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



## **MEDIA MONITORING**

**10 August 2015**

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**DRC**

### **Congolese See No End to President's Final Term**

OPINION

Source: The New York Times

**Kinshasa, 8 August 2015** - To take the political pulse of this sprawling, mineral-rich country, head to the busiest stretch of Lumumba Boulevard, one of the capital's main roads. On weekdays, a large crowd gathers here to peer at the newspapers posted on an eight-foot-high wall and loudly trade opinions on the news of the day.

Recently, the shouting has been about President Joseph Kabila's plan to carve the country's 11 provinces into 26, which many Congolese see as a ploy to delay the coming presidential election and allow Mr. Kabila to "slide," as people here say, into a third term.

"We already know these are political maneuvers," said Theo Balsomi, an unemployed college graduate, as he jostled with others to get a look at the newspapers on a recent afternoon. "Knowing the reality of our country, we have lived through many regimes. We won't allow Mr. Kabila to slide for even a second. The whole population would oppose that."

Mandated in 2006, the plan to split the provinces lay dormant until the president revived it in March. The new provinces have been named, but elections for governors and other leaders have yet to be held.

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Before voting for a new president in 2016, the Democratic Republic of Congo must go through a series of elections on the local and provincial levels. Mayors, village chiefs and councils must be named, and deputies and governors need to be elected in the provinces. The longer this process takes, the more likely the presidential race will be postponed.

Under Congo's Constitution, the president is limited to two terms. However, delays in the packed electoral calendar, which is already months behind schedule, are stoking fears that a postponed presidential election could allow Mr. Kabila to stay in power for months or even years longer.

Mr. Kabila, who rarely speaks publicly, has yet to say explicitly that he will step down in 2016. When asked about the sudden push to divide the country into 26 provinces, the communications minister, Lambert Mende, said the president "should not leave office, should not end his second term without giving what had been decided in 2006."

This is not the first time this year that the president has been accused of trying to alter the election schedule to stay in office.

In January, lawmakers began debating a bill pushed by the government that would require a census to be conducted before the 2016 presidential election. Experts said that process could take years, complicated by the lack of infrastructure in a country more than three times the size of Texas. The president would stay in power for the duration of the census.

Opponents to Mr. Kabila's rule, led by rival politicians and youth activists, have called this a plan to push back the election and allow the president to hold on to power. In response, thousands of people took to the streets across the country. At least 36 people were killed by security forces before the government backed down and altered the bill to allow the election to take place without a census.

The Congolese people say, rain or snow, there will be a change in leadership in 2016," said Vital Kamerhe, leader of the Union for the Congolese Nation, an opposition party. "Either he respects the Constitution or he'll be pushed out by the people."

Instead of a census, the opposition has asked for a reassessment of the electoral rolls, which have not been updated since 2011, to add more than five million young Congolese who have since reached voting age. At the moment, those voters would not be eligible to vote in 2016. A number of youth movements have sprouted throughout the country, holding pro-democracy rallies and calling for electoral change.

The protests speak to the population's desire for a legitimate democratic process, said Ntanda Nkere, a political science professor at the University of Kinshasa. "Anything that

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counters that perspective will be highly contested,” he said, adding that the national objection could be similar to the protests in January.

The 2011 presidential election was tainted by serious irregularities and voter fraud, according to American and European electoral observers. Mr. Kabila’s second term began in controversy, with protests erupting and his main challenger also claiming victory. The Independent National Electoral Commission, tasked with organizing the elections, says it has invested money and manpower to ensure that the 2016 elections are free and fair.

The electoral calendar calls for 11 elections from October 2015 to November 2016, a majority of which have yet to be organized. Local elections are scheduled to start in two months, but they cannot begin until the new provinces are established. This stalemate has members of Parliament, the opposition and the Roman Catholic Church calling for changes to the calendar. They want to postpone the local elections until after the provincial and presidential contests have taken place.

“We’re not saying the local elections don’t hold importance,” said Leonard Santedi, a leader in the influential Roman Catholic Church. “They’re important, but we have to be realistic.” He added: “We need to agree on a calendar. If not, how can we have peaceful elections?”

The electoral commission controls the calendar, but its reluctance to change it has fueled the belief that it is taking its cues from Mr. Kabila. Some international organizations have questioned the commission’s legitimacy.

A leading opposition party, the Union for Democracy and Social Progress, has called the commission, known here as CENI, an accomplice to Mr. Kabila’s apparent plan to stay in power.

“CENI cannot continue to play this role,” said Bruno Mavungu, the party’s secretary general. “We should focus all of our energy and the little money that the government does have into holding the legislative and presidential elections next year.”

The elections will cost \$1.4 billion, according to government estimates. As of now, the government is \$900 million short, a gap the electoral commission hopes to meet with international contributions and donations. In May 2014, Secretary of State John Kerry promised \$30 million on the condition that Mr. Kabila step down in 2016.

The commission says it has yet to receive those funds. “Stability in Congo influences stability and peace elsewhere,” said a spokesman for the commission, Jean-Pierre Kalamba Mulumba. “We hope, in good faith, that they will support us.” For many Congolese, however, stability will require Mr. Kabila to stand aside.

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If he does not, said Mr. Balsomi, who spent most of the afternoon voicing his frustration near the newspaper wall on Lumumba Boulevard, "the people will take matters into their own hands."

## BURUNDI

### Burundi: Suspects in killing of general arrested

#### NEWS STORY

Source: AFP

**Bujumbura, 10 August 2015** - Burundi's prosecutor on Sunday said the killers of a powerful general loyal to President Pierre Nkurunziza had been identified and "a certain number" had been arrested.

General Adolphe Nshimirimana, widely seen as Burundi's de-facto internal security chief, was killed in a rocket attack on August 2.

He was a close aide of president Nkurunziza, whose successful bid for a third term has fuelled violence resulting in about a hundred deaths, a crackdown on protests and an exodus of citizens fleeing the country.

"The identities of the perpetrators are now known," a statement issued by the prosecutor's office said.

"A certain number have been arrested. The rest of them and the masterminds are being sought."

It did not give further details. Police spokesperson Pierre Nkurikiye confirmed the authenticity of the statement to AFP but did not elaborate.

The president had given the security forces a week to catch Nshimirimana's killers.

The prosecutor said a military vehicle had been used by the killers and subsequently burned.

The vehicle had been identified and came from a military camp in the centre of the capital Bujumbura, it added.

According to witnesses quoted in the local media, the attackers were wearing military uniforms.

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Nkurunziza's candidacy was condemned as unconstitutional by the opposition and provoked months of protests.

In mid-May, rebel generals attempted a coup. They have since launched a rebellion in the north of the country, close to the border with Rwanda.

## **U.N. chief urges Burundi president to resume political dialogue**

### NEWS STORY

Source: Xinhua

**7 August 2015** - UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has urged President Pierre Nkurunziza to resume the political dialogue in Burundi, while voicing his concern over recent high-profile assassinations in the African country.

"The Secretary-General urged President Nkurunziza to resume the political dialogue, which has been suspended since July 19.

"He encouraged the Burundian authorities to work closely with the Ugandan-led facilitation on behalf of the East African Community," said Stephane Dujarric, UN spokesman for the secretary-general, at a daily briefing held here Thursday.

In a phone call with President Nkurunziza, Ban reiterated his strong condemnation of the recent killing of General Adolphe Nshimirimana and the attempted assassination of Pierre Clavier Mbonimpa, according to Dujarric.

On Monday, Ban slammed the attempted assassination of prominent human rights defender Mbonimpa, calling for a prompt probe into the incident.

This attack came one day after the killing of Nshimirimana, former Burundian intelligence chief.

"He (Ban) expressed his deep concern over the impact of these events on security in Burundi," said Dujarric, who also said the secretary-general offered UN's full support to help find a peaceful solution to the grave problems Burundi now faces.

Burundian President Nkurunziza won his third term after a controversial presidential election in late July as a candidate of the ruling party amid months of unrest sparked by his bid seeking for a new term.

The opposition said his re-election was illegal as it violated the country's constitution that sets a two-term limit for presidency.

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The country's constitutional court, however, ruled that the president's first term doesn't count as he was appointed by a parliament not elected by the people.

## **Burundi: At least 4 people found dead in Bujumbura**

### NEWS STORY

Source: APA

**7 August 2015** - At least four people were found dead on Thursday in the Burundian districts of Cibitoki and Butere which were hit by protests against President Pierre Nkurunziza's bid for a third term., reports said on Friday. One Congolese and his son were found dead in Cibitoki. Both were shot on Thursday morning as they were coming from the mosque, according to the witnesses.

However, the police said that some of its elements were victims of grenade attack during a patrol but they riposted.

Those found dead in Butere were not identified by the local community. They are reported to be killed elsewhere and thrown in their district.

The insecurity worsens at a time when, after some opposition groups boycotted the recent presidential election, government institutions are being reestablished.

Burundians have been living in uncertainty as they wait for Nkurunziza's inauguration for a third presidential term, contested by many who argue that a third term is unconstitutional.

The opponents pledged that they won't let President Nkurunziza lead the country.

According to them, August 26 is the deadline for the president to step down, which is the end of his term.

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## US Envoy Warns Burundi Attacks Risk a New Cycle of Violence

### NEWS STORY

Source: AP

**7 August 2015** - The United States' U.N. Ambassador Samantha Power warned Friday that "horrible attacks" on both sides in Burundi risk creating "a cycle of violence and a spiral of violence."

The capital Bujumbura has been hit by violence since April when the ruling party announced that President Pierre Nkurunziza would seek re-election for a third term. Nkurunziza was re-elected last month in elections widely condemned as unfair.

Tensions escalated following Sunday's assassination of a top military general, Adolphe Nshimirimana, and Monday's attempted assassination of a top human rights activist, Pierre Claver Mbonimpa, who had spoken out against a third term for the president.

Power urged the government and opposition to participate in internationally mediated talks to come up with political arrangements "that will calm tempers, allow civil society and independent media to be reconstituted, and to operate freely in the country."

"Those attacks must stop," she said. "There is going to need to be a political place for those on both sides upset about the violence or upset about the political conditions to channel their energies."

Power said the United States and many other countries are looking at possible visa or travel bans and other measures "against those who are responsible for carrying out gross violations of human rights or ... murderous attacks."

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon also warned after this week's attacks that the growing politically motivated violence "must be broken before it escalates beyond control," his spokesman said.

The U.N. chief stressed that accountability and "a genuine and inclusive political dialogue are the best response to such attempts to destabilize Burundi," the spokesman said.

In a phone call to Nkurunziza on Wednesday, Ban expressed "deep concern" at the impact of this week's attacks and urged the president to resume the political dialogue which has been suspended since July 19, the spokesman said.

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## Burundi's Pierre Nkurunziza's friends can't disagree with him

### OPINION

Source: The Africa Report

By Lin Bigingo

**Bujumbura, 7 August 2015** - Burundi's leader has thrust the country to the forefront of the debate about presidential term limits. With few friends in the region but a divided opposition, will he be able to stave off the threat of instability?

Having gained his political and strategic education in a bush war, President Pierre Nkurunziza fought off a putsch, opposition boycotts and diplomatic pressure to win a third term in presidential elections on 21 July.

He left a trail of new and old enemies in his wake after opposition and civil society groups claimed that a third term would violate the constitution and the 2001 Arusha accords that brought the country's civil war to an end.

In the months where protests and their repression led to more than 100 deaths, Nkurunziza brushed aside calls from the AU and neighbouring countries to talk with his opponents.

The Ugandan government offered to mediate, but the government refused to delay the vote.

Western donors have cut off some aid, and the AU refused to send observers to what it believed would not be a free and fair election.

Nkurunziza does not seem to have any regional allies.

In neighbouring Rwanda, where President Paul Kagame's party is calling for him to stay in power beyond two terms, the government is concerned about the more than 150,000 Burundians that have fled the country and the impact of events on regional stability.

Nkurunziza's 10 years in office have been marked by boycotts and threats of a return to civil war.

The opposition has rarely formed a united front and has not been able to mobilise people.

Nkurunziza is set to implement a strategy of divide and conquer after opposition leader and former rebel chief agathon Rwaswa suggested a government of national unity.



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An oppositionist who requests anonymity describes Nkurunziza's political philosophy as a simple one: "Nkurunziza's friend or political ally is anyone that accepts to see things the same way as him. Anyone who sees things differently becomes, ipso facto, his enemy."

He points to the two former ruling party presidents and a secretary general, who are now in exile out of fear for their lives.

The biggest threats that Nkurunziza recently faced came from within the armed forces.

The government arrested Gen. Godefroid Niyombare in May for launching a coup attempt in protest against the third-term moves. One of his allies, Gen. Leonard Ngendakumana, said in July that he and others would continue to seek to overthrow Nkurunziza.

The president's inner circle on security matters is made up of officers who fought alongside him in the bush.

A football-loving pastor married to an evangelical preacher, Nkurunziza cultivates a man-of-the-people image, with widely-diffused photographs of him riding a bicycle, working on plantations and playing football.

He and his wife, Denise, organise prayer missions at least once a year to thank God for keeping him in power.

He is more at home in the country than in the capital.

Nkurunziza has supported a policy where Saturdays are the day of communal work projects, and he can often be seen alongside average citizens working on the construction of schools and health centres.

Of mixed Hutu-Tutsi parentage, Nkurunziza's opponents say he is polarising the country along ethnic lines.

Fighting back against such criticism, smoothing over the tensions his third term created and leaving the country in better shape when he steps down in 2020 are the next challenges he will confront.

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## UGANDA

### Uganda: Sort out Uganda's International Border

#### OPINION

Source: The Monitor (Uganda)

**7 August 2015** - We implored government in September last year to mark the Sudan-Uganda border and stop the rampant inter-boundary clashes. Our plea followed clashes between Ugandans and Sudanese over a disputed stretch of land in the West Nile border district of Moyo. At the time, the UPDF quickly stepped in to end the clashes.

But this fire brigade approach by the army in Moyo, has not stopped the recurrence of more border incursions and skirmishes in Arua and Lamwo districts. In June, residents on the DR Congo side, backed by their police, extended their border inside Uganda claiming their land extends up to Pakwach in Nebbi District. On Tuesday, about 200 armed South Sudanese crossed nine kilometres into Lamwo District, northern Uganda, and claimed the land stretch as their own. They displaced more than 400 Ugandans, according to the army. Again, the UPDF quickly flushed out the armed South Sudanese.

These quick interventions by UPDF to stop the clashes although well-timed are only knee-jerk reactions. They are only temporal in calming the tensions. These short-run measures will neither stop the long-standing border disputes, nor block off future incursions and more flare up of violence in Moyo, Arua, Lamwo, and other border districts of Uganda. Of course, this will, in the short-run, stop cross-border skirmishes, stop residents taking the law into own hands, end more violence, and looting of household property. It will also allow the families displaced to be resettled and their children resume schooling.

Moreover, resolving these border disputes between Uganda and her neighbours are important for several reasons. For instance, there is no doubt that cooperation between Uganda and South Sudan has helped to end the 20-year Joseph Kony's LRA war. Besides, peace is crucial for trade and movement of people between the two countries. Also Arua, Moyo, Lamwo, and other districts have always hosted South Sudanese refugees for all the periods of South Sudan war of independence against Khartoum.

Over all, marking Uganda international boundary should be prioritised. Sadly, as it stands, the Uganda-Sudan, Uganda-DR Congo, and Uganda-Kenya border are trigger points of inter-state conflicts. These border points should be marked to cut out incursions and reduce clashes. This would also improve fraternal relations between the

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border people who are all bonded by ethnicity and linked by bilateral trade relations. For durable solutions, the Joint Border Committee as was mooted for Arua and Moyo, should be facilitated, and pushed to quickly but fairly, demarcate and mark the disputed borderland and arrive at a lasting solution for Uganda and her neighbours.

**The issue: Border conflict.**

Our view: These border points should be marked to cut out incursions and reduce clashes. This would also improve fraternal relations between the border people who are all bonded by ethnicity and linked by bilateral trade relations.

## CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

### Central African Republic: UN investigating incident leading to death of five blue helmets

#### NEWS STORY

Source: UN News Centre

**9 August 2015** - The United Nations mission in the Central African Republic (CAR) has launched an investigation into an incident on Saturday in which a Rwandan peacekeeper shot dead four of his colleagues and wounded eight others before he also died.

The tragic incident is the first of its kind since the mission was established in April 2014, the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the CAR (MINUSCA) noted in a news release.

The mission expressed its condolences to the Government of Rwanda and to the bereaved families and wished an early recovery to the injured peacekeepers, who are currently being treated at the MINUSCA hospital in the capital, Bangui.

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon echoed those sentiments in a statement issued by his spokesperson, in which he voiced sadness at learning of the death of the Rwandan peacekeepers.

“The Secretary-General offers his deepest condolences to the bereaved families and to the Government and people of Rwanda. He wishes a speedy recovery to the injured.”

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In a statement issued to the press, the 15 members of the UN Security Council “expressed their sorrow” at yesterday's tragic incident, and took note of the investigation into its circumstances.

Led by Special Representative Babacar Gaye, MINUSCA is tasked with, among other duties, the protection of civilians, support for the transition process, facilitating humanitarian assistance, and the promotion and protection of human rights. It has an authorized military strength of 10,750 troops, of which about 87 per cent were deployed as of 14 July.

## **Rwandan peacekeeper kills four colleagues in Central African Republic**

### NEWS STORY

Source: Reuters

**Bangui, 8 August 2015** - A Rwandan soldier serving with the U.N. peacekeeping mission in Central African Republic shot dead four Rwandan troops and wounded eight others on Saturday, before himself being shot dead, according to the Rwandan Defence Ministry.

The incident occurred at around 5:45 a.m. (12:45 a.m. EDT) at the Rwandan battalion's headquarters in the capital Bangui.

"Investigations have immediately commenced to establish the motive behind this deplorable shooting," spokesman Brigadier General Joseph Nzabamwita said. "We suspect terrorism, without ruling out mental illness as the cause."

The statement said the injured soldiers had immediately been transported to a hospital in Bangui for treatment.

The ministry had originally said the gunman had killed himself, but later amended its account.

"The (Rwanda Defence Force) engaged the assailant soldier, killing him and saving the lives of other RDF peacekeepers," Nzabamwita said in the second statement.

Central African Republic descended into chaos in March 2013 when predominantly Muslim Seleka rebels seized power, triggering reprisals by "anti-balaka" Christian militias who drove tens of thousands of Muslims from the south in a de facto partition.

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The U.N. mission in Central African Republic, known as MINUSCA, was deployed to shore up the precarious stability established under a transitional government.

Rwanda has roughly 800 peacekeepers deployed in the country.

MINUSCA said it had opened an investigation into the incident.

## SOUTH SUDAN

### South Sudan peace talks resume today

#### NEWS STORY

Source: Radio Tamazuj

**10 August 2015** - SPLM-G10 member Oyai Deng Ajak told Radio Tamazuj that peace negotiations in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia would resume Monday morning after a break Sunday.

He said the viewpoints of the warring parties during Friday and Saturday meetings were far apart, but they will continue negotiating with a view to reaching an understanding before the 17 August deadline set by IGAD-Plus.

IGAD-Plus comprises the regional bloc, African Union, United Nations, a consortium of African nations, the Troika of US, UK, and Norway, and China.

South Sudanese Minister of Information and Broadcasting Michael Makuei said the two parties disagree over power-sharing ratios in Upper Nile region, demilitarization of Juba city, and the constitutional review commission.

The spokesman said the government categorically rejects those provisions. He added that the negotiators decided to refer the disagreed points to the two principals and later to the upcoming IGAD-Plus summit on 17 August.

Makuei warned against an imposed peace agreement on South Sudan, saying it could exacerbate the situation like what had happened in Libya.

South Sudan's President Salva Kiir has recently written a position letter to the Ethiopian Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn. Kiir threatened that his government will never accept an imposed peace deal with the armed opposition faction.

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President Kiir rejected the proposed power sharing arrangement and ratios that allocates 53% of power to the rebels in greater Upper Nile region.

## South Sudan warns of new rebellion over imposed peace deal

### NEWS STORY

Source: Sudan Tribune

**9 August 2015** - High ranking South Sudan army (SPLA) officers have warned of the emergence of a new rebellion with the armed opposition faction unless amendments were made to the regional mediator's proposed compromise deal prior to its signing.

"The proposal I saw does not solve the problem at all, instead it adds more fuel and prepare the ground for a new rebellion," the SPLA deputy chief of general staff for operations, Lt. Gen. James Ajonga Mawut told Sudan Tribune Sunday.

"The people of this country are looking for a lasting peace, a peace which will they respect and implement so that there will be no another war", he added.

His remarks reflect the difficulties the two parties face in the run up to reaching a final peace deal, while conveying a non-compromise message from the government.

Last month, the chief of general staff of the government forces, Paul Malong Awan, warned that he would not accept some of the soldiers from the Nuer ethnic group to be replaced by those who rebelled when a peace agreement is finally reached between the government and armed opposition under former vice president, Riek Machar.

Awan was the first senior officer to warn of a rebellion should the deal turn out to be a bad one.

Analysts and observers say reports of the alleged divisions within the armed opposition leadership make some in government believe they could soon end the rebellion either by using some elements within the rebels to cause inconveniences or use the military approach to carry out major offensives in the war-affected states during the dry season.

The division within the opposition could be sending a message of resolve of some of the armed opposition figures to using the military solution for settling the conflict since some senior commanders have been pushing for an agreement which does not accept to recognise President Salva Kiir as head of the Transitional Government of National Unity.

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On the other hand, however, some rebel commanding officers opposing Machar's leadership could be seeking to kill off any hope of reaching peaceful settlement to the conflict by forming their own faction to enhance the rebellion and to continue launching their own wave of violence against the implementation of a possible peace agreement.

Talks between the two warring factions resumed on 6 August as mediators from the Intergovernmental Authority on Development seek to finalise a peace deal by 17 August.

## South Sudan's Machar in South Africa on official visit

### NEWS STORY

Source: Sudan Tribune

**9 August 2015** - South Sudan's former vice-president, Riek Machar, who leads an armed opposition faction against president Salva Kiir's government, arrived in South Africa on Sunday, his press secretary has said.

"Cde Dr Riek Machar Teny-Dhurgon has arrived in South Africa today, Sunday. He is on official visit in response to invitation extended to him by South African government," rebel leader's spokesman, James Gatdet Dak, told Sudan Tribune on Sunday.

He said the top armed opposition leader in the country was accompanied by a number of officials including his wife, Angelina Teny, chairman of the national committee for foreign relations, Dhieu Mathok and his deputy, Ezekiel Lol Gatkuoth, as well as Ramadan Hassan Laku, chief coordinator in the office of the chairman and Ambassador Isaac Khamis Paul, the movement's representative to South Africa, among other officials.

Dak did not provide details about the visit, but said it was in the interest of the IGAD-Plus peace process taking place in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa, as well as the process of reunification of the ruling SPLM party in Arusha, Tanzania.

Earlier, the rebel leader's press secretary said Machar would be ready to sign a final peace agreement by 17 August to end the 20-month long war in the young country, revealing that the opposition group had accepted the IGAD-Plus peace compromise proposal with some amendments.

The latest visit to South Africa by the top rebel leader will be the fourth visit to the most powerful southern Africa nation since the South Sudanese war broke out in December

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2013, during which he held meetings with president Jacob Zuma and other senior officials in some of the visits.

## South Sudan Peace Talks Hit Turbulence on First Day

### NEWS STORY

Source: VOA

**7 August 2015** - South Sudan's warring sides got down to the tough business of negotiating a power-sharing and peace deal Friday, as the IGAD-led talks to end 20 months of fighting resumed in Addis Ababa.

But the talks appeared to hit some bumps in the road as both the government and armed opposition demanded bigger slices of power in a transitional government than what the mediating team has offered.

### Power-sharing ratios

A source at the talks, who asked not to be named, said the government asked that it be given 70 percent of seats and portfolios in the proposed transitional government, that the armed opposition group led by former vice president Riek Machar be given 20 percent and other political parties 10 percent.

Machar's SPLM-in-Opposition (SPLM-IO), meanwhile, asked for the opposite -- 70 percent for itself, 20 percent for the government and the remainder going to other opposition parties.

South Sudan in Focus has not been able to independently confirm this information.

Neither proposal is in line with what the international mediation team, led by East African bloc IGAD, is proposing. After the last round of peace talks for South Sudan failed back in March, IGAD drafted a compromise agreement that proposed that the government should have 53 percent of ministerial portfolios in a transitional government, the SPLM-IO should have 33 percent, and former political detainees and other political parties should share 14 percent between them.

IGAD's final draft of the compromise deal was handed over to representatives of the government, SPLM-IO and the former detainees in Addis Ababa last month.

### Former detainees



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In another twist at the talks in Addis Ababa, government negotiators said Friday they no longer consider the former detainees to be a separate negotiating party because they have been reincorporated into the government.

South Sudan Information Minister Michael Makuei, who is also the government spokesman at the talks, said he is surprised that the former detainees are even sitting at the negotiating table.

"It is rather strange that they have now come to claim that they are not part and parcel of the government, but they continue to stand as an entity," Makuei said.

"In the government position, we have deleted the list of the FDs (former detainees) from those who will be participating in the (power-sharing) ratios. Not only that, but we don't even recognize their presence at the peace talks as an entity," he said.

The warring sides have until August 17 - a deadline set by the mediators - to sort out their differences and sign a deal to end a conflict that has killed tens of thousands and displaced more than 2 million people.

IGAD told South Sudan in Focus in an email that it is optimistic that the warring sides will meet the deadline.

## **SPLM-IO official downplays alleged split in rebel group**

### NEWS STORY

Source: Sudan Tribune

**8 August 2015** - A senior official in South Sudan's rebel has described as "unfounded" allegations of a split in the armed opposition group led by ex-vice president Riek Machar.

In an interview with Sudan Tribune on Saturday, Maj. Gen Gabriel Tanginye claimed reports of defections in the rebel movement were mere propaganda orchestrated by those loyal to the Juba regime.

"We have not split; we are still united under the leadership of Riek Machar. Let me assure [you] that those who claimed we have defected are lie tellers. If we are defected, why it is that someone from Juba is the telling [about] our defection?" asked Tanginye.

He added, "Those who claimed we had internal split are not realistic and they should not continue confusing the public on our behalf."

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Two senior commanders, former deputy chief of general staff for operations, Peter Gatdet and former deputy chief of general staff for logistics, Gathoth Gatkuoth, were last month relieved from their duties on orders issued by the armed opposition leader, Machar.

Gatkuoth, speaking for the first time since his sacking, warned of split from Machar's faction unless reforms were initiated in the military.

"We cannot divide ourselves because of reshuffling. How many times did [President] Salva Kiir reshuffle his cabinets and army? Does that result into internal divisions?" he asked.

The rebel official criticised those spreading information on the alleged split in the movement, saying they wanted to cause tension.

"Those are individuals against peace," he said. "They are the very people who want to spoil [the] ongoing peace talks in Addis Ababa".

Tanginye further accused those who published their names in the media as people whose intentions are to tarnish the images and destroy the will of the people of South Sudan, particularly the Nuer tribe.

"Am not aware that our names are being published that we have defected, these are serious allegations. Let me tell you none of us has switched side and I have to repeat this strongly," he stressed.

He dismissed reports that he was part of the group assembled in Nairobi, Kenya to launch a new struggle. This, he said, will not work.

## **POSITION ON PEACE TALKS**

Meanwhile, Tanginye insists the SPLM-IO's position on the ongoing peace talks was very clear since it was the only option to end war.

"What I want to tell you the people of South Sudan in general, particularly those in UN [United Nations] camps in Malakal, Bentiu, Melut, Juba, Wau and Bor that we are ready this time to bring peace on our side. Let's wait, peace is coming soon," he said.

"Our position is very clear in Addis-Ababa. We will not disappoint South Sudanese this time. Peace will come by any means," he added.

On Thursday, leading members of the South Sudanese governing Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) and government officials claimed eminent division within

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the leadership of the rebel group could delay the signing of a peace agreement to end the more than 20 months old conflict, despite resumption of peace talks.

Talks between the two main rivals in South Sudan's conflict resumed on 6 August in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa as pressure mounts ahead of the 17 August deadline set by regional mediators.

## SUDAN

### Sudanese president declines Uganda trip despite non-arrest assurances

#### NEWS STORY

Source: Sudan Tribune

**Khartoum, 9 August 2015** - The Sudanese president Omer Hassan al-Bashir will not join a regional conference that will be held Monday in the Ugandan city of Entebbe.

The Sudanese ambassador in Kampala shot down assertions made earlier today by Ugandan officials claiming that Bashir will attend the conference despite the International Criminal Court (ICC) arrest warrants issued against him for his alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity.

"He [Bashir] has been invited for heads of state meeting on regional issues at State House, Entebbe. We expect him to join them on Monday to discuss the crisis in South Sudan and how to end it," James Mugume the permanent secretary at the ministry of foreign affairs told reporters.

The Ugandan official said Bashir's visit to his country will not cause "diplomatic incident" because of "AU [African Union] has a different position [not cooperating] on ICC. We respect and abide by it. We have no obligation to arrest him," said Mugume.

He said that Bashir will join Ugandan president, Yoweri Museveni, Kenya's president, Uhuru Kenyatta and Ethiopian Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn to discuss the political crisis in the neighboring South Sudan.

In the past Uganda has warned Bashir to stay away or risk arrest despite AU resolutions asking member states to ignore ICC warrants even if they are members of the court.

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His June visit to South Africa for an AU summit stirred up a domestic controversy after the government there refused to arrest him and ignored a High Court order barring his departure. He managed to escape hours before the court ordered his apprehension.

Bashir's non-participation in the Kampala summit likely owes to his cool relation with Museveni as the two countries traded accusations in the past over backing insurgents.

The Sudanese leader could also face the risk of drama associated with local NGO's seeking a court order to compel his apprehension as was the case in Kenya, South Africa and Nigeria.

## **UN agencies in Sudan agree to strengthen joint action**

### **NEWS STORY**

Source: Sudan Tribune

**9 August 2015** - The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) offices in Sudan agreed on Sunday to enhance coordination in their support of refugees and displaced persons.

The Letter of Understanding (LoU) and a Joint Action Plan was signed by UNHCR Representative in Sudan Mohamed Adar and UNICEF's Representative in Sudan, Geert Cappelaere.

In line with the signed letter of understanding the two agencies will coordinate their assistance to refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)" with special emphasis on education, child protection, nutrition, health, as well as water, sanitation, hygiene (WASH) and behaviour change and communication interventions".

UN agencies estimate that over six million people are in need of humanitarian assistance in Sudan including IDPs from Darfur, South Kordofan, and White Nile, refugees from Eritrea, Ethiopia and South Sudan.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Cappelaere indicated that children constitute some 70% of the refugee population in Sudan.

A joint statement issued on Sunday the two partners agreed to clarify roles and responsibilities "in the areas of coordination, strategic planning and assessments, contingency planning and preparedness, implementation, monitoring and reporting, resource mobilisation, advocacy and information sharing".

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In a report issued in July 2015, the UNICEF Sudan says its humanitarian appeal for 2015 is 73% unfunded, adding that without additional funds its activities in the areas of education and child protection will be affected.

## TANZANIA

### State following reports on ‘Tanzanians’ kidnapped in DRC

#### NEWS STORY

Source: Daily News (Tanzania)

**9 August 2015** - EFFORTS are underway to ascertain reports of kidnapping of eight people believed to be Tanzanians by rebels in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

Tanzania’s Ambassador to DRC, Mr Anthony Cheche told the ‘Sunday News’ yesterday that his office in collaboration with DRC authorities are still trying to establish the nationality of those kidnapped.

“We are working with authorities on this matter. We are yet to establish if they are indeed Tanzanians. That is our focus for the time being,” he said.

The eight are believed to be Muslim clerics from Tanzania who are said to have been kidnapped in an area where several armed groups operate and kidnappings are frequent, the authorities said.

The clerics were taken over the weekend from Kiseguro area, in the restive province of North Kivu, province Governor Julien Paluku told AFP. Meanwhile, DRC Ambassador to Tanzania, Mr Juma-Alfani Mpango told this paper that they had not yet been notified of the development but would start following up on the matter since it has been brought to their attention.

Reliable sources also told our reporters yesterday that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation received information on the said matter two days ago, adding that there were claims that the kidnappers are pressing for a ransom.

In another development, Governor Paluku said they had referred the case to their foreign affairs ministry so that it can alert its Tanzanian counterparts.

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Kidnappings for ransom, often with physical violence against the hostages, are frequent in the territory around Kiseguero. Several armed groups, including the ethnic Hutu militia Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR), operate in the east of DR Congo.

“It appears the (victims) are Muslims who were travelling for the purpose of preaching when they met some unidentified armed people who took them hostage,” said Imam Masudi Kadogo, who represents the Muslim community in North Kivu.

Just a few months ago a Muslim leader in the area was taken hostage and later released in exchange for a ransom, he added.

It is not clear who captured the clerics, but authorities speculated that FDLR or local youths could be behind the kidnapping.

The FDLR has been active in DRC, which borders both Rwanda and Burundi, since crossing over from Rwanda after the 1994 genocide of mainly Tutsis there.

## **Tanzania Opposition Leader Quits Party after Ex-PM Joins**

### NEWS STORY

Source: VOA

By Peter Clotey

**8 August 2015** - A prominent member of Tanzania’s opposition alliance has resigned from the Civic United Front (CUF) party, days after former Prime Minister Edward Lowassa joined the opposition Chadema Party following his defection from the ruling Chama Cha Mapinduzi Party (CCM).

CUF, Chadema and other opposition groups formed an alliance UKAWA ahead of the October 25 general election.

In a resignation statement, Ibrahim Lipumba accused leaders of the opposition alliance of deviating from the original principles that brought the various opposition groups together, aiming to challenge the dominance of the CCM.

### **Defection from main party**

Professor Xavery Lwaitama of the Josiah Kibira University College says the defection of the former prime minister causes a seismic political shift in both the ruling party and the opposition alliance in the run-up to the poll.

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He also says Lipumba's resignation is unlikely to hurt the chances of the opposition alliance in the vote.

The UKAWA opposition alliance plans to choose a single candidate to represent the group in the upcoming election.

Lwaitama says it appears the chances of Lipumba becoming the leader of the opposition alliance in the election are slim, following the defection of the former prime minister.

"I suspect that Professor Lipumba had thought that [he] would be one of the presidential candidates, because he was one of the most prominent of the opposition in the alliance UKAWA. So this other party having selected Edward Lowassa as the candidate must have upset the legitimate political ambition of Professor Lipumba because now, he can't carry the alliance ticket of UKAWA," said Lwaitama.

"That is one of the political earthquakes that are expected when a big shot like the former prime minister leaves a ruling party like the CCM."

The CCM has dominated Tanzania since the country gained independence in 1961.

**'Create trouble'**

Local media reports that the CCM is to blame for the opposition leader's decision to quit his party. Supporters of the coalition say the CCM wants to undermine the coalition ahead of the election, fearing the defection of the former prime minister would increase the party's vulnerability in the vote.

"That is why there is speculation that Professor Lipumba leaving might have something to do with the ruling party trying to create trouble in the alliance, because for the first time, the major opposition parties have agreed to field one presidential candidate instead of competing among themselves. So, it is not surprising that Professor Lipumba is now being accused of giving in to pressure from the ruling party," said Lwaitama.

"It is also possible that Lipumba assessed that it is much better that he is not party to the alliance because the candidate that is going to be fielded by the opposition alliance this time, Edward Lowassa, has a lot of integrity issues around him. And there [are] a lot of misgivings about the opposition alliance fielding Mr. Edward Lowassa much as he has a lot of influence in the CCM."

Lwaitama says Lowassa's influence in the ruling party slices the chances of the CCM in the general election, which he says tilts the balance in favor of the opposition alliance in the poll, despite the resignation of the prominent opposition leader. He also says it is

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likely that the opposition groups would have enough time to mend fences and be fully prepared in the run up to the general election.