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



## **MEDIA MONITORING**

**11 August 2015**

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**DRC**

### **DRC's Opposition Boycotts Senate, Dismisses Kabila's Ploy to Stay in Power**

NEWS STORY

Source: RFI

**10 August 2015** - The Senate in the Democratic Republic of Congo is set to hold an extraordinary session Tuesday to debate how to organise the country's first-ever local elections. But a united opposition is boycotting the session, arguing that the draft legislation is part of President Joseph Kabila's strategy to hang on to power when his second term expires next year.

"This law must be promulgated for the elections to be effectively coupled," PPRD spokesperson Ramazani Shadari told RFI in an interview. "That is why we want the law to be adopted."

Concretely, the ruling PPRD wants voters to designate local officials before any other polls are held – a deeply divisive issue because the opposition believes voters should first choose a new president when Kabila's second five-year term expires in 2016.

From the government's perspective, a bill on seat allocation in local, communal and municipal constituencies must be enacted before local polls, scheduled for October, are held.

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There are fears that local polls, a time-consuming and costly process in a country where none have never been held, will delay the presidential polls, allowing Kabila to stay in office.

The contentious bill has already been the subject of legislative jostling. Last month the National Assembly voted it down before giving it the green light. Earlier this month the Senate rejected it in an extraordinary session and Tuesday's second extraordinary session -- whose legitimacy is challenged by the opposition -- is a sign of the government's determination to hold local elections first.

There are fears that the parliamentary debate could have an impact on all polls.

"If this keeps going on all the elections are going to have to be postponed," explained Michael Tshibangu, president of the London-based Alliance for Development and Democracy in Congo.

The legislation, already months behind schedule, should have been voted into law by April under an Independent National Electoral Commission calendar.

Delays and foot-dragging could lead to a constitutional crisis, according to lawmaker Aimé Boji, a member of the Union for the Congolese Nation (UNC), a leading opposition party.

"Our constitution is very clear on the presidential term," he said in a phone interview from Kinshasa. "It is the only election for which an actual date is set by the constitution."

The opposition is convinced that this focus on local politics is a ploy by Kabila, in power since 2001, to extend his rule.

Kabila who rarely speaks in public has so far rejected opposition demands to state that he will step down when his term ends next year.

His alleged playing-for-time strategy, called glissement (sliding or slipping), also rests on the tying up of the electoral process in bureaucratic delays.

"Glissement is simply what many Congolese politicians do best, which is: delay decisions," remarked Jason Stearns, director of New York University's Congo Research Group.

The ruling party's bid -- unpopular in many circles -- had led the parliamentary opposition to unite under an umbrella group known as Dynamique pour l'unité d'actions de l'opposition, or dynamic for unified action by the opposition.

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“The opposition has come together against the machinations of the current regime,” noted Kambale Musavuli, spokesperson for Friends of the Congo, a Chicago-based advocacy group. “Having them take a bold stand gives more hope to the people on the ground.

Congolese government spokesman Lambert Mendé has rejected charges that the government is promoting glissement, which he has dismissed as an “unfair accusation” (procès d’intention).

“We believe that the [electoral] commission has drawn up a calendar that will be respected,” he told the press last week.

There had earlier been speculation that Kabila – like other sitting presidents in Africa -- would change the constitution to allow him to stand for a third term.

But the idea generated strong opposition at home and abroad.

“Those test balloons were met with so much resistance from local civil society, the Catholic Church and the international community that he retreated,” analyst Stearns said in an interview from New York. “Now other options are being put on the table.”

A more significant, behind-the-scene succession battle may be taking place within the ruling coalition.

## RWANDA

### UK court frees Rwandan spy chief wanted in Spain

#### NEWS STORY

Source: Reuters

By Estelle Shirbon

**10 August 2015** - A British court on Monday freed Rwanda's intelligence chief Kareenzi Karake, who is wanted in Spain over alleged war crimes in the aftermath of the 1994 genocide, after being advised that an extradition offence could not be established in British law.

British police arrested General Karake, 54, at London's Heathrow Airport on June 22, acting on a European Arrest Warrant issued by Spain.

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Karake was a commander in the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF), the rebel force that swept through Rwanda in 1994 to halt the slaughter of 800,000 minority Tutsis orchestrated by the Hutu government. The RPF now runs the country.

The Spanish arrest warrant is in connection with allegations of reprisal killings in Rwanda and neighboring Democratic Republic of Congo in the years following the genocide. The RPF denies that Karake or others committed war crimes.

Karake's arrest angered authorities in Kigali, who described it as an "outrage", and prompted protests outside the British embassy in the Rwandan capital as well as outside Westminster Magistrates Court in London, where Karake appeared on June 25.

Rwanda's Foreign Minister Louise Mushikiwabo said in a tweet she was delighted Karake would be coming home.

"This was an unnecessary and abusive process," she said.

The court had granted Karake bail on June 25 pending full extradition proceedings. Among the lawyers who appeared in court to defend him was Cherie Blair, wife of Britain's former Prime Minister Tony Blair.

The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), which under extradition procedures was acting on behalf of the Spanish judicial authority, said Senior District Judge Howard Riddle had discharged the arrest warrant after hearing CPS legal advice.

"After careful consideration we do not believe that an extradition offence can be established under UK law. The main reason is that the relevant laws on the conduct alleged in this case do not cover the acts of non UK nationals or residents abroad," a CPS spokesman said.

The Spanish warrant stemmed from a lengthy indictment issued by a judge in 2008 against 40 senior Rwandans including Karake, who was also accused of ordering the killing of three Spanish volunteers from a medical charity in 1997.

Conflicting accounts have emerged over the years of exactly what happened in parts of Rwanda and eastern Democratic Republic of Congo where many suspected Hutu "genocidaires" fled the RPF advance in 1994 and which Rwandan forces later invaded.

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## Injured Rwandan UN Peacekeepers Flown To Kampala

### NEWS STORY

Source: News of Rwanda

**10 August 2015** - Five Rwanda Defence Force (RDF) peacekeepers who sustained injuries in Bangui on Saturday have been evacuated to Uganda for further treatment.

“Five out of the eight injured peacekeepers were evacuated to Nakasero Hospital, in Kampala, Uganda, a UN Level three Hospital for further treatment.

Three other soldiers who did not incur serious injuries continue to receive medical treatment at the MINUSCA Level two Hospital in Bangui”, said Brigadier General Joseph Nzabamwita, Defence and Military Spokesperson.

Nzabamwita said the incident occurred on 08 August 2015 at around 05:45 hours at Rwanda Battalion Headquarters (RWABATT 2) located at 5th Arrondissement SOCATEL M’POKO.

The peacekeepers were injured during the unfortunate incident yesterday in Bangui where one of the RDF soldiers serving in the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilisation Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) shot dead four RDF soldiers and injured eight others.

The RDF engaged the assailant soldier, killing him and saving the lives of other RDF peacekeepers.

Investigations so far point toward terrorism to be the motive behind the deplorable act.

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.

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## BURUNDI

### UN Security Council pushes talks to defuse Burundi crisis

#### NEWS STORY

Source: AFP

**10 August 2015** - The UN Security Council on Monday demanded that Burundi's government immediately reopen talks with the opposition to put a halt to a spiral of violence that is pushing the country to the brink.

The 15-member council backed plans by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to send a high-level UN official on an urgent mission to ease the Burundi crisis.

The council issued an appeal for dialogue after senior UN officials warned during a closed-door emergency meeting called by France that the violence was worsening in the central African country.

"Council members expressed deep concern on the political and security situation in Burundi and called for the immediate resumption of inclusive dialogue in order to achieve a lasting peace," Nigerian Ambassador Joy Ogwu told reporters following the meeting.

The ambassador, whose country holds the council presidency, said Ban would be sending an envoy soon.

The recent killing of a top general and the attempted murder of a leading human rights activist are seen as a dangerous escalation in the conflict sparked by President Pierre Nkurunziza's bid to win a third term in office.

Nkurunziza, in power since 2005, was declared the outright winner of elections last month that were boycotted by the opposition and condemned internationally as deeply flawed.

UN rights official Ivan Simonovic told the council that at least 94 people have been killed since the crisis began in April with Nkurunziza's decision to seek a third term, according to diplomats at the meeting.

About 600 people have been arrested or detained and some 40 cases of torture during police custody have been reported, he said.

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Simonovic said there was a "new worrying trend of killing of ruling party members" targeted for reprisals and score-settling following the election, a diplomat said.

The United States last week threatened to impose sanctions such as travel bans on those deemed responsible for the violence in Burundi.

Talks between the government and the opposition broke down on July 19.

## **UN: Burundi Violence Spiraling Toward Point of No Return**

### **NEWS STORY**

Source: Associated Press

**10 August 2015** - A top United Nations human rights official says the situation in Burundi has not yet reached the point of no return but is spiraling in that direction.

Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights Ivan Simonovic told The Associated Press after briefing the Security Council that the five assassinations of members of the ruling party in the past two weeks are a "disturbing" new development. Violence usually targets opposition supporters.

President Pierre Nkurunziza was re-elected last month in elections widely condemned as unfair.

Simonovic says 94 people have been killed in election-related violence, at least 40 torture cases have been documented and there's "not a single case" of accountability for rights violations.

He says "the trends are very negative."

The council on Monday called for an immediate return to political dialogue.

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## Burundi arrests over Adolphe Nshimiriman's killing

### NEWS STORY

Source: BBC

**10 August 2015** - Several people have been arrested in Burundi over the assassination of a powerful general, the prosecutor's office has said.

However, it said the "masterminds" behind the murder of Gen Adolphe Nshimirimana were still being sought.

Prominent human rights activist Pierre Claver Mbonimpa was shot and wounded in an apparent reprisal attack following Gen Nshimirimana's killing last week.

Mr Mbonimpa has been allowed to fly to Belgium for treatment.

Heavy shooting was heard in the capital, Bujumbura, on Sunday night, but it was unclear who was behind it, the AFP news agency reports.

Burundi has suffered serious unrest since President Pierre Nkurunziza's decision in April to seek a third term in office.

Opponents argued this violated the constitution, and protests broke out in parts of the country.

There was also failed coup attempt in May, as renegade generals demanded that Mr Nkurunziza steps down when his term ends.

A presidential election was held last month which Mr Nkurunziza won.

The result was rejected by the main opposition parties, but one of its leading members, Agathon Rwasa, agreed to take the post of deputy parliamentary speaker to promote reconciliation.

'Act of terrorism'

The prosecutor's office said in a statement that a military vehicle was used by Gen Nshimirimana's attackers and it was subsequently burned.

"The identities of the perpetrators are now known. A certain number have been arrested. The rest of them and the masterminds are being sought," it said.

The attackers targeted the general's car with machine guns and rocket launchers in the Kamenge district of Bujumbura.



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He was widely seen as the most powerful person in Burundi after Mr Nkurunziza.

Meanwhile, Mr Mbonimpa's daughter said the authorities had allowed him to leave for Belgium, the former colonial power.

"He will be treated there and they can do all the tests that we can't do here. We are also more reassured about his safety there," Amandine Nasagarare said, AFP reports.

The government condemned his shooting by a gunman on a motorbike last week as an act of "terrorism".

Mr Mbonimpa was a staunch critic of Mr Nkurunziza's bid to run for office again, and was said to be one of the few members of Burundi's civil society who had not fled the country.

In April, he was held without charge for more than 24 hours by the intelligence services after he called for protests against the president's efforts to secure a third term.

## CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

### Exiled Central African leader Bozize to stand at election

#### NEWS STORY

Source: Reuters

By Crispin Dembassa-Kette

**Bangui, 10 August 2015** - The former president of Central African Republic, Francois Bozize, will return from exile to contest a presidential election in October two years after he was forced from power, the leader of his Kwa Na Kwa political party said on Monday.

His return would be complicated because the government that succeeded him issued an international warrant for his arrest in 2013, accusing him of crimes against humanity and incitement to genocide. He also faces U.N. travel and banking sanctions.

Thousands of fighters from a rebel coalition called the Seleka, angered by what they said was Bozize's refusal to honor an earlier peace deal, toppled Bozize in March 2013 after 10 years in power.

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He fled to neighboring Cameroon and currently spends time in Uganda and Kenya.

His fall led to a chaotic period as the predominantly Muslim Seleka seized power, prompting reprisal attacks by "anti-balaka" Christian militia that drove tens of thousands of Muslims from the south in a de facto partition.

Although attacks in the capital have eased in recent months and a U.N. peacekeeping mission has been deployed, sporadic violence occurs.

"No electoral campaign can be conducted from a distance so Francois Bozize will come back to the country and we will do all we can so that he returns," said Bertin Bea, party secretary general.

Bea, who led the party's congress on Friday, said he spoke regularly with Bozize, 69. No law stopped the former president from being a candidate, he said, adding that it was up to transitional authorities to ensure the candidate's security.

Bozize's former Prime Minister Faustin Archange Touadera has announced his candidacy for the election set to be held on Oct. 18 with a second round if necessary on Nov. 22. The transitional court will rule on who is eligible to run.

## Traffic between Cameroon, Chad and CAR disrupted

### NEWS STORY

Source: Sporever (<http://en.starafrika.com/sport/traffic-between-cameroon-chad-and-car-disrupted.html>)

**10 August 2015** - Cross-border traffic between Cameroon, the Central African Republic and Chad has been disrupted by the activities of disparate armed groups in the two corridors. Although the land freight management office (BGFT) and the truck drivers' union were able to defuse a planned strike by lorry drivers in protest against increasing insecurity in the Douala-Bangui strip the situation has not returned to normalcy.

"There are too many checkpoints on the way. Sometimes in the process of covering a distance of 100 km, we'll have to be checked by the police or gendarmerie more than thirty times, especially between the town of Touboro in far north of Cameroon and the capital of Chad N'Djamena" a truck driver bemoaned.

Thanks to the threats from the Nigerian militant sect Boko Haram, security measures have been beefed up so much so that security agents could unload a whole cargo of goods to check the contents of vehicles causing a lot of time-wasting.

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On the Douala-Bangui corridor following the killing of a Cameroonian lorry driver two weeks ago by Central African armed gangs, traffic has been slow despite the reassurances by the Central African authorities to deploy control measures in their territory.

## REPUBLIC OF CONGO

### Congo reshuffle drops ministers against constitution change

#### NEWS STORY

Source: AFP

**Brazzaville, 10 August 2015** - Republic of Congo's President Denis Sassou Nguesso announced Monday a major cabinet reshuffle that excludes two ministers who opposed a change to the constitution that would allow the long-serving head of state to run for a third term.

Commerce minister Claudine Munari and civil service minister Guy-Brice Parfait Kolelas were removed from the government, according to a statement read on state radio and television by the president's chief of staff Firmin Ayessa.

In July the pair joined the main opposition coalition to stand against a constitutional change that would allow Sassou Nguesso, 72, to seek a new mandate in the 2016 elections.

Sassou Nguesso had convened a "national dialogue" which came out "by a large majority" in favour of amending the constitution to remove an upper limit on the age of presidential candidates as well as the number of terms the head of state can serve, effectively paving the way for him to stand for a third term.

The reshuffle saw two new figures join the government: Euloge Kolelas Landry, brother of the ousted civil service minister, was appointed to the commerce ministry, and Jean-Marc Thystere Tchicaya, who has been appointed as head of the oil ministry.

The new cabinet has 35 members, down from 37 previously, while the number of women dropped from four to three.

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Sassou Nguesso first led the Republic of Congo under a single-party system from 1979 until the introduction of multi-party politics, which culminated in elections that he lost in 1992.

He returned to power in 1997 at the end of a bitter civil war, and was elected president in 2002, then again in 2009, prompting cries of fraud from his foes.

## SOUTH SUDAN

### Opposition political parties demand more representation in new government

#### NEWS STORY

Source: Radio Tamazuj

**10 August 2015** - The leader of a South Sudan opposition party said smaller political parties have a role to play both in bringing peace to South Sudan and governing it, but warned that they are being shut out of the process.

“We have so many tools to use to bring peace in South Sudan,” said Peter Mayen, the chairperson of the People’s Liberal Party. “Our ways are always non-violent and whoever is courageous enough will follow PLP in leading the way to South Sudanese peace. On the 18 [August], if they do not sign the peace deal, we will work for peace at all costs.”

Mayen complained that Intergovernmental Authority on Development’s current proposed peace deal does not address the political needs of the country, saying it empowers the ruling Sudan People’s Liberation Movement party with near-absolute decision making authority.

The document proposes a power-sharing deal that gives the current national executive from the SPLM 53 percent of ministerial positions. An additional 33 percent go to the opposition and another 7 percent to the former detainees – all of whom are current or former SPLM party members. The remaining 7 percent goes to other political parties.

Empowering one party with such power, Mayen argued, means South Sudanese should expect little in terms of progress in improving governance – especially since the SPLM has failed the government during the current regime.

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“The SPLM failed to deliver services,” he said. “The same party caused the death of thousands of people. So being given 93 percent – the party will look at it as a reward to stop the war. This tells South Sudanese how un-sensible the SPLM party is becoming because why should you be rewarded with a position in order to stop killing your own people?”

Mayen argued that South Sudan would only move forward under true multiparty democracy.

“Entrusting the country’s affairs into the hands of one party, like in the last 10 years, has showed to us that it led to dictatorship,” he said. “It has led to marginalization, inadequate service delivery and lack of an efficiency policy in terms of resource distribution in the country.”

He called on IGAD to revise the proposed power distribution and give 20 percent to other political parties, who could serve to balance competing interests within the SPLM.

“We have to think about the innocent people who are affected,” Mayen said. “We have to think about the people who are silent without arms, yet they are South Sudanese with absolute right to have a say in the country’s politics.”

## **South Sudan top rebel commander downplays disintegration of leadership**

### **NEWS STORY**

Source: Sudan Tribune

**10 August 2015** - The overall commander of the armed forces allied to the former vice president Riek Machar in Bahr el Ghazal region, has downplayed possibility of disintegration of the movement, asserting that clashes of ideas and viewpoints are always part of normal discussions.

General Dau Aturjong Nyuol, deputy chief of general staff for training of the armed opposition forces in reaction to recent claims of division in the rebel camp, argued that diverse views on public matters enhances engagement on critical and fundamental matters.

“There is a saying that two minds are better than one. This means that if you are two or more, you will have to discuss something with different approach, even when the objective is the same. The approach may be different, just like when you are going to a

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given place which is known to the two or more people. Some will take the short cuts and others may take long. Some will use airplanes, others may use vehicles and some will have to walk but still the destination is the same,” said General Aturjong.

General Aturjong, based in Northern Bahr el Ghazal state, but who has not yet posed a significant military impact on the war in his home region, added that the objective of the movement was to transform the country so that it became feasible for anyone to participate in the nation building regardless of the means used to achieve the objective.

He accused president Salva Kiir’s government of not availing participation of the country’s citizens in the decision making process, further claiming that the government had been since squandering the wealth of the nation in corrupt manner.

“Every [thing] which the government of Salva Kiir and his friends do is cloudy. No one knows what that government does with the advance sale of oil and no one knows what it does with the international loans. Everything is done in the dark on behalf of the people and the country,” Aturjong said.

The top rebel commander said discussion about the means to achieving the objective would not divide the movement, even though it was the “wish of the government and some foreign mercenaries” to cause confusion in the leadership of the movement.

He said the rebel leadership was united and stronger than ever before. “We are all working together with comrade chairman. We want to bring this conflict to come to a speedy end because it is the interest of our people to be in peace but this should [be] the peace they will embrace and own,” he further stressed.

Aturjong pointed out that the peace agreement should address accountability, justice, system of governance, uphold democratic ideals and promote rule of law rather than promoting “rule of man and state of one man.”

He claimed that some elements in president Kiir’s government were working to cause division in the movement in order to continue to claim to stay in power through the use of divide and rule tactics.

“Some people in the government are wishing and working hard to see that there is division of the leadership. They are hoping any debate would put the movement in disorder and possibly weaken our position and support of our people,” he said.

“I think this is a little over-optimistic,” he said.

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He said the people of South Sudan knew very well that it was president Kiir and his friends in crime who started the war in rejection of democratic political processes in the country, and that they will be held accountable by the people.

Sources emanating from the government earlier alleged that they were monitoring imminent split and defection from Machar's opposition group and would welcome back to Juba those rebel commanders and officials who may decide to abandon the struggle and return to president Kiir's leadership.

However, one of the alleged senior commanders, Major General Gabriel Tanginye refuted the allegations, saying he was still loyal to the former vice president, Machar. Also another senior general, Peter Gatdet Yaka, reportedly refused to travel to the Kenyan capital, Nairobi, where the group was being organized by Gabriel Changson Chang, former rebel finance chairman, in order to make a declaration.

**DEFECTING GENERALS DEPORTED**

Reliable sources told Sudan Tribune that the generals who were planning defection in Nairobi under the leadership of Gabriel Changson Chang were deported by Kenyan authorities who denied them activity in the capital, Nairobi.

"Kenyan authorities asked them to leave within 72 hours from Sunday. The defectors planned to hold a press conference to declare their split, but Kenyan security agents stopped them. They were told not to do it in Nairobi," the source close to the defecting officials revealed on Monday.

He alleged that South Sudan's army chief of general staff, Paul Malong Awan, came to Nairobi over the weekend in order to push for the declaration and return to Juba of the rebel commanders, but the process did not succeed as Kenya opposed further splits in the rebel camp which it saw as anti-peace.

He said the defecting generals including Major General Gathoth Gatkuoth and others left on Monday for the Sudanese capital, Khartoum. There was no declaration made in Nairobi.

Other sources said there was also further divisions within the defecting officers on their next move, with some wanting to reconcile with the rebel leadership, Machar, in order to stop the idea of splitting.

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## SUDAN

### **Bashir urges Museveni to convince rebels to join Sudan's dialogue process**

#### NEWS STORY

Source: Sudan Tribune

**10 August 2015** - Sudan's president Omer al-Bashir has called on his Ugandan counterpart Yoweri Museveni to convince rebel groups to join an inclusive process his government is planning to hold inside the country to discuss issues of peace and democratic reforms.

Khartoum accuses Kampala of harbouring and supporting rebel groups fighting his government in Darfur region and South Kordofan and Blue Nile states; but the latter denies the accusations.

Foreign minister Ibrahim Ghandour on Monday handed over a message to president Museveni briefing him about the ongoing efforts to hold the national dialogue process in Sudan, said Sudanese ambassador to Ugandan Abdel Bagui Kabir.

"The message deals with the invitation of president Bashir to the Sudanese armed groups and the guarantees he announced enabling them to participate in the dialogue inside Sudan," said Kabir in statements to the official news agency SUNA.

He further said that the letter speaks about "the role that president Museveni can play by exhorting those groups to join (the political process), considering that his country hosts some of the Sudanese movements".

Sudanese forces participating in the national dialogue on 5 August agreed to launch the process next October. In a meeting chaired by al-Bashir, it was also decided to intensify efforts to involve the holdout armed groups and opposition parties in the process.

The Sudanese foreign minister represented his country in the meeting of the East African regional bloc, Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) on South Sudan.

Ambassador Kibir disclosed that Ghandour will visit South Africa and a number of African states to deliver messages from president Bashir on the government's efforts to end war and hold the national dialogue.