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



## **MEDIA MONITORING**

**16 April 2015**

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### **DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO**

#### **Des projets de développement de la région des Grands Lacs examinés au Mécanisme national de suivi**

Source: ACP / MCN, via mediacongo.net

**16 Avril 2015** - Au forum pour le développement des investissements privés de la région des Grands Lacs, la question des réfugiés congolais et celle des FDLR ont été examinés mardi 14 avril au cours de la séance de travail entre l'envoyé spécial du secrétaire général des Nations unies pour la région des Grands Lacs, Saïd Djinnit et François Muamba, coordonnateur du Mécanisme National de Suivi (MNS).

L'examen de ces points, selon M. Djinnit, s'inscrit dans le cadre du soutien des Nations unies dans la mise en œuvre de l'Accord-cadre d'Addis-Abeba dans son volet économique à travers l'organisation d'un séminaire sur les engagements nationaux pour une meilleure intégration dans le dispositif du programme national de développement. En effet, la ville de Kinshasa a été retenue pour abriter dans le dernier trimestre de l'année en cours les travaux dudit forum dont la réussite exige la conjugaison des efforts de tous « car nous voulons faire de lui un événement réussi pour le développement de la RDC et de l'ensemble de la région des Grands Lacs », a-t-il ajouté.

De son côté, M. Muamba a fait savoir que la neutralisation et l'éradication totale des groupes armés dans l'Est de la RDC reste une préoccupation permanente dont l'une des conséquences est la situation des déplacés internes et des réfugiés qui font l'objet de la feuille de route du MNS et pour lesquelles les Nations unies participent dans la

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facilitation et leur mise en œuvre, précisant qu'une mission se rendra bientôt au Rwanda et en Ouganda à ce sujet.

Le coordonnateur du MNS a indiqué, en outre, que l'Accord-cadre dans son volet économique vise l'instauration d'une paix durable qui apporte la stabilité et le développement en termes de projets intégrateurs par l'investissement en vue de doter la population de la région des infrastructures sanitaires, scolaires et routières ainsi que la desserte en eau et en électricité.

## **Evaluation au ministère des affaires étrangères de la situation dans la région des Grands Lacs**

Source: ACP via digitalcongo.net

### **Le ministre des Affaires étrangères Raymond Tshibanda a évoqué mardi avec l'Envoyé spécial du Secrétaire général de l'Onu dans la région des Grands Lacs, M. Saïd Djinit, la mise en œuvre de l'accord-cadre d'Addis-Abeba ainsi que les préparatifs de la conférence internationale prévu**

**15 Avril 2015** - Le ministre des Affaires Etrangères et de la Coopération internationale, Raymond Tshibanda, a évalué mardi à Kinshasa avec l'envoyé spécial du secrétaire général des Nations Unies dans la Région des Grands Lacs, Saïd Djinnit, la mise en œuvre de l'Accord-cadre d'Addis-Abeba par les Etats ainsi que les préparatifs de la conférence internationale sur les investissements des secteurs privés dans cette région qui se tiendra prochainement en RDC. Les deux personnalités ont discuté de cette conférence internationale et de l'importance de travailler ensemble entre la RDC et l'ONU pour assurer le succès de cette grande conférence.

« Nous croyons qu'au delà de tous les efforts déployés pour trouver des solutions aux problèmes auxquels les pays de la Région sont confrontés, nous pensons qu'au quotidien nous devons trouver des solutions en profondeur pour bâtir la stabilité de la Région et cette stabilité passe par l'investissement dans les ressources dont dispose la Région en particulier la RDC », a indiqué Saïd Djinnit. Elles ont discuté également de l'Accord-cadre et de l'importance de garder cet instrument important pour le renforcement de son processus.

L'envoyé spécial du secrétaire général des Nations Unies dans la Région des Grands Lacs a souligné que cet Accord- Cadre comporte aussi des encouragements pour tous les pays de la région à mettre en œuvre leurs engagements.

Evaluation de la situation sécuritaire dans l'Est de la RDC

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Par ailleurs, le ministre des Affaires étrangères et de la Coopération internationale, Raymond Tshibanda, et le chef de la Monusco, Martin Kobler ont échangé mardi à Kinshasa sur l'évaluation de la situation sécuritaire dans l'Est de la RDC.

Les deux personnalités ont fait l'évaluation du dialogue stratégique entre la RDC et la Monusco et ont convenu de la tenue ce mercredi 15 avril de la 4ème réunion entre la délégation gouvernementale et celle de la Monusco, après la réunion du Conseil de sécurité de l'ONU du 19 mars dernier à New-York. Selon Martin Kobler qui revient d'une visite de terrain au Nord-Kivu, la paix n'est pas effective dans certaines localités de cette province.

## **A l'ONU, la RDC évoque les progrès contre les violences sexuelles et les enfants-soldats**

Source: VOA

**Jeanine Mabunda Lioko Mudiayi s'est félicitée de ce que l'administration Kabila et la société congolaise témoignent de la « volonté politique nécessaire » pour juguler les violences sexuelles.**

**16 Avril 2015** - Jeanine Mabunda Lioko Mudiayi, conseillère spéciale du président Joseph Kabila en matière de lutte contre les violences sexuelles et le recrutement des enfants soldats, présentait ce mardi aux Nations Unies un rapport sur les mesures prises par le gouvernement congolais pour lutter contre ces fléaux qui ont beaucoup marqué la République démocratique du Congo (RDC).

Dans une interview, Mme Mabunda a évoqué le plan d'action mis au point par son bureau, cernant certains des résultats accomplis. Notamment, la condamnation du général Jérôme Kakwavu de l'armée congolaise, pour sévices sexuels ; la condamnation des colonels Nkumu et Bedi Engangela, alias « Colonel 106 ». En tout, a-t-elle souligné, dix condamnations ont été obtenues en rapport avec des violences sexuelles, les individus reconnus coupables écopant de 14 à 20 ans de réclusion, et d'amendes diverses.

Mme Mabunda s'est félicitée de ce que l'administration Kabila et la société congolaise aient témoigné de la « volonté politique nécessaire » pour juguler les violences sexuelles. « Depuis que nous avons rejoint cette mission en collaboration avec le ministère de la Justice, l'état-major de l'armée congolaise, nous avons mis l'accent tout particulièrement là-dessus », a-t-elle dit. « Surtout au niveau de la justice militaire.

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Pourquoi ? Et bien parce que c'était eux qui étaient les plus cités en général, comme étant auteurs de violences sexuelles ».

« Il était temps de montrer l'exemple à ce niveau là parce que ce sont des serviteurs de la République. Donc ils doivent être encore plus exemplaires puisqu'ils servent sous le drapeau », a poursuivi la conseillère spéciale du président Kabila.

Toujours selon Mme Mabunda, la RDC a mis en place un numéro de téléphone spécial que les victimes de violences sexuelles peuvent utiliser pour porter plainte et rechercher des appuis juridiques ou médicaux.

Par ailleurs, des efforts de prévention visent des groupes ciblés dans cinq provinces où prévalaient à la fois les violences sexuelles et l'enrôlement forcé des enfants.

Un travail particulièrement minutieux d'identification, de démobilisation et de réintégration a permis d'épurer les rangs de l'armée congolaise de nombreux enfants-soldats, a-t-elle souligné. Depuis le lancement de ces programmes « on a quand même démobilisé 46.000 enfants soldats » sur dix ans, fait-elle valoir. Ce qui témoigne « du degré d'engagement que nous avons eu ». Aujourd'hui, a poursuivi Mme Mabunda, la question des enfants-soldats ne se pose plus vraiment au niveau des FARDC, mais plutôt au niveau des groupuscules armés.

## **RDC : un Belge condamné à 20 ans pour viol sur deux mineures**

Source: VOA avec AFP

**Un citoyen belge accusé de viols sur deux filles de 11 et 13 ans en République démocratique du Congo a été condamné à vingt ans de prison à Kinshasa, a fait savoir l'avocat des victimes.**

**16 Avril 2015** - Agé de 74 ans, Francis Belliz dont le procès s'était ouvert en mars a été condamné lundi "à un total de vingt ans" de prison "et à payer des dommages de 15.000 dollars américains (14.200 euros, NDLR) pour chacune des victimes", a indiqué à l'AFP Me Petrous Mutamba, avocats des victimes.

Au moment de son arrestation en mars, M. Belliz était en séjour irrégulier en RDC depuis 2011, selon la police congolaise.

Francis Belliz doit purger sa peine à la prison de Makala, la grande prison de Kinshasa, où il avait été écroué après son arrestation.

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## **RDC-Provinciales : début du dépôt des candidatures à la Ceni**

Source: Radio Okapi

**15 Avril 2015** - L'opération de réceptions et de traitement des candidatures aux élections provinciales [a débuté] mercredi 15 avril sur toute l'étendue de la RDC. Le rapporteur de la Commission électorale nationale indépendante (Ceni), Jean-Pierre Kalamba, a assuré dans une interview à Radio Okapi que tout est fin prêt. Cette opération ira du 15 avril au 5 mai prochain. Selon lui, la centaine de bureaux sont opérationnels dès ce jour.

« Conformément à notre calendrier, les bureaux de réception et traitement des candidatures (BRTC) vont s'ouvrir à partir d'aujourd'hui à travers les 171 bureaux qui fonctionnent dans les 145 chefs-lieux des territoires, plus de 20 villes et les 6 antennes de la ville-province de Kinshasa. C'est ça qui constitue l'ensemble de bureaux qui vont recevoir les candidats députés provinciaux », a déclaré Jean-Pierre Kalamba.

### **Kasaï-Oriental : « Tout est fin prêt »**

Au Kasaï-Oriental, la secrétaire exécutive provinciale de la Ceni, Mme Marie-José Kapinga, a assuré que tout est fin prêt pour recevoir les candidatures.

« Nous sommes prêts pour ouvrir les bureaux de réception et de traitement des candidatures. La formation de tous les agents qui vont travailler dans tous ces bureaux est déjà terminée. Tout est fin prêt. L'aménagement de ces bureaux dans toutes les antennes est en train d'être fait. Les gens peuvent déjà retirer les formulaires afin déposer leurs candidatures », a déclaré Mme Marie-José Kapinga.

Elle a appelé tous les potentiels candidats à se présenter dans leurs circonscriptions dans les délais.

« Il ne faut pas que les gens gardent toujours l'ancienne habitude de venir en dernière minute. Il faut que l'on sache que le travail va se faire en 21 jours », a rappelé la secrétaire exécutive provinciale de la Ceni au Kasaï-Oriental.

**Katanga : des partis politiques pas prêts**

La Ceni au Katanga a aussi confirmé que l'ouverture des bureaux de réception et traitement des candidatures pour les élections provinciales aura lieu mercredi 15 avril. Pour le Pool du Haut Katanga, huit bureaux seront opérationnels.

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« Nos bureaux seront ouverts du 15 avril au 5 mai, selon la loi. Donc nous avons 21 jours d'ouverture des bureaux », a affirmé Mme Mimie Fabienne Mukulumoya, secrétaire exécutive provinciale de la Ceni au Katanga.

Mais il se pose un problème du côté des partis politiques. Certains se disent prêts et d'autres ne le sont pas encore.

Le RCD, un parti de l'opposition, par exemple affirme que son parti est prêt :

« Le projet électoral nous concerne aussi. Quant à notre engagement, nous nous y attelons. C'est au moment venu que nous vous donnerons des précision », a déclaré le président du RCD-Katanga, Jean-Marie Makal.

L'Union des forces du changement (UFC), un autre parti de l'opposition est encore à l'étape de sensibilisation des potentiels candidats députés provinciaux.

A l'Alliance des forces démocratiques du Congo (AFDC), la commission électorale interne reçoit déjà les potentiels candidats du parti.

A l'Eveil de la conscience (ECT), un autre parti de la MP, le président provincial assure travailler sur la consolidation des listes des candidats.

## **U.N. calls for exhumation of Congo mass grave**

Source: Reuters

**15 April 2015** - The U.N. mission in Democratic Republic of Congo urged the government on Wednesday to exhume more than 400 bodies buried last month in a mass grave, the head of the organization's human rights office said.

Local authorities in the capital Kinshasa have said they buried 421 corpses overnight on March 19 in the rural commune of Maluku. The government says the bodies are unclaimed fetuses, stillborn babies and homeless people from the city morgue.

However, rights groups suspect that some might be people killed in anti-government protests in January or an earlier crackdown on criminals in Kinshasa.

“We recommended doing the exhumation but it is up to the authorities to take all measures to reassure the population and to combat rumors,” José Maria Aranaz, director of the U.N.'s Congo-based Joint Human Rights Office (UNJHRO), said at a news conference.

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Justice Minister Alexis Thambwe said last week that the government was prepared to exhume the bodies if asked by U.N. officials or the U.S.-based campaign group Human Rights Watch.

However, Thambwe said on Monday that the decision would be left to the prosecutor leading an investigation into the burials, explaining that the government wanted to show it could conduct a transparent investigation on its own.

Congolese authorities say the mass burial of unclaimed bodies is a common practice used to clear space at the overcrowded central morgue in Kinshasa.

Aranaz said that the U.N. mission was providing logistical support to the Congolese investigation in addition to carrying out its own. He said that his office had asked the government for all pertinent documents, including the morgue registry and death certificates, but was still awaiting a response.

## **DR Congo condemns attempts to slander republic over unidentified bodies**

Source: Xinhua

**15 April 2015** - Ten days after the discovery of over 400 bodies at a common grave in Maluku, near Kinshasa, the spokesman for the Democratic Republic of Congo (DR Congo) Lambert Mende has condemned “attempts to slander the Republic over this matter in which the government has launched an inquiry.”

“There is an attempt to slander the republic, we shall know why and who is behind this,” the minister told Xinhua on Tuesday.

“An investigation is ongoing to know the truth especially on the procedures, whether each of these Congolese buried on March 19, 2015 was given a decent burial,” he said.

DR Congo’s Interior Minister Evariste Boshab admitted before the Congolese Senate on Tuesday that there was a burial on March 19, but not in a mass grave, rather in a common grave.

“A mass grave implies already that there was a massacre, something that is not the case with people buried together in Maluku,” the minister said.

On Monday, DR Congo’s Justice Minister Alexis Mwamba met in Kinshasa with diplomats accredited to DR Congo to give them the government’s position after the discovery of a mass grave in Maluku.

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## RWANDA

### Rwanda: International Justice On the Spot As ICTR's Longest Trial Enters Appeal

Source: The New Times

**15 April 2015** - The International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR), yesterday, started hearing its last appeal case, which involves former minister for family affairs and women development Pauline Nyiramasuhuko.

Nyiramasuhuko, who was sentenced on first instance to life in prison, was the first woman to be tried and convicted by an international war crimes court.

Nyiramasuhuko's case, which is code-named 'Butare Trial,' involves six accused all hailing from the former Butare prefecture, the current Huye District, and other parts of the Southern Province.

The case, in which the former minister is co-accused with her son Arsene Sharlom Ntahobari, has dragged on for the past 14 years, becoming the longest and probably the most expensive trial the tribunal has handled.

According to the calendar of the ICTR Appeals Chamber, the prosecution and defence will take the stand in court until April 24 when Nyiramasuhuko and her co-defendants may, if they choose, address their appeals judges in person, before the judges retire to deliberate.

The appeal case starts at the time Rwandans are commemorating the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi, in which the accused is said to have played a tragic part.

Survivors of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi say that the delay in the 'Butare Trial' puts the international justice in doubt, while others said it could be even deliberate.

Nyiramasuhuko is not just the only woman indicted by the ICTR but also by an international criminal court, and the allegations against her include commandeering rape.

"Her role in the Genocide is very clear; she coordinated planning meetings to kill Tutsi. Whenever the militia met resistance, she was the person who could bring military reinforcement," said Laurent Gatera, a survivor who says he witnessed firsthand the deeds of Nyiramasuhuko and her gang.



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Other accused besides Nyiramasuhuko and her son are former prefects Sylvain Nsabimana and Alphonse Nteziryayo, as well as Joseph Kanyabashi and Elie Ndayambaje, former mayors of Ngoma and Muganza communes, respectively.

The Trial Chamber sentenced her to life in prison on June 24, 2011, for conspiracy to commit genocide, genocide, extermination, rape, persecution, violence to life, other inhumane acts and outrages to human dignity.

According to the judges, the former minister "conspired with other members of the interim government to commit genocide in Butare (southern Rwanda)".

They said she exercised command authority over Interahamwe militia who committed rape in the offices of the Butare prefect.

"For a woman to have coordinated in the killings to the level she did shows you how deep she was in the organization of the Genocide at the national level, said Rose Mukamusana, a representative of Avega Agahozo in the Southern Province.

Nyiramasuhuko was named minister in the genocidal regime that was formed after the death of President Juvenal Habyarimana, and which was composed of extremist politicians, all with a common goal of exterminating the Tutsi.

This was confirmed by the Prime Minister of the then government, Jean Kambanda, who told the same court of a deliberate plan by members of his cabinet to exterminate Tutsi.

Mukamusana went on to make a connection between Nyiramasuhuko's acts and Genocide denial saying that delays imply support to the former minister.

"This kind of delay implicates the tribunal in some way. Nyiramasuhuko took part in the Genocide and it is without doubt; the people she led have been charged and sentenced, yet she is enjoying the privileges of an international court. If we are talking about justice, let someone not be treated different because they are outside Rwanda," said Mukamusana.

Among her co-conspirators whose cases have been adjudicated by other jurisdictions include Desire Munyaneza, who was sentenced by Canadian courts to life in prison and whose appeal has since been rejected by the Canadian Supreme Court.

"Allowing Nyiramasuhuko and her co-defendants to spend all this time on trial is supporting Genocide perpetrators and does not offer any warning to any leader who may plan to commit the same crime in the future," she said.

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All the accused in the Nyiramasuhuko et. al. case were found guilty and handed varying sentences.

Besides Nyiramasuhuko, her son Ntahobari and Ndajambaje were also handed life sentences while Kanyabashi was sentenced to 35 years.

The two prefects; Nsabimana and Nteziryayo, got 25 and 30 years, respectively.

The ICTR, which is based in the northern Tanzanian town Arusha , is expected to completely close shop by the end of August, and any remaining tasks will be taken over by the United Nations Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals.

**About ICTR**

The ICTR was set up in 1994 by a UN Security Council Resolution with a mandate to track and bring to justice those suspected of being key architects of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi between January 1 and December 31, 1994.

Since its first trial started in 1997, the ICTR has convicted 60 and acquitted 14 others accused of having played a leading role in the Genocide.

One witness and one investigator have also been tried and sentenced for contempt of court. Prominent of those convicted include former Prime Minister Jean Kambanda and other members of his government, army generals, businessmen, clergy and members of the media.

Some of the convicts are serving their sentence in Mali and Benin while others are still in the ICTR holding facility.

Nine top ICTR suspects are still on the run, including rich businessman Félicien Kabuga, who bankrolled the Genocide, former defence minister Augustin Bizimana, and Protais Mpiranya, who allegedly headed the presidential guard of ex-president Juvénal Habyarimana.

The three "big fish" will be tried by Mechanism for International Criminal Courts, if they are arrested.

For the other six ICTR fugitives, their case files have been handed over to Rwanda, as part of the ICTR's closure strategy.

The tribunal has spent close to US\$2 billion in handling the trials.

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## BURUNDI

### U.S. Welcomes Appointment of New AU Great Lakes Special Representatives

Press Statement

Jeff Rathke

Acting Deputy Department Spokesperson, Office of the Spokesperson

Washington, DC

April 15, 2015

The United States welcomes the African Union's announcement of its new Special Representative for the Great Lakes Region and Head of the AU Liaison Office in Burundi, Dr. Arvin Boolell. The United States looks forward to continuing our important partnership with the African Union in promoting democratization, ending the threat of armed groups in the region, bolstering regional stability and cooperation, and ensuring that upcoming elections in several Great Lakes countries are free, fair, and peaceful—most imminently in Burundi, where critical elections are set to begin on May 26.

The United States expresses its sincere appreciation for the work of outgoing AU Special Representative Boubacar Diarra, whose steadfast and principled efforts proved instrumental in reducing tensions in the region, promoting greater stability and cooperation, and encouraging peaceful, democratic transitions.

The United States encourages regional governments, including the Government of Burundi, which hosts the AU Liaison Office, to continue their engagement and cooperation with Special Representative Boolell in pursuit of our shared commitment to democracy, stability, and economic development.

### Burundi at 'crossroads' between peace and violence: UN

Source: AFP

**15 April 2015** - Burundi is at "crossroads" ahead of key elections, the UN rights chief said Wednesday -- between a fair vote that would boost the country and a route back to its "horrendously violent past".

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Zeid warned that the pro-government militia Imbonerakure, the youth wing of the ruling CNDD-FDD party, was threatening the smooth running of the "pivotal elections".

"The root of many people's fears -- and many people in Burundi are very afraid -- is the militia of the Imbonerakure," he said.

"This militia, which openly supports the government, appears to be operating increasingly aggressively and with total impunity."

**- Violence and hate speech -**

Burundi, a small landlocked nation in central Africa's Great Lakes region, emerged in 2006 from a brutal 13-year civil war, holds general elections in May to elect lawmakers before a presidential poll in June.

Tensions have risen over incumbent President Pierre Nkurunziza's bid to seek a third term in office, despite the constitution stating a president can only be elected twice.

With the opposition and civil society groups mobilising, there are worries the landlocked country is on the brink of trouble once again.

"The country is at a crossroads," Zeid said, calling for leaders to follow the path of "free and fair elections which would strengthen and mature Burundi's still fragile democracy."

But he also warned of fears that leaders would take "the path of violence and intimidation aimed at subverting democracy for the sake of gaining or maintaining political power, the path that could potentially lead back to Burundi's deeply troubled, tragic and horrendously violent past."

Opposition politicians and critics say the government is doing all it can to sideline political challengers ahead of the elections, including arrests, harassment and a clampdown on free speech.

**- Tensions 'rising sharply' -**

Tensions have been "rising sharply" ahead of the polls, with "an increase in politically motivated harassment, intimidation and acts of violence, as well as a reported rise in hate speech," Zeid said.

He urged the government to "clamp down" on the "dangerous" Imbonerakure.

The Imbonerakure have a fearsome reputation: in February, international campaign group Human Rights Watch (HRW) detailed how security forces and the Imbonerakure executed at least 47 rebels who had surrendered.

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Members of the youth wing were said to have beaten to death those prisoners who were not shot, throwing others off a cliff and helping to hide bodies in mass graves.

The government rejected the allegations but set up a judicial commission of inquiry to investigate.

Thousands of people have fled as refugees in recent days into neighbouring Rwanda.

Zeid made no mention of Nkurunziza's expected bid for a third term, but did make an appeal to leaders at the "critical moment" in the country's history.

"I urge the president and the ruling party, as well as opposition leaders, police and military to place the future well-being of the country as a whole before their own personal political desires," he said.

"History — and possibly national or international courts — will judge those who kill, bribe or intimidate their way to power," he added.

## **More than 5,000 Burundians seek refuge in Rwanda, citing political pressure**

Source: AP

**15 April 2015** - The United Nations refugee agency says more than 5,800 Burundians have crossed into Rwanda since the end of last month amid fears of violence ahead of elections later this year.

UNHCR said in a statement Wednesday that hundreds are crossing the border daily, most of them children. About 800 of the refugees arrived in Rwanda on Tuesday alone.

That statement said the refugees cite disappearances of relatives and pressure to pledge allegiance to the ruling party among reasons for fleeing their country.

Human Rights Watch has been warning of growing tension in Burundi, where peace activists and the opposition want President Pierre Nkurunziza to step down when his current term expires.

Nkurunziza has not publicly said if he will seek a third term.

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## CENTRAL AFRICA REPUBLIC

### RCA: l'appel d'urgence du chef de la Mission de l'ONU

Source: RFI

**Le chef de la Mission de l'ONU en République centrafricaine (Minusca), le général Babacar Gaye, a appelé mardi les Etats membres à mieux financer la préparation des prochaines élections en RCA et les secours humanitaires dans le pays. Le pays est « à un tournant dans sa transition » et se prépare avec l'aide de la Minusca à des élections cruciales en juillet et août, mais il manque encore la moitié des 44 millions de dollars nécessaires à la logistique du scrutin, a-t-il souligné devant le Conseil de sécurité.**

**15 Avril 2015** - Dans le processus de stabilisation de la République centrafricaine, c'est encore l'argent qui reste le nerf de la guerre pour le général Babacar Gaye, qui a demandé un effort supplémentaire aux Etats membres. L'aide des Nations unies couvre seulement 13% des fonds nécessaires à la reconstruction du pays et ce sont des chantiers entiers de son développement qui sont laissés de côté comme le processus de démobilisation et de désarmement, faute de budget.

Mais ce qui préoccupe le plus le chef de l'opération de maintien de la paix, c'est la perspective des élections présidentielles et législatives en juillet et en août dont le financement est loin d'être assuré : « J'ai évoqué la question du financement des élections, où il nous manque 49% des 44 millions de dollars, qui sont le budget des élections. Pour l'instant, dans la phase où nous sommes, les fonds qui sont mobilisés nous permettent d'avancer, mais nous arriverons très rapidement à des phases plus opérationnelles où il nous faudra des compléments dans ce budget », a détaillé Babacar Gaye.

De la bonne tenue de ces élections dépend aussi l'avenir sécuritaire de la Centrafrique. Le général Babacar Gaye espère que les membres du Conseil de sécurité ont entendu son appel à agir d'urgence.

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## **Bozizé et Djotodja signent un accord de paix à Nairobi**

Source: Agence de Presse Africaine

**15 Avril 2015** - Le président kenyan Uhuru Kenyatta et son vice-président William Ruto ont assisté, mardi soi, à la cérémonie de signature de l'accord de paix entre les deux anciens dirigeants centrafricains, François Bozizé et Michel Djotodja.

Le document axé sur deux accords de paix signés "la semaine dernière à Nairobi, la capitale kenyane », par les forces rebelles ex-Séléka et Anti-Balaka et l'accord de Brazzaville signé en juillet 2014, met également un terme à l'Initiative de paix de Nairobi-CAR facilitée par le président Kenyatta.

"Avec la signature de la Déclaration de Nairobi par les deux anciens présidents de la République centrafricaine, j'ai le grand honneur et le plaisir de déclarer l'Initiative de paix de Nairobi-RCA maintenant conclue », a dit Kenyatta.

La semaine dernière, les rebelles ex-Séléka et Anti-Balaka ont signé, au palais présidentiel de Nairobi, l'Accord de Nairobi portant sur le cessez-feu et la cessation des hostilités ainsi que l'adhésion de la déclaration de Nairobi à la feuille de route de transition de la République centrafricaine.

S'adressant aux délégations de la RCA, Kenyatta a affirmé que l'engagement des deux parties aux deux dernières étapes importantes a permis de jeter une base solide pour la construction d'une paix et une stabilité durables en RCA.

Les délégations de la RCA représentaient les anti-Balaka dirigée par Joachim Kokate, l'ex-Séléka de l'ancien président Djotodia, un groupe dirigé par l'ancien président Bozizé et un autre groupe représentant les organisations de la société civile.

Kenyatta a par ailleurs indiqué que c'est son homologue congolais le Président Denis Sassou Nguesso qui lui a demandé de faciliter la cessation des hostilités et le cessez le feu en RCA, ce qu'il a accepté dans l'esprit du panafricanisme.

Il a souligné que la paix exigeait des efforts considérables et ne doit jamais être tenue pour acquise, surtout pour un pays qui a été instable pendant longtemps.

Les Etats africains d'aujourd'hui ont compris que l'instabilité chez le voisin est l'instabilité dans son pays, a indiqué Kenyatta qui a demandé à la communauté internationale de soutenir le processus de paix. "Peu importe, a-t-il souligné, comment nous les avons réunis autour d'une table, ce qui importe c'est qu'ils sont autour d'une table pour discuter de la paix ».

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## Centrafrique : tout savoir sur les négociations de Nairobi

Source: Jeune Afrique

**15 Avril 2015** - Les pourparlers inter-centrafricains de Nairobi ont pris fin mercredi avec la signature par les anciens présidents Michel Djotodia et François Bozizé d'une déclaration d'engagement. Retour sur quatre mois de négociations secrètes.

C'est l'aboutissement de plus de quatre mois de tractations. Les anciens présidents Michel Djotodia et François Bozizé ont signé mercredi 14 avril une déclaration d'engagement dans laquelle ils promettent de se rallier à la feuille de route de la transition, se disent prêts à participer au Forum programmé à la fin du mois et s'engagent à ne pas perturber les futures élections. Si le document n'a pas été rendu public, son contenu devrait se rapprocher de la précédente déclaration déjà paraphée le 21 février, mais sans cérémonie officielle.

Cette cérémonie, plusieurs fois reportée, a finalement eu lieu à la présidence kényane en présence du chef de l'État Uhuru Kenyatta, du vice-président, Willima Ruto, du Premier ministre Ougandais, Ruhakana Rugunda, et du directeur de cabinet de Denis Sassou Nguesso, Firmin Ayessa. Plusieurs diplomates accrédités à Kampala ont accepté l'invitation. La France, pas associée et opposée à une démarche qu'elle juge non pertinente, a décliné.

"L'Afrique d'aujourd'hui, c'est comprendre que l'instabilité de nos voisins est aussi celle de nos pays", a déclaré Kenyatta en préambule appelant la communauté internationale à reconnaître l'accord. "Peu importe comment nous les avons réunis à la même table. Le plus important est qu'ils y soient et qu'ils parlent de paix". Bozizé et Djotodia ont ensuite lu leur déclaration d'engagement avant de se serrer la main tout sourire sous les applaudissements de la salle.

### Deux accords, une déclaration

En tout, les négociations de Nairobi ont donc accouché de trois textes : le premier accord signé le 22 janvier (et immédiatement rejeté par l'ensemble de la communauté internationale, par les autorités de Bangui, puis par Denis Sassou Nguesso) ; le second presque similaire signé mercredi 7 avril par les délégations des anti-balaka et de l'ex-Séléka en présence du président kényan ; et enfin, une semaine plus tard, la déclaration d'engagement de Djotodia et Bozizé.

Il comporte 23 points et aborde des thématiques allant du "DDRR" (Désarmement, démobilisation, réintégration et réinsertions), à la "protection et la promotion de la paix parmi les civils", en passant par "la mise en place de cadres institutionnels de



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facilitation". Mais contrairement à ce à quoi on pouvait s'attendre, les deux articles les plus controversés du premier accord de janvier, concernant une amnistie générale et une refonte de la charte de transition, n'ont pas été supprimés.

En effet, l'article 3 du document indique que "quinze jours après la signature de l'accord, il doit être lancé des négociations en vue de la mise en place d'une nouvelle autorité nationale de transition de la RCA et la révision de la Charte nationale de transition". Et l'article 20 d'ajouter que "les nouvelles autorités nationales de transition sont tenues d'envisager l'octroi d'une amnistie générale à toutes les personnes et les parties engagées ou impliquées dans les combats durant le conflit en République centrafricaine". Selon nos informations, c'est la ferme opposition de Catherine Samba-Panza au processus de Nairobi et son refus de se rendre dans la capitale kényane pour assister à la cérémonie officielle qui ont poussé les autorités kényanes à ne pas tenir compte de son point de vue.

### **Négociations secrètes et volte-face de DSN**

Pendant longtemps, les pourparlers de Nairobi ont suscité inquiétudes et interrogations. Leur initiative émane du médiateur de la crise, Denis Sassou Nguesso (DSN). Fin décembre 2014, le président congolais avait sollicité son homologue kényan pour que se tiennent, à Nairobi, des négociations informelles entre les leaders des groupes armés centrafricains – en marge de celles officiellement initiées à Brazzaville.

Le 17 janvier, un communiqué du ministère congolais des Affaires étrangères salue "les avancées enregistrées lors des discussions de Nairobi". Mais dix jours plus tard, et alors qu'un accord a entretemps été signé à Nairobi, DSN change d'avis. Depuis, le président congolais a tout fait pour se tenir à l'écart de la démarche, arrêtant notamment le 20 mars de payer l'hébergement des délégations centrafricaines logées au Weston et au Piazza (la facture a été réglée par les Kényans) et refusant de se rendre à la signature officielle. Un comportement qui a passablement énervé les autorités kényanes qui ont été contraintes de prendre en charge une initiative dont ils n'étaient pas à l'origine.

### **Et maintenant ?**

L'accord signé est une porte de sortie honorable pour les instigateurs des pourparlers. Mais a-t-il un avenir ? Rien n'est moins sûr. D'abord parce que la communauté internationale (ONU, Communauté des États d'Afrique centrale) n'a jamais reconnu la légitimité de cette démarche. Mais aussi parce que les délégations des anti-balaka et de l'ex-Séléka présentes dans la capitale kényane ne représentent pas l'ensemble des mouvances des deux groupes armés.

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## Former Central African presidents sign peace deal in Kenya

Source: Reuters

**15 April 2015** - Former Central African Republic Presidents Francois Bozize and Michel Djotodia signed a peace agreement in the Kenyan capital Nairobi on Tuesday, despite their country's transitional government and foreign partners dismissing the process.

The signing, witnessed by Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta, endorsed a deal signed in Nairobi last week by the mainly Muslim former Seleka rebels and the largely Christian or animist "anti-balaka" militia, according to a statement.

Kenyatta said the agreements laid the foundation for lasting peace in Central African Republic, but the initiative has been dismissed by the country's interim president Catherine Samba-Panza who is seeking to organise her own peace forum in Bangui this month.

Diplomats, led by former colonial power France, are also uneasy about what they see as a parallel process being hosted by Kenya.

Kenyatta said he had been asked by Congo Republic President Denis Sassou Nguesso - the regional mediator in the conflict - to facilitate a deal on the cessation of hostilities.

"The African of today understands that instability in your neighbour's country is instability in your country," Kenyatta said.

He called on the international community to support the peace process. "It does not matter how we got them to the table, what matters is that they are at the table discussing peace."

One person died and a dozen people were wounded when hundreds of protesters clashed with U.N. peacekeepers in Central African Republic last week, highlighting how violence simmers despite the deal and the deployment of thousands of U.N. troops.

There is wrangling in Bangui over what form the locally organised peace forum will take.

Political parties object to Bozize and Djotodia taking part and say it must bring an end to impunity in a nation that has seen little but conflict and political instability since independence in 1960.

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## **Security Council: UN official says Central Africa's transition at critical stage**

Source: New Kerala

**Amidst a tentative political transition, the situation in the Central African Republic (CAR) remains tenuous as sectarian tensions continue to simmer and the severity of the country's humanitarian crisis increases, the top United Nations official in the African country warned on Tuesday.**

**15 April 2015** - In a briefing to the Security Council, the Secretary-General's Special Representative, Babacar Gaye, told the 15-member body that swathes of the CAR's population remain at risk from attacks by the Muslim Seleka alliance and the Christian anti-Balaka militia as the two groups continue to wage hostilities in the country's ongoing civil conflict.

In addition, he said, the country had witnessed an uptick in the number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) with 50,000 new IDPs registered since the beginning of the year.

Nevertheless, Gaye pointed to the holding of "historic local consultations," completed in March, which had offered CAR citizens "an opportunity to express their views on issues at the heart of the crisis, including justice and reconciliation, peace and security, governance, and socio-economic development priorities."

He explained that despite disagreements between the country's Government and the National Transition Council over plans to hold later in the month the so-called Bangui Forum on reconciliation, the UN Mission in the CAR, known by its French acronym MINUSCA, had managed to defuse tensions and promote "an approach based on consensus."

The completion of the Forum would ultimately be "another milestone" in the CAR's transition, the UN official added.

"Commitments on the part of all national stakeholders, including political and military leaders of armed groups, are critical to keep the transition on track and open the way toward next steps in the transition process, including the organization of elections and the launch of longer term national reconciliation efforts," he said.

Meanwhile, Gaye also observed that the country's political transition had reached a "critical stage" as national stakeholders scramble to organize credible elections which, he said, would mark the end of the country's transition.

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A number of challenges - ranging from the registration of IDPs and refugees outside the country to security and financial challenges - continued to plague the process and he urged Member States to promptly respond to funding shortfalls which were affecting the "timely completion of the electoral process."

More than two years of civil war and sectarian violence have displaced thousands of people in CAR. According to UN estimates, nearly 440,000 people remain displaced inside the country while some 190,000 have sought asylum across the borders.

At the same time, more than 36,000 people remain trapped within the landlocked country in enclaves from which they hope to find asylum in neighbouring States.

Moreover, the UN Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) recently reported that some 1.5 million people in CAR remain food insecure amid ongoing hostilities throughout the country and cautioned that the figure was likely to rise should immediate support not be provided.

"Restoring security, promoting an inclusive political dialogue and completing the transition is just the beginning of the CAR's long journey towards stability and sustainable development," Gaye told the Council.

"The international community has a moral obligation to help the CAR and its people stay the course towards peace and reconciliation. It is our collective responsibility."

## SUDAN

### **La Commission Nationale des Elections a souligné le retard accusé dans certaines circonscriptions, pour justifier l'extension du vote.**

Source: BBC Afrique

**16 Avril 2015** - D'après la CNE, le matériel électoral est arrivé avec du retard dans ces zones, ce qui explique le délai.

Dans l'Etat du Darfour, le retard dans le processus électoral était dû à des mesures de sécurité, d'après la Commission.

Le vote va donc se prolonger au delà des trois jours réglementaires. Il devait s'achever mercredi.

Dans certaines régions, le scrutin sera même étendu de deux jours, jusqu'à vendredi.

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"Joué d'avance"

Jusqu'à présent, la participation ne semble pas très importante.

Certains estiment que le scrutin est joué d'avance, et mènera à la victoire d'Oumar El Béchir, qui dirige le pays depuis le coup d'état de 1989.

Les élections générales sont destinées à élire le président, ainsi que les députés et les représentants régionaux.

Dans ce scrutin, une grande partie de l'opposition a décidé de boycotter les urnes.

## **Two presidential candidates in Sudanese elections announce their withdrawal from race**

Source: Sudan Tribune

**15 April 2015** - Two candidates running for presidency in the Sudanese elections said that they have decided to drop out of the race in protest at what they describe as serious violations committed by the National Electoral Commission (NEC).

The NEC said Wednesday that it would extend the voting period nationwide by an extra day until Thursday evening without stating the reasons. Observers however attributed it to the poor voter turnout.

Ahmed Radi, one of the two withdrawing candidates, told Sudan Tribune that the NEC extension decision and low voter turnout prompted him to make that move.

Radi said he would formally inform the NEC of his decision on Thursday and noted that the NEC chairman told him that they will declare a winner any presidential candidate who receives a mere 50.1% of the votes.

The second candidate Omer Awad al-Karim also announced his withdrawal calling the elections a "farce".

At a news conference on Wednesday, Karim said that his conscience and his sense of responsibility towards the nation and the people compelled him to stay away from "the play designed to trick the Sudanese people in the name of democracy".

He cited several breaches including absence of serial numbers on the ballots, making the pre-elections silence period two days instead of one as stated by the electoral code and accepting residency affidavits in lieu of government identification for voters.

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“As for what was happening inside the [polling] centres in terms of wrongdoing and abuses called irregularities by the NEC ... I have seen with my own eyes offences happening that are contrary to the electoral law,” Karim said.

He also claimed that the NEC did not direct its staff to verify identities of face-veiled women opening the possibility of allowing duplicate voting.

Another presidential candidate by the name of Mahmoud Abdul-Jabbar said he rejects extending the voting process in the state of Khartoum, saying “This is totally unacceptable for us”.

“The extension will enable the ruling party to rig the elections dramatically and solicit people who do not have any proof of identity and give them residency affidavits to cast their votes,” he told Sudan Tribune.

“We are against the extension [of voting] in Khartoum state even for one hour,” he added, claiming outright fraud had been committed in the voting process.

Alam al-Huda Hamid, another presidential candidate, said the extension was due to voter numbers falling short of required quorum.

But he warned that the extension may spoil the electoral process and make it “messy” and lacking credibility based on democratic and international standards.

The Associated Press (AP) said that to increase turnout, Sudanese authorities gave awards for polling stations with high turnout.

A Sudan Tribune reporter has seen attempts by supporters of the ruling National Congress Party (NCP) to convince voters in some neighbourhoods of Khartoum to cast their ballots by offering them free rides to the polling stations.

At one Khartoum polling centre in the upper-middle-class neighbourhood of al-Riyadh, turnout was only 15% after three days of voting, election official Youssef Ibrahim told AP.

Other workers spread out mattresses in the empty poll place while some drank tea.

“Even if you give people a month, they won’t come if they don’t want to come,” Ibrahim said. “The people are fed up. After 25 years, people have had enough.”

About 13.6 million people are eligible to vote across the country. The poll results are expected on 27 April.

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## **Sudan extends voting time, citing security, logistical reasons**

Source: Shanghai Daily

**15 April 2015** - Sudan's National Elections Commission (NEC) on Tuesday decided to extend the voting for an extra hour, noting that security and logistical reasons prevented the voting process at some polling stations.

"The voting process in the presidential and legislative polls, which entered its second day, has not been conducted at some polling stations for security or logistical reasons", said Al-Hadi Mohamed Ahmed, NEC Spokesperson, at a press conference Tuesday.

"In Gezira State, there are 52 polling stations where the voting has not been conducted because the necessary logistical materials have not arrived there. The voting at those stations would be conducted during Wednesday, Thursday and Friday", he noted.

He went on saying that "there are some polling stations in South Kordofan State targeted by the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM)/northern sector and others where the voting has not been conducted."

In North Kordofan State, he said the voting was not conducted in five stations on Monday due to shortage in logistical materials, noting that the polling process started at those stations after the electoral materials were delivered.

He also said that the voting process has been halted at three stations in the disputed oil-rich area of Abyei for security reasons.

He explained that the extension of the voting time came in response to requests by many states, noting that the NEC's role is to facilitate the process for the voters.

Regarding the voting for the Sudanese expatriates, the NEC spokesperson said that they would vote in seven countries, including Egypt, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Oman, Belgium and Britain.

He added that the overseas polling would begin on Friday and last for three days, pointing out that polling stations in Libya, Yemen and South Sudan have been closed due to security situations.

In the meantime, the voting process in Sudan's presidential and legislative polls continued for the second day amid varied turnout compared to the first day at a time when the NEC has not yet provided any statistics on rates of participation, attributing that to bad communications.

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Like day one, the polling process proceeded smoothly, save for some events in Darfur region and areas in South Kordofan state which is witnessing armed clashes between the Sudanese army and the rebels of the SPLM/northern sector.

To this end, eyewitnesses in El Fasher, the capital city of North Darfur State, said the police forces used tear gas to disperse limited protests organized by some students of El Fasher University against the elections.

In South Kordofan state, the SPLM/northern sector targeted some polling stations in Habilla and Al-Abbassiya localities where the NEC admitted that events took place in the state and that three polling centers were closed due to armed attacks.

Nevertheless, streets in the Sudanese capital Khartoum appeared calm amid expectations that the voting rate would rise later on.

On Monday, the voters in Sudan started casting their votes to elect a president and members for the national and state parliaments amid boycotting by most of the opposition parties.

About 13.6 million registered voters around the country will cast their ballots at 7,000 polling stations.

Regional organizations such as the African Union, the Inter-Governmental Authority for Development in Africa (IGAD) and the Arab League are monitoring the elections, according to the NEC.

The elections will run till Wednesday while a vote count is set to begin the next day. The final results of the elections are scheduled to be announced on April 27.

## SOUTH AFRICA

### Foreign Nationals Terrified by Xenophobic Attacks in South Africa

Source: VOA

**16 April 2015** - Violent xenophobic attacks have erupted in South Africa, leaving five dead and thousands displaced. The violence first targeted shops owned by foreign nationals, largely from Somalia and Ethiopia. Now it's spreading against all African foreigners, leaving many feeling terrified and hopeless.



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Somalia national Ebrahim Mohamad Ali runs a coffee shop in Johannesburg. Memories of the 2008 xenophobic attacks in South Africa are still fresh in his mind. He lost his auto repair business - and his brother as well.

“That time, even my brother there, they killed him, that xenophobic guys. My brother is passed away there. They killed him in that robbery, for xenophobia. Me, I lost all my tools, all my money,” said Mohamad.

Seven years later, the attacks have erupted again and have left foreigners terrified. Somali and Ethiopian nationals owning grocery shops in Soweto township were the first to be targeted. They were beaten and chased away by locals who took over their businesses.

Foreign shop owners in Durban were the next to be targeted and now all African foreign nationals are being told to pack and leave. Thousands have been displaced and are living in makeshift camps.

Ethiopian national Sarah Kidane is still traumatized after being violently forced out of her shop in Soweto.

“I’m not feeling okay. I was losing too much; I was losing my life; but I don’t know what I can say - but I don’t have any choice now; I don’t have any choice now; go back there; the people are not good; they will start again,” said Kidane while crying.

Other victims say South African police are turning a blind eye to their fate. Gitaw Aniyo, 32, is one of them.

“I did go to report for the police but no one helped me that time. I was in the police station, even -- no police even that time. I don’t know what was happening. I didn’t receive anything,” said Aniyo.

Many others, like 25-year-old John Alemu, say they are puzzled by the attacks.

“We are African brothers, but they give us problems here. They kill our brothers and they rob our own shops,” said Alemu.

South African authorities have denied the country is experiencing xenophobic attacks, preferring to call them criminal acts.

Abdirikaz Ali Osman, national secretary of the Somali Community Board of South Africa, disagrees.

“To me it’s pure xenophobic attacks, which have been targeted [against] the foreign nationals who are living in the country -- especially those who are having small, informal

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business in the townships and the informal settlements. So it's obvious that it's xenophobic and Afrophobic violence actually," said Osman.

Osman is pleading with authorities to swiftly intervene before these foreign nationals, who have already lost their livelihood, lose their lives as well.

Although the attacks are intensifying each day, the foreign nationals, especially those from Somali and Ethiopia, say they would rather die in South Africa than return to their countries of origin, where they are likely to be met with even more violence.