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



## **MEDIA MONITORING**

**29 April 2015**

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### **Thorning rumoured as potential next UN head**

Source: The Local (Denmark)

**28 April 2015** - Prime Minister Helle Thorning-Schmidt's name is being bandied about as a possible replacement for UN Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon, who steps down at the end of 2016.

After narrowly missing out on being named president of the European Council and with a domestic election still to run, new rumours are circulating about Helle Thorning-Schmidt's political future.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon's tenure expires on December 31, 2016 and talk about his successor is already underway. The position of UN chief has never been held by a woman and two campaigns are hoping to change that by pushing for a female candidate. Among those being championed is the Danish PM.

The Campaign to Elect a Woman UN Secretary-General wants to end 70 years of male dominance in the post and presents Thorning-Schmidt as one of its 'outstanding women'.

"Decisive leadership and progressive social and economic reform have marked Helle Thorning-Schmidt's impressive career in public service," the campaign reads.

Joining Thorning-Schmidt as the campaign's proposed candidates are 20 other female leaders including German Chancellor Angela Merkel, Swedish Foreign Minister Margot Wallström, Lithuanian President Dalia Grybauskaitė and Chilean President Michelle Bachelet.

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Last week, the international organization Equality Now launched its own campaign to push for a female secretary general. The Equality Now campaign doesn't explicitly list Thorning-Schmidt and instead focuses on female UN ambassadors from the five permanent member countries of the UN Security Council – the United States, the United Kingdom, China, France and Russia.

Ole Weaver, a professor of international politics at the University of Copenhagen, said he thinks Thorning-Schmidt will receive serious consideration for the highly influential post.

"When you look at the criteria that will be used to select the next secretary general of the UN, there is nothing to rule Helle Thorning out," Weaver told Ekstra Bladet.

"A significant factor will always be what the US thinks. They were comfortable with Ban Ki-moon, who didn't bother them too much. It is not likely that someone who is too critical of the US will be chosen. At the same time, you can't appear to be a lapdog. Denmark is closest to the latter, but not to the degree that it would be a problem," he added.

According to Weaver, other key factors could work in Thorning-Schmidt's favour.

"Our climate profile could be beneficial. Many would like to see climate issues move up the agenda and we have a good reputation there. Beyond that, in the Nordics we have a tradition for consistently supporting the UN. Sweden and Norway have previously provided general secretaries whereas Denmark is a Nordic country that hasn't yet been used," he told Ekstra Bladet.

Thorning-Schmidt's camp had no comment on the rumours.

The Danish PM spent Tuesday with another potential female secretary general, when she played host to Merkel in Copenhagen.

## **Increasing instability and political repression in African Great Lakes Region**

Source: KPFA Weekend News broadcast

26 April 2015

**Instability and political repression are increasing in the Great Lakes Region of Africa, as the presidents of Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and**

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**Rwanda seek to remain in power beyond constitutional term limits, and as Rwandan and Ugandan troops cross into Congo yet again.**

**KPFA Evening News Anchor:** Rwandan and Ugandan troops crossed into the Democratic Republic of the Congo this week, sparking fears of another catastrophic regional war. Burundi, a neighbor of both Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, is another pressure point further destabilizing the region.

Ten to 15,000 refugees have fled from Burundi to Rwanda, fearing violence caused by Burundian President Pierre Nkurunziza's decision to ignore constitutional term limits and seek a third term in power. KPFA's Ann Garrison has more.

**KPFA/Ann Garrison:** Political repression is escalating in Rwanda, Burundi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, where all three presidents have made moves to remain in power past term limits, as Uganda's Yoweri Museveni has for almost 30 years. Yesterday, Burundi's Nkurunziza formally announced that he's running again, and today police were reported to be firing live ammunition into street protests called in response.

This young man spoke to the BBC in the streets of Burundi's capital, Bujumbura.

**Street protestor:** Three hours ago, a young man has been killed. The youth doesn't have jobs. We don't have jobs. We don't have anything. So the reason why we are here is to protest this third mandate for the president. That's why we're here.

**KPFA:** Yesterday, at his party's nominating convention, President Pierre Nkurunziza warned his opponents against resisting.

**Nkurunziza:** The ruling party is like a wall. If you throw a ball at it, it will bounce back and hit you in the face.

**KPFA:** It was also reported this week that both Rwandan and Ugandan troops had crossed the border into DR Congo, where they have a long history of plundering mineral resources and even timber reserves. This stirred fear of another catastrophic regional war like the First and Second Congo Wars of 1996 to 2003, which drew in all nine countries bordering DR Congo.

Those wars began when Rwandan, Ugandan and Burundian troops invaded DR Congo in 1996, and, after a peace treaty was signed in 2003, proxy militias for Uganda and Rwanda continued the conflict in Congo's mineral rich East. Ugandan and Rwandan troops were also, at times, allowed to cross the border with U.S. and U.N. blessing.

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Rwandan troops crossed into Congo in the disastrous and unsuccessful 2009 operation to wipe out the Rwandan refugee militia known as the FDLR. Ugandan troops crossed into Congo in the equally disastrous and unsuccessful 2009-2010 operation to hunt down warlord Joseph Kony and the Lord's Resistance Army.

Another regional war could make it easier for Rwanda's President Kagame, Burundi's President Nkurunziza, DR Congo's President Kabila and Uganda's President Museveni to cling to power.

The U.S. is the dominant military power in the region, as it is everywhere, and it has great strategic interest in DR Congo's mineral reserves. U.S. responses will therefore be closely watched by all concerned.

## **EU-Africa B2B Forum : une rencontre d'affaires entre Européens et Africains**

Source: Agence d'Information d'Afrique central

Par Patrick Ndungidi

**Le forum, qui a pour objectif de favoriser les rencontres d'affaires entre les opérateurs économiques africains et ceux de l'Europe, se déroulera dans la ville de Mons en Belgique du 6 au 8 mai.**

**28 avril 2015** - Le forum, qui a pour objectif de favoriser les rencontres d'affaires entre les opérateurs économiques africains et ceux de l'Europe, se déroulera dans la ville de Mons en Belgique du 6 au 8 mai.

L'évènement, apprend-on, sera une plate-forme de discussion sur les relations d'affaires Europe-Afrique, mais surtout une plate-forme de mise en relation directe entre opérateurs économique des deux continents avec des ateliers pratiques animés par des experts. L'EU-Africa B2B Forum s'est associé cette année au Sommet européen des affaires. Près de 500 participants en provenance de cinquante pays sont attendus. Les participants de haut niveau invités à assister au EU-Africa B2B Forum 2015 sont notamment John Dramani Mahama, Président du Ghana ainsi que Elio Di Rupo, ancien Premier ministre de Belgique et maire de la ville de Mons.

Selon les organisateurs, il s'agit, d'une part, de promouvoir et stimuler le développement du secteur privé africain pour favoriser l'expansion de son tissu d'entreprises et la création d'emplois. D'autre part, il s'agit d'une opportunité pour les entreprises européennes d'entrer ou de renforcer leurs positions sur les marchés

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africains et, par la même occasion, de renforcer les économies européennes grâce à de nouveaux débouchés commerciaux et industriels. Ainsi, le deuxième jour du forum aura pour thème « Doing business with africa » et se focalisera notamment sur les opportunités d'affaires et le réseautage. Le troisième jour axera son thème sur « L'industrie du tourisme en Afrique ».

### **Un premier business center en Afrique**

À l'issue de cet évènement, les organisateurs comptent lancer le « EU-Africa B2B online platform » qui permettra aux participants de rester en contact jusqu'à la prochaine édition du forum. Ce sera également une opportunité pour affiner les services offerts par le EUACC Business Center. En effet, indique-t-on, la Chambre de commerce Union européenne-Afrique (EUACC) prépare l'implantation de son premier business centre en Afrique. Le lancement du projet pilote est prévu au Burkina Faso. Ces business centers entendent fournir des services de qualité pour les entreprises locales et les investisseurs étrangers : bureaux, espaces de co-working également accessibles aux jeunes entrepreneurs. La chambre UE-Afrique de commerce (EUACC), dont le siège est à Bruxelles, a pour mission de promouvoir le développement du secteur privé africain et d'encourager des partenariats gagnant-gagnant et durables entre les secteurs privés européens et africains.

## **DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO**

### **Kidnapped contractors freed in DR Congo**

Source: AFP

**Kinshasa, 29 April 2015** - Three subcontractors for the United Nations' anti-landmine service who were kidnapped in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo were released uninjured on Tuesday, the UN said.

"They are unharmed and have arrived safely in Goma," UN secretary general spokesman Farhan Haq told reporters in New York.

"They will return to their home locations over the coming days," Haq said.

The men were abducted on Thursday from Kibumba in the restive North Kivu province in the country's mineral-rich east. No one claimed responsibility for the kidnapping.

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Two of the men are from DR Congo and one is from abroad, said a UN source who did not elaborate.

The subcontractors work for a private company hired by the UN Mine Action Service, which is responsible for removing landmines and destroying the unexploded ordinance that remain after decades of conflict in North Kivu.

The three men disappeared at a time of rising tensions on the border with Rwanda, which recently sent troops into North Kivu near Kibumba, according to the Congolese armed forces.

One Congolese soldier was wounded in an exchange of fire on Wednesday with Rwandan troops, the army said.

## Trois agents onusiens libérés sains et saufs en RDC

Source: Belga via 7sur7

<http://www.7sur7.be/7s7/fr/1505/Monde/article/detail/2302693/2015/04/28/Trois-agents-onusiens-liberes-sains-et-saufs-en-RDC.dhtml>

**Les trois agents travaillant en sous-traitance pour l'ONU qui avaient été enlevés jeudi au Nord-Kivu, dans l'est de la République démocratique du Congo, ont été libérés sains et saufs, a annoncé mardi l'ONU.**

**28 avril 2015** - "Les trois agents du Service de l'action antimines des Nations Unies (UNMAS), qui ont été enlevés le 23 avril dans la province du Nord-Kivu, ont été relâchés aujourd'hui. Ils sont indemnes et sont arrivés sans encombre à Goma. Ils retourneront à leur poste dans les prochains jours", a déclaré Farhan Haq, porte-parole adjoint du secrétaire général de l'ONU, lors d'une conférence de presse mardi à New-York.

UNMAS est l'unité de la Monusco chargée du déminage et de la neutralisation des munitions non explosées au Nord-Kivu, région ravagée par les conflits depuis plus de vingt ans. Les trois personnes enlevées étaient "des agents privés employés par une société privée qui fait de la sous-traitance pour UNMAS", avait expliqué vendredi Charles Bambara, directeur de l'information de la Mission de l'ONU en RDC (Monusco).

Jeudi, une source onusienne avait précisé que "trois agents de la Monusco, dont un international et deux nationaux (...), [avaient] été kidnappés à Kibumba", à une trentaine de kilomètres au nord de Goma, la capitale du Nord-Kivu. Un officier de l'armée congolaise avait indiqué avoir trouvé avec ses hommes "une voiture de la Monusco

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marquée UN-MAG" dans les environs de Kibumba."Le moteur tournait et la voiture était vide. Apparemment, ceux qui étaient dedans ont été enlevés", avait-il ajouté.

La zone frontalière du Rwanda au Nord-Kivu connaît un regain de tension. Jeudi, le gouverneur du Nord-Kivu, Julien Paluku, a déclaré avoir été informé de "l'infiltration d'une centaine de militaires rwandais" en territoire congolais du côté de Kibumba, localité frontalière du Rwanda.

## **RDC-Burundi: les FARDC appelées à renforcer la sécurité à la frontière**

Source: Radio Okapi

**29 avril 2015** - La nouvelle société civile de Sange invite les FARDC à renforcer la sécurité à la frontière entre la République démocratique du Congo (RDC) et le Burundi. Le coordonnateur de cette structure, Bernard Kadogo, a lancé cet appel dimanche 26 avril lors d'une conférence de presse à Sange, cité située à 70 kilomètres au Sud de Bukavu dans le Sud-Kivu.

Pour le coordonnateur de la société civile de Sange, Bernard Kadogo, les frontières entre la RDC et le Burundi doivent être surveillées pour limiter l'afflux des réfugiés burundais qui fuient des troubles ethniques après la candidature de l'actuel président Nkuruziza. Ce dernier veut briguer un troisième mandat à l'élection présidentielle prévue en juin prochain.

Plus de deux mille réfugiés burundais se trouvent plusieurs localités de la plaine de la Ruzizi en RDC depuis le 24 avril dernier, notamment Ndunda, Rusabagi, Kaberagule, Kigurwe, Sange et Kamanyola.

Bernard Kadogo redoute « un agenda caché » derrière ces mouvements qui risquent de plonger la RDC « dans une vaste cacophonie ».

« Aux années 1994, il y avait encore une vaste vague des réfugiés rwandais. Après leur entrée au Congo, nous avons eu une guerre en 1996 qui nous a plongé dans une vaste cacophonie avec des mutineries partout au pays », a rappelé le coordonnateur de la nouvelle société civile de Sange.

Bernard Kadogo appelle les FARDC à être « très prudentes et sécuriser le territoire national ».

Le commandant de 42e bataillon des FARDC basé à Sange que ses troupes sécurisent le pays en collaboration avec la Direction générale de migration (DGM).

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## RD Congo : 53 millions de dollars pour les élections

Source: Radio Okapi

**28 avril 2015** - Le comité de pilotage des élections a présenté un budget de plus de cinquante-trois millions de dollars américains pour assurer la sécurisation des élections en RDC, au cours d'une séance qui a réuni hier à Kinshasa des membres du gouvernement, de la Commission électorale nationale indépendante (CENI), du Conseil supérieur de l'audiovisuel et de la communication (CSAC), de la police ainsi le corps diplomatique.

## BURUNDI

### Afrique : Ban Ki-moon envoie Said Djinnit au Burundi après les affrontements

Source: AFP / MCN, via mediacongo.net

**New York, 28 avril 2015** - Le secrétaire général de l'ONU Ban Ki-moon a dépêché son envoyé spécial pour la région des Grands Lacs, Said Djinnit, au Burundi à la suite des troubles pré-électorales dans le pays, a annoncé mardi 28 avril l'ONU.

M. Djinnit aura des consultations avec le président Nkurunziza et d'autres autorités gouvernementales, les dirigeants de partis politiques et les membres de la communauté diplomatique, indique un communiqué de l'ONU.

M. Ban condamne la vague de violence au Burundi suite à la nomination du président Pierre Nkurunziza comme candidat à un troisième mandat. Il demande aux autorités burundaises de mener une enquête immédiate sur les décès survenus au cours des récentes manifestations, afin que les responsables rendent des comptes.

Des manifestations de protestations contre un troisième mandat du président se poursuivent à Bujumbura depuis dimanche et ont été violemment réprimées par la police.

Toujours selon le communiqué de son porte-parole, M. Ban invite les autorités burundaises à faire respecter les droits de l'homme de tous les Burundais, y compris la liberté de réunion, d'association et d'expression.



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Il demande également aux services de sécurité de rester impartiaux et de faire preuve de retenue face aux manifestations publiques et exhorte toutes les parties à rejeter la violence et à éviter de faire monter la tension.

M. Ban exhorte enfin les Burundais à régler leurs différends par le dialogue et il réitère l'engagement de l'ONU à soutenir des élections pacifiques, crédibles et inclusives, conclut le communiqué.

L'opposition au Burundi estime inconstitutionnel un troisième mandat du président sortant, la loi fondamentale du Burundi limitant à deux le nombre de mandats présidentiels. Les partisans de M. Nkurunziza font valoir que son premier mandat (2005-2010) n'est pas concerné par cette disposition puisqu'il avait été élu alors par le Parlement et non au suffrage direct.

Selon des diplomates, le Conseil de sécurité de l'ONU devrait avoir des consultations cette semaine sur la crise au Burundi. Une délégation du Conseil s'était rendue au Burundi en mars dans le cadre d'une tournée africaine.

## UN Chief Sends Envoy to Burundi as Protests Continue

Source: VOA

**28 April 2015** - U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon [sent] a special envoy to Burundi, where the president's decision to run for a third term has sparked three days of sometimes violent street protests.

Ban's office said Tuesday that his special envoy for the Great Lakes Region, Said Djinnit, will hold consultations with President Pierre Nkurunziza, government officials, and political party leaders. The U.N. chief called on security services to exercise restraint, and for all parties to reject violence and avoid inflammatory speech.

At least five people have died this week in clashes between police and protesters in the capital, Bujumbura. Hundreds marched in Bujumbura Tuesday, but were blocked by police from reaching the city center.

The United Nations refugee agency says more than 5,000 Burundian civilians have crossed into Rwanda since the weekend. It says most are women and children, who say they experienced intimidation and threats of violence related to the upcoming presidential election.

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The protests began Sunday, a day after the ruling CNDD-FDD party nominated Nkurunziza to run for a third term. Critics of the president say a third term would violate the constitution.

Former president Sylvester Ntibantunganya said in an interview with NTV-Uganda that he believes the current president should respect the constitution and not run for a third term.

Nkurunziza's eligibility comes down to the wording of a peace agreement and the constitution.

Burundi's existing political structures were founded on the 2000 Arusha agreement, which brought to an end the civil war between Hutu and Tutsi factions that killed up to 300,000 people. That agreement says the president can serve no more than two terms in office.

But the 2005 constitution states the president must be elected through “universal direct suffrage,” interpreted to mean a popular vote. Nkurunziza was elected by parliament to his first term, so his supporters argue he is eligible to run again.

President Nkurunziza has faced revolt from within his own party over his presumed candidacy. Seventy-nine members of the ruling party wrote the president last month asking him not to seek office.

His government has been under fire from rights groups and the international community for excluding the opposition and silencing voices of dissent.

Rights groups have accused the ruling party of arming its youth wing, known as the Imbonerakure, and using them to attack opponents in the past. Human Rights Watch last month said members of the group assisted the police and military in executing 47 people following a confrontation with an unnamed armed group in northwestern Cibitoke province.

The international community, including the United Nations, the United States and the African Union have urged Burundian political actors to respect the rule of law and hold fair elections.

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## **Burundi: Ban condemns election-related violence after President nominated as candidate**

Source: UN News Center

**28 April 2015** - United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has today condemned the outbreak of violence in Burundi following the nomination of President Pierre Nkurunziza as the presidential candidate of the country's ruling party, and appealed to all Burundians to "safeguard the hard won gains" made in peace and democracy.

President Nkurunziza was nominated by the ruling National Council for the Defence of Democracy – Forces for the Defence of Democracy (CNDD-FDD) party with 88 per cent of the vote. That decision sparked civil unrest, with thousands of people seeking refuge in neighbouring countries.

"[Mr. Ban] calls on the Burundian authorities to conduct a prompt investigation into the deaths that occurred during the recent demonstrations so that those responsible are held accountable," said a statement released from the Secretary-General's spokesperson this morning.

According to the statement, the UN chief has dispatched his Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Region, Said Djinnit to Burundi for consultations with President Nkurunziza and other Government authorities, political party leaders and members of the diplomatic community.

"He calls on the Burundian authorities to uphold the human rights of all Burundians, including the freedom of assembly, association and expression," the statement said.

Meanwhile, Mr. Ban also called on the security services to remain impartial and exercise restraint in responding to public demonstrations and urged all parties to reject violence and avoid using inflammatory language or hate speech that could further increase tensions. He urged Burundians to resolve their differences through dialogue.

"[Mr. Ban] reiterates the commitment of the United Nations to support peaceful, credible and inclusive elections," the statement added.

President Nkurunziza has been in office for two terms since 2005, and a broad array of actors has warned that an attempt to seek a third term is unconstitutional and contrary to the spirit that ended a decade of civil war in the country.

In related news, a spokesperson for the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Ariane Rummery told reporters in Geneva that the number of Burundian refugees crossing into Rwanda had jumped significantly, with over 5,000

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refugees entering the country in just two days. According to the Government of Rwanda, since the beginning of April, nearly 21,000 Burundians, mostly women and children had fled to Rwanda saying that they had experienced intimidation and threats of violence linked to the upcoming elections.

The previous week, the official list of candidates to run in the Burundian Presidential elections on 26 June had been announced, which had sparked demonstrations and violence in the nation's capital, she explained.

The Government of Rwanda had allocated land in Mahama, in the Eastern Province to open a new refugee camp. UNHCR and its partners were working moving refugees to the new Mahama refugee camp in daily convoys of up to 1,500 people. Ms. Rummery said that due to the sharp increase of new arrivals, the conditions in the two reception centres, Bugesera and Nyanza, had become more and more congested and UNHCR is expecting to relocate all refugees by 1 May.

Since conducting a rapid assessment mission of the new site in Mahama sector, UNHCR had immediately mobilized its teams and partners to erect over 450 family tents to accommodate over 4,000 people, 7 hangars, 80 latrines, 80 showers, a health post and security post, she added.

## **Burundi tells diplomats to stay neutral over unrest**

Source: Reuters World Service

By Patrick Nduwimana and Edmund Blair; Additional reporting by Njuwa Maina; Writing by Drazen Jorgic and Edmund Blair; Editing by Andrew Heavens, Crispian Balmer and Mark Trevelyan

**Bujumbura, 28 April 28 2015** - Burundi's government told diplomats on Tuesday to stay neutral and not side with protesters who accuse President Pierre Nkurunziza of violating the constitution by announcing he will seek a third term in office.

Hundreds of protesters took to the streets for a third straight day and were confronted by police firing teargas and shots in the air, as Burundi faced its worst political crisis since the end of an ethnically fuelled civil war in 2005.

The United States, other Western nations and regional African countries had pushed Nkurunziza, 51, not to seek a third term. Washington said it was disappointed he was doing so and warned it would take steps against those behind any violence.

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"In such a situation, the Burundi government asks you to observe diplomatic neutrality," the first deputy president, Prosper Bazombanza, told a meeting with ambassadors from the United States, Europe and African nations to discuss the crisis.

Bazombanza said the protesters wanted to disrupt a series of elections which start in May with local council and parliamentary polls, followed by a presidential vote on June 26.

The unrest in the east African country raises tensions in a region with a history of ethnic conflict, and has driven almost 25 000 Burundians across the border for fear of ethnic killings.

Other presidents in the region are also nearing the end of their final terms, as defined by their constitutions. The leader of Burkina Faso in West Africa was overthrown last year after trying to change the basic law to extend his 27-year rule.

Foreign Minister Laurent Kavakure said some protest organisers were winning "a lot of sympathy" from some of Burundi's partners, although he did not name them.

"The protests are illegal," the minister told the ambassadors. "They are becoming an insurrection movement."

Unrest has spread into new parts of the capital Bujumbura, and small protests were reported by local media in the second biggest city, Gitega.

Crowds gathered from early morning in a south Bujumbura suburb mostly inhabited by members of Burundi's ethnic Tutsi minority, waving placards and chanting slogans accusing the president of breaking the constitution. Some burned tyres.

Opponents of the president, who led one of the militias of the ethnic Hutu majority in the civil war, say the peace deal and the constitution limit him to two five-year terms.

Supporters of Nkurunziza, whose power base is in the countryside, say his first term does not count because he was picked by lawmakers, not elected.

One protester told Reuters two people suffered gunshot wounds in the northern Cibitoke suburb, though there was no immediate confirmation from the police.

Two protesters have been killed and more than 250 people arrested since protests erupted on Sunday, Burundi's police Chief André Ndayambaje said earlier. Activists say at least five protesters have died.

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The United Nations said Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has sent his special envoy for the Great Lakes region to Burundi for talks with Nkurunziza and the opposition. Ban called for the security services to show restraint.

Opposition leader and presidential hopeful Agathon Rwaso told a news conference: "I am calling upon President Nkurunziza to abandon seeking another third term to prevent the country from massive violence and killings."

Burundi's civil war pitted the army, then dominated by the Tutsi minority, against rebel groups mostly made up of majority Hutus. The army now includes both ethnic groups.

Authorities say about 21 000 people have fled from Burundi to Rwanda, victim of a genocide in 1994 in which more than 800 000 mostly Tutsis and moderate Hutus were killed. Almost 4 000 people have fled to the Democratic Republic of Congo.

## **Suspected ex-Rwandan Interahamwe militias captured by protesters in Burundi**

Source: Xinhua

**29 April 2015** - Demonstrators opposed to the third term of Burundian President Pierre Nkurunziza since Sunday in the capital Bujumbura Tuesday said they held suspected ex- Rwandan Interahamwe militias during the protests.

The Interahamwe are Hutu militias blamed for the 1994 Rwanda genocide which left about 800,000 dead.

"In the morning, we captured two Interahamwe militias. Police agents grabbed one of them from us and took him to an unknown destination. But we held the other one," said a protester at Mutakura (north of the capital), but who requested anonymity.

He said that the suspected Interahamwe fighter was arrested while he was speaking Kinyarwanda in a phone conversation and after the protesters realized that he did not know the name of the neighborhood where the demonstration was taking place.

"He was talking to someone in Kinyarwanda language in a phone conversation and he said he was in a neighborhood other than Mutakura. We immediately concluded that it was an Interahamwe who did not know where he was as said that he speaks Kinyarwanda and English only," said the protester.

At Musaga (south of the capital), protesters and witnesses told Xinhua that they also captured an Interahamwe fighter.

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"Yesterday, we saw three Interahamwe fighters, but we were able to capture two of them. The two were handed over to the police. Today we captured another one near Musaga marketplace. This time, we are going to take him to the 11th infantry battalion here at Musaga," said Joel Irabaruta, one of the witnesses.

Protesters at Mutakura and at Musaga also said they identified Imbonerakure youths (Burundi ruling party's youth wing) in police uniforms and who are operating with police agents as if they were policemen.

Speaking to local media on Monday evening, the Director General of the National Police Andre Ndayambaje said, "No Imbonerakure or ex-Interahamwe militias are helping police agents during the demonstrations."

Convened by the opposition and some civil society organizations, the protests that kicked off Sunday mainly in Bujumbura are aimed to force Burundian President Pierre Nkurunziza to drop his intention to run for third term in the presidential election due on June 26.

Nkurunziza was Saturday elected by his party, the National Council for the Defense of Democracy-Forces for the Defense of Democracy (CNDD-FDD), in an extraordinary congress, to represent the party in the upcoming presidential election.

Earlier, Burundi's opposition and civil society had called for mass protests if the country's ruling party nominates Nkurunziza to run a third term which they say would be a violation of the country's constitution and the Arusha Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation in Burundi.

The constitution and the Arusha Agreement stipulate that a president of Burundi cannot serve the country for more than two terms.

Nkurunziza was elected by parliament in 2005 and directly re-elected by citizens in 2010.

Burundi is this year to hold general elections between May 26 and August 24, with the presidential election to be held on June 26.

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## UGANDA

### **Ouganda: Museveni lance la campagne d'adhésion au parti au pouvoir avant les élections générales de 2016**

Source: Agence de presse Xinhua

**28 avril 2015** - Le président ougandais Yoweri Museveni, qui dirige le parti au pouvoir Mouvement de Résistance Nationale (NRM), a lancé mardi la campagne nationale d'adhésion au parti avant les élections générales de 2016.

M. Museveni a lancé la campagne à Kaunda Grounds, dans la municipalité de Gulu, dans le district de Gulu, dans le nord de l'Ouganda.

Le président, accompagné de la secrétaire générale du parti, Justine Kasule Lumumba, a été le premier membre du parti à s'inscrire dans cette campagne qui sera menée dans toutes les zones du pays est-africain jusqu'au 16 mai.

Les élections présidentielles qui éliront un nouveau président et des membres du parlement en Ouganda se tiendront entre février et mars prochain, selon la feuille de route révisée de l'organisme électoral du pays.

Les partis d'opposition se préparent également pour ce processus électoral.

## CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

### **Humanitarian crisis in the Central African Republic: lack of funding threatens the free-access to healthcare**

Source: PR Newswire

**Geneva, 27 April 2015** - A drastic shortage in funding is jeopardizing free access to health care services being provided by the World Health Organization and partners in the Central African Republic for horehounds of thousands people.

The WHO Representative to the Central African Republic, Dr Michel Yao, says the humanitarian crisis wracking the country has displaced approximately 200 000 people and put around 1.5 million people at risk. Increased effort and funding, he says, is needed to prevent the crisis in the Central African Republic being “forgotten crisis.”



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“This year we are really suffering in terms of funding the WHO operations in the Central African Republic” Dr Yao says. “WHO has a gap of more than US\$14million and have received only US\$500 000 this year. The needs for the whole humanitarian health sector are even greater, with another almost US\$40 million needed by Health Cluster partners, with less than US\$1.5 million provided. The health sector is very challenging. The Central African Republic, for example, has among the world's highest child and maternal mortality rates.”

Only 55% of the health facilities in Central African Republic are functioning, and they mostly rely on the support of non-governmental organizations and UN agencies like the WHO, who are collaborating has part of the Health Cluster response. In 2014, Health Cluster partners delivered medical supplies for the treatment of 800 000 patients and provided care for more than 615 000 people in the Central African Republic.

“WHO supports the people in the Central African Republic by providing free access to health care,” Dr Yao explains. “Outside the capital, Bangui, there is a real challenge to provide this care if we don't have funding. If some of the public health facilities do not open, it will make it difficult for people who have moved to Bangui for security and economic reasons to return home. This will mean the overall crisis will not be solved.”

WHO is also filling gaps in disease surveillance, responding to outbreaks and planning health services in coordination with health humanitarian partners.

“One past donor, for example, is not providing funds for the Central African Republic this year as its funding is going towards other crises, like Syria and Yemen,” Dr Yao adds. “I am afraid that we are still a forgotten crisis and this year is even worse than before.”

Dr Yao says the reduced violence in the country means that fewer people are suffering from conflict-related injuries now than one year ago. “But today we have a large displaced population that will soon have no access to healthcare because they cannot pay for it,” Dr Yao says. “Any displacement increases the risk of communicable diseases because people are living in very poor conditions.”

Without a major injection of funding, humanitarian health services will stop delivering conflict-related injuries and they will only be delivering routine care, such as maternal and child health services and treatment for non-communicable diseases like heart disease, diabetes and cancer.

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## KENYA

### Top United States envoy John Kerry to visit Kenya in May

Source: The East African (Kenya)

**28 April 2015** - US Secretary of State John Kerry will arrive in Nairobi on May 3 for talks on a wide range of topics with a variety of leaders, the State Department announced on Monday.

A key aim of the top US diplomat's two-day visit will be "to reinforce the importance of our strong bilateral relationship", the State Department said.

Mr Kerry's meetings with government officials will focus on security cooperation between the US and Kenya, "particularly in light of the recent tragic attack at Garissa University College", the announcement added.

Refugee assistance, trade and biodiversity will also be on the agenda of talks with business leaders, opposition politicians, humanitarian aid workers and civil society representatives, as well as with government ministers, the State Department said.

"This visit will focus on our common goals, including accelerating economic growth, strengthening democratic institutions, and improving regional security," the US added.

Mr Kerry's trip will take place two-and-a-half months prior to President Barack Obama's scheduled visit to Kenya in July.

After leaving Nairobi on May 5, the Mr Kerry will travel to Djibouti for talks on efforts to support evacuations from war-torn Yemen.

Mr Kerry will also meet with US military personnel at Camp Lemonnier, a large US installation housing a joint-services task force that carries out counter-terrorism missions in the Horn of Africa.

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## SUDAN

### **Soudan: Omar el-Béchéir réélu sans surprise avec 94,5% des voix**

Source: RFI

**Le président sortant Omar el-Béchéir a été réélu à la tête du Soudan avec 94,5% des suffrages, selon la Commission nationale électorale indépendante soudanaise. Une victoire largement attendue après les élections présidentielle, parlementaires et régionales qui se sont déroulées du 13 au 16 avril. Omar el-Béchéir inaugurera officiellement son quatrième mandat le 17 mai après avoir prêté serment devant la nouvelle Assemblée nationale.**

**28 avril 2015** - Trois heures après la proclamation des résultats, lundi, Omar el-Béchéir, le président réélu, a prononcé un discours devant les militants de son parti, le Congrès national. Après les remerciements d'usage, le président soudanais a rendu hommage aux femmes. Il est à noter en effet que son parti détiendra 323 sièges, dont 128 occupés par des femmes sur les 425 de la prochaine Assemblée nationale.

Omar el-Béchéir a dénoncé avec virulence les ingérences des pays européens, qualifiés de puissances coloniales, dans les affaires intérieures. L'Union européenne avait dénoncé le processus électoral, le jugeant non démocratique. L'opposition avait boycotté ces élections.

Le président soudanais a conclu son discours en récitant des versets du Coran glorifiant Dieu et s'est engagé à promouvoir une société au service de l'islam.

### **Soudan : le président chinois félicite el-Béchéir pour sa réélection en tant que président**

Source: Agence de presse Xinhua

**29 avril 2015** - Le président chinois Xi Jinping a présenté ses félicitations à Omar el-Béchéir pour sa réélection en tant que président soudanais.

Dans un message datant de lundi, M. Xi a déclaré que la Chine et le Soudan, ayant cultivé une amitié traditionnelle profonde, sont de bons amis, de bons frères et de bons partenaires qui jouissent d'un soutien mutuel, d'une confiance mutuelle et d'une coopération sincère.

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Peu importe les changements survenant sur les scènes régionale et internationale, la politique de la Chine visant à développer des relations amicales et coopératives avec le Soudan ne changera pas, a indiqué le président chinois.

"J'attache une grande importance aux relations sino-soudanaises", a-t-il ajouté. "Et je suis enthousiaste à l'idée de travailler avec le président el-Béchetir pour continuer à consolider et à faire avancer les relations amicales et coopératives afin d'apporter des bénéfices aux deux pays et aux deux peuples".

Le Commission électorale nationale du Soudan a annoncé mardi la victoire de M. el-Béchetir lors de l'élection présidentielle tenue à la mi-avril, ce dernier ayant récolté 94,5% des voix.

## Soudan: Béchetir réélu mais confronté à une série de défis

Source: AFP

Par Rouba el-Husseini

**28 avril 2015** - Il a beau avoir décroché un nouveau mandat de cinq ans, le président soudanais Omar el-Béchetir fait toujours face à une série de défis pour remettre l'économie de son pays sur les rails et le sortir de l'isolement international.

Le Soudan est soumis à un embargo économique américain depuis 1997 pour violations présumées des droits de l'Homme et des accusations de liens avec le terrorisme. Si M. Béchetir a essayé de prendre ses distances avec l'islamisme radical, il reste dans le collimateur de la communauté internationale en raison des conflits dans plusieurs régions du pays et de la répression des opposants politiques.

Au pouvoir depuis plus de 25 ans, M. Béchetir, qui a remporté lundi plus de 94% des votes, est visé par deux mandats d'arrêt de la Cour pénale internationale (CPI) pour crimes de guerre et contre l'humanité et génocide au Darfour (ouest), ce qui limite grandement sa liberté de mouvement.

Pour gagner la confiance à l'étranger, le gouvernement doit tenir sa promesse d'organiser un dialogue avec l'opposition et créer de nouvelles alliances à l'extérieur, estiment plusieurs experts.

Sur le plan intérieur, le président soudanais peut oeuvrer pour faire sortir le pays de son isolement, en "arrêtant la guerre" et concluant "une réconciliation nationale", estime Adel al-Baz, un journaliste économique du quotidien indépendant Al-Youm al-Tali.

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Le président "ne peut ignorer les appels au dialogue car il s'agit d'une exigence régionale et internationale en plus d'être réclamée à l'intérieur" du pays, ajoute-t-il.

**Gouvernement d'union ?**

De nombreux pays occidentaux voient la réconciliation comme une condition préalable pour améliorer leurs liens avec Khartoum.

"Le nouveau gouvernement aura le choix entre le statu quo avec une augmentation de la concentration des pouvoirs autour du président --de récents amendements constitutionnels ont accordé à Béchir de plus grands pouvoirs-- et des services de sécurité, et une transition qui pourrait impliquer un gouvernement d'union nationale", estime Jérôme Tubiana, un expert sur le Soudan.

Or un retour dans le concert des nations permettrait à Khartoum de remettre sur pied une économie exsangue.

Avec l'indépendance du Soudan du Sud en 2011, le Soudan a perdu environ 75% de ses ressources pétrolières. L'inflation est galopante et le taux de chômage est au-dessus de 30%. Selon l'ONU quelque 7 millions de personnes ont besoin d'une aide humanitaire.

"La dette souveraine soudanaise a dépassé les 40 milliards de dollars, que le pays est incapable de rembourser", souligne l'économiste Hassan Makki. "Le gouvernement veut donc un effacement des dettes".

Mais "cela n'arrivera pas tant qu'il n'aura pas changé sa politique intérieure et sa politique étrangère", poursuit-il.

**Offensive diplomatique**

Khartoum a lancé une offensive diplomatique ces dernières semaines en rejoignant la coalition initiée par l'Arabie saoudite pour lutter au Yémen contre des rebelles chiites liés à l'Iran.

L'armée, qui combat déjà des rebelles à l'intérieur du Soudan: au Darfour, au Kordofan-Sud et dans le Nil-Bleu, a envoyé des avions frapper à l'étranger, au Yémen.

M. Béchir "estime que l'alliance militaire du Golfe au Yémen lui offre la possibilité d'ouvrir de nouvelles portes", en se rapprochant des Saoudiens, après avoir été proche de leur ennemi juré, l'Iran, selon M. Makki.

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Khartoum a par ailleurs contribué en mars à la conclusion d'un accord entre l'Egypte et l'Ethiopie sur le partage des eaux du Nil, se rapprochant du Caire, longtemps méfiant vis-à-vis de son voisin du sud.

Ces nouvelles relations pourraient pousser Washington, pour qui l'Arabie saoudite et l'Egypte sont des alliés clés dans la région, à voir le Soudan d'un nouvel oeil.

M. Béchir essaiera de faire revenir son pays dans la communauté internationale en "utilisant ses alliances à la fois avec la région africaine et la coalition militaire du Golfe pour obtenir l'effacement de ses dettes", selon M. Baz.

L'objectif sera aussi de "voir son nom rayé de la liste des pays parrainant le terrorisme", selon Adel al-Baz, en référence à la liste des Etats-Unis.

## **Le président soudanais menace de désarmer les militants anti-Khartoum au Soudan du Sud**

Source: Agence de presse Xinhua

**29 avril 2015** - Le président soudanais Omar el-Béchir a menacé mardi d'envoyer des troupes au Soudan du Sud pour désarmer les groupes de militants qui luttent contre le gouvernement soudanais, a rapporté la chaîne officielle Sudan TV.

"Nous lui (gouvernement sud-soudanais, ndlr) donnerons la chance de prendre la bonne décision et de désarmer les mouvements armés; sinon, les forces de soutien rapide sont prêtes à les désarmer", a déclaré M. el-Béchir depuis la région de Gouz Dango de l'Etat du Darfour-Sud, cité par Sudan TV.

"Nous avons le droit de nous défendre contre tous les criminels, même à Raja, à Aweil ou à Juba", a-t-il martelé.

M. el-Béchir est arrivé mardi dans la région de Gouz Dango, dans l'Etat du Darfour-Sud, où des affrontements ont éclaté récemment entre les forces de soutien rapide, qui relèvent du Service national du renseignement et de la sécurité, et les rebelles du Mouvement pour la justice et l'égalité (JEM).

Prononçant un discours devant des troupes dans une garnison militaire de la région, M. el-Béchir a exhorté le gouvernement sud-soudanais à arrêter de soutenir les rebelles et à cesser les hostilités à l'égard du Soudan.

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Dimanche, l'armée soudanaise a annoncé dans un communiqué avoir repoussé une attaque contre l'Etat du Darfour-Sud par des groupes armés soutenus par le Soudan du Sud.

Dans le communiqué, l'armée a accusé le Soudan du Sud de cacher et de former des groupes rebelles, arguant que "les rebelles du JEM sont formés depuis des mois par des experts étrangers dans la région de Raja de l'Etat de Bahral-Ghazal, au Soudan du Sud, avec l'objectif de saboter le Soudan".

Le plan des rebelles consistait principalement à cibler les champs de pétrole, les banques et les marchés dans diverses localités, selon le texte.

Des affrontements ont éclaté entre les deux côtés pendant deux jours consécutifs dans la localité de Damaso, à 80 km au sud de Nyala, chef-lieu de l'Etat du Darfour-Sud, et dans la région d'al-Nakhara, située à l'ouest de Damaso.

Le Soudan accuse le Soudan du Sud de cacher et d'assister l'Alliance du front révolutionnaire, qui réunit trois groupes rebelles majeurs du Darfour, en plus de la branche nord du Mouvement populaire de libération du Soudan (SPLM-N).

## **Sudan's President Warns South Sudan over Rebels**

Source: AP

**28 April 2015** - Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir says South Sudan is supporting and hosting Sudanese rebels inside its territory, and has warned Juba to disarm them or face repercussions.

In a speech to pro-government militias in South Darfur state quoted Tuesday by the official Sudanese Media Center, al-Bashir says that if South Sudan does not comply, Sudanese forces are ready to disarm the rebels themselves.

Rebels are battling Sudanese government forces in South Darfur and two other regions in fighting that has displaced tens of thousands of people in recent years.

Al-Bashir won re-election with 94 percent of the vote this month, according to official results released Monday, extending his 25-year rule despite international war crimes charges and multiple insurgencies. The oil-rich South Sudan seceded in 2011.