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



MEDIA MONITORING

11 September 2014

Angolan president, UN envoy discuss situation in Great Lakes

Source: News Service (English) Date: September 10, 2014

Luanda, Sept. 10 (Xinhua) -- Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos on Wednesday met with Special Envoy of the United Nations for the Great Lakes region **Said Djinnit** over the military and political stability in the region.

"I came to ask advice from Angola and the President of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), said the UN diplomat of Algerian nationality after meeting with the Angolan leader, who took the two-year ICGLR presidency in January.

"It is important to survey the opinions and feelings of the leaders of this region, because the United Nations are keen to continue to strengthen its work in search for peace in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Central African Republic and South Sudan," **said Djinnit**.

The envoy said he intends to work closely with the Angolan leader and other leaders of the country to obtain satisfactory results, especially the normalization of the sociopolitical situation in the region.

Djinnit said he was pleased with the dynamism shown by the Angolan leadership, regarding the resolution of political and military instability still reigning in the Great Lakes.

"On behalf of the Secretary-General of the United Nations Ban Ki-moon, I congratulated the Angolan Leader on the efforts made to achieve peace in the region, while also reiterated the will of the UN and myself to continue this work closely," said the UN diplomat.

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Djinnit said he used his first visit to Luanda to contact different Angolan authorities, and the Angolan presidency of the ICGLR has contributed to taking concrete steps in the stability of the African sub-region.

Angola: UN Envoy Leaves Luanda

Source: AngolaPress via AllAfrica.com

Luanda, 10 September 2014 - The assistant secretary of the United Nations for the Great Lakes Region, Said Djinnit, left, Wednesday, Luanda, after holding several contacts with Angolan authorities in order to help Angola's efforts to resolve the political-military crisis in the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR).

During his three-day stay in the capital, Said Djinnit met with Angolan Foreign minister, Georges Rebelo Chikoti, where political-military stability in the Great Lakes region and steps to resolve the prevailing conflict topped the talks between the two officials.

The recently appointed Said Djinnit was still greeted by the State Secretary for Defense Policy, Admiral Gaspar Rufino dos Santos, with whom he discussed the situation in the Great Lakes and analyzed various possibilities for joint work.

"Angola chairs the presidency of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), so I came to brief the Angolan authorities on all my willingness to work together and achieve our goals," he said.

Said Djinnit, of Algerian nationality, was appointed last July by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Ban Ki-moon as his Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Region, replacing the Irish Mary Robinson.

Central Africa: President Analyses Situation in Great Lakes With UN Diplomat

Source: AngolaPress via AllAfrica.com

Luanda, 10 September 2014 - The President of the Republic, José Eduardo dos Santos, Wednesday, in Luanda, analyzed with the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General of the United Nations for the Great Lakes region, Said Djinnit, issues related to military-political stability in this area of the African continent.

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The UN diplomat of Algerian nationality, received in audience at the Presidential Palace, told journalists at the end of the meeting, that "I came to ask advice" from Higher Mandatory of the Angolan nation, and President of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR).

"It is important to survey the opinions and feelings of the leaders of this region, because the United Nations are keen to continue to strengthen its work in search for peace in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Central African Republic and South Sudan," said Sid Djinnit also Deputy Secretary-General of the UN.

He stressed that he conveyed to President José Eduardo dos Santos, the intention to work closely with the Angolan leader and other leaders of the country, with a view to obtaining satisfactory results, especially the normalization of the socio-political situation in the region.

Said Djinnit was pleased with the dynamism shown by the Angolan leadership, regarding the resolution of political and military instability still reigning in the Great Lakes.

"On behalf of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Ban Ki-moon I congratulated the Angolan Leader on the efforts made to achieve peace in the region, while also reiterated the will of the UN and my (personal) to continue this work closely," said the diplomat who was recently appointed special envoy of the UN Secretary General for the Great Lakes. Said Djinnit said to have seized his first visit to Luanda for contacts with different Angolan authorities, whose chairmanship of the ICGLR has contributed to take concrete steps in the stability of the African sub-region.

The Republic of Angola assumes, since January this year, the rotating presidency of the ICGLR, a body created after the conflicts in the Great Lakes region in 1994, the result of which marked the recognition of their size and the need for a concerted effort in order to promoting peace and development in the region and Africa in general.

Central Africa: Great Lakes Situation Tops Foreign Minister, UN Envoy Meeting

Source: AngolaPress

Luanda, 9 September 2014 - The political and military stability in the Great Lakes region coupled with the measures to ensure solution of the conflict in the continent topped the Tuesday meeting between the Angolan minister of Foreign Affairs, Georges Rebelo Chikoti, and the special envoy of the UN Secretary- General for the African region, Said Djinnit.

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The UN envoy, who was recently appointed to the post, said his first visit was intended to contact the Angolan authorities.

The official said that Angola, which chairs the International Conference of the Great Lakes Region, has been making progress toward the stability of this African sub-region.

Stressing the importance of Angola in Africa, the official said that the country has several initiatives to improve the involvement of States in the region to implement the framework agreement of Addis Ababa (Ethiopia).

The initiative is meant to ensure peace in the region, and particularly the Democratic Republic Congo.

In his turn, the Angolan Minister of Foreign Affairs stressed the importance of partnership with UN for peace in the region.

Georges Chikoti spoke of steps that enabled, among others, the understanding with rebel groups in the DRC and the importance to bring peace in the DRC to ensure peace in the entire region.

The minister spoke of FDL rebel group, which has failed to abide by the agreements.

According to the official, in face of this attitude, the countries in the region will be forced to coordinate effort to impose order, resorting to the force, should the situation prove necessary."

The minister explained that this movement that had promised to surrender now refuses to implement the agreements signed.

On contrary, the minister added, the group want to force a political negotiation, which is not stipulated in UN resolutions.

Georges Chikoti considered important that coordination with the United Nations to bring peace to the Great Lakes region.

The Great Lakes region gathers Angola (the chair) Burundi, the Central African Republic (CAR), Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Republic of Congo, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Sudan , South Sudan and Tanzania.

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Central Africa: UN Diplomat Stresses Progress for Achievement of Peace in Great Lakes

Source: AngolaPress via AllAfrica.com

Luanda, 10 September 2014 - The Special Envoy of the Secretary-General of the United Nations for the Great Lakes Region, Said Djinnit, Wednesday in Luanda stressed the progress towards the achievement of peace in the continent's sub-region, in which Angola is also member.

The Algerian diplomat, also UN deputy Secretary-General, said so to the press at the end of an audience the Angolan Head of State, José Eduardo dos Santos, granted to him.

The meeting focused on the development of the situation in some African countries, with stress to the Great Lakes region, which still experience armed conflict.

He said that the United Nations continues to boost its support to African leaders of this region in order to consolidate peace where the armed conflict still takes place", such as in Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Central African Republic (CAR).

The UN official expressed concern that the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR), so far, have not disarmed or demobilised its negative forces still engaged in destabilising actions in eastern DRC.

According to him, in their latest meeting, the leaders of ICGLR gave the rebels a deadline for the integration of its members.

To this purpose, he said, the members of the group have been appealed to embrace the cause of peace, before concluding that these efforts have failed.

Angola takes up, since January this year, the chair of the international conference on the great lakes region.

ICGLR gathers Angola, Burundi, Republic of Congo, Central African Republic (CAR), Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Kenya, Rwanda, Sudan, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia.

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Central Africa: UN Pledges Support for Angola's Great Lakes Effort

Source: AngolaPress via AllAfrica.com

Luanda, 10 September 2014 - The Special Representative of the Secretary General for West Africa, Said Djinnit, said Monday in Luanda that his organisation wants to further strengthen relations with Angola to help the country solve the political and military crisis in the Great Lakes Region.

Said Djinnit, who is also the head of the United Nations Office for West Africa (UNOWA) was speaking to Angop short after arriving at Luanda's "4 de Fevereiro" International Airport.

During his two-day stay in Luanda, the diplomat will meet with members of the local Government to discuss the best avenues to reach peace in the Great Lakes Region.

He also stated that his visit to Angola is also meant to deepen relations with Angola and find ways to help the country implement its political and social pacification and stabilisation programme for the Great Lakes Region.

Said Djinnit, an Algerian by nationality, was appointed UN secretary general's aide in July this year by Ban Ki-moon, in replacement of Irish Mary Robinson.

Angola is since January this year in charge of the rotating presidency of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR).

The ICGLR was established as a result of the political conflicts that hit the Great Lakes Region in 1994, following the recognition of its great dimension and the need for a combined effort to promote peace and development in the region.

Angola: President Discusses Security in Great Lakes with AU Official

Source: AngolaPress via AllAfrica.com

Luanda, 10 September 2014 - Angolan head of State, José Eduardo dos Santos, and the African Union Commissioner for Peace and Security, Smail Chergui, Tuesday in Luanda analysed the implementation of measure to ensure peace and security in the Great Lakes Region and African continent, in face of ongoing conflict.

Speaking to the press at the end of an audience the president granted to him, at the presidential palace, the AU diplomat said that the meeting addressed aspects related to the situation in Central African Republic (CAR), Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Libya and South Sudan.

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The official stated that the full peaceful process in the Great Lakes will be crucial to ensure peace and stability in other countries still involved in conflict throughout the continent.

Smail Chergui also said that he has come to Angola to listen to the analysis and the views of the President José Eduardo dos Santos on the situation in the region and in other parts of Africa as Angola is taking up the chair of the International Conference for the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR).

As for the DRC issue, the African Union commissioner said a solution for the armed forces of the M-23 movement has already been found.

On the other hand, the situation related to the forces of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR), who, according to him, are causing difficult situations in eastern Congo, the official said that there is still the need to be addressed.

The AU commissioner expressed optimism about the solution for reinstatement of FDLR members.

Speaking of the engagement of the Angolan authorities in addressing the case, the commissioner mentioned the two summits of Heads of States of the region and another at ministerial level, in Luanda.

"The ICGLR, under the leadership of the Angolan Head of State, can find a solution for the situation in eastern DRC," said the Commissioner of the African Union, who has been in Luanda for talks with local authorities.

The audience was also attended by the Angolan minister of Foreign Affairs, Georges Rebelo Chikoty.

Angola took up the chair of the International Conference for the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) in January this year.

U.S. Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Region of Africa and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (D.R.C.), Russell Feingold Travel to Rwanda, the D.R.C. and the United Kingdom

Source: Office of the Spokesperson, US State Department

10 September 2014 - U.S. Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Region of Africa and the DRC, Russell Feingold, is traveling in Rwanda, the DRC and the United Kingdom between September 8-17 to discuss regional peace and security issues and political developments with government officials, civil society organizations, and United Nations representatives, among others. Special

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Envoy Feingold will have meetings in Kigali on September 9 before traveling to Goma and Bukavu in eastern DRC for meetings September 10-12. He will then travel to London where he will participate in meetings of the International Contact Group on the Great Lakes Region.s

Kagame traque les FDLR candidats au désarmement volontaire ayant été rapatriés au Rwanda !

Source : Forum des As via Digitalcongo.net

Kinshasa, 9 septembre 2014 - L'obstacle n° 1 au règlement de la question des rebelles Hutu rwandais des FDLR apparaît au grand jour en la personne du maître de Kigali lui-même qui organise d'ores et déjà la traque des éléments de ces FDLR candidats au désarmement volontaire et au rapatriement effectif alors que les concernés dénonçaient la dite et redoutée traque de leur ennemi juré

Il y a quelques temps, la Monusco et le pouvoir rwandais faisaient savoir à qui voulaient les entendre que 11.000 combattants FDLR ont déjà été rapatriés vers le bercail au Rwanda, où personne ne les inquiète. Faux, a rétorqué hier le porte-parole des FDLR, Lefils Bazeye qui lui révèle que tous ceux qui sont rapatriés par les soins de la Monusco sont à ce jour dans une situation peu enviable.

Presque tous sont traqués par les Services rwandais. Certains sont même en détention alors qu'au départ de la Rdc, ils estimaient n'avoir rien à se reprocher. A quoi bon alors retourner au Rwanda sans aucune garantie sécuritaire pour se retrouver dans le même calvaire de ceux qui ont accepté le rapatriement volontaire, s'interroge le porte-parole des FDLR.

Réplique spontanée à Kigali non par la bouche autorisée habituelle qui est Louise Mushikwiyabo, la ministre des Affaires étrangères mais par le Vice-recteur de l'Université de Kigali qui n'est pourtant pas un officiel du gouvernement rwandais.

Il rejette, lui, ce qu'il qualifie de gros mensonge des FDLR car, poursuit-il, tous les rapatriés sont là et se sont réinsérés dans la société rwandaise sans aucune difficulté. Personne, mais alors personne, dit-il, n'est inquiété par les Services de l'Etat. Qui dit vrai ? Dieu seul le sait. Toujours est-il que cette déclaration des FDLR intervient au moment où ces miliciens hutu rwandais sont sous pression de la Communauté internationale qui s'apprête à les désarmer par la force.

Ils sont donc à la recherche d'un motif de plus pour justifier le gel de l'opération de reddition qu'ils avaient eux-mêmes commencée par le Nord et le Sud-Kivu avec quelque 180 combattants accompagnés de leurs dépendants. Ils y ont mis un terme exigeant avant toute chose l'ouverture d'un dialogue avec le pouvoir de Kigali.

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Mais à chaque fois, celui-ci y réserve irrémédiablement une fin de non-recevoir. Samedi dernier, la direction politique des FDLR a officiellement écrit à la SADC pour lui faire part de son refus de convoyer ses combattants qui ont déposés les armes dans la ville de Kisangani.

Les FDLR demandent à la SADC de faire tout pour ouvrir un dialogue entre eux avec le Rwanda. Le Bureau politique dirigé par le Président intérimaire Victor Biringiro affirme qu'ils sont prêts à rentrer au Rwanda et non rester sur le territoire congolais. Mais pour cela, il faut des négociations avec Kigali.

On n'a pas encore la réponse de la SADC à cette requête des FDLR qu'ils expriment pour la première fois par une lettre officielle. On sait que nombre de pays de la SADC ne sont pas très chauds pour un désarmement forcé contre les FDLR. Ils savent bien pourquoi. Ce sont eux qui ont plusieurs fois repoussé l'échéance. La dernière en date est celle qu'ils ont fixée à Luanda au 31 décembre.

Ce report avait provoqué le courroux de Paul Kagame qui dit ne pas comprendre toutes ces largesses envers des génocidaires. Maintenant, c'est l'option de dialogue qu'est en train d'analyser la SADC sur saisine des FDLR.

Tous les observateurs de la question des FDLR sont d'avis qu'il n'y a que dans le dialogue que se trouve la réponse à cette problématique des FDLR. On ne le dira jamais, tout le monde sait que la force n'aura des répercussions que sur les populations congolaises qui vont en pâtir sans pour autant mettre radicalement un terme à l'existence des FDLR.

Ce serait rééditer des événements qui ont fait flop dans un passé très récent. Par ailleurs, en ce qui concerne le désarmement volontaire, on ne voit pas comment les FDLR le feraient dans les 3 mois qui leur restent de l'échéance du 31 décembre prochain fixé par la SADC. Ce serait mal les connaître.

Que se passerait-il alors si le statu quo persiste ? Leur livrer la guerre totale ? Oui, mais dans quelles contrées ? C'est cela les FDLR. Un homme pourtant a la solution en mains. C'est Paul Kagame, le maître du Rwanda. C'est lui qui doit être flexible et accepter un dialogue avec les FDLR de la même manière que Joseph Kabila de la Rdc l'a fait avec les rebelles du M23.

L'ONU accuse les rebelles rwandais en RDC de double jeu

Source : Le Soir

10 septembre 2014 - Les Nations unies ont accusé ce mercredi les rebelles hutus rwandais présents en République Démocratique Du Congo de jouer un double jeu et de n'avoir aucune intention d'évacuer les zones qu'ils tiennent dans l'est de ce pays.

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Les Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda (FDLR) « n'ont pas envie de partir, c'est tout, voilà la vérité », a déclaré Abdallah Wafy, chef adjoint de la Mission de l'ONU en RDC (Monusco), accusant les rebelles de faire preuve de « mauvaise foi » et de pratiquer un « double langage ».

La reddition des rebelles Hutu rwandais des FDLR bloquée par les délais brandis par la SADC et la CIRGL

Source : Le Potentiel (RDC)

Kinshasa, 10 septembre 2014 - Les opérations de désarmement volontaire et de reddition des éléments rebelles hutus rwandais des FDLR qui infestent l'Est de la RDC se révèlent actuellement bloquées par les menaces des délais des ultimatums lancés par la SADC ainsi que la CIRGL aux combattants de ce groupe négatif.

La SADC et la CIRGL ont dernièrement accordé un délai de 6 mois à tous les éléments des FDLR encore actifs dans l'Est de la RDC de se rendre volontairement. De l'avis du chef de la Monusco, Martin Kobler, ce timing ralentit la pression du processus de la reddition des rebelles hutu rwandais.

La lenteur observée dans le processus de la reddition volontaire des miliciens de Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda (FDLR), lancé depuis plus de deux mois dans l'Est de la RDC, préoccupé au plus haut point la Mission de l'Onu en République démocratique du Congo.

Au cours de la récente conférence de presse hebdomadaire de son organisation, le représentant spécial du secrétaire général des Nations unies en RDC, Martin Kobler, a évoqué quelques raisons qui sont, à son avis, à la base du blocage observé dans cette opération.

Pour le chef de la Mission des Nations unies pour la stabilité du Congo (Monusco), le délai de six mois accordé au processus de la reddition volontaire des miliciens des FDLR par la Communauté du développement de l'Afrique australe (SADC) et la Conférence internationale pour la région des Grands Lacs (CIRGL) freine cette activité. Cela en diminuant la pression du processus de désarmement volontaire des rebelles hutu rwandais.

Selon lui, ce timing risque de donner aux combattants des FDLR le prétexte de tirer inutilement les choses en longueur.

La deuxième raison est liée aux revendications politiques que ne cessent de formuler les responsables de ce groupe armé à l'endroit du régime de Kigali.

Ces rebelles exigent d'être bien protégés à leur retour au Rwanda pour la simple raison qu'ils veulent participer activement au processus politique à Kigali.

A vrai dire, les miliciens des FDLR « cherchent une solution politique ». Et pourtant, « la Monusco ne peut pas s'ingérer dans les affaires politiques d'un pays », a indiqué Martin Kobler.

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Malgré « les manœuvres dilatoires » observées dans le processus de la reddition volontaire des éléments des FDLR, la Monusco ne désarme pas. Elle fait savoir que « l'option militaire reste toujours sur la table ».

Plus de deux mois après l'opération de cette reddition volontaire, le processus DDRRR (Désarmement, Démobilisation, Rapatriement, Réinsertion et Réintégration) a enregistré, à ces jours, environ 230 éléments des FDLR sur plus de 2 500 attendus.

Tout compte fait, certains observateurs estiment que les inquiétudes du chef de la Monusco sont fondées dans la mesure où les rebelles hutu rwandais font, sans doute, fi au délai de 6 mois de la SADC et de la CIRGL. Pour preuve, ils demeurent encore actifs dans l'Est de la RDC. Ils y commettent des exactions contre les populations civiles.

L'UA et la RDC ont des préoccupations communes et légitimes pour la paix dans la région des Grands Lacs

Source : Mediacongo.net

Kinshasa, 11 septembre 2014 - Le ministre des Affaires étrangères, de la coopération internationale et de la Francophonie, Raymond Tshibanda Ntungamulongo, s'est entretenu mercredi 10 septembre, avec le commissaire à la paix et à la sécurité de l'Union africaine (UA), Smail Chergui, en visite de travail en RDC.

A l'issue de l'entretien, M. Smail Chergui a déclaré que : « c'est un plaisir de se retrouver en RDC, je suis venu pour une consultation avec mon frère, le ministre congolais des Affaires étrangères et avec les autorités de la RDC sur les questions de paix et de sécurité, sur la situation en RDC et dans la région des Grands Lacs, mais aussi en Afrique centrale, surtout que la RDC nous a aidé à envoyer les troupes en RCA », avant d'ajouter que l'entretien avec le ministre a été fructueux... ».

M. Raymond Tshibanda, à son tour, a déclaré : « comme le Chef de l'Etat ne cesse de le dire, sans paix, ni sécurité, toute perspective de développement est donc illusoire.

D'où l'importance de la visite du commissaire à la paix et à la sécurité de l'Union africaine. Nous avons discuté de toutes les questions de sécurité et l'option générale est que nous devons débarrasser la région de toutes les forces négatives. Tous ensemble, nous avançons dans la même direction », a-t-il conclu.

Le chef de la diplomatie congolaise a remercié, au cours de l'entretien, la Présidente de la commission de l'UA de son apport à la stabilisation de la situation en RDC et dans la région des Grands Lacs. Il s'est réjoui également de la visite du commissaire à la paix et à la sécurité de l'Union africaine à la veille de la tenue, le 22 septembre prochain à New York, de la réunion

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biannuelle du Comité régional de suivi de l'Accord-cadre pour la paix d'Addis-Abeba, un document de référence dont l'Union africaine est signataire.

« Je suis porteur d'un message de paix et d'amitié », affirme M.Chegui au coordonnateur du Mécanisme national de suivi

Par ailleurs, le commissaire de l'UA en charge de la paix et de la sécurité a déclaré à l'issue de l'audience lui accordée, le même jour, par M. François Muamba Tshishimbi, coordonnateur du Mécanisme national de suivi de la mise en œuvre de l'Accord-cadre d'Addis-Abeba, que « je suis porteur d'un message de paix et d'amitié car je suis très attaché à une relation suivie avec la RDC pour que nous puissions travailler ensemble ».

La RDC, a poursuivi le diplomate africain, est un grand pays et il est temps qu'elle reprenne son rôle normal dans la région et au niveau continental. Il a noté que dans le domaine de la paix et de la sécurité, il a eu, avec ses interlocuteurs congolais, des préoccupations communes et légitimes dans cette région des Grands Lacs et surtout dans l'Est de la RDC et « nous devons travailler la main dans la main pour éliminer toutes ces forces négatives qui ont retardé le développement de ce pays et de toute la région ».

De son côté, M. François Muamba a fait savoir qu'en rapport avec le processus de mise en œuvre de l'Accord-cadre d'Addis-Abeba, « la RDC fait figure de bon élève » dans la mise en application, sans atermoiements, de cet Accord-cadre par les différents responsables au niveau du gouvernement.

La présence du commissaire de l'UA chargé de la paix et de la sécurité était également une occasion de parcourir les dossiers urgents qui conditionnent la restauration de l'autorité de l'Etat en RDC et de la paix que nous voulons pérenne au niveau de l'ensemble de la région. Notre hôte de marque a noté aussi la détermination de la RDC pour en finir, une fois pour toutes, avec cette question des FDLR.

Attackers of Rwandan exile jailed for eight years in South Africa

Source: Reuters World Service

- * Magistrate says men were not the main culprits
- * Rwanda has dismissed allegations of involvement
- * Sentence half what prosecutors wanted

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Johannesburg, 10 September (Reuters) - Four men convicted of trying to kill an exiled critic of Rwandan President Paul Kagame in South Africa were each jailed for eight years on Monday, though the magistrate said they were not the main culprits.

Former Rwandan army chief General Faustin Kayumba Nyamwasa survived being shot in the stomach as he was being driven into his Johannesburg home in 2010, the same year he fled Rwanda after falling out with former ally Kagame.

Rwanda has regularly denied any involvement. But after armed men broke into Nyamwasa's home this year, South African Justice Minister Jeff Radebe warned Kigali that "our country will not be used as a springboard to do illegal activities".

The two Rwandans and two Tanzanians found guilty of shooting Nyamwasa smiled in apparent relief after the eight-year sentence, less than the minimum 15 years prosecutors had asked for.

Magistrate Stanley Mkhari told the men: "You are not the main culprits in this matter. It is my view that you are supposed to appear before me with all the people who made money available and also the people who paid to commit the offenses."

He said he was taking into account the fact that the four - Amani Uriwane and Sady Abdou from Rwanda and Hassan Mohammedi Nduli and Hemedi Dendengo Sefu from **Tanzania** - had been in custody since the shooting.

"The effective term of imprisonment is eight years for each accused," he said.

Nyamwasa told journalists afterwards he was happy with the sentences, but said he and many other exiled Rwandans around the world still felt unsafe.

"There is fear for the lives of very many Rwandans, those that have taken asylum here in South Africa, those that have taken asylum in many other parts of the world, and even more, those that have remained in the country, he told journalists."

In March, armed men broke into Nyamwasa's empty home, just months after another exiled Rwandan and former Rwandan spy chief was found strangled in an upmarket Johannesburg hotel room.

South Africa expelled three Rwandan diplomats over the raid at Nyamwasa's house. Kigali, which said South Africa had produced no evidence it was involved, reciprocated by throwing out six.

Kigali has rubbished allegations by Nyamwasa and others that it was involved, but has accused Pretoria of harboring "dissidents responsible for terrorist attacks in Rwanda".

(Reporting by Siyabonga Sishi; Writing by Helen Nyambura; Editing by Andrew Heavens)

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Scores of civilians freed from Africa rebel group

Source: Associated Press

Kampala, 10 September 2014 - A watchdog group says more than 70 women and children have been freed over the past month from the **Lord's Resistance Army** rebel group, whose leader is the subject of an international manhunt involving U.S. troops.

Invisible Children said Tuesday that 12 of the abductees managed to escape following clashes between rebels and security forces in Congo between Aug. 23 and 25.

The rebel group is increasingly degraded amid a hunt for its fugitive commanders in the jungles of Central Africa. Some commanders have recently defected and turned themselves in to Ugandan troops.

Kasper Agger of the watchdog group Enough Project said it was possible that rebel commanders are releasing women and children in order to give the group more mobility amid military pressure.

U.N. helicopter that crashed in South Sudan was shot down

Source: United Press International

9 September 2014 - A U.N. helicopter that crashed in South Sudan last month was shot down, the preliminary investigation found.

JUBA, South Sudan, Sept. 9 (UPI) -- The United Nations said a cargo helicopter that crashed in South Sudan last month appears to have been shot down.

Three Russian crewmen were killed and a fourth injured when the Mi-8 chopper crashed on August 26 in Bentiu.

Experts conducting the initial probe concluded the craft was shot down, but would not say by whom. But the U.N. mission said the rebel commander, Peter Gadet of the Sudan Peoples Liberation Army, had threatened to shoot down mission craft.

"It is premature at this stage to conclusively apportion blame for the shooting down of the helicopter," said Joe Contreras of the U.N. Mission in South Sudan.

"A more in-depth technical investigation which is being conducted in compliance with international air safety standards, and an independent board of inquiry being established by the United Nations

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to look into the incident, should provide additional information which will make it possible to conclusively determine the source of the ground fire which brought down the helicopter."

Contreras condemned the attack and reiterated a Security Council promise to hold those responsible accountable.

South Sudan Army spokesman Philip Aguer said rebels "shot it down," while the Unity forces under Gadet have denied doing so.

Gadet's forces are loyal to former Vice President Riek Machar, who was accused in December 2013 by President Salva Kiir of attempting a coup. The government blames that alleged coup on the violence that has killed thousands of people and displace more than one million.

Bangui: compte à rebours enclenché pour le déploiement des casques bleus

Source : Journaldebangui.com (France)

Par Thierry Brésillon

9 septembre 2014 - Un convoi de 344 véhicules a été déchargé en vue du 15 septembre, date du déploiement de la Mission multidimensionnelle intégrée des Nations-Unies pour la stabilisation en Centrafrique (MINUSCA)

Un convoi de 344 véhicules de l'ONU, entre autres équipements logistiques, a été déchargé, lundi, à Bangui, d'un cargo en provenance du port de Douala, au Cameroun, en préparation du déploiement des casques bleus en République Centrafricaine, prévu pour le 15 septembre, ont indiqué à Anadolu des sources diplomatiques à Bangui. Une cérémonie officielle devrait en principe se tenir à la mi-septembre au camp Mpoko, à Bangui, qui scellera la présence de 7800 casques bleus sur le sol centrafricain, en attendant le déploiement progressif de nouveaux contingents, jusqu'au 30 avril, date à laquelle le nombre global des forces onusiennes sera ramené à 11 800.

Les soldats de l'ONU seront déployés sur tout le territoire centrafricain avec trois états-majors : un premier à Bouar dans l'ouest du pays, un deuxième à Kaga-Bandoro, dans le Centre-Ouest, et un troisième à Bria dans le Centre-Est. La Mission internationale de soutien à la Centrafrique (MISCA), déployée en RCA depuis décembre 2013, compte actuellement 6000 militaires africains, opérant aux côtés des 2000 Français de l'opération Sangaris et des 150 hommes de l'opération de l'Union européenne pour la stabilisation en RCA (Eufor).

Mardi 1 septembre, la convention relative au transfert de compétence entre la MISCA et la Mission multidimensionnelle intégrée des Nations-Unies pour la stabilisation en Centrafrique (MINUSCA) a été signée au siège du Bureau intégré des Nations Unies en Centrafrique (BINUCA) à Bangui.

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Votée à l'unanimité le 10 avril dernier, une résolution du Conseil de sécurité des Nations-Unies a créé une nouvelle mission de maintien de la paix en Centrafrique (MINUSCA), composée de 10.000 soldats et de 1800 policiers.

La Centrafrique est en proie depuis 2012 à un conflit intercommunautaire opposant milices à majorité chrétienne (les Anti-balaka) à une ancienne milice au pouvoir, à majorité musulmane (Séléka). Ce conflit a plongé le pays dans un cercle infernal de représailles acculant les habitants, notamment ceux de confession musulmane, à fuir leurs quartiers vers le nord du pays ou des contrées limitrophes.

UN: 1500 New Peacekeepers, Logistics Provided for CAR by September 15

Source: UN via RiaNovosti

United Nations, 10 September 2014 - With the Central African Republic (CAR) peacekeeping mission set to become the responsibility of the United Nations on September 15, there will be 1,500 new troops ready on that day, the UN said Wednesday.

The deployment of additional 1,500 military personnel would add to the 4,800 troops already serving in the African-led International Support Mission to the Central African Republic (MISCA) force in the country

“Sectarian violence and the cycle of violent attacks and reprisals continue in many places in the country,” the Head of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic Babacar Gaye told the Security Council on August 19. He added that sectarian violence in the country had led to numerous casualties, including two African Union peacekeepers.

“We’ve sent over 200 containers of supplies, which go by ship from Brindisi [UN’s logistical base for peacekeeping in Italy] to Douala in Cameroon and then have to drive overland into Bangui [the capital of the Central African Republic], UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric said Wednesday.

The official added the UN has been working very closely with the African-led mission in terms of supplying them with transport, logistical and communications equipment.

“Mobilizing troops for a peacekeeping mission takes time, because it’s not like they’re waiting in New York. We have to go knock on doors for troops, equipment, helicopters and in the meantime we’ve been working very actively in CAR both on the political end and of course on the humanitarian end,” Dujarric concluded on Wednesday.

The situation in the African republic escalated in December 2013, when clashes between Islamist militants from Seleka rebel group and Christian activists confronting them swept the Bangui.

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According to UN estimates, up to one million people were forced to flee their homes with over a thousand being killed since the conflict started.

The UN is set to become responsible for peacekeeping in the Central African Republic on September 15, replacing the African Union force which is currently in the country.

Le Premier ministre Matata Ponyo Mapon de la RD Congo en visite en Allemagne pour des discussions économiques

Source : eco243.info

Par César Ntangu Lihau

9 septembre 2014 - Le Premier ministre congolais, Augustin Matata Ponyo, visite, à partir de ce vendredi 12 septembre 2014, la République fédérale d'Allemagne, par Berlin, pour des discussions économiques avec le Gouvernement de ce géant économique européen.

Avec une croissance économique de 8,4 pour cent prévu pour 2014, la République démocratique du Congo est parmi les cinq économies les plus dynamiques sur le continent africain. Le Gouvernement Matata, qui tient à une réputation de réformateur, s'appuie de plus en plus sur la diversification économique.

En plus du secteur minier, ce Gouvernement met les bouchées doubles dans le commerce, la construction et les secteurs agricoles qui favorisent également la croissance.

Dans le secteur de l'énergie, en particulier le potentiel hydroélectrique immense est en train d'être exploité. Le développement des routes, des chemins de fer, les aéroports, le logement et la santé rentrent également dans les priorités de ce Gouvernement.

AU troops investigated after rape claims

Source: Reuters

Nairobi, 10 September 2014 - Somali authorities said on Tuesday they would investigate charges that women and girls in the capital Mogadishu had been raped by African peacekeepers, a principal source of security in the war-torn country.

A report released on Monday by the group Human Rights Watch documented the rape or sexual exploitation of 21 women and girls, all of them displaced from their homes, at peacekeeping bases run by the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM).

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In some cases, the females entered the bases through official gates to request medicine and water, and were taken to areas where they were then abused by a Somali intermediary, according to the New York-based rights group.

Just two of the women and girls interviewed by the rights group had filed a complaint.

“The government condemns all forms of abuse against the Somali people and remains committed to ensuring perpetrators of any crime against its civilians are brought to justice,” Somali Prime Minister Abdiweli Sheikh Ahmed said in a statement.

Somalia has been mired in chaos and conflict since the overthrow of President Siad Barre in 1991. The government is struggling to re-impose order and a new federal structure as it battles Islamist militant group al-Shabaab.

The African Union Mission in Somalia, or AMISOM, was deployed in 2007. Its uniformed force, which numbers more than 22 000, comes from Uganda, Burundi, Kenya, Ethiopia, Djibouti and Sierra Leone.

The Human Rights Watch report said the soldiers involved were all from Uganda and Burundi, though the abuse likely involved more women at other bases.

The Commission of the African Union said the report amounts to a “misrepresentation of the sacrifices, achievements and genuine commitment of AMISOM” in support of peace in Somalia, and contained “imbalance, inaccuracies and partial view”.

In particular, the report “uses a small number of cases to arrive at a generalised conclusion”, and “exhaustively interrogate the scale and prevalence of these allegations”, the AMISOM statement said.

Nuns’ alleged killer is in custody

Source: Independent on Line (South Africa)

Bujumbura, 10 September 2014 - Burundian police have arrested a man on charges of raping and beheading three Italian nuns, police said on Tuesday.

The nuns aged 75, 79 and 82 were killed in their convent near the capital Bujumbura in two separate attacks on Sunday and Monday.

The suspect was arrested on Tuesday at his home, located not far from the convent, said police spokesman Hermenegilde Harimenshi.

Harimenshi added that 33-year-old Christian Claude Butoyi had confessed to the crime, saying he wanted to take revenge on the nuns for “illegally occupying” his land.

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“I raped and killed them because they were foreigners living on my land,” Harimenshi quoted the suspect as saying.

Butoyi told police he had attacked the first two nuns, left his shirt in one of the convent rooms because it was covered with blood, and climbed the convent wall, according to the spokesman.

Police found in the suspect's shorts a key to the back door of the convent, which he is thought to have used upon his return to kill the third nun.

One of the clues leading to his arrest was a cellphone containing messages in Italian which had belonged to one of the nuns and which was being offered for sale in Bujumbura, Harimenshi said.

The salesman told police he had bought the phone from Butoyi.

In 2011, gunmen attacked a convent in northern Ngozi province, killing a Croatian nun and an Italian aid worker. Two men who were jailed for the killings had stolen money from the convent.

Info RFI: des hommes en uniformes burundais dans l'est de la RDC

Par RFI

11 septembre 2014 - Y a-t-il ou non des militaires burundais basés dans le Sud-Kivu ? La société civile et les populations sur place répondent que oui, le gouvernement congolais dément catégoriquement. Notre correspondante s'est rendue dans le village de Kiliba, à une vingtaine de kilomètres au nord de la ville d'Uvira et à environ cinq kilomètres de la frontière burundaise.

Une cinquantaine de maisons qui servaient à loger les travailleurs d'une sucrerie aujourd'hui fermée, mais aussi des tentes installées à au moins deux endroits près du village de Kiliba : voilà les infrastructures qu'occupent entre 750 et 900 hommes armés, selon des ONG locales et la population sur place. Les habitants affirment voir régulièrement ces soldats dans le village le soir ou lors de patrouilles, tout comme des véhicules immatriculés au Burundi. Il suffit en effet de circuler dans les champs à 500 mètres du village pour apercevoir des tentes et des éléments vêtus de treillis aux couleurs du Burundi.

Quelle est la mission de ces hommes ? C'est justement la question que posent les habitants de Kiliba, situé à moins de cinq kilomètres de la frontière avec le Burundi, depuis plusieurs mois. Mais les autorités sont formelles : il n'y a aucun soldat burundais sur le sol congolais, assure le porte-parole du gouvernement, Lambert Mende. La mission de l'ONU au Congo a également démenti à RFI cette présence. Elle assure avoir envoyé quatre missions sur place.

Alors, qui sont ces hommes ? S'agit-il d'un contingent du pays voisin ? Ou d'Imbonerakure, ces jeunes du parti au pouvoir au Burundi. Là encore, Kinshasa, Bujumbura et la Monsusco démentent avec force leur présence. Enfin, d'après les populations sur place, ces jeunes Burundais Imbonerakure auraient disparu du paysage fin mai. De qui s'agit-il alors ? Pour avoir

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posé avec insistance cette question, deux acteurs de la société civile congolaise affirment avoir été victimes de menaces.

Les esprits s'échauffent au Congo à l'approche des élections

Par Cameroon-Tribune via JournaldeBrazza.com

Des incidents ont émaillé une réunion de l'opposition dimanche dernier à Brazzaville

10 septembre 2014 – A moins de trois semaines de la tenue des élections locales, la scène politique congolaise devient de plus en plus mouvementée. Entre menaces de boycott et appels à une participation massive, chacun y va de son argumentaire, selon que l'on est de l'opposition ou que l'on est de la majorité.

A l'appel du Collectif des partis de l'opposition, un meeting s'est tenu dimanche dernier au palais des Congrès de Brazzaville à l'effet d'examiner et d'échanger sur la «crédibilité» des élections municipales prévues le 28 septembre prochain à travers le pays. Malheureusement, des échauffourées sont survenues alors que la cérémonie venait à peine de s'achever, rapportent les sources.

Face aux militants et sympathisants dudit Collectif, des individus armés d'armes blanches prêts à en découdre. Usant de violence, ces derniers ont pris à partie les responsables de l'opposition. Des images de la scène postées sur internet témoignent des incidents d'une extrême violence aussi bien sur des individus que sur le matériel roulant. On y voit des visages couverts de blessures et maculés de sang.

Les organisateurs de la cérémonie qui déclarent avoir obtenu l'autorisation de la préfecture de Brazzaville pour organiser ladite manifestation, estiment que les autorités qui auraient dû prendre toutes les mesures sécuritaires pour éviter tout débordement. Le calme est revenu après l'intervention des forces de l'ordre qui ont procédé à quelques interpellations.