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



# MEDIA MONITORING

**17 September 2014**

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## US organizing summit on UN peacekeeping next week

Source: Associated Press

**United Nations, 16 September 2014** - The United States is organizing a summit on U.N. peacekeeping on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly next week that will be addressed by Vice President Joe Biden, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Rwanda's President Paul Kagame.

A note on the Sept. 26 summit, sent to U.N. member states and obtained Tuesday by The Associated Press, says "United Nations peacekeeping today is more critical than ever to international peace and security, with peacekeepers called on to end ethnic conflict, prevent violence against civilians, and serve on the international community's frontlines against violent extremists."

The U.N. currently runs 16 peacekeeping operations, with more than 100,000 peacekeepers deployed around the world. Its budget for the fiscal year from July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015 is just over \$7 billion.

## Cadavres de Rweru: des témoignages accréditent la piste rwandaise

Par RFI

**15 Septembre 2014** - Il y a près d'un mois, on découvrait au Burundi au moins quatre cadavres enveloppés dans des sacs, flottant sur les eaux du lac Rweru, entre le Burundi et le Rwanda, alors que les pêcheurs burundais de la région avaient alors assuré qu'ils en avaient vu une quarantaine depuis juillet. Bujumbura et Kigali ont tous deux nié que ce soient des cadavres de leurs ressortissants et malgré l'annonce d'une commission mixte d'enquête, aucune avancée réelle n'a été enregistrée. Après la découverte par les pêcheurs burundais de deux nouveaux corps la semaine passée, RFI a recueilli les témoignages de riverains pêcheurs et agriculteurs.

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Il nous a fallu 18 minutes, chronomètre en main, pour rallier le petit port de Nzove, dans la province de Muyinga, au nord-est du Burundi, à l'endroit précis où les pêcheurs ont découvert ces cadavres flottants sur le lac Rweru, raconte notre correspondant. Pour vous rendre compte des distances, il faut environ 2h30 minutes pour rallier les deux endroits à la pagaie.

A cet endroit, nous sommes dans la zone frontalière, là où la rivière Kagera, qui prend sa source au Rwanda, se jette dans le lac Rweru. Le courant de la Kagera se distingue très nettement des eaux plus claires du lac Rweru. C'est à cet endroit précis que les pêcheurs ont découvert les corps enveloppés dans des sacs retenus par des nénuphars et autres plantes aquatiques. Les pêcheurs burundais que nous avons rencontrés sur place sont formels, ces cadavres flottants étaient charriés par la rivière Kagera qui vient du Rwanda.

Les pêcheurs rwandais étaient plus réservés : ils ont reconnu que c'est la Kagera qui charriait ces corps mais lorsqu'on demande d'où vient cette rivière et bien les réponses deviennent un peu évasives. Ils balbutient des réponses peu claires et ne cachent pas qu'ils ont peur.

Les craintes des agriculteurs et des pêcheurs côté rwandais

RFI a remonté la rivière Kagera, puis accosté plusieurs pirogues, du côté rwandais. Nous nous sommes dirigés vers une dizaine de huttes en paille plantées au milieu de champs de haricots et de patates douces.

Tout à coup, nous voyons les gens se précipiter dans leur case et d'autres s'éloigner en courant. Le guide s'étonne et explique que ces Rwandais sont d'habitude très accueillants. Il nous indique alors deux hommes qui sont susceptibles de nous parler.

Après une dizaine de minutes passées à les persuader, ils finissent par avouer que les autorités rwandaises sont passées la veille, c'est-à-dire vendredi. Elles leur auraient interdit de parler à des journalistes burundais. Nous leur promettons de ne pas divulguer leur nom. Alors, ils se mettent à nous expliquer ce qu'ils ont vu.

« J'ai vu passer ainsi une vingtaine de sacs »

Le plus jeune, âgé de 20-25 ans, nous dit qu'il a vu les premiers cadavres descendre le cours de la Kagera, dès la mi-juillet. « Au début, on voyait des sacs bien emballés, on n'osait pas y toucher, dit-il. Quelqu'un ici s'est dit que cela pouvait être un produit qui pouvait se vendre. Il en attraper un. Quand il a ouvert le sac, c'était l'horreur, il y avait un cadavre à l'intérieur. Nous avons refermé le sac et rejeté le corps dans le courant. On ne voulait pas d'ennui avec les autorités », assure-t-il, en expliquant aussi qu'il a vu passer ainsi une vingtaine de sacs à lui seul.

Le deuxième homme explique que cela se voyait bien que c'était le travail d'un spécialiste. Ces cadavres portaient, selon lui, une cagoule sur la tête. Ils avaient les jambes repliées, attachées de telle manière que les cuisses touchaient le buste. Les bras étaient également attachés dans le dos et la même corde s'enroulait autour du cou.

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Finalement les autres habitants de cette localité rwandaise nous ont rejoints. La peur au ventre, ils ont reconnu que ces corps venaient d'au loin de l'intérieur du Rwanda. Mais « on ne sait pas ce qui se passe », ont-ils tous assuré.

## **Angola: President Analyses Situation in Great Lakes with African Union Chairperson**

Source: Angola Press via AllAfrica.com

**Luanda, 15 September 2014** - The Angolan head of State, José Eduardo dos Santos, Monday, at the Presidential Palace in Luanda, received the chairperson of the African Union Commission (AUC), Nkosazana Dlamine Zuma, with whom he discussed issues related to latest developments of the situation prevailing in the Great Lakes region and in Africa, in general.

At the end of the meeting, Nkosazana Dlamine Zuma, told the press that she consulted the Angolan statesman, the current President of the International Conference for the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) and at the meeting "they discussed a set of issues related to the peace and security situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Central African Republic, South Sudan, Libya and Somalia."

"We also discussed matters pertaining to the development of Angola, the development of regional economic communities, the African Union, its infrastructure and rehabilitation," said the chairperson of the African Union.

Zuma is in Luanda in transit to the Central African Republic, where she will attend the transfer of mandate of Forces of the International Verification Mission in this country to the UN Peacekeeping Forces.

During the one-hour long meeting, according to Nkosošana Dlamini, were further analyzed with President Jose Eduardo dos Santos issues relating to the financing of the African Union, "because Angola is one of the countries that believe that the body must have own funds, in order to take decisions and implement them with own resources."

She said that the Angolan statesman expressed his support to "Obasanjo" process, which is a project where the African Union is studying ways of funding so that recommendations and activities of this body have resolution based on resources from own funds and finding alternative sources of funding for the resolution of problems facing the continent.

The representative of the African Union expressed her appreciation for the fact that Angola is a country that has its quotas settled at the level of the institution, as well as the support that the Angolan authorities have given to this organization not only in the individual context but also at the level of the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

The meeting was also attended by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Georges Rebelo Chikoti.

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## Central Africa: Situation in Great Lakes Tops Meeting between Chikoti and Kosozama Zuma

Source: Angola Press via AllAfrica.com

**Luanda, 15 September 2014** - The political situation in the Great Lakes Region topped on Monday the meeting between the Angolan Foreign Affairs minister, Georges Chikoti and the Chairperson of the African Union Commission (AUC), Kosozama Dlamini Zuma.

Speaking to the press at the end of the audience, Kosazama Zuma said that she is discussing with Angolan authorities, as the president of the International Conference on Great Lakes region (ICGLR), issues related to the security of Central African Republic (CAR) and DR Congo.

Regarding CAR, she added that it is being recorded this Monday the transfer of the African forces to the UN Mission (Minusca) Forces to the CAR, comprised by 10.000 military manpower.

"We also analysed general issues of African Union on the revenues of the organization, the development programme of infrastructures, among others matters of mutual interest", she said.

Kosozama Dlamini Zuma is paying a working visit to Angola since Sunday and she is travelling this Monday to Bangui, capital of the Central African Republic.

## DRC Official 'Unaware' of Moves to Scrap Term Limits

Source: VOA

By Peter Clotey

The Democratic Republic of Congo's (DRC) information minister says he is "unaware" of an alleged attempt by the government to remove term limits in the constitution that would pave the way for President Joseph Kabila to run for a third term. President Kabila's second term expires in 2016.

Lambert Mende also denied opposition accusation the administration has been undermining the constitution by using state institutions, including the police and the judiciary, to clamp down on their protests.

He said the government plans to propose amendments to some provisions in the constitution, but denied the administration wants to remove term limits.

"I am not aware of an initiative that has been taken to change this article that [is] preventing the president to run for a third term. It is just [the] opposition speaking just to discredit our political group and discredit the president," said Mende. "We know that we have introduced an initiative for other provisions of the constitution, but not that one."

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His comments came after opposition groups expressed concern the government, as well as the ruling People's Party for Reconstruction and Democracy, is attempting to use its numerical strength in parliament to remove term limits, which they argue will allow incumbent President Kabila to run for a third consecutive term.

They have called for nationwide demonstrations after Jean-Bertrand Ewanga, the General Secretary of the opposition Union for the Congolese Nation, was sentenced to a year in prison last week for insulting the president. But local media reports say officials accuse the opposition leader of inciting ethnic tension to create chaos and instability.

Mende declined to comment on the opposition leader's prison sentence, citing the country's laws that he said prevents him from doing so.

The opposition also accused the government of arresting protesters and preventing them from exercising their rights to freely express their displeasure with the administration's policies. Mende rejected the accusation.

"[This is] just a way of discrediting our government, because they know that this is untrue," said Mende. "Yesterday we had a demonstration in Kinshasa and there have not been any teargas, people demonstrated peacefully and they went home around 4-5pm. But those who challenged the police order, those were arrested briefly."

Mende called on the opposition groups to coordinate with the police and local authorities before embarking on their demonstrations.

"It is a must, you can't demonstrate without coordinating with the police and it is like that everywhere in the world," said Mende. "They must know that they are free to demonstrate. They must coordinate with the local authorities ... so that something is done to prevent any disorder that is what is in the provision of law."

## **RDC: l'Eglise catholique dit «non» à la révision de la Constitution**

Par RFI

**16 septembre 2014** - En République démocratique du Congo (RDC), l'Eglise catholique se mobilise contre tout projet de révision de l'article 220 qui garantit l'alternance politique après deux mandats. Dans un message intitulé « Protégeons la nation » et lu à la presse, la Conférence épiscopale nationale du Congo (CENCO) qualifie toute tentative de modification de cet article clef de « voie sans issue » et réaffirme la nécessité de respecter et de conserver la Constitution actuelle.

C'est un contexte bien précis qui a poussé l'Eglise catholique à faire une telle déclaration. Il y a eu tout d'abord la rentrée parlementaire, lundi, et le fait que la révision d'un article de la Constitution - l'article 197, qui porte sur le mode de scrutin des députés provinciaux - est déjà au

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menu de cette session. Et puis, il y a eu surtout toutes les déclarations des dernières semaines du côté de la majorité présidentielle.

« La menace d'une modification plus fondamentale de la Constitution devient de plus en plus précise », explique un représentant de l'Eglise catholique. D'où ce message très clair qui est de dire « non » à la révision des articles verrouillés de la Constitution de 2006.

« Nous réaffirmons ainsi notre position à toute modification de l'article 220, article verrouillé de notre Constitution, qui stipule que la forme républicaine de l'Etat, le principe du suffrage universel, la forme représentative du gouvernement, le nombre et la durée des mandats du président de la République, l'indépendance du pouvoir judiciaire ne peuvent faire l'objet d'aucune révision constitutionnelle », a déclaré l'abbé Donatien Nshole, porte-parole de la Conférence épiscopale nationale du Congo.

« La CENCO n'ignore pas que toute Constitution est modifiable mais elle rappelle que l'article 220 a été verrouillé par le constituant lui-même justement pour échapper à cette modification. Le modifier, c'est refaire marche en arrière sur le chemin de la construction de notre démocratie et compromettre gravement l'avenir harmonieux de la nation », a-t-il tenu à rappeler.

Ce n'est pas la première fois que la Conférence épiscopale se positionne. En juin, déjà, elle s'était dite opposée à tout changement fondamental de la Constitution. Cette fois-ci, l'Eglise catholique affirme non seulement que les menaces de modification deviennent de plus en plus précises mais décide d'aller plus loin.

Elle suspend sa participation à un comité religieux pour suivre la préparation des élections aux côtés de la commission électorale. Par ailleurs, elle appelle tous les curés et les catéchistes du pays à véhiculer son message et à sensibiliser les chrétiens dans les églises pour qu'ils se mobilisent contre toute tentative de modification de l'article 220.

L'Eglise catholique, qui était déjà un des premiers acteurs à critiquer le résultat des élections en 2011, tente cette fois d'agir en amont, sachant que la présidentielle doit se tenir dans deux ans, en 2016.

## **Financement des élections : la Monusco sollicite l'appui des bailleurs de fonds**

Source: Agence d'Information D'Afrique centrale

Par Alain Diasso

**16 septembre 2014** - La Mission de l'ONU entend mener, via le représentant spécial du secrétaire général des Nations unies en RDC, Martin Köbler, un plaidoyer auprès des amis de la RDC pour qu'ils participent à la subvention des élections congolaises.

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Ainsi qu'on le sait, la Commission électorale nationale indépendante fait face à un problème sérieux de financement des élections, à commencer par les locales annoncées pour 2015. Jusqu'à ce jour, l'institution électorale est en attente de l'enveloppe gouvernementale pour le financement des élections urbaines, municipales et locales. Entre-temps, la Céni est en pleine discussion avec le gouvernement de qui elle attend le budget pluriannuel censé lui permettre d'élaborer le calendrier global des élections conformément au vœu exprimé par la communauté internationale. C'est dire que le blocage que connaît à l'heure actuelle cette institution citoyenne est intimement lié au déficit des ressources financières qui l'empêche de conduire le cycle électoral en toute quiétude. Et lorsqu'on ajoute à ce problème les attermoissements de deux chambres législatives à voter les lois essentielles d'accompagnement au processus électoral et à trancher sur la feuille de route qui leur a été soumise, l'on mesure l'inquiétude qui plane sur la suite des opérations électorales.

Partenaire privilégié de la Céni, la Monusco tient à s'impliquer dans la recherche du financement de prochaines échéances électorales congolaises. C'est ce qui ressort de l'entretien que le Martin Köbler a eu le week-end dernier avec l'abbé Apollinaire Malu Malu. Il en découle que la Monusco va mener un plaidoyer auprès des amis de la RDC pour qu'ils participent au financement des élections congolaises. Fort des informations fiables et utiles mises à sa disposition par le président de la Céni, Martin Köbler entend mettre à profit sa prochaine tournée euro-américaine pour sensibiliser et convaincre les partenaires extérieurs de la RDC quant au soutien à apporter au processus électoral congolais, car, comme il l'a déclaré lui-même au sortir de l'audience, « la question des élections est parmi les points qui préoccupent les Congolais et les amis de la RDC ».

Entre-temps, un communiqué de l'ONU publié en début de semaine à l'occasion de la Journée internationale de la démocratie fait savoir que la famille onusienne, avec ses organismes spécialisés, « se tiennent prêts à fournir un soutien logistique et à engager les bailleurs de fonds, pour le financement et la bonne tenue d'un processus électoral dans la mesure où celui-ci demeure inclusif, transparent et crédible ».

## Congo opposition pledges more protests after govt crackdown

Source: Reuters Africa

By Aaron Ross

**Kinshasa, 14 September 2014** - Democratic Republic of Congo's opposition pledged to escalate its campaign against a possible third term for President Joseph Kabila after police dispersed a protest march with teargas in the capital Kinshasa on Saturday.

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Anti-government protests were suppressed in at least three other towns, the opposition said. In Butembo, in the eastern province of North Kivu, police fired teargas and threw stones at protesters, according to Fabrice Kakubuzi, a local civil society coordinator.

Provincial authorities in Kinshasa refused to authorise the march in the capital, organised by a coalition of leading opposition groups, arguing they had already permitted another rally on Saturday and could not secure two of them.

The international community has spent billions of dollars and deployed a 21,000-strong U.N. peacekeeping mission in Congo in the wake of a 1998-2003 civil war in which millions of people died mostly from starvation and disease. However, stability has remained elusive in the giant nation at the heart of Africa and dozens of armed groups still prowl its mineral-rich east.

Vital Kamerhe, president of the Union for the Congolese Nation (UNC) opposition party, said that police had teargassed protesters near Kinshasa's central train station. Several protesters were injured or arrested by police, he said.

Opposition supporters had voiced anger after UNC General Secretary Jean-Bertrand Ewanga was sentenced to one year in prison on Thursday for insulting Kabila at a protest in August. Authorities accused Ewanga of inciting tribal tensions by demanding at the rally that Kabila return to Rwanda when his second term expires in 2016 -- repeating an opposition accusation that the president was born in Congo's tiny eastern neighbour.

"We know that they have imprisoned Ewanga but they haven't imprisoned the spirit of Ewanga," Kamerhe said, vowing more protests.

A crowd of about 100 demonstrators gathered later outside UNC headquarters, some holding anti-government placards. "Kabila 2016: Let's avoid a Congolese Spring," read one.

## Summit to tackle Congo and Lesotho

Source: Business Day

By Nicholas Kotch

**15 September 2014** - President Jacob Zuma is due to host a regional mini-summit in Pretoria on Monday evening on how to resolve contrasting security issues in the Democratic Republic of Congo and the mountain kingdom of Lesotho.

The summit is under the aegis of the Southern African Development Community (Sadc) whose organ on politics, security and defence Mr Zuma chairs.

President Joseph Kabila is expected to participate despite facing mounting opposition in the Congo over his undeclared but increasingly obvious campaign for a third five-year term. The



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country's constitution only allows presidents to serve two terms and Mr Kabila's second term expires in 2016.

But the summit is about the future of the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda militia in eastern Congo. The Hutu fighters are the rump of the force which committed genocide in Rwanda in 1994 against minority Tutsi and which fled into neighbouring Congo that year.

The growing crisis in Lesotho affects a much smaller and more peaceful country but one which is an enclave in SA and a vital supplier of water to Gauteng province.

Mr Zuma has been spearheading Sadc's efforts to cool the temperature between Prime Minister Tom Thabane and his deputy, Mothetjoa Metsing, and also to defuse the potential military threat from Lt-Gen Tlali Kamoli.

## **DRC Rebel Group Wants Assurances to Hand Over Weapons**

Source: VOA

Par Peter Clottey

The leader of the Mai Mai Kifuafua rebel movement said he needs assurances from the Democratic of Republic of Congo's (DRC) government that it will protect unarmed civilians in the territory the group controls before his 2,800 members will hand over their weapons under the administration's peace effort program.

Didier Bitaki said members of his group took up arms to protect civilians in the Walekale territory and nearby towns after increasing attacks by the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR) and other rival rebels.

"We could not leave our people [to] be killed by FDLR and other groups. So, it is very simple, if the government guarantees security to our population in Walekale and other areas, there is no reason to [prevent] my troops from joining the government," Bitaki said.

### **Wary of promises**

Bitaki said his group is ready to support government's effort to establish peace, but expressed concern the administration has yet to keep promises to protect civilians.

He insists the constitution, however, gives his men the right to protect life and property, in spite of the government's insistence the rebel group is part of the country's insecurity problem.

"The constitution says that everybody has a right to defend himself whenever he is threatened by foreign or forces that will [create] danger for his life," said Bitaki.

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“So when we saw that our families are being threatened by rebel forces from Rwanda and from [other places] we said that we should protect ourselves because of the FARDC [Congolese army] were not able to do so. So that is the reason why the group exists,” he added.

Bitaki called on the government to send FARDC troops to the areas his rebels control to reassure his group the administration is serious about improving security.

Backed by the United Nations Mission to the country (MONUSCO), the DRC government launched the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) program. It encouraged rebel groups to turn in their weapons either to be integrated into the army or into society.

That move came after President Joseph Kabila’s government issued an ultimatum to all rebel groups to hand over their weapons as part of the administration effort to restore law and order, as well as to establish peace and stability in rebel-controlled areas.

MONUSCO often has supported Congo’s army, the FARDC, to launch military offensives against various rebel groups in parts of the country where the armed groups often attack.

**Neutralize armed groups**

The UN Mission’s military spokesman, Colonel Felix Basse, said MONUSCO aims to neutralize all armed groups in order to restore the authority of the government in Kinshasa in rebel-controlled areas.

He said the successful military offensives have boosted efforts to protect unarmed civilians, which he said is part of MONUSCO’s mandate.

“We are committed to working closely and in very strong cooperation with the Congolese forces in order to neutralize all these armed groups that are causing [mayhem] against the population. So this is the aim of the operation to neutralize [rebels groups],” said Basse.

**DRC Militias Refuse to Disarm**

Source: TeleSur

**The Mai Mai Kifuafua movement refuses to hand over its weapons until the government of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) guarantees safety in North Kivu.**

**16 September 2014** - Didier Bitaki, the head of the Mai Mai Kifuafua movement in the Walikali region, in the North Kivu province in eastern DRC, said he will not disarm until the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) government guarantees that it will safeguard the civilians that his 2,800 member group currently protects.

The government has asked that this militia group hand over their weapons to the national administration's peace effort program. The DRC government has launched the Disarmament,

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Demobilization and Reintegration program in coordination with the United Nations Mission to the DRC (MONUSCO) that advocates for militia groups to turn in their arms and to be re-integrated into civil society.

"We could not leave our people [to] be killed by FDLR (Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda) and other groups. So, it is very simple, if the government guarantees security to our population in Walekale and other areas, there is no reason to [prevent] my troops from joining the government," Bitaki said.

He went on to say, "The constitution says that everybody has a right to defend himself whenever he is threatened by foreign or forces that will [create] danger for his life... So when we saw that our families are being threatened by rebel forces from Rwanda and from [other places] we said that we should protect ourselves because of the FARDC [Congolese army] were not able to do so. So that is the reason why the group exists."

Bitaki also suggested that the government send the Congolese army to the Walekale territory, where his militia currently operates, in order to assure the Mai Mai Kifuafua that the national government was serious about providing security to the region.

## Angola: Unita Praises President's Role in Search for Solutions in Great Lakes

Source: AngolaPress via AllAfrica.com

**Kuito, 13 September 2014** - UNITA provincial coordinator in Bie, Manuel Savihemba Friday praised in the town of Cuito, the role played by the President of Angola, José Eduardo dos Santos, in seeking for peaceful solutions to end the conflicts in the Great Lakes region.

The politician, who was speaking at a press conference, acknowledged the qualities, such as maturity and patience of José Eduardo dos Santos in resolving armed conflict, essentially for his spirit of leadership of the nation towards consolidating the democracy and peace in the country.

"I figured out that some people do not understand the efforts and the role of the head of the Nation, dedicated to the preservation of peace, thus creating disturbances that endanger the conservation of these goods, peace and national reconciliation among brothers", he lamented.

UNITA MP said that the President of the Republic is a man of good deeds, a Democrat and reconciler".

He recognized the performance of the Head of State in the solution of the main problems of the nation, as regards to the implementation of measures to improve the living conditions of the population.

## Afrique: un forum mondial sur la paix organisé au Congo

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Source: Pana via AfriqueJet Actualités

**17 septembre 2014** - Organisation prochaine au Congo d'un forum mondial sur la paix - Un forum mondial sur la paix va être organisé prochainement à Brazzaville, en vue de trouver les solutions aux problèmes sécuritaires que connaît le continent africain, a annoncé l'archevêque de Brazzaville, Anatole Milandou, à l'issue d'une réunion entre le chef de l'Etat congolais, Denis Sassou-Nguesso et le président des imams de France , Hassen Chaghoulmy.

'Il est venu nous faire partager un projet d'organiser un forum mondial pour la paix qu'il a soumis au président de la République. Pour lui, ce qui se passe au Mali, au Proche-Orient, en Syrie, etc., défigure l'Islam et ce n'est pas bien. Il faut que nous montrions une autre image de l'Afrique. Qu'entre nous, il ne se passe pas des querelles, entre musulmans et chrétiens, il y ait le dialogue. Je crois que c'est l'image que nous véhiculons ici au Congo', a-t-il indiqué.

'On ne peut pas accepter, au nom de l'Islam, de tuer des vies. Je trouve que l'Afrique peut avoir une image plus meilleure. L'Afrique mérite mieux que des actes barbares de Boko Haram, des actes des groupes armés au Mali et des Shabab au Kenya', a déploré Hassen Chaghoulmy, venu proposer aux autorités congolaises l'organisation à Brazzaville d'un forum mondial sur la paix.

## Kenya to establish permanent mission in Angola

Source: APA

**14 September 2014** - Kenya plans to establish a permanent embassy in Luanda as part of efforts to strengthen diplomatic ties between the two countries, outgoing Kenyan ambassador to Angola, Peter Gitau said Saturday. Speaking after meeting President José Eduardo dos Santos at the Presidential Palace, Gitau said Kenya would soon have a permanent envoy stationed in Luanda.

"Henceforth, Kenya will have a resident ambassador in Angola and this also was one of the greatest steps achieved during my four-year term while in Office," Gitau told the Angolan Press Agency.

Gitau is currently stationed in Namibia from where he also serves Angola.

He applauded the excellent bilateral ties between Angola and Kenya, citing the recent decision by Kenya Airways to increase flights between Nairobi and Luanda from two to three times a week.

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## Rwanda: Democracy Day Marked Amid Calls for Youth Empowerment

Source: The New Times (Rwanda)

**17 September 2014** - As Rwanda joined the rest of the world to celebrate the International Democracy Day on Monday, a top UN official called for increased participation of young people in the democratic processes.

Speaking at the event hosted at Parliament on Monday, Lamin Manneh the UN Resident Coordinator, challenged stakeholders to initiate the youth into the democratic process and help them become more politically active citizens.

Celebrated in Rwanda under the theme; 'Sharing Rwandan voices on democracy', the day was globally marked under the theme; 'Engaging young people on democracy.'

"While we cannot ignore some of the areas that observers believe need attention in Rwanda's democratisations process, we cannot underestimate the tremendous progress the country has made," he said.

Charles Munyaneza, the Executive Secretary of the National Electoral Commission, said though youth participation in politics has increased since 2009, youth representation in Parliament remains low.

"In local councils, youth are represented by 70 per cent. However, in Parliament (Chambers of Deputies), numbers are not really good. Out of 80 MPs, only nine are youth (below 35 years), representing 11 per cent," he said.

Manneh said the youth are leaders of tomorrow and need to be helped to overcome the challenges that lie in their way.

"We have to help young people overcome these challenges and harness the opportunities," Manneh said.

However, speaking to The New Times, Dr Félicien Usengumukiza, the Deputy CEO, Governance Research and Monitoring at Rwanda Governance Board, said that youth participation in the governance process should not be seen as a matter of numbers.

"We can not assess democracy by looking at the number of youth in Parliament. If our Constitution gives opportunities to youth representation in Parliament and other leadership organs, to me it is a good indicator of democracy because this is something you will not find in many countries," Usengumukiza said.

He said that Rwandans are proud of the country's achievements in rule of law, transparency and accountability, increased citizen participation and power sharing, among others.

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"I am happy we are on track in as regard to democratic governance. We have made sure that no part of society lags behind. We are learning from our history, to correct the mistakes made by past governments," he said.

The Director General of Rwanda Management Institute, Wellars Gasamagera, said democracy should not be measured in numbers but rather national development agendas and sovereignty.

"You can not talk about democracy while ignoring national sovereignty and development. Democracy should not be defined by foreigners, dictating on what you should do and what you should not do," he said.

He added: "Youth representation in leadership is still growing, and needs to be consolidated. This is being done across the political divide. There is what we call youth political training which has existed for the last three or four years. I challenge youth to embrace democratic governance because they are the future belongs to them," Gasamagera said.

The 2012 national housing census showed that Rwandans between the age of 14 and 35 constitute 40 per cent of the total population, while those below 35 years of age amount to 78 per cent of the entire population.

## Rwanda: arrestation de l'ex-directrice générale de la sécurité sociale

Par RFI

**14 septembre 2014** - Au Rwanda, la police a annoncé l'arrestation de l'ancienne directrice générale de la caisse de sécurité sociale, Angélique Kantengwa avait été renvoyée de son poste au début de l'année. La police l'accuse de mauvaise gestion.

« C'est étrange. Certaines personnes volent l'argent du contribuable, on leur demande des comptes et elles se disent persécutées politiquement », s'exclame Paul Kagame. Vendredi, devant le Parlement, le président rwandais n'a pas mâché ses mots, demandant à ce que ceux qui détournent de l'argent soient jugés et que les fonds soient récupérés. Jamais le chef de l'État n'a cité le nom de l'ancienne directrice de la sécurité sociale.

Angélique Kantengwa a fait l'essentiel de sa carrière dans les banques et les institutions financières publiques. « Avant cette arrestation, personne n'aurait jamais pensé qu'elle puisse être soupçonnée dans une histoire de détournement », explique une source à Kigali. La police rwandaise dit poursuivre l'enquête et la maintenir en détention.

Si le président Kagame a raillé l'idée d'une persécution politique, parmi les détracteurs du régime, ce sont plutôt des motifs économiques qui sont évoqués. L'ancien conseiller économique du président, David Himbara, aujourd'hui en exil, accuse le FPR, le parti au pouvoir, d'avoir détourné à travers son consortium Crystal Ventures l'argent des fonds de pension des Rwandais. Depuis le début de l'année, cette personnalité très critique n'a cessé de dénoncer sur les réseaux sociaux

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de possibles détournements par le pouvoir à la caisse de sécurité sociale et la Banque nationale du Rwanda.

Le colonel Tom Byabagamba et le général à la retraite Frank Rusagara, respectivement frère et beau-frère de David Himbara, ont tous deux été arrêtés ces dernières semaines, accusés d'incitation au soulèvement entre autres chefs d'accusation. Le Rwanda a toujours été loué pour sa bonne gestion de l'aide internationale, ce qui a fait sa popularité auprès des bailleurs de fonds.

## **Sick Burundi activist kept in jail**

Source: AFP via News24

**Bujumbura, 15 September 2014** - A Burundi court on Monday rejected pleas to release on bail a sick human rights activist on trial for endangering national security, ordering a medical board to examine his case.

Pierre-Claver Mbonimpa, 65, president of the rights group Aprodeh, was arrested in May and is on trial on for comments made to a radio station.

He criticised what he said was the paramilitary training of members of the youth wing of the ruling party in neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

"This decision is a disgrace to the justice of this country because Mbonimpa is very ill," said lawyer Armel Niyongere, adding that medical records had already been submitted detailing his illness.

Mbonimpa, who has diabetes and hypertension, was taken to a clinic in August.

He has been awarded the International Red Cross' highest decoration, The Henry Dunant Medal, for his commitment to human rights for his campaign against a series of killings of opposition members.

Burundi, a small nation in Africa's Great Lakes region, emerged in 2006 from 13 years of brutal civil war and its political climate remains fractious ahead of presidential polls due in June 2015.

Mbonimpa was arrested after a leaked UN report claimed the government was arming young supporters ahead of elections. The government fiercely denied the allegations.

## **State Department to Reopen US Embassy in Central African Republic**

Source: ABC News Radio

**15 September 2014** - The U.S. State Department announced on Monday that it plans to reopen its embassy in the Central African Republic after two years of closure.

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"The Central African Republic and its people are at a crucial juncture," a statement from Secretary of State John Kerry said. Kerry also noted that the U.S. "is determined to help make this moment of opportunity a success."

The embassy in the Central African Republic's capital city of Bangui closed in 2012 due to rebel threats and a government takeover. On Monday, the United Nations began a peacekeeping mission in the country, leading to sufficient peace and stability for the U.S. to reopen its embassy.

"Only a fully inclusive, peaceful and democratic political transition process can stop the cycle of violence in the Central African Republic," Kerry said. "That process must include the voices of all Central Africans, especially refugees and internally displaced persons."

## UN peacekeepers take over CAR mission

### About 1,800 UN peacekeepers join African troops in country marred by sectarian violence.

Source: AFP via AlJazeera.com

**16 September 2014** - The United Nations has formally taken over a regional African peacekeeping mission in the Central African Republic, nine months after sectarian violence erupted which left at least 5,000 people dead and forced tens of thousands of Muslims to flee to neighbouring countries.

As the UN took over on Monday, about 1,800 additional peacekeepers and police joined the African Union's peacekeeping mission of 6,200 troops already in the country.

Two-thousand French troops, deployed last December, will work alongside the new UN force.

Human rights groups say that the new force, when combined with the existing African troops, is still only about 65 percent of what was authorised by the UN Security Council in April.

They called for the full deployment of a nearly 12,000-strong force, which diplomats said would not take place until early 2015, the Associated Press news agency reported.

### 'Cosmetic change'

"The switch from AU to UN peacekeepers must be more than a cosmetic change: the swapping green berets for blue helmets. Instead it must serve as a fresh start for the peacekeeping operation in CAR," said Steve Cockburn, Amnesty International's campaigns deputy regional director for West and Central Africa.

The peacekeepers face the enormous task of bringing peace to one of the least developed countries on the African continent, with around 4.6 million people. In nearly two decades, 13 peacekeeping missions have been deployed to CAR, but none of them brought lasting stability.



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The new reinforcements have come from Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Morocco and Bangladesh to join peacekeepers from other countries in Central Africa.

The UN has "worked tirelessly" since the April resolution was passed, said Stephane Dujarric, spokesperson for the UN Secretary-General, who emphasised that CAR is "an extremely, extremely complicated logistical situation" because it is land-locked with dilapidated roads that date back to independence from France in 1960.

"I think the last thing we have been doing is sitting on our hands, but we've been meeting logistical challenges... mobilising troops for a peacekeeping mission takes time," he said last week.

"We have to go knock on doors for troops, for equipment, helicopters and in the meantime I think we've been working very actively in the CAR, both on the political end and, of course, on the humanitarian end."

**Civilians killed at 'alarming rate'**

Mainly Muslim Seleka rebels seized power in March last year, which birthed a counter-offensive by Christian militias. Both sides deliberately targeted each other's civilian communities.

At least 5,204 people have been killed since the sectarian violence erupted last December, according to a tally compiled by AP. That figure is based on a count of bodies and numbers gathered from survivors, priests, imams and aid workers in more than 50 of the hardest-hit communities.

Civilians are still being killed "at an alarming rate," said Lewis Mudge, Africa researcher at Human Rights Watch who conducted a field mission this month on the ground.

"There is no time to lose," he said. "The new UN mission urgently needs to get more troops into eastern and central areas and take bold steps to protect civilians from these brutal attacks."

Meanwhile, the US announced that it would reopen its embassy in the capital city of Bangui. The US had suspended operations in Central African Republic and urged Americans to leave the country in December 2012 when violence erupted.

Secretary of State John Kerry said in a statement on Monday progress had been made at putting the nation on "a path toward peace and stability".