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



MEDIA MONITORING

4 September 2014

Central Africa: Angola Seeks Consensus to Solve Situation in Great Lakes Region - Defence Minister

Source: Angola Press

Luanda, 3 September 2014 - The National Defence minister, João Lourenço, said last Tuesday in Luanda that Angola has been seeking consensus for a better presidency of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), with a view to finding common positions to solve the crisis in the region.

João Lourenço said so to the press, at the 4 de Fevereiro International Airport, in Luanda, on his arrival from Bujumbura, capital of Burundi, where he conveyed a verbal message from the Angolan Head of State, José Eduardo dos Santos, to the Burundian President, Pierre Nkurunziza.

The Angolan Defence minister revealed that the message conveyed to President Nkurunziza is related to the situation of peace and security in the Great Lakes Region, since Angola is the current chair of the ICGLR.

"To preside with efficiency it is necessary to find consensus, and this is what Angola is seeking to do, by consulting some heads of State of the region, so that we can find common stances that can lead us more quickly to the solutions and put an end to the conflicts in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Central African Republic (CAR)", João Lourenço explained.

With the same goal, the Defence minister travelled last weekend to Kigali, Rwanda, where he handed over a message from President Eduardo dos Santos to the Rwandese Head of State, Paul Kagame.

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Angola, Burundi and Rwanda are members of the ICGLR, whose rotating presidency is being held by President José Eduardo dos Santos, since last January 15, this year, when it was held the Fifth Ordinary Summit of Heads of State and Government of the ICGLR.

The International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) also includes the Central African Republic (CAR), Republic of the Congo, The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Kenya, Uganda, Sudan, South Sudan, Tanzania and Zambia.

Angola to Attend ICGLR Technical Meeting In Nairobi

Source: Bernama

Luanda, 3 September 2014 - Angola will attend the 8th Technical Support Committee (TSC) meeting of the International Conference for the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) under the supervision of the grouping's Framework Agreement for Peace, Security and Co-operation in Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and the region.

A statement issued by the Angolan Foreign Ministry here Tuesday said the meeting, to be held in Nairobi, Kenya from Thursday to Saturday, is expected to discuss the political and security situation in the region.

The event will also analyse a report on the implementation phase of the Regional Action Plan and the draft statement of the 4th Meeting of Regional Mechanism due to take place in New York on the sidelines of the 69th session of the United Nations General Assembly.

The TSC is made up of representatives from each member state of ICGLR, totalling 12 signatories of the Framework Agreement for Peace, Security and Co-operation in the DRC and the Great Lakes Region signed in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on Feb 24, 2013.

The Angolan delegation to the Nairobi meeting is led by co-ordinator of Secretariat of National Commission of Great Lakes Region of the Foreign Affairs Minister, minister-counselor Coimbra Baptista.

The 7th TSC meeting took place last May in Goma in the DRC.

Fin des travaux de la commission d'experts sur la frontière Rwanda-RDC

Par RFI

3 septembre 2014 - La frontière terrestre entre le Rwanda et la République démocratique du Congo est-elle enfin délimitée ? Une commission d'experts des deux pays s'y est attelée ces

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derniers jours, reprenant le tracé de la frontière de 1911 et ce qui restait des bornes qui existaient encore entre les deux pays. Le travail, qui avait commencé en 2009, vient de s'achever. Un membre de la commission assure qu'« *il n'y aura aucune perte de territoire par l'un ou l'autre des pays* ».

Le rapport de la commission, signé par les experts rwandais et congolais sera examiné lors d'une grande réunion au Rwanda qui devrait se tenir à partir du 15 septembre. Mais la presse pro-gouvernementale rwandaise n'a pas attendu cette réunion pour crier victoire, affirmant que le lieu-dit de la « petite barrière », près de Goma, était sur le sol rwandais, de même que les collines disputées qui ont été le théâtre des affrontements de juin dernier entre les deux pays. « *Une grande partie de la frontière congolaise se trouve sur le sol rwandais* », titraient même certains sites Internet.

« Aucune perte de territoire »

« *C'est faux* », explique l'un des membres congolais de la commission de délimitation. « *On pourrait aussi parler de la borne qui se trouve derrière la guérite rwandaise de la 'Grande barrière'* », ajoute-t-il. Mais officiellement, personne, côté congolais, ne souhaite polémiquer. On préfère insister sur le fait que les deux parties ont fait leurs propres mesures et se sont mises d'accord. « *Sauf mauvaise foi, il n'y aura aucune perte de territoire pour l'un ou l'autre des pays* », explique Roger Rashidi Tumbula, conseiller du gouverneur du Nord-Kivu et membre de cette commission.

Lac Kivu

Outre l'examen du rapport conjoint, la réunion du 15 septembre devrait aborder d'autres questions : comment rendre cette frontière visible ? Il faut au minimum investir dans de nouvelles bornes – celles de 1911 étant partiellement détruites – mais également envisager de recréer une zone neutre d'une vingtaine de mètres de part et d'autre, ce qui pourrait impliquer l'indemnisation de ceux qui ont leurs maisons ou leurs champs sur la frontière. Mais le plus dur reste à faire : délimiter la frontière liquide, celle qui traverse le lac Kivu, riche de ressources notamment gazières. Et pour cela, aucun calendrier n'est prévu.

Tanzanie: La ministre rwandaise des Affaires de l'EAC prête serment en tant que membre du parlement régional

Source : Panapress

3 septembre 2014 - Le nouveau ministre chargé des Affaires de la Communauté économique de l'Afrique de l'Est du Rwanda, Mme Valentine Rugwabiza a prêté serment à Dar es Salaam, en Tanzanie, comme membre de droit de l'Assemblée du Parlement de l'Afrique de l'Est, (East African Legislative Assembly, EALA), conformément aux règles de procédures de l'Assemblée.

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Le Secrétariat de la Communauté de l'Afrique de l'Est, (East African Community, EAC) a fait savoir, mercredi, que la présidente de l'EALA, Mme Margaret Nantongo Zziwa a fait prêter serment à Mme Rugwabiza devant l'EALA qui tient une session de deux semaines à Dar es Salaam.

Selon les règlements de l'Assemblée, aucun membre ne peut siéger ou prendre part aux délibérations de la Chambre sans avoir au préalable prêté serment d'affirmation d'allégeance au Traité de l'EAC.

Mme Rugwabiza a été nouvellement nommée ministre chargé des Affaires de l'EAC du Rwanda depuis le 24 juillet 2014, suite au remaniement ministériel entrepris par le président, Paul Kagamé.

Selon le Secrétariat, "elle remplace Mme Jacqueline Muhongayire qui était, également, un membre élu de l'EALA.

Mme Rugwabiza, ex-directrice générale de l'Agence pour le développement du Rwanda, est par ailleurs une ancienne directrice générale adjointe de l'Organisation mondiale du Commerce, (OMC) et avait au préalable occupé le poste de représentante du Rwanda aux Nations unies à Genève.

Au Rwanda : tout est fait pour oublier le génocide

Source : Francetvinfo

Par Pauline Landais-Barrau

3 septembre 2014 - Quand l'Occidental foule le sol rwandais pour la première fois, son regard cherche immédiatement les signes du génocide de 1994. En vain. Les impressions de Pauline Landais-Barrau, de retour de Kigali.

En 1994, un des pires génocides de la fin du XXe siècle s'organisait au Rwanda. En moins de quatre mois, 800.000 hommes, femmes, enfants et vieillards ont été massacrés. Tutsis ou Hutus modérés. 20 ans après, ce qui frappe l'étranger de passage, c'est qu'à Kigali comme partout ailleurs dans le pays, il n'existe plus aucun signe des violences passées. Ni en milieu urbain, ni à la campagne. Ni dans la rue, ni dans la sphère privée. Exceptés les mémoriaux que chaque village possède, preuve que les Rwandais n'oublient pas malgré un mutisme généralisé.

Quelques lieux symboliques rappellent le génocide. Au mémorial de Gisozi, construit en 1999 à Kigali, 300.000 personnes sont inhumées dans 14 tombes communes. Un musée retrace les quatre mois de souffrances de la population. L'ambiance y est paisible, entre recueillement et méditation, très loin de la barbarie du génocide.

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Se taire, ravalier sa colère...

La capitale rwandaise, Kigali, ne cesse de s'étendre et le centre-ville est devenu un pôle économique et commercial en chantier permanent. Impossible aujourd'hui de s'y sentir en danger. Un sentiment de sécurité et de paix qui va de pair avec le développement.

Il faut dire que le nouveau gouvernement, celui de Paul Kagame, un Tutsi arrivé au pouvoir après la victoire du FPR (Front patriotique rwandais), a, de fait, très rapidement prôné la réconciliation. Avant de l'imposer carrément.

En savoir plus>>

Congo Replaces Army Chief to Fight Rebel Groups in Tin-Rich East

Source: Bloomberg Business Week

3 September 2014 - The Democratic Republic of Congo appointed General Emmanuel Lombe to lead the fight against rebel groups in the country's mineral-rich North Kivu province, government spokesman Lambert Mende said.

Lombe replaces General Lucien Bahuma, 57, who died from a stroke on Aug. 30, Mende said by phone today from the capital, Kinshasa.

North Kivu is a key tin-producing province in Africa's biggest source of the metal. Bahuma was considered a key ally by United Nations forces who assisted President Joseph Kabila's efforts to fight rebel groups in the eastern part of the country. The M23 rebel group ended its 20-month rebellion in eastern Congo in December after the national army and UN peacekeepers conquered most of its territory.

During the U.S.-Africa summit in Washington last month, Special Envoy to the Great Lakes region Russell Feingold praised Kabila for the military's efforts against M23.

"Over a year ago, M23 was a very dangerous threat in the region," Feingold said. "They were defeated by combination of diplomatic and military efforts."

The process of reintegrating some of those rebels into society is now under way, Feingold said, though "there are other armed groups in eastern Congo that threaten the people of that region and destabilize the region and beyond."

Hundreds of students protested in North Kivu's capital, Goma, at the weekend to demand an investigation into Bahuma's death, amid speculation that he might have been poisoned, UN-backed Radio Okapi reported on on Sept. 1.

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Death Speculation

The students also called for an investigation into the January death of another respected military leader, Colonel Mamadou Mustafa Ndala, the broadcaster said. Ndala's convoy was attacked near the border with Uganda on Jan. 2. That led to speculation in Congolese media that elements within the national army, the Forces Armees de la Republique Democratique du Congo, or FARDC, might have killed him to thwart his efforts to lead reform efforts.

"An army is not one person," Mende said after Bahuma's death. Bahuma "was the boss, he had allies, but the fight will continue," he said.

Unless there is reason to believe Bahuma died of anything other than a stroke, there will be no further investigation into his death, Mende said. Bahuma may be difficult to replace and his death may undermine military operations in North Kivu, said Christoph Wille, an analyst at London-based Control Risks.

"Bahuma played a key role in improving the FARDC's performance in recent months" Wille said. "FARDC suffers from severe shortcomings following the chaotic integration of numerous rebel groups into its ranks over the past decade. Parallel chains of command, collusion with militias and its poor human-rights record have undermined its credibility."

To contact the reporter on this story: Malcolm Beith in Kinshasa at mbeith2@bloomberg.net

Congo-Kinshasa: ICC /DRC - ICC Has No Impact On Peace, Say Congolese Survey Respondents

Source: Hironnelle News Agency (Lausanne) via AllAfrica.com

3 September 2014 - The Hague — Most people in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo think the International Criminal Court (ICC) has no impact on either peace or justice, according to a survey by the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

The survey report, entitled "Searching for Lasting Peace", says that 28% of the 5,166 adult respondents questioned in the Kivus and Ituri at the end of 2013 thought the ICC has a negative impact on peace. Only 20% thought it had a positive impact, while 52% were neutral.

This report on "perceptions and attitudes about peace, security and justice in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo" nevertheless stresses that "since beginning its operation, awareness about the work of the ICC in eastern DRC has increased". In 2008, only 28% of people questioned had heard of the Court, compared with 52% in 2013. The report's authors say that "more local engagement about the mandate and reality of the ICC" is still needed to "manage expectations".

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They do not say specifically how this should be done. But the ICC has the possibility, which it has never used, to hold hearings near the victims and the sites of crimes committed.

[Learn more>>](#)

East Africa: Rwanda Still Most Competitive Economy in East Africa - WEF Report

Source: The New Times via AllAfrica.com

By Peterson Tumwebaze

3 September 2014 - Rwanda retains its position as the most competitive economy in the East African region and third in Africa after Mauritius and South Africa, a new Global Competitiveness Index report says.

Rwanda ranks 62nd (with 4.3 aggregates) out of the 144 countries surveyed worldwide, up from 66th previously, while Mauritius and South Africa came in 39th and South Africa 56th globally.

In East Africa, Kenya came second with an overall aggregate of 3.9 and was ranked 90th worldwide. The other East African Community partner states Tanzania, Uganda and Burundi came in 121st, 122nd and 139th, respectively, on the global scale.

Globally, Switzerland holds the number one spot, followed by Singapore and the United States. Finland and Germany both fell one notch, to the 4th and 5th.

The 2014-2015 World Economic Forum annual report, released yesterday in Geneva, ranks Rwanda 18th with best structured institutions globally.

On average, Rwanda's macroeconomic environment scored 4.6 aggregates out of a possible seven, while health and primary education registered 5.5 aggregates.

Competitiveness was also recorded in financial markets (4.30), technological readiness (3.1), business sophistication (3.80) and innovation (3.5).

However, the country underperformed in infrastructure aggregating 3.1, ranking 105th out of 144 countries on that indicator.

Globally, there are two Asian economies in top ten, with Japan listed as the 6th and Hong Kong as the 7th.

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BRICS economies presented a mixed performance, and China (28th, one place up compared to last year) leading the group, ahead of Russia (53rd), South Africa (56th), Brazil (57th) and India (71st).

The Global Competitiveness Report 2014-2015 assesses the competitiveness of landscape of 144 economies, providing insight into the drivers of their productivity and prosperity.

The report series remains the most comprehensive assessment of national competitiveness worldwide.

Cadavres du lac Rweru: le Burundi renâcle à mener une vraie enquête

Source : RFI

4 septembre 2014 - Après la découverte par des pêcheurs burundais de nombreux corps enveloppés dans des sacs qui flottaient sur le lac Rweru qui sépare le Burundi du Rwanda, il y a une dizaine de jours, qui n'ont toute responsabilité dans ces crimes, promettaient des enquêtes pour établir la vérité. Mais celles-ci sont au point mort.

Qui sont les victimes ? Combien sont-elles ? Qui les a tuées et comment ? Toutes ces questions et bien d'autres n'ont pas encore trouvé un début de réponse, alors que côté burundais où l'on a découvert ces cadavres, on assure que les enquêtes sont pratiquement terminées.

Le discours n'a pas varié. « *Ces victimes ne sont pas burundaises* » jure toujours la gouverneure de la province de Muyinga, qui jouxte le lac Rweru dans le nord-est du pays. Aline Manirabarusha est formelle. « *Ces cadavres étaient charriés par la rivière Kagera* ». En provenance de quel pays ? D'un ton gêné, elle renvoie ses interlocuteurs aux livres de géographie. Peut-être la crainte d'évoquer le Rwanda voisin, qui nie tout en bloc depuis le début et a beau jeu de rappeler que ces cadavres se trouvaient dans les eaux territoriales burundaises.

Le problème aujourd'hui c'est que les recherches des responsables burundais ne répondent pas aux normes d'une enquête policière au sens classique du terme. Par exemple seul un des quatre corps repêchés dans le lac Rweru a été extrait du sac qui le contenait et été examiné sommairement par les autorités, avant qu'ils ne soient tous enterrés. Et dans ces conditions, « *il y a peu de chances de connaître un jour la vérité*, regrette un diplomate en poste à Bujumbura, *sacrifiée sur l'autel des relations entre le Burundi et le Rwanda* ».

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Tanzania: Fresh Move Out to Strengthen Burundi Border Security

Source: Tanzania Daily News (Dar es Salaam) via AllAfrica.com

By Meddy Mulisa

Bukoba, 4 September 2014 - The border reaffirmation between Tanzania and Burundi has been received with high hopes of security by residents in Kagera Region, who for quite a long time were threatened by armed robberies and thefts of motor vehicles.

In 1994 Kagera Region went into the annals of history as the first region in the world to host the biggest refugee camp with more than 500,000 people following the genocide in neighbouring Rwanda.

The refugees fled their country due to civil strife. The influx of refugees had a negative impact on Kagera Region's economy. The environment was severely impacted upon due to random tree felling in search of poles for constructing huts and firewood for cooking.

Some of the refugees entered the country carrying firearms which were used to commit robberies and killings of innocent people. Ten years after, security has stabilised although a few criminals still hide in Kimisi Forest Reserve.

From time to time these felons ambush motor vehicles plying between Muleba and Biharamulo and along Kyaka- Bugene-Benaco road, in spite of regular police patrols.

The team of reporters who were in Mugikomero village, in Ngara District recently headed back to Bukoba through Benaco-Bugene road. At around 9.30 pm, one of the reporters, Audax Mutiganzi, cautioned his fellow journalists saying that Kimisi Forest Reserve was not a safe place to travel especially during night. The terrified journalists, nevertheless, arrived back in Bukoba safely.

President Jakaya Kikwete has urged the immediate completion of international border reaffirmation between Tanzania and neighbouring countries to enable citizens of all states to know their boundaries.

He has, however, allayed fears that the Boundary Reaffirmation Programme (BRP) was being undertaken due to hostilities between Tanzania and her neighbours.

President Kikwete was speaking at Mugikomero village, in Ngara District, when he joined his Burundi counterpart Pierre Nkurunziza to launch the reaffirmation at a ceremony held at Mugikomero village on the Tanzanian side of the border.

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Mr Kikwete, who arrived at the village in the afternoon from Mchauru airstrip in Geita where his aircraft had landed, described the BRP launch as a testimony for the cordial relationship, brotherhood and friendship between Tanzania and Burundi.

Tanzania, Rwanda and Burundi were one country under the Germany administration under the Greater German East Africa (Deutsch Ostafrika).

The three countries separated after Germany was defeated during the Second World War after which Tanzania (then Tanganyika) became a British Trust Territory with Rwanda and Burundi becoming Belgian colonies.

Kenya: President Holds Bilateral Talks With Algeria, Chad, Tanzania and Somalia Leaders

Source: Kenya Presidency via AllAfrica.com

By Jibril Adan

Nairobi, 3 September 2014 - President Uhuru Kenyatta today [Wednesday, 3 September 2014] held bilateral talks with the Presidents of Chad, Tanzania and Somalia and the Prime Minister of Algeria.

The President held separate talks with each of the leaders with whom he held lengthy discussions before and after attending an African Union Peace and Security Council Summit on terrorism.

President Kenyatta held talks with the Prime Minister of Algeria Abdelmalek Sellal on energy and security issues.

Algeria is an oil producing country and has lessons which Kenya can borrow from.

The North African country also has security lessons which Kenya can borrow from since it was a victim of terrorism but has now managed to bring it under control.

Kenya recently opened an embassy in Algeria and President Kenyatta appointed John Lanasunya as the Kenyan Ambassador in Algiers.

President Kenyatta also met the President of Somalia Hassan Sheikh Mohamoud with whom he discussed security issues affecting both nations.

President Kenyatta also held discussions with the Somalia President on maritime issues involving both countries.

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With Tanzanian President Jakaya Kikwete, President Kenyatta discussed ways of easing the process of signing up the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) with the European Union (EU).

Earlier in the morning, President Kenyatta held discussions with Chadian President Idriss Deby who is the chairman of the African Union Peace and Security Council.

The two leaders met before the start of the AU summit which was held the Kenyatta International Conference Center (KICC).

President Kenyatta and President Deby also discussed ways in which Africa can establish a continental approach to tackle the problem of terrorism.

Angola: Olusengun Obasanjo Leaves Luanda

Source: Angola Press via AllAfrica.com

Luanda, 3 September 2014 - The former President of Nigeria, Olusegun Obasanjo, Wednesday left, Luanda, where he attended the 6th Meeting of the Group of Eminent Personalities of the Africa, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP-GEP) and Colloquium on Cultural Dimension of Head of State, José Eduardo dos Santos, promoted by the Ministry of Culture.

At the 4 de Fevereiro International Airport, Olusegun Obasanjo, who did not provide any information to the press, received farewell greetings from the ambassador of Nigeria to Angola, Otumba Folorunso Otukoya, and other figures.

In his dissertation, at the colloquium part of the National Festival of Culture (Fenacult) program, former President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria highlighted the valences of the Angolan statesman, as a political leader and man of culture.

At the GEP-ACP meeting, Olusegun Obasanjo and fellows covered topics such as the ACP Group and the Georgetown Agreement; Vision and Objectives, Growth and Evolution, Challenges: success factors and lessons learned from Yaoundé to Cotonou, Analysis and Update of this ACP-EU cooperation, as well as other matters.

In Luanda, besides being part of these meetings, Olusegun Obasanjo was received in audience by the Angolan Head of State, José Eduardo dos Santos, who "discussed" aspects of prevailing political, economic and social interest in the respective countries, the situation in Africa, specifically in the DRC, CAR, South Sudan and inter-religious conflicts in Nigeria itself, beyond the international news.

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S. Sudan VP rules out standing aside for rebel leader Machar

Source: Sudan Tribune

September 2, 2014 (WAU) - South Sudan's vice-president, James Wani Igga, said on Tuesday that he will not step down again to accommodate his predecessor Riek Machar.

Igga, who was addressing the opening ceremony of a national peace and reconciliation conference in Western Bahr el Ghazal state capital Wau said he previously stood aside for Machar in 2005 for the sake of patriotism after the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), which ended more than two decades of civil war between north and south, paving the way for South Sudan's secession in 2011.

"This is a third time now for Riek with his similar behaviours of switching side to side," he said.

"He did it to Dr John Garang when Garang was leading [the] liberation struggle of South Sudan from Sudan," he added, referring to the founding leader of the country's guerrilla movement turned ruling party (SPLM).

Machar served in the Sudanese government until the signing of the CPA after which he returned to the SPLM, with Igga subsequently agreeing to vacate his post.

Igga's comments come after South Sudan's warring parties agreed on the formation of a transitional government and signed a matrix protocol principle in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa, in front of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), which is mediating peace talks.

The agreement proposed offering Machar the position of vice-president and the creation of a prime minister post in the country.

The document was presented as a guideline for discussions aimed at ending the country's political crisis.

South Sudan has been mired in conflict since mid-December last year after an internal rift in the SPLM party turned violent.

The fighting has pitted government troops loyal to president Salva Kiir against pro-Machar rebels.

Igga has welcomed the IGAD's decision to support Kiir as head of the transitional government until the planned 2015 elections take place, criticising Machar over his refusal to sign the matrix principle agreement on the transitional government.

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“We, the Government of south Sudan, are very keen to make peace, that is why we agreed on all principles proposed [by] the international communities and [in] the interests of our people to restore peace in the country,” he said.

“But now the problem will be between and international communities and Riek Machar who refused [to] ink the paper,” he added.

Igga called for a peaceful resolution to the crisis, saying it was unnecessary for the people of South Sudan to continue fighting among themselves for the sake of Machar’s political interests, saying there was no place for nepotism, tribalism and corruption.

“Let us hold our hands together to bring peace back to our nation,” he said.

“South Sudan is our country; let us all be equal before law,” he added.

Igga was appointed vice-president after Kiir sacked Machar last July.

New UN chief says S. Sudan situation poses “huge challenge”

Source: Sudan Tribune

Juba, September 3, 2014 - The newly appointed head of the UN peace keeping mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) said the situation in the country presents a huge task for her.

Ellen Margrethe Løj replaces Hilde Johnson, who resigned in July after three years at the helm of UNMISS.

“I will need a lot of briefings and I will need to get to know South Sudan, but it is a huge challenge,” Løj told reporters on arrival at Juba International Airport on Tuesday.

Løj served as the special representative of the UN secretary-general and head of the UN mission in Liberia from 2008 to 2012.

The Danish diplomat was received on arrival by her deputy, Toby Lanzer, and the under-secretary of South Sudan’s ministry of foreign affairs, Charles Manyang.

Her arrival comes as the young nation struggles to find a way out of a devastating conflict that erupted in mid-December last year after an internal rift in the ruling SPLM party turned violent, reigniting tribal tensions across the country.

Thousands have been killed and more than 1.5 million displaced, with tens of thousands seeking shelter at UN compounds across the country after the conflict broke out.

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Løj's predecessor alluded to the challenges ahead at a final press conference prior to her departure, in which she lamented the widespread destruction and deep division caused by the conflict, warning progress and development in the nation had been set back decades.

The Norwegian diplomat played a pivotal role in the north-south peace process, leading to the completion of the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), which ultimately paved the way for the South's secession from Sudan in 2011.

Relations between UNMISS and the South Sudanese government have at times been strained since the conflict broke out, with critics questioning the mission's impartiality.

The discovery of a weapons shipment in March mistakenly transported overland in a UNMISS convoy rather than by air sparked anti-UN demonstration in Juba, with some protesters accusing Johnson of bias and complicity in the killing of South Sudanese people.

Ugandan LRA on a move, linking up with South Sudan rebels and Khartoum regime

Source: Sudan Tribune

By Steve Paterno

August 3, 2014 - The notorious Ugandan rebels, the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) is slowly gaining life-support as it is embarking on military alliance with South Sudan rebels as well as enjoying a cozy relationship with the Khartoum regime.

Since the regional militaries of Uganda, South Sudan, Congo, Central African Republic, and USA mounted military assaults against the LRA positions, the rebels ended up being pushed to establish camps deep to the North-West of South Sudan; in the Western Behr Ghazel State to be exact.

The recently leaked intelligence report identifies the Kafia Kingi enclave as the bases for LRA. The LRA established three camps near the villages of Kiringulu and Wabijala. Camp Kulu-Kweyo is run by Joseph Kony, the leader of the outfit. While, camps Kulu-Oyedo and Cwa are under the commands of Okot Odhiombo and Dominic Ongwen respectively. Then, farther to the north, lays a barrack of Khartoum armed forces.

Despite Khartoum's denial of LRA's presence and its sponsorship, the UN reports of May 6, 2014, acknowledges that indeed LRA are being hosted in Kafia Kingi by the rogue regime. In actuality, Kafia Kingi is one of the South Sudanese legal territories, which is still occupied by Khartoum military.

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To further compound the issue, the current military and political dynamics in South Sudan clearly affect the tactics and strategies of LRA. Early this year, Joseph Kony dispatched a contingent of the rebels under the command of one of his able fighters, Dominic Ongwen in order to reinforce the South Sudanese rebels in Upper Nile. Currently, Ongwen is believed to be serving with South Sudanese rebels along with his handlers from Khartoum along the border areas.

Accordingly, the LRA's plan is to focus in building a military to military alliance, abandon their current bases, open a supply route, preferably, via Maban and establish a foothold in Equatoria region.

Ironically, Dominic Ongwen is an interesting choice to lead such grandiose plan of operation, to say the least. Ongwen, who was abducted as a child to join the rebellion, earned his way so quickly into LRA leadership through his prowess in the battlefield as well as for his ruthlessness. An ally of Vincent Otti, he is reported to be the only one in LRA leadership who dared to challenge Kony to spare Otti from ultimate execution. At one point, it is said he declared that he would kill Kony if Kony rejected to sign the Juba Peace Agreement.

After the collapse of Juba Talks, Ongwen continued to defy Kony on numerous occasions. He blames his effort to defect on Americans who could not guarantee his safety and for not being able to dismiss his ICC indictment. His distrust even grew more after he sent his wives home as a goodwill gesture to defect, but though, there were no follow up in order for him to defect.

The most recent satellite communication intercepts identified a certain Adam and Okello Mission under area surrounding latitude 15° and longitude 30°, clearly within the Sudan. Adam is said to be a top advisor to President Omar al-Bashir. He is the liaison for both rebels of Uganda and South Sudan. Meanwhile, Okello is Kony's trusted right hand man.

Nonetheless, the most disturbing of all these is that the highly prized regional operation against LRA, supported by USA fails in executing its mission, when all along the rebels were laying right on a plain sight.

Anyway, the adventure of the trio is yet to be fully experienced.

(Recast) Interview: Central African Republic to hold national reconciliation dialogue

Source: Xinhua News Agency via Globalpost.com

By Huang Yanan

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Bangui, Sept. 3 (Xinhua) - Central African Republic (CAR)'s new Prime Minister Mahamat Kamoun said the country will hold national reconciliation dialogue at the end of the year which will include all parties.

Kamoun told Xinhua in an exclusive interview on Tuesday, saying that "We will include everyone in the reconciliation dialogue. We will give everyone of the country an opportunity to speak."

The national reconciliation dialogue will be held based on the cease-fire agreement reached on July 23 in Congo (Brazzaville) between former Seleka coalition and anti-balaka, the two warring parties.

The prime minister believed the dialogue will be an opportunity for people to meet and talk as well as resolve their differences for the reconstruction of their country battered by political and military crises.

Kamoun said for the moment the exact time and style have not been fixed for the dialogue. He also not mentioned whether former presidents Francois Bozize and Michel Djotodia will be invited to attend the dialogue.

"It would be premature for me to say whether this or that individual will be there. What we know is that there is a committee that will prepare the list of the participants in the dialogue, but we will consider the related justice," Kamoun said.

A civil war in CAR broke out on Dec. 10, 2012 between Seleka rebel coalition and government forces. Seleka took power from then president Bozize in March 2013 and the rebel's leader Djotodia declared himself as president.

Elected provisional president by a National Transitional Council in April 2013, Djotodia was forced to step down in January this year amid worsening violence between Christian anti-balaka and Muslim Seleka. Catherine Samba-Panza was elected provisional president by the National Transitional Council.

Samba-Panza appointed Kamoun to be the new prime minister on Aug. 10 to replace Andre Nzapayeke who resigned on Aug. 5 in accordance with the peace agreement concluded on July 23 in Congo (Brazzaville).

But citing lawsuits against certain people of his country, Kamoun implicitly mentioned the two former presidents who are banned from travelling as part of international sanctions. Bozize and Djotodia are in exiles in Uganda and Benin separately.

At the age of 52, Kamoun became the first Muslim to take up the post as prime minister since the central African country got independence in 1960.