeting need to outline a series of sanctions in a similar manner to those set out by the US and the European Union against Russia for its alleged role in the Ukrainian war.

"They must isolate his regime, and we demand for targeted sanctions to be applied against Nkurunziza and his entourage who kill civilians. That's the only way for them to come to their senses."

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Rwasa suggests the international community impose sanctions similar to those against Russia, including diplomatic measures and restrictive measures, such as asset freezes and visa bans.

The former rebel leader also advocates international mandates be applied "if needed".

"They should be banned to travel, as they are forbidding us to travel freely in ours," he explained.

#### Death threats, attempted assassinations

The FNL has said it believes it is vital that the elections are postponed because the security conditions have not been met. The electoral campaign, which started on Sunday 10 May, has been tainted by claims of political persecution and intimidations.

"We cannot pretend to lead a democratic electoral campaign when arms are circulating within the civil population. These are not allegations," Rwasa said, pointing to reports that the ruling party youth wing, known as the Imbonerakure, are employed as election muscle and "are armed and wearing police uniforms".

"They throw grenades, are out of control, with impunity. We know that the power has always tried to annihilate the opposition – and I am one of them."

The evidence of this, Rwasa says, is the attempted assassination of his wife on 15 March when she was attacked in a hair salon in the Asian district in the centre of the capital, Bujumbura.

A suspect, who has not yet been identified, walked into the salon and shot her at point-blank range. Luckily, Rwasa says, two bullets only injured her left ear. Burundian Police confirmed the attack took place and said it has launched an investigation.

The former rebel leader claims his wife was attacked by "people from the presidential services", from the national intelligence service (SNR), which takes its orders "directly from the president".

"They used state means to conduct the operation, in terms of transport but also logistics with heavy arms. This operation came from the state coffers," Rwasa said. "She was attacked because she is the wife of an opposition leader, who they have always tried to eliminate. Thank god, they have not yet managed to put me down."

Rwasa, who is among eight presidential hopefuls, claims sources have told him that killing his wife was just the start of a plan that would come to fruition at her funeral.

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"At the funeral, they would kill us all, because the opposition, members of the party, friends and members of the civil society would attend. That way, the CNDD-FDD could run the country without being hindered."

Burundi's government has strongly denied any such allegation.

## **Burundi: la crise prend de plus en plus une dimension régionale(UE)**

Source: Agence de presse Xinhua

**12 Mai 2015** - L'Union européenne (UE) a averti lundi que la crise burundaise prend de plus en plus une dimension régionale, à l'occasion de la sixième réunion politique mensuelle entre le gouvernement burundais et l'UE, à laquelle se sont joints les Etats-Unis et la Suisse.

"Un élément très important pour le ministre des Affaires étrangères est la dimension régionale de cette crise. Dans nos discussions, nous avons appelé les autorités burundaises à prendre dûment en compte ces dimensions régionales de la situation au Burundi", a déclaré Koen Vervaeke, l'envoyé spécial de l'UE dans la Région des Grands Lacs, au cours d'un point de presse tenue à l'issue de la réunion.

Il a indiqué que le flux des réfugiés a fait naître des inquiétudes dans la région et que l'UE, les Etats-Unis et la Suisse vont travailler ensemble avec l'Afrique et la région pour surmonter la crise au Burundi.

"Dans ce cadre, nous nous félicitons de l'initiative prise par la présidence de la Communauté des Etats de l'Afrique de l'Est d'organiser un sommet extraordinaire le 13 mai prochain à Dar-Es-Salam en Tanzanie", a indiqué Koen Vervaeke.

Il a affirmé avoir eu l'assurance du ministre burundais des Relations extérieures et de la Coopération internationale, Laurent Kavakure, que le président Pierre Nkurunziza répondra lui-même à ce rendez-vous de Dar-Es-Salam.

"C'est une bonne chose que ce dialogue puisse se faire aussi au niveau régional après des initiatives de facilitation menées localement au Burundi par l'envoyé spécial du secrétaire général des Nations Unies dans la Région des Grands Lacs, Saïd Djinit, par une délégation de très haut niveau menée par l'Union Africaine avec l'ancien Premier Ministre togolais, Edem Kodjo", a relevé l'ambassadeur Vervaeke.

L'ambassadeur de Belgique au Burundi, Mark Gedopt, a annoncé au cours du même point de presse que son pays vient de suspendre temporairement son appui au processus électoral burundais, d'environ deux millions d'euros, considérant que les



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conditions d' une organisation des élections libres, transparentes, inclusives, apaisées et démocratiques ne sont pas réunies pour bénéficier de ce soutien.

Les Pays-Bas et la Suisse ont aussi suspendu provisoirement leurs appuis à ce processus électoral burundais.

## ANGOLA

### UN rights office calls for inquiry into Angolan 'sect' massacre

Source: Ecumenical News

**12 May 2015** - The United Nations Human Rights office is calling for an independent inquiry in the alleged killing of up to 1,000 members of an Angolan religious group described by the government as a sect.

"There have been alarming reports in recent weeks of an alleged massacre in the central province of Huambo in Angola," said the spokesman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights, Rupert Colville on May 12.

Colville said his office had been working to get more information on the incident but the facts remain unclear, with wildly differing accounts of the number of casualties.

"According to the government, nine police officers and 13 civilians were killed in a confrontation in Serra Sumé when police attempted to arrest the leader of a religious sect called "Luz du Mundo" (Light of the World)," he said.

"But other accounts of the incident claim that hundreds of followers of the sect were killed. There are even accounts suggesting the number may exceed 1,000," Colville said at a U.N. press briefing.

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He noted that recent editorials and reports in State media "condemning the sect have been very worryingly virulent."

"We understand that a Government inquiry has been launched into the incident, and we urge the Government to ensure that a truly meaningful, independent, thorough investigation is conducted with a view to ensuring accountability," said Colville.

Christianity Today reported May 8 that weeks after a military raid on a Christian camp left more than a dozen people dead, Angola had banned nine churches for failing to operate within the law.

Following the April 16 attack on the Light of the World community which is led by former Seventh-day Adventist Jose Kalupeteka.

Angolan President José Eduardo dos Santos blamed the "apocalyptic group" for causing social unrest by scaring citizens into believing the world would end in 2015.

The Christianity Today report noted that journalists have been denied access to the scene of the massacre.

The government and the main opposition party have given conflicting reports on the total casualties in the massacre during which Light of the World members shouted "our weapon is the Bible" and "Jesus is our protector" during the siege, according to one account.

Angola's main opposition party, the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA), said that 1,080 members of the group were massacred, with helicopter gunships mowing them down.

As a rebel group during the Cold War era, UNITA which has been backed once by China then the United States and South Africa, fought against the Cuban and Soviet-backed ruling MPLA (Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola) party.

The MPLA has ruled the country since it became independent from Portugal in 1975 and the civil war between the rival parties ended in 2002. Dos Santo has been national president since 1979.

The area where the incident took place is near the country's second city of Huambo, which is UNITA's traditional stronghold far to the south-east of the capital, Luanda, and has been cordoned off, The Economist reported May 11.

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## CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

### Clashes disrupt peace forum in Central African Republic

Source: Reuters

**Bangui, 12 May 2015** - United Nations (UN) peacekeepers in Central African Republic shot in the air on Monday and used tear gas to disperse gunmen who tried to disrupt a forum aimed at helping restore peace to the country, witnesses said.

The incident took place as the Bangui Forum was drawing to an end, highlighting the simmering tension in the country, where thousands have been killed and hundreds of thousands displaced during waves of violence.

No injuries were reported at the incident.

Former members of the mainly Muslim Seleka rebel force and members of their arch rival "anti-balaka" militia together paralysed central Bangui to protest that the peace forum had not resulted in the freeing of members detained by the government.

Some of the several hundred protestors also called for the resignation of Catherine Samba-Panza, the interim president tasked with guiding the country to elections.

A French helicopter flew overhead but did not intervene as UN peacekeepers broke up the protest.

The seizure of Bangui by Seleka in March 2013 led to tit-for-tat killings as "anti-balaka" militia fought back against violence instigated by rebels once they were in power.

The violence forced French and then UN troops to intervene as UN officials warned that the country was on the brink of genocide.

Insecurity has eased and armed groups agreed on Sunday to a peace accord requiring them to disarm and potentially face justice for war crimes committed during the conflict.

However, the incident highlighted the potential for violence and questions remain over whether the vote, due this year, will be held on time.

### CAR reconciliation forum calls for poll delay

Source: AFP

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**Bangui, 12 May 2015** - A forum seeking to restore peace in the Central African Republic on Monday called for the country's upcoming presidential and legislative elections to be delayed to give the transitional authorities more time to organise the closely-watched polls.

The recommendation was made at the end of a week of talks at a reconciliation forum in the capital Bangui, attended by armed groups, political and religious figures and civil society members.

The forum also called for an "exceptional extension" of the mandate of the interim government so it could adequately prepare for the polls, seen by the international community as crucial to CAR's recovery from a spiral of violence triggered by a 2013 coup.

The presidential and legislative elections are currently slated for July and August but preparations are reportedly running behind schedule.

**Peaceful and democratic**

The reconciliation forum urged heads of state of the central African ECCAS grouping to "respond favourably" to their request for a postponement, given "the poor mobilisation of donors to finance the electoral process".

The forum's statement did not mention when the balloting should take place.

But the country's interim President Catherine Samba-Panza - whose mandate is scheduled to end in August - said at the closing ceremony that "the elections should be held at the latest by the end of the year".

The United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said the forum's recommendations "reflect the aspirations of the people of CAR to put conflict behind them once and for all and to build a more peaceful and democratic country".

He said these should be implemented without delay.

**Deadly sectarian violence**

Congo's President Denis Sassou Nguesso, who has been mediating in CAR's crisis, earlier told the reconciliation forum that the organisation of the elections was "a priority".

The UN said last month it still lacked half the \$44m it needs to help CAR move forward with the elections.

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The impoverished, landlocked country was plunged into unrest after the mainly Muslim Seleka rebel alliance seized power in March 2013, following a coup that ousted president Francois Bozize.

The episode triggered a wave of deadly sectarian violence between the country's Christian and Muslim populations.

The mainly Christian "anti-balaka" (anti-machete) fighters and the predominantly Muslim ex-Seleka rebel movement signed a ceasefire deal in April.

In what was hailed by the UN as another major step forward, rival militias agreed during the reconciliation forum to release thousands of child soldiers and end child recruitment.

## **Demonstrators in C.Africa reject call for election delay**

Source: AFP

**Bangui, 12 May 2015** - Several hundred people, some in military uniforms, demonstrated Tuesday in the capital of the restive Central African Republic over a peace forum's recommendation that upcoming general and presidential elections be delayed.

The protesters, who erected barricades and burnt tyres on major roads, including the road linking Bangui to the airport, also demanded that the country's interim President Catherine Samba-Panza step aside.

The demonstrators were later dispersed by police.

On Monday, armed groups, political and religious figures and civil society members attending a peace forum called for the polls slated for July and August to be postponed over "the poor mobilisation of donors to finance the electoral process".

The forum also called for an "exceptional extension" of the mandate of the country's interim government so it could adequately prepare for the polls, seen by the international community as crucial to CAR's recovery from a spiral of violence triggered by a 2013 coup.

The delegates did not say when the balloting should take place. Samba-Panza said the country should go to the polls "at the latest by the end of the year".

Central African Republic was plunged into turmoil after the mainly Muslim Seleka rebel alliance ousted president Francois Bozize, a Christian, in March 2013.

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The episode triggered a wave of deadly sectarian violence between the country's Christian and Muslim populations.

The mainly Christian "anti-balaka" (anti-machete) militia and the ex-Seleka rebels signed a ceasefire deal in April.

## **Ban welcomes Central African Republic peace pact as reflection of people's aspirations**

Source: UN News Centre

**11 May 2015** - Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has congratulated the people of the Central African Republic (CAR) for the adoption of a peace pact that reflects on their aspirations to put the conflict behind them once and for all and to build a more peaceful and democratic country.

The Bangui National Forum was held from 4 to 11 May 2015 and produced the Republican Pact for Peace, National Reconciliation and Reconstruction at its conclusion today.

In a statement released by Mr. Ban's spokesman, the Secretary-General commended the Transitional Authorities and the armed groups for the signature of an agreement on the principles for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration. He also called for its swift and full implementation.

"The Bangui Forum is the result of a historic and inclusive process that amplified the voices of local representatives, women, youth, and civil society," the note said.

The Secretary-General also welcomed the leading role played by women throughout the Forum and encouraged the Transitional Government, with the support of the UN and the international community, to implement the Forum's recommendations "without delay."

## **Centrafrique : l'ONU se félicite des résultats du Forum de Bangui**

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Source: Agence de presse Xinhua

**12 Mai 2015** - Le secrétaire général de l'ONU, Ban Ki-moon, s'est félicité lundi des résultats du Forum national de Bangui, qui a réuni du 4 au 11 mai divers acteurs de la crise en République centrafricaine, et a appelé à mettre en œuvre rapidement les recommandations de ce forum.

Le chef de l'ONU a notamment félicité le peuple centrafricain pour l'adoption du "Pacte républicain pour la paix, la réconciliation nationale et la reconstruction en République centrafricaine".

"Les recommandations du Pacte reflètent les aspirations du peuple centrafricain à mettre une fois pour toutes le conflit derrière lui et à construire un pays plus pacifique et plus démocratique", a souligné le porte-parole du chef de l'ONU dans une déclaration à la presse.

Pendant une semaine, les autorités de la transition, les représentants des groupes armés, les partis politiques, des dirigeants religieux et des membres de la société civile ont participé aux débats qui ont porté sur la paix et la sécurité, la justice et la réconciliation ainsi que la gouvernance et le développement économique et social.

Le secrétaire général a également félicité le gouvernement de transition et les groupes armés pour la signature, dans le cadre du Forum, d'un accord sur les principes de désarmement, de démobilisation et de réintégration. Il a appelé à sa mise en œuvre rapide et intégrale.

"Le Forum de Bangui est le résultat d'un processus historique et inclusif qui a permis aux représentants locaux, aux femmes, à la jeunesse et à la société civile de faire entendre leurs voix. Le secrétaire général se félicite du rôle de premier plan joué par les femmes tout au long du Forum", a ajouté le porte-parole. "Le secrétaire général encourage le gouvernement de transition, avec le soutien des Nations Unies et de la communauté internationale, à mettre en œuvre les recommandations du Forum sans délai".

De son côté, le représentant spécial du secrétaire général pour la République centrafricaine, Babacar Gaye, a invité la communauté internationale à continuer de se mobiliser pour accompagner le pays "sur le chemin courageux et difficile de la paix".

"Le Forum a dépassé nos attentes avec cette pertinente particularité de réunir toutes les composantes de la nation mettant ainsi les Centrafricains et les Centrafricaines au chevet de leur propre pays", a dit M. Gaye

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## La Centrafrique s'achemine vers un nouveau report de la présidentielle

Source: Le Figaro

**12 Mai 2015** - L'élection présidentielle en Centrafrique n'aura pas lieu cet été comme il était prévu. Ce report annoncé est tout sauf une surprise tant le manque de préparation rendait l'opération improbable. L'Autorité nationale des élections (ANE) dans un rapport publié soulignait dimanche que l'organisation d'élections d'ici à juillet était impossible, en raison du manque de matériel électoral et de la persistance de l'insécurité.

Le Forum de Bangui, une conférence de six cents délégués devant proposer au pays une sortie de crise, a entériné lundi soir cette impréparation et a appelé donc les présidents de la région à repousser le scrutin. Sauf grosse surprise, les chefs d'État africains devraient accepter. Même si Denis Sassou Nguesso, président congolais et médiateur en Centrafrique, avait insisté sur la nécessité de respecter les délais, ils n'ont guère le choix. Reste que la communauté internationale, qui a fait de l'élection une priorité, a peu apprécié ce retard. Le vote, un temps envisagé, certes de manière très optimiste, en février, avait déjà été repoussé une première fois. «On a le sentiment que les autorités ne font pas leur maximum pour que le scrutin se tienne», euphémise un observateur qui soupçonne désormais le gouvernement de vouloir prolonger la transition pour se maintenir au pouvoir.

La présidente par intérim sous pression

En coulisses, plusieurs pays, et notamment la France, ont donc accentué la pression sur Bangui et sur la présidente Catherine Samba Panza. Avec un certain succès. En clôture du forum, elle a affirmé «ces élections devraient se tenir au plus tard d'ici la fin de l'année 2015». Une date butoir exigée par Paris et plusieurs autres capitales. Elles auraient laissé entendre à la présidente par intérim qu'un nouveau report du scrutin entraînerait sans doute un changement à la tête de la transition et donc sa démission.

La réunion de Bangui devaient être aussi l'occasion pour les milices antibalaka et les ex-Séléka, qui avaient le pays à feu et à sang, de désarmer. Officiellement, un accord en ce sens a été signé. Le texte assure que «les combattants de tous les groupes armés acceptent et s'engagent à mettre une fin définitive aux conflits armés en République centrafricaine». Il prévoit un processus d'aide au désarmement et à la démobilisation (DDR) et la création d'un tribunal spécial pour juger les crimes de guerre. Mais beaucoup doutent des chances de réussite de cet accord. Les signataires, tant d'un côté que de l'autre, sont en effet très loin de représenter tous les combattants. L'encre n'était pas sèche que les combattants mécontents déclenchaient une brève fusillade dans la capitale. «Dans cette négociation, tout n'est pas parfait. Mais



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l'essentiel est qu'un dialogue s'amorce. C'est l'unique solution pour ramener la paix en Centrafrique», analysait un diplomate.

## REPUBLIC OF CONGO

### Congo-Kinshasa: Kisangani - La MONUSCO discute avec les FDLR pour leur rapatriement

Source: Radio Okapi

**12 Mai 2015** - La Mission des Nations unies pour la stabilisation en RDC (Monusco) a entamé lundi 11 mai à Kisangani (Province Orientale) des interviews des ex-combattants hutu Rwandais des FDLR et leurs dépendants au centre de transit situé au camp Lieutenant Général Bahuma, à une dizaine de kilomètres de la ville.

Le but de cette opération menée par le bureau DDRRR est d'obtenir de ses rebelles leur rapatriement volontaire dans le pays d'origine.

## SOUTH SUDAN

### S Sudan rebel commander: No peace deal with Salva Kii

Source: Radio Tamazuj

**12 May 2015** - A leading commander of South Sudan's SPLA-In Opposition said that his side will not sign a peace agreement with the government until President Salva Kiir is removed from his post.

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General Gathoth Gatkuoth Hothnyang, Deputy Chief of General Staff and a member of the SPLA-IO military command council, said: "Salva Kiir must go and face justice and accountability before signing a peace agreement."

"We vow to continue fighting Salva Kiir until he is completely out of power that he has misuse against our Nation," he added.

Gathoth said his side wants peace and respects the international peace negotiators, but "peace should come without Salva Kiir otherwise signing a bad peace is better to continue the war until we achieve our objective through barrel of our guns."

Gathoth was speaking while visiting wounded soldiers in Maiwut, South Sudan.

## **South Sudanese rebels release lost NGOs staff from Juba**

Source: Sudan Tribune

**11 May 2015** - The armed opposition faction led by the former vice- president, Riek Machar, on Monday released workers of a local NGO who fled from the government-held South Sudanese capita, Juba, and wrongly landed in a rebel-controlled town.

All the seven who are also South Sudanese staff members and work for a Juba-based local non-governmental organisation called 'The Health Support Organisation' or THESO, were brought to the leadership of the rebel movement in Pagak hours before they were freed and flown back to Juba on Monday.

The staff from Juba boarded a plane on 7 March destined to Chotbora area in Fangak county of Jongeli state but instead wrongly landed in another Chotbora town of Longechuk county in Adar (Upper Nile) state, which is under the control and administration of the opposition faction.

Machar's spokesperson, James Gatdet Dak, said before the release of the detainees on Monday the seven persons were detained for 45 days during which an investigation was carried out into their identities and claimed status as workers for the relief organisation.

He told Sudan Tribune that the leadership of the opposition directed for their freedom and return to their base in Juba.

"Our leadership directed for their release and they returned to Juba on Monday. This is in exercise of our principles and implementation of the humanitarian ground rules," he said.

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He said the freed local NGO workers expressed good treatment while in detention under the custody of the local administration in the area.

“They were very excited and had to take a picture with the SPLM/SPLA chairman and commander-in-chief, Dr. Riek Machar Teny-Dhurgon,” Dak further narrated.

They freed personnel include John Jock Reat, team leader, Oryem William Ronald, Kiden Jesca Tionga, Mungo Patrick, Edema Charles Daniel, Luoy Gatkek Chak and Luka Mayuan Gai.

This is the second time after the rebel group also released staff from the government-controlled areas, including the chairman for National Bureau for Census and Statistics, Isaiah Aruai Chol, whose plane wrongly landed in rebel-held area early this year.

The opposition faction is also concerned about alleged infiltration of NGOs by government security operatives spying on their areas of control and urged relief organizations to avoid influence by the government.

## **'Girls raped, boys abducted, towns torched' as South Sudan battle rages**

Source: AFP

**Gunmen in South Sudan have raped girls, seized boys to become soldiers and torched towns in some of the heaviest fighting seen in the 17-month-long civil war, the United Nations said Tuesday.**

**12 May 2015** - Over 300,000 civilians have been left without "life-saving aid" in the northern battleground state of Unity, after the UN and aid agencies pulled out due to surge in fighting, with over 100,000 forced to flee their homes.

The UN peacekeeping mission said it was "increasingly concerned" about reports from Guit and Koch counties in Unity state of "towns and villages being burned, killings, abductions of males as young as 10 years of age, rape and abduction of girls and women, and the forced displacement of civilians."

The violence is some of the worst in months, as government forces push south from the state capital Bentiu into an opposition zone around the town of Leer, home to some of the country's once lucrative oil fields.

The International Committee of the Red Cross has also withdrawn staff from Leer and warned that escalating fighting between forces loyal to President Salva Kiir and rebel leader Riek Machar was forcing thousands of civilians to flee for their lives yet again.

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Unity state governor Joseph Monytil told reporters late Monday that government troops aimed to take Leer from opposition forces within days. "Our forces... are now pursuing them to where they came from," said Monytil.

Doctors Without Borders (MSF) said Saturday it was forced to evacuate its foreign staff from Leer and halt all medical services amid fears the rebel-held town was about to come under "imminent attack" from government forces.

Leer, the birthplace of Machar, was ransacked by government forces in January 2014. Gunmen looted the MSF hospital and burned some of the buildings.

MSF has since rebuilt the hospital, the only referral facility in opposition areas.

South Sudan's civil war began in December 2013 and has been characterised by ethnically-driven massacres, rape and attacks on civilians and medical facilities.

## **Violents affrontements au Soudan du Sud: viols, enlèvements et incendies (ONU)**

Source: AFP

**12 Mai 2015** - Viols, enlèvements et incendies viennent s'ajouter aux combats parmi les plus violents en dix-sept mois de guerre civile au Soudan du Sud, laissant aussi des centaines de milliers de personnes sans aide humanitaire, ont rapporté mardi les Nations unies.

Plus de 300.000 civils sont privés d'une "aide vitale" dans l'Etat de l'Unité, dans le nord du pays, par le retrait de la zone des combats des agences de l'ONU et organisations humanitaires, précise l'ONU dans un communiqué. Les Nations unies avaient déjà annoncé la semaine dernière que 100.000 personnes avaient dû fuir leurs foyers en une semaine de violents affrontements.

La mission de maintien de la paix de l'ONU au Soudan du Sud se dit "de plus en plus préoccupée" par les informations en provenance des comtés de Guit et Koch, dans l'Etat de l'Unité, faisant état "de villes et villages incendiés, de meurtres, enlèvements de garçons parfois âgés de tout juste 10 ans, de rapt et viols de femmes et filles et de déplacement forcé de civils".

Les forces gouvernementales avancent vers le Sud depuis la capitale de l'Etat, Bentiu, en direction d'une zone proche de la ville pétrolière de Leer aux mains des opposants.

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Le Comité international de la Croix-Rouge s'est déjà retiré de Leer et a averti que l'escalade des combats entre les forces fidèles au président Salva Kiir et celles de son rival, l'ex-vice-président Riek Machar, avait provoqué la fuite de milliers de civils.

Les deux camps s'affrontent depuis décembre 2013 dans une guerre qui a déjà fait plusieurs dizaines de milliers de morts et deux millions de déplacés.

Le gouvernement de l'Unity, Joseph Monytil, a déclaré lundi soir à la presse que les soldats gouvernementaux avaient pour objectif une reprise de Leer dans les prochains jours.

Médecins sans frontières (MSF) avait annoncé dès samedi le retrait de son personnel étranger de la ville et la suspension de son aide médicale dans la crainte d'une attaque imminente des forces gouvernementales.

Ville natale de M. Machar, Leer a été saccagée en janvier 2014 par les forces de Juba et l'hôpital de MSF pillé et en partie incendié. L'ONG a depuis reconstruit l'établissement, le seul en zone rebelle.

Lundi soir, l'Union européenne a condamné les combats, estimant que la guerre "avait provoqué une des pires catastrophes humanitaires des récentes années".

Son responsable humanitaire, Christos Stylianides, a déclaré que le conflit n'avait pas de solution militaire et qu'il revenait aux dirigeants sud-soudanais de faire la paix.

Plusieurs rounds de négociations entre les camps de MM. Kiir et Machar n'ont jusqu'à présent pas donné de résultat.

## **U.N. Evacuates Staff from South Sudan**

Source: The wall Street Journal (<http://www.wsj.com/articles/u-n-evacuates-staff-from-south-sudan-1431344971>)

**11 May 2015** - The United Nations evacuated its staff from South Sudan's Unity state Monday following an escalation in clashes between rebels and government troops.

The U.N. becomes the latest agency to withdraw from the oil-rich state as the fighting threatens to worsen the already precarious humanitarian situation in the flash point state.

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Several humanitarian organizations have halted operations in the state in recent days due to intense fighting between the warring factions, said Toby Lanzer, the U.N.'s humanitarian coordinator in South Sudan.

The withdrawal of aid agencies is one in a series of devastating events affecting the world's youngest nation as a nearly two-year conflict continues to tear it apart. With no agencies on the ground, up to 300,000 people have been left without access to lifesaving assistance such as food and medical services, the U.N. said.

“Ongoing hostilities in Unity state have now obliged all nongovernmental organizations and U.N. agencies to evacuate staff,” Mr. Lanzer said. “Renewed violence... comes at a time when stocks of food are depleted, and precisely at the height of the traditional planting season.”

The conflict—which erupted in December 2013 following a flare up of an internal power struggle between President Salva Kiir and his former deputy, Riek Machar—has uprooted nearly 2 million people from their homes.

## **Soudan du Sud : les hostilités dans l'Etat d'Unity forcent à interrompre l'aide humanitaire, selon l'ONU**

Source: <http://www.portail-humanitaire.org/news/actu/2015-05-12-Soudan-du-Sud:-les-hostilitONU>

**11 Mai 2015** - Le Coordonnateur humanitaire des Nations Unies au Soudan du Sud, Toby Lanzer, a prévenu lundi que les hostilités dans l'Etat d'Unité ont forcé les organisations humanitaires à interrompre leur assistance, laissant 300.000 personnes dans le besoin.

« Les affrontements actuels dans l'Etat d'Unité ont obligé toutes les organisations non gouvernementales et les agences des Nations Unies à évacuer leur personnel de Leer et d'autres endroits. La réponse humanitaire au sud de Bentiu, dans l'Etat d'Unité, est désormais à l'arrêt », a dit M. Lanzer dans un communiqué de presse.

En conséquence, plus de 300.000 civils qui ont besoin d'une assistance d'urgence, y compris de l'aide alimentaire et des services médicaux, ne disposent pas actuellement d'un accès à cette assistance.

Le regain de violence dans le sud de l'Etat d'Unité intervient à un moment où les stocks de nourriture sont épuisés et alors qu'il s'agit du pic de la saison des semis qui est cruciale pour les moissons plus tard cette année.

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Les agences humanitaires se sont engagées à revenir dans toutes les zones du sud de l'Etat d'Unité et à poursuivre leurs opérations d'urgence, dès que les conditions le permettent.

Le Coordonnateur humanitaire a demandé que « les parties au conflit garantissent que le travail des agences humanitaires en faveur des populations dans le besoin, sur la base des principes d'humanité, d'impartialité et de neutralité, puisse se poursuivre sans tarder ».

## **Soudan du Sud : la violence se propage, selon l'ONU**

Source: VOA

**12 Mai 2015** - Les Nations Unies ont fermement condamné mardi l'escalade de la violence au Soudan du Sud, signale le Centre d'actualités de l'ONU. Les combats se sont intensifiés dans l'Etat d'Unité et des tensions intercommunautaires sont survenues entre déplacés à Juba, la capitale du pays.

Lors d'un point de presse à Genève, le porte-parole du Haut-Commissariat des Nations Unies aux droits de l'homme (HCDH), Rupert Colville, s'est inquiété de la montée en puissance des combats entre le gouvernement et les forces d'opposition dans l'Etat d'Unité, zone stratégique riche en réserves pétrolières.

Depuis le 29 avril, a déploré le porte-parole, au moins 28 villes et villages ont été attaqués et incendiés. Des massacres, viols, enlèvements et pillages auraient été commis à ces occasions.

Des milliers de civils ont fui ces attaques, parmi lesquels 2.200 ont trouvé refuge auprès des sites de protection des civils de la Mission des Nations Unies au Soudan du Sud (MINUSS) à Bentiu, a précisé M. Colville, toujours cité par le Centre d'actualités de l'ONU.

Par ailleurs, la MINUSS a vivement condamné mardi des affrontements intercommunautaires survenus durant le weekend entre des déplacés au sein des sites de protection des civils de la Mission à Juba.