

Disclaimer:

This media monitoring is sent to you only for your information. The inclusion of the attached news items is not an endorsement of the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region in Africa or that of the United Nations Organization. Further use or distribution of this media monitoring must be guided accordingly.

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



MEDIA MONITORING

12 May 2015

D.R. CONGO

Secretary-General Appoints Mamadou Diallo of Guinea as Deputy Special Representative for the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Source: United Nations

New York, 11 May 2015 - United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon today announced the appointment of Mamadou Diallo (Guinea) as the Deputy Special Representative for the United Nations Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), where he will also serve as United Nations Resident Coordinator, Humanitarian Coordinator and Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

Mr. Diallo succeeds Moustapha Soumaré of Mali, who completed his assignment in March. The Secretary-General is grateful for Mr. Soumaré's outstanding contribution and dedicated service for the past three years in supporting the implementation of MONUSCO's mandate and coordinating the activities of the United Nations system in the DRC.

Mr. Diallo currently serves as the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) Regional Director for West and Central Africa. He brings to this position many years of experience with the United Nations system with over two decades of increasingly responsible managerial and leadership positions in development and humanitarian operations at the national, regional and international level.

Disclaimer:

This media monitoring is sent to you only for your information. The inclusion of the attached news items is not an endorsement of the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region in Africa or that of the United Nations Organization. Further use or distribution of this media monitoring must be guided accordingly.

Until 2012, Mr. Diallo was the United Nations Resident Coordinator, Humanitarian Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in Asmara, Eritrea. He served as Representative of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in Mali from 2005 to 2009 and in Sierra Leone from 2001 to 2005. Prior to these assignments, he served as Regional Advisor in positions dealing with maternal health and family planning issues with UNFPA in Senegal and in the DRC, and as a medical doctor and Chief of Medical Staff in Guinea.

A medical doctor from the Université de Conakry School of Medicine (Guinea), Mr. Diallo also holds a Master's Degree in Public Health from San Diego State University in California (USA) and a Diplôme spécial de santé publique from the Université catholique de Louvain (Belgium).

Mr. Diallo is married and has three children.

Seven bodies found in DR Congo's restless east

Source: AFP

At least seven bodies have been found in an eastern region of Democratic Republic of Congo where a series of massacres has left more than 300 people dead in seven months.

9 May 2015 - An AFP photographer said he saw the bodies of seven people, two of them women, being brought into the morgue in Beni.

The governor of North Kivu province, Julien Paluku, confirmed that seven bodies had been found in Matembo, a few kilometres from Beni, all of them hacked to death by machetes and axes.

He said "we do not know yet" if the killing was committed by Ugandan ADF rebels.

The Muslim rebels of the ADF, who launched an insurgency in neighbouring Uganda against President Yoweri Museveni in the mid-1990s, are accused of a series of killings in and around Beni that have left more than 300 people dead since October last year.

Men, women and children were massacred mainly with machetes and knives, prompting a joint operation by the Congolese army and UN troops to put down the jihadist fighters in December.

While a degree of calm was restored, the intervention failed to bring a halt to the killings of civilians.

Disclaimer:

This media monitoring is sent to you only for your information. The inclusion of the attached news items is not an endorsement of the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region in Africa or that of the United Nations Organization. Further use or distribution of this media monitoring must be guided accordingly.

The UN Security Council has mandated troops to take the offensive against the many armed groups active in eastern DRC, where more than two decades of unrest has displaced hundreds of thousands of people.

The latest killings, the first since the deaths of five people April 24, took place near an army base used by Congolese troops and UN peacekeepers.

UN troops ready to move against DR Congo rebels

Source: AFP

8 May 2015 - UN troops are preparing an offensive against Hutu rebels in the Democratic Republic of Congo after plans for a joint operation with the Congolese army fell through, the UN peacekeeping chief said Thursday.

Herve Ladsous told reporters following a closed-door meeting of the UN Security Council that the UN mission MONUSCO would carry out unilateral operations to drive out the Hutu militia based in eastern DR Congo.

"The Security Council has empowered us to act unilaterally. We are planning to that effect," Ladsous said.

The United Nations pulled its support for the joint operation against the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR) rebels in February after Kinshasa named two tainted generals to lead the offensive.

UN officials demanded that the two generals, who are on a UN blacklist of serious rights violators, be sacked.

Ladsous said the Congolese government "doesn't want to create conditions" that would allow MONUSCO to carry out joint operations with the armed forces.

The peacekeeping chief did not provide details of the UN mission's planned offensive, but said it would require some cooperation with the army.

The FDLR was established by ethnic Hutus who fled Rwanda following the 1994 genocide of 800,000 people, mostly minority Tutsis.

Opposed to President Paul Kagame's Tutsi-dominated government, they are accused of carrying out brutal attacks on civilians in eastern DR Congo and of smuggling gold and charcoal.

Two FDLR leaders are wanted for war crimes by the International Criminal Court.

Disclaimer:

This media monitoring is sent to you only for your information. The inclusion of the attached news items is not an endorsement of the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region in Africa or that of the United Nations Organization. Further use or distribution of this media monitoring must be guided accordingly.

The United Nations is pushing for the disarming of dozens of rebel and splinter groups after two decades of conflict in the eastern DR Congo, much of it fueled by the lucrative trade in minerals.

BURUNDI

UN Security Council weighs Burundi crisis

Source: AFP

8 May 2015 - The United Nations Security Council made an urgent appeal for calm and for fair elections in Burundi, but stopped short of addressing President Pierre Nkurunziza's decision to run for a third term.

UN special envoy Said Djinnit told the council's 15 member countries that conditions were "not ripe" for elections, according to the Lithuanian ambassador, who holds the body's rotating presidency.

Discussions are under way to move the vote to a later date in June, according to Djinnit.

The council members "called on all parties to refrain from violence," the Lithuanian envoy, Raimonda Murmokaite, said after the closed-door talks.

She said the council also "stressed the need to hold a credible, transparent, inclusive and peaceful electoral process and uphold the fundamental freedoms of opinion and assembly."

Asked about Nkurunziza's bid, Murmokaite recognized that "individual member states have different opinions so the council cannot pronounce itself on that issue because views vary."

Russia has blocked previous council initiatives seeking to take a position on Nkurunziza, saying the body should not get involved in the internal affairs of a sovereign state.

But Murmokaite insisted that the council meeting focused on the growing violence in Burundi. Protesters, meanwhile, called a one-day truce, saying the demonstrations would resume on Sunday.

US envoy Samantha Power warned of potential targeted sanctions from Washington on perpetrators of the violence.

Disclaimer:

This media monitoring is sent to you only for your information. The inclusion of the attached news items is not an endorsement of the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region in Africa or that of the United Nations Organization. Further use or distribution of this media monitoring must be guided accordingly.

She stressed that Washington considers Nkurunziza's efforts to seek a third term to be illegitimate, and urged him and his government to condemn the violence and call for restraint.

"We are seeing Burundi slide into violent turmoil," Power told reporters.

"Any further violence carries the risk of irreversible consequences."

She highlighted the distribution of weapons to youths backing the ruling party, in what she called an "extremely disturbing" development.

- Rising tensions -

Diplomats who attended the meeting, called by France, said Djinnit described the situation as tense in Burundi.

He stressed that informal discussions between opposition leaders and the government had focused on "conditions to appease the situation, but... focused on a (possible) third term" by Nkurunziza, diplomats said.

The East African Community bloc is on a fact-finding mission ahead of an emergency meeting to discuss the crisis on May 13 in Tanzania.

Djinnit said that the "EAC demands that the president publicly confirm that this will be his last term, guarantee political space for the opposition and address the flow of refugees."

More than 50,000 Burundians have fled their country since the start of political violence in April, according to the UN refugee agency UNHCR, which said that many more were trying to leave but faced hurdles.

"It is very important to illustrate the fact that the Security Council is fully mobilized to support the efforts of Said Djinnit and to stop the violence that we see and to create the conditions for a fair, transparent and inclusive election process," said French envoy Francois Delattre.

Nkurunziza, a former rebel leader from the Hutu majority who has been in power since 2005, has come under intense international pressure to withdraw.

At least 18 people have been killed, including protesters and police, and scores have been wounded since late April, when the ruling CNDD-FDD nominated Nkurunziza to stand for re-election, triggering daily protests.

Disclaimer:

This media monitoring is sent to you only for your information. The inclusion of the attached news items is not an endorsement of the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region in Africa or that of the United Nations Organization. Further use or distribution of this media monitoring must be guided accordingly.

EU, US call for Burundi election delay

Source: AFP World News

Bujumbura, 11 May 2015 - The European Union and United States called for a delay to elections in Burundi Monday after deadly protests triggered by the president's bid for a third term.

"We encourage the government of Burundi to take measures to calm the situation, and the idea of a delay in the electoral timetable would be for us a good thing," EU Special Envoy Koen Vervaeke told reporters.

US ambassador Dawn Liberi read a similar statement.

Vervaeke, speaking on behalf of the EU as well as Switzerland, said that "the minimum conditions to go for the elections are not met - that is, the freedom of the media and to demonstrate peacefully."

At least 19 people have been killed and scores wounded since late April, when the ruling CNDD-FDD nominated President Pierre Nkurunziza to stand for re-election, triggering daily protests.

Belgium, The Netherlands and Switzerland have suspended vital funding for the elections over the violence.

Belgium, the former colonial ruler, suspended aid to the electoral process in Burundi, withholding two million euros (\$2.2 million) of backing. The first half of the package, another two million euros, has already been paid.

The Netherlands and Switzerland later followed suit.

Nkurunziza, a former rebel leader from the Hutu majority who has been in power since 2005, has come under intense international pressure to withdraw from next month's election and stand down.

African Union Commission chief Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma last week warned the time was not right for elections, and that it was "clear that there shouldn't be a third term."

Hundreds of opposition supporters defied government orders to end their demonstrations Monday on the streets of the capital Bujumbura, despite the security services ripping down barricades set up during days of protests.

The youth wing of the ruling CNDD-FDD party, the Imbonerakure, is accused of carrying out attacks against opposition supporters.

Disclaimer:

This media monitoring is sent to you only for your information. The inclusion of the attached news items is not an endorsement of the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region in Africa or that of the United Nations Organization. Further use or distribution of this media monitoring must be guided accordingly.

Vervaeke said it was "very disturbing" to have weapons in the hands of groups acting outside the remit of the official security forces.

Burundi's Pierre Nkurunziza defies EU and US

Source: BBC Afrique

11 May 2015 - Burundi's President Pierre Nkurunziza has rejected EU and US calls to delay controversial elections set for June.

He told the BBC that such a move would plunge Burundi into a deeper crisis.

At least 18 people have been killed in protests against his bid for a third term and more than 50,000 have fled to neighbouring states.

Belgium said it was suspending nearly \$6m (£3.8m) in aid to Burundi, as the EU and US warned that credible elections could not be held by June.

Last week, African Union (AU) commission chief Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma also said the climate in Burundi was not conducive for elections.

Appeal for calm

Mr Nkurunziza told the BBC's Emmanuel Igunza that the protests against his third-term bid had been orchestrated by "outside forces" and the deaths were regrettable.

Burundi's opposition and civil society groups insist that Mr Nkurunziza's third-term bid is unconstitutional and he should step down.

But the president argues his first term does not count as he was appointed by parliament, not directly elected by the people. Last week, the constitutional court backed this interpretation.

Mr Nkurunziza, a former rebel leader, has ruled Burundi for nearly 10 years.

Protests against Mr Nkurunziza continued in parts of the capital, Bujumbura, on Monday.

The protests have taken place almost daily since Mr Nkurunziza announced his re-election bid on 25 April.

Disclaimer:

This media monitoring is sent to you only for your information. The inclusion of the attached news items is not an endorsement of the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region in Africa or that of the United Nations Organization. Further use or distribution of this media monitoring must be guided accordingly.

"We encourage the government of Burundi to take measures to calm the situation, and the idea of a delay in the electoral timetable would be for us a good thing," EU special envoy Koen Vervaeke said at a press conference in Bujumbura.

US ambassador Dawn Liberi read a similar statement, AFP reports.

Belgium, Burundi's former colonial power, said it would withhold about \$2.2m it had pledged to help organise the elections.

It also said that it would pull out of a \$3.5m police cooperation deal with Burundi.

Burundi's police have repeatedly been accused of using violence to end the protests.

The US has warned that Mr Nkurunziza's re-election bid violates a peace accord which officially ended a 12-year civil war in the poor central African state.

Some 300,000 people were killed in the conflict.

Regional fears as Burundi crisis shows no sign of ending

Source: AFP World News

Nairobi, 11 May 2015 - Burundian President Pierre Nkurunziza's insistence on running for a third term has already sparked deadly protests at home and now threatens to destabilise an already volatile region.

Analysts warn that without an urgent solution, the current street protests in Burundi could escalate into a regional crisis that spreads far beyond the small central African country, including fears it might draw in neighbouring Rwanda, and create far more refugees than the 50,000 who have already fled.

Beyond the demonstrations in Bujumbura, the bigger concern is that the current crisis could jeopardise the Arusha Agreement, which brought peace to Burundi after years of civil war.

The deal included an ethnic power-sharing formula that helped end fighting that raged from 1993 to 2006 between the mostly Tutsi army and predominately Hutu rebel groups.

"The return to violence would not only end the peace progressively restored since the Arusha agreement, it would also have destabilising consequences in the region and mark a failure in peace building," the International Crisis Group said in a report issued before the protests began.

Disclaimer:

This media monitoring is sent to you only for your information. The inclusion of the attached news items is not an endorsement of the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region in Africa or that of the United Nations Organization. Further use or distribution of this media monitoring must be guided accordingly.

"The country's relapse into violence would be a pitiful outcome for the guarantors of the Arusha agreement and could fuel regional crisis."

- Rebels and ethnic conflict -

At least 19 people have been killed and scores wounded since late April when the ruling CNDD-FDD -- a Hutu-dominated party -- nominated Nkurunziza for re-election.

The United Nations has warned that 400,000 people could be affected in a worst-case scenario should upcoming elections turn violent.

Leaders of the five-nation East African Community -- made up of Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda as well as Burundi -- are to hold an emergency meeting to discuss the crisis on Wednesday in Tanzania.

Democratic Republic of Congo President Joseph Kabila and South Africa's Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa are also due to attend.

Burundi's 13-year civil war between ethnic Tutsis and Hutus ended in 2006, but the region still struggles with the same tensions and the knock-on effects of each other's crises.

Eastern DR Congo has been ravaged by decades of conflict, with the lawless region allowing the growth of rebel groups that reflect regional ethnic and political government and opposition forces.

Tanzania, which has hosted vast numbers of refugees from multiple rounds of conflict, is also worried.

More importantly, neighbouring Rwanda, where a Tutsi-led government has been in power since the 1994 genocide, in which 800,000 mainly Tutsis were slaughtered by extremist Hutu killers, has signalled its concern.

- Regional crisis summit -

"If your citizens tell you we don't want you to lead us, how do you say 'I am staying whether you want me or not'?" Rwandan President Paul Kagame said last week.

Kagame, whose repression of opposition at home infuriates key allies like the United States, is widely believed to be wanting to change the constitution to seek a third term -- but to do so by organising a referendum that critics say is already a done deal.

Disclaimer:

This media monitoring is sent to you only for your information. The inclusion of the attached news items is not an endorsement of the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region in Africa or that of the United Nations Organization. Further use or distribution of this media monitoring must be guided accordingly.

Burundi has rejected Rwandan allegations that some of the violence is linked to Rwandan ethnic Hutu rebels of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR) -- a group Kigali has previously sent troops into DR Congo to target.

The Imbonerakure, the militant youth wing of Nkurunziza's CNDD-FDD rebel group turned ruling party, is accused of possible links to the FDLR.

"While we respect Burundi's sovereignty in addressing internal matters, Rwanda considers the safety of innocent population as a regional and international responsibility," Rwanda's Foreign Minister Louise Mushikiwabo said last week.

Mushikiwabo said Rwanda "takes seriously" the reports of FDLR involvement.

"Rwanda cannot allow an escalation of a crisis on its borders," said Christian Thibon, a Burundi expert at France's University of Pau.

Analysts say Burundi's crisis bolsters regional leaders' justification for strong rule -- especially in Kigali's eyes.

Nkurunziza's actions "justify the continuation of their own authoritarian management and their prominent role as guarantors of law and order in the region", said regional specialist Andre Guichaoua.

If violence escalates, then Rwanda "may be tempted to impose a settlement on the FDLR throughout the region," said a regional analyst, on condition of anonymity.

Sommet est-africain sur le Burundi le 13 mai

Source: Reuters

Par Fumbuka Ng'wanakilala et Patrick Nduwimana; Guy Kerivel

10 Mai 2015 - Un sommet des dirigeants des pays d'Afrique de l'Est consacré à la crise politique au Burundi se tiendra le 13 mai en Tanzanie, a annoncé le Président tanzanien Jakaya Kikwete.

Dix-neuf personnes ont péri dans des affrontements au Burundi entre les forces de sécurité et les manifestants qui dénoncent la candidature du président Pierre Nkurunziza à un troisième mandat le mois prochain.

"Nous avons accepté de nous réunir (...) pour examiner les moyens de venir en aide à nos frères et à nos soeurs du Burundi dans l'organisation d'élections qui assureront à

Disclaimer:

This media monitoring is sent to you only for your information. The inclusion of the attached news items is not an endorsement of the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region in Africa or that of the United Nations Organization. Further use or distribution of this media monitoring must be guided accordingly.

leur nation l'unité, la paix et la sécurité', a dit le président tanzanien dans un communiqué publié tard samedi soir.

Les présidents de la Tanzanie, de l'Ouganda, du Kenya, du Rwanda et du Burundi, dont les pays forment la Communauté d'Afrique de l'Est (EAC), devraient assister à ce sommet extraordinaire à Dar es Salaam.

Pour préparer cette réunion, le président Kikwete, qui préside actuellement l'EAC, a dépêché au Burundi plusieurs ministres des Affaires étrangères des pays de la région.

A Bujumbura, la capitale du Burundi, les manifestations contre la nouvelle candidature de Nkurunziza se poursuivent.

Le principal dirigeant de l'opposition, Agathon Rwasa, a demandé à la commission électorale de repousser les élections législatives prévues ce mois-ci et la présidentielle du 26 juin, à laquelle il est candidat.

L'opposition estime que la candidature du chef de l'Etat viole la Constitution et l'accord de paix d'Arusha qui a mis fin à la guerre civile en 2005.

Le Conseil constitutionnel a donné cette semaine son feu vert au président, qu'il juge en droit de se présenter à nouveau dans la mesure où il n'a pas été élu au suffrage universel pour son premier mandat.

Le procureur de la Cour pénale internationale (CPI) de La Haye, Fatou Bensouda, a publié vendredi un communiqué soulignant que la Cour "suivra de près les événements au Burundi dans les semaines à venir et prendra note de tout acte de violence ou de toute incitation à la violence".

Aux Nations unies, la représentante américaine Samantha Power a fait état d'informations crédibles selon lesquelles des armes sont distribuées aux miliciens qui soutiennent le président Nkurunziza. A l'issue d'une réunion à huis clos du Conseil de sécurité consacrée vendredi au Burundi, elle a affirmé que Washington n'hésitera pas à imposer des sanctions aux responsables de nouvelles violences.

Plus de 50.000 Burundais se sont réfugiés au Rwanda, en Tanzanie et en République démocratique du Congo de crainte d'une nouvelle guerre civile.

Disclaimer:

This media monitoring is sent to you only for your information. The inclusion of the attached news items is not an endorsement of the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region in Africa or that of the United Nations Organization. Further use or distribution of this media monitoring must be guided accordingly.

Tanzanie : des Burundais cherchent asile

Source: BBC

11 Mai 2015 - Quelque 20 mille Burundais fuyant les violences chez eux cherchent asile en Tanzanie voisine.

Le nombre de déplacés dépasse déjà les capacités des organisations humanitaires locales et internationales, a constaté Tulanana Bohela de la BBC.

A Kagunga, près du lac Tanganyika, sont déjà arrivés des milliers de Burundais, dont environ huit mille femmes et enfants.

Quelques agents de sécurité tanzaniens et des Nations unies tentent d'organiser l'accueil des réfugiés.

Environ deux mille personnes arrivent chaque jour à la frontière entre le Burundi et la Tanzanie. Les organisations humanitaires ont de la peine à leur assurer de bonnes conditions d'accueil.

Robert, l'un des réfugiés, a fait venir les membres de sa famille à la frontière, par voie maritime.

"Mon père et ma mère sont morts lors de la guerre, en 1993. Pourquoi la guerre reprend-elle? Une guerre tous les cinq ans! Comment pouvons-nous vivre dans cette situation? S'ils peuvent nous garantir une paix durable, alors nous pourrions retourner chez nous", a commenté Robert.

Mchume Hadija, qui a mis au monde un enfant quelques heures seulement avant la traversée maritime, a dit à la BBC avoir pris la fuite pour la survie du nouveau-né.

Elle fait partie des nombreux réfugiés arrivés à la frontière à bord du MV Liemba, un navire centenaire.

"J'ai entendu dire que les gens se battaient à Bujumbura et à Rumonge. Quand j'ai vu mes voisins s'en aller, moi aussi j'ai pris mes bagages", a expliqué Hadija.

La Tanzanie a souvent accueilli des réfugiés burundais. Elle a accordé la nationalité à des milliers de ressortissants du Burundi qui ont fui leur pays, par le passé.

Disclaimer:

This media monitoring is sent to you only for your information. The inclusion of the attached news items is not an endorsement of the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region in Africa or that of the United Nations Organization. Further use or distribution of this media monitoring must be guided accordingly.

Le Burundi, l'allumette qui va embraser la région des Grands Lacs?

Source: Belga

Exode de réfugiés, possible intervention militaire rwandaise: si elle s'embrase, la crise burundaise pourrait avoir de graves conséquences dans la très instable Afrique des Grands Lacs.

11 Mai 2015 - Pour les analystes, le risque que dégénèrent les manifestations d'opposition à un troisième mandat du président Pierre Nkurunziza et la répression du mouvement est réel. Et l'une des clés est entre les mains des dirigeants d'une région marquée par les conflits transnationaux. Massacres interethniques et guerre civile entre Hutu et Tutsi au Burundi, génocide des Tutsi au Rwanda en 1994, féroces rébellions politico-ethniques et guerres régionales dans l'est de la République démocratique du Congo (RDC) voisine: l'Afrique des Grands Lacs a été traversée ces dernières décennies par plusieurs crises interconnectées qui ont provoqué d'innombrables vagues de réfugiés dont la Tanzanie aussi a accueilli sont lot. "Compte tenu des interdépendances et interconnexions entre les pouvoirs de la région et entre leurs oppositions, une rechute du Burundi dans la violence accroît le risque d'embrassement régional", notait l'International Crisis Group (ICG) dans un rapport publié avant le début des manifestations. Les dirigeants de la Communauté d'Afrique de l'est (Burundi, Rwanda, Tanzanie, Kenya, Ouganda) se réunissent mercredi à Dar es-Salaam pour discuter du dossier. Seront aussi présents le président congolais Joseph Kabila et le vice-président sud-africain Cyril Ramaphosa pour représenter son chef de l'Etat Jacob Zuma, l'un des parrains des accords d'Arusha conclus en 2000 pour clore la longue guerre civile burundaise. Le Rwandais Paul Kagame, arrivé au pouvoir à la tête d'une rébellion tutsi qui avait mis fin au génocide et qui jusqu'à ces deux dernières années composait avec le pouvoir de Pierre Nkurunziza issu de l'ex-rébellion hutu du Cndd-FDD, a donné un aperçu de la pression qui pourrait être exercée sur celui-ci pour qu'il se retire: "Si vos propres concitoyens vous disent: +nous ne voulons pas que vous fassiez ça ou que vous nous dirigiez+ (...) Comment pouvez-vous alors dire: +je reste, que vous vouliez de moi ou non+? ", a-t-il lancé vendredi. M. Nkurunziza n'est plus fréquentable, "il faut s'en démarquer, et il est important de le faire savoir", note un expert sous le couvert de l'anonymat. D'autant qu'en se démarquant de la gestion du pouvoir burundais - les violences autour des manifestations ont déjà fait près de vingt morts et des dizaines de milliers de Burundais, terrorisés par le climat pré-électoral, ont fui dans les pays voisins -, certains leaders régionaux peuvent en profiter pour redorer leur image.

"Que le président burundais cède à la rue ou fasse preuve de "détermination", les désordres induits justifient à leurs yeux la poursuite de leur propre gestion autoritaire et

Disclaimer:

This media monitoring is sent to you only for your information. The inclusion of the attached news items is not an endorsement of the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region in Africa or that of the United Nations Organization. Further use or distribution of this media monitoring must be guided accordingly.

leur rôle éminent de garants du maintien de l'ordre dans la région", explique André Guichaoua, spécialiste des Grands lacs. C'est surtout vrai pour Paul Kagame, dont la répression de la dissidence à domicile indispose des alliés-clés comme les Etats-Unis et qui est lui-même soupçonné de vouloir changer la Constitution pour briguer un troisième mandat, mais de le faire en organisant un référendum que les observateurs disent gagné d'avance. "Les Rwandais sont au centre" de cette histoire burundaise, note le spécialiste Christian Thibon. Si la crise burundaise s'aggravait, débouchant sur de nouveaux massacres ethniques - la majorité des Burundais qui ont fui sont des Tutsi se disant victimes d'intimidation de la part des jeunes du parti au pouvoir au Burundi qu'est devenu le Cndd-FDD (les Imbonerakure) - le Rwanda pourrait être tenté de déployer son armée, comme en 1998 en RDC. Kigali avait alors expliqué intervenir pour chasser les responsables présumés du génocide de 1994, notamment les rebelles hutu des Forces démocratiques de Libération du Rwanda (FDLR) qui s'étaient réfugiés en territoire congolais. Son intervention avait déclenché une guerre régionale.

La tentation d'une nouvelle intervention pourrait être d'autant plus forte que des connexions ont été établies entre groupes hutu de la région: les Imbonerakure, rendus responsables de certains morts depuis le début de la crise burundaise, sont accusés de s'être entraînés en RDC. Kigali s'est aussi inquiété de la présence de FDLR au Burundi. Si le Rwanda arrive "à démontrer que les Imbonerakure tuent, et même de montrer qu'il y a des FDLR dans le lot et si des Tutsi fuient, alors (...) ils peuvent être tentés d'imposer un règlement FDLR à toute la région", résume l'analyste ayant requis l'anonymat, en référence à un groupe que Kigali qualifie de menace à sa sécurité et qu'il veut éradiquer. "Le Rwanda ne peut pas laisser se radicaliser une crise à ses frontières", résume M. Thibon. Même la Tanzanie, en délicatesse avec Kigali et en plutôt bons termes avec le Burundi de M. Nkurunziza, peut désormais difficilement défendre un président qui, en briguant un troisième mandat après dix ans de pouvoir, bafoue les accords de réconciliation signés à Arusha. "Les Tanzaniens ont porté Arusha, ils ne peuvent pas tolérer qu'on les transgresse", glisse le même expert.

UE, Etats-Unis et Suisse demandent un report des élections

L'Union européenne, les Etats-Unis et la Suisse ont appelé lundi le gouvernement burundais à reporter les élections alors que le pays est en proie depuis fin avril à des manifestations émaillées de violences contre un troisième mandat du président Pierre Nkurunziza.

"Nous avons encouragé fortement le gouvernement burundais à prendre des mesures d'apaisement et l'idée d'un glissement du calendrier électoral serait à nos yeux une bonne chose", a déclaré l'envoyé spécial de l'UE pour la région, Koen Vervaeke, s'exprimant aussi au nom de la Suisse et des Etats-Unis lors d'une réunion mensuelle

Disclaimer:

This media monitoring is sent to you only for your information. The inclusion of the attached news items is not an endorsement of the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region in Africa or that of the United Nations Organization. Further use or distribution of this media monitoring must be guided accordingly.

entre les Européens et le gouvernement auxquels se sont exceptionnellement joints les deux autres pays.

L'ambassadrice américaine, Dawn Liberi, a lu une déclaration similaire en anglais.

Au cours de cette réunion, les Pays-Bas et la Suisse ont aussi annoncé la suspension de leur aide électorale au Burundi, se joignant à une précédente déclaration faite dans le même sens par la Belgique, ex-puissance colonisatrice du pays.

ICC 'closely' watching Burundi violence

Source: AFP

9 May 2015 - International Criminal Court chief prosecutor Fatou Bensouda warned Friday her office would closely monitor the run-up to elections in Burundi and would not hesitate to prosecute perpetrators of "mass violence".

Tensions are rising in the central African country ahead of planned polls in May and June, with at least 18 people killed since late April in protests over President Pierre Nkurunziza's controversial bid for a third term in office.

"My office... will be closely following developments in Burundi in the weeks to come and record any instance of incitement or resorting to violence," Bensouda said in a statement.

"Any person who incites or engages in acts of mass violence... is liable to prosecution before the Court," Bensouda said in the statement from ICC headquarters in the Dutch city of The Hague, expressing concern about "reports that violence ahead of the elections may escalate".

Burundi's capital Bujumbura erupted in protests after the ruling CNDD-FDD in late April nominated Nkurunziza, in power since 2005, to stand for reelection.

Opposition parties and civil society groups say his third-term bid violates the constitution, which limits a president to two terms, and the accords that ended a 13-year civil war between Tutsis and Hutus in 2006.

The constitutional court dismissed the concerns however, ruling that Nkurunziza's first term term did not count as he was elected by parliament, not directly by the people.

Over 50,000 Burundians have fled the country in recent weeks, mostly to Rwanda.

Disclaimer:

This media monitoring is sent to you only for your information. The inclusion of the attached news items is not an endorsement of the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region in Africa or that of the United Nations Organization. Further use or distribution of this media monitoring must be guided accordingly.

Burundi, which is still recovering from a 13-year civil war between Hutus and Tutsis that ended in 2006, has been a state party to the ICC since 2004.

General elections are scheduled for May 26 and the presidential election for June 26.

UGANDA

Uganda prepares to extradite ADF rebel leader

Source: APA

9 May 2015 - Uganda Police have kicked off the process that would have Allied Democratic Front's rebel leader, Jamil Mukulu extradited from Tanzania where he is believed to be held. Police spokesperson Fred Enanga said that a delegation of Uganda Police appeared before the Tanzanian high court yesterday to file for the extradition of a suspect they believe is Jamil Mukulu.

The suspect believed to be Jamil Mukulu has been in custody in Tanzania for about a month pending formal identification from International Police (Interpol).

The Interpol Director in Uganda Asan Kasingye and the director counter terrorism John Ndugutse are in Tanzania to file the application for Jamil Mukulu's extradition as required by the Interpol extradition procedure and proceedings.

Extradition is a legal process by which a person suspected or convicted of committing a criminal offense is transferred from one country to another for purposes of prosecution or to serve a sentence already imposed.

Extradition is regulated by domestic and international law and non-binding agreements; the exact procedure for an extradition request to be considered and for an individual to be extradited will depend on both the law of the requested State and the terms of the relevant extradition treaty or agreement.

In Jamil Mukulu's case, Uganda Government has to prove that the offense he is charged for is not a political but criminal one.

The government has also to prove that the suspect is actually Jamil Mukulu.

Jamil Mukulu is wanted in Uganda on charges of treason, crimes against humanity and over 20 counts of aggravated murder for his alleged involvement in the killing of Muslim sheikhs.

Disclaimer:

This media monitoring is sent to you only for your information. The inclusion of the attached news items is not an endorsement of the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region in Africa or that of the United Nations Organization. Further use or distribution of this media monitoring must be guided accordingly.

Uganda and Tanzania have two functional extradition treaties on which Mukulu is likely to be extradited on, The East African treaty and the common wealth treaty.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Clashes disrupt Central African Republic peace forum

Source: Reuters

12 May 2015 - The United Nations peacekeepers in Central African Republic shot in the air on Monday and used tear gas to disperse gunmen who tried to disrupt a forum aimed at helping restore peace to the country, witnesses said.

The incident took place as the Bangui Forum was drawing to an end, highlighting the simmering tensions in the country, where thousands have been killed and hundreds of thousands displaced during waves of violence.

No injuries were reported at the incident.

Former members of the mainly Muslim Seleka rebel force and members of their arch rival 'anti-balaka' militia together paralysed central Bangui to protest that the peace forum had not resulted in the freeing of members detained by the government.

Some of the several hundred protestors also called for the resignation of Catherine Samba-Panza, the interim president tasked with guiding the country to elections.

War crimes

A French helicopter flew overhead but did not intervene as UN peacekeepers broke up the protest.

The seizure of Bangui by Seleka in March 2013 led to tit-for-tat killings as 'anti-balaka' militia fought back against violence instigated by rebels once they were in power.

The violence forced French and then UN troops to intervene as UN officials warned that the country was on the brink of genocide.

Insecurity has eased and armed groups agreed on Sunday to a peace accord requiring them to disarm and potentially face justice for war crimes committed during the conflict.

However, the incident highlighted the potential for violence and questions remain over whether the vote, due this summer, will be held on time.

Disclaimer:

This media monitoring is sent to you only for your information. The inclusion of the attached news items is not an endorsement of the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region in Africa or that of the United Nations Organization. Further use or distribution of this media monitoring must be guided accordingly.

RCA: heurts à Bangui lors de la clôture du Forum de réconciliation

Source: RFI

En République centrafricaine, le Forum de Bangui s'est achevé ce lundi 11 mars. Un rendez-vous qui avait été pris pour offrir une sortie de crise au pays. Mais en fin de journée, avant même que les conclusions du Forum soient présentées, des tirs ont éclaté devant l'Assemblée nationale.

11 Mai 2015 - Cette cérémonie voulait être un symbole de paix et d'unité ; elle aura finalement illustré la fragilité de la situation en Centrafrique et la difficulté de trouver un accord. A peine la lecture des recommandations du Forum terminée, des éclats de voix ont commencé à se faire entendre et plusieurs leaders anti-balaka sont sortis en colère, en criant que leurs revendications n'avaient pas été prises en compte dans les résolutions finales et qu'ils n'en resteraient pas là.

Un peu plus tard, se sont fait entendre devant l'Assemblée de transition, des tirs de kalachnikov, des explosions de grenades et des tirs de gaz lacrymogène de la Minusca. Des barrages sont apparus dans différents quartiers de la ville. Certains témoins disent avoir vu, avec surprise, des anti-balaka et des ex-Seleka réunis dans cette contestation.

Les leaders anti-balaka nient ce lundi soir toute responsabilité dans ce qui s'est passé, mais leurs discours traduisent bien l'état de nervosité de leurs troupes. « Nous ne reconnaissons pas le Forum de Bangui parce que nos revendications n'ont pas été prises en compte, déclare ainsi un général. Nous, les Seleka et les anti-balaka, ont été ensemble parce que le gouvernement nous a abandonnés. » A ses côtés, le lieutenant Konaté réclame la prise en compte des revendications anti-balaka pour que « le Forum de Bangui ne soit pas un fiasco ». Il cite comme revendications la libération des combattants anti-balaka incarcérés à Ngaragba ou la prise en compte des éléments anti-balaka venus des forces armées, les FACA.

Accord de démobilisation des milices en Centrafrique

Source: Reuters

Par Sebastien Lamba, Serge Leger Kokpakpa et Jean-Philippe Lefief

Bangui, 10 Mai 2015 - Les ex-rebelles centrafricains de la Séléka et leurs rivaux anti-balaka ont conclu dimanche à Bangui un accord de désarmement, de démobilisation et de réinsertion.

Disclaimer:

This media monitoring is sent to you only for your information. The inclusion of the attached news items is not an endorsement of the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region in Africa or that of the United Nations Organization. Further use or distribution of this media monitoring must be guided accordingly.

Le texte a été signé avec le ministère de la Défense dans le cadre du Forum de Bangui organisé pour tourner la page du conflit qui a fait plusieurs milliers de morts et plus d'un million de déplacées depuis 2013.

" Combattants de tous les groupes armés acceptent et s'engagent à mettre une fin définitive aux conflits armés en République centrafricaine", peut-on y lire.

"Il s'engagent à déposer les armes et à renoncer à la lutte armée comme moyen de revendication politique et à suivre le processus de désarmement, de démobilisation, de réinsertion et de rapatriement (DDRR)".

Les 10.000 casques bleus de la Minusca, qui ont pris le relais de la force française Sangaris, veilleront à la mise en oeuvre de l'accord. Il prévoit en outre la création d'un tribunal spécial pour juger les crimes de guerre.

Le forum de Bangui rassemble quelque 580 représentants des partis politiques, des milices, de la société civile et des religions, ainsi que des émissaires des pays voisins, de l'Union africaine, de la France et des Nations unies.

Ban welcomes Central Africa's peace pact as reflection of people's aspirations

Source: Indian Blooms

12 May 2015 - The Bangui National Forum was held from 4 to 11 May 2015 and produced the Republican Pact for Peace, National Reconciliation and Reconstruction at its conclusion today.

In a statement released by Ban's spokesman, the Secretary-General commended the Transitional Authorities and the armed groups for the signature of an agreement on the principles for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration.

He also called for its swift and full implementation.

"The Bangui Forum is the result of a historic and inclusive process that amplified the voices of local representatives, women, youth, and civil society," the note said.

The Secretary-General also welcomed the leading role played by women throughout the Forum and encouraged the Transitional Government, with the support of the UN and the international community, to implement the Forum's recommendations "without delay."

Disclaimer:

This media monitoring is sent to you only for your information. The inclusion of the attached news items is not an endorsement of the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region in Africa or that of the United Nations Organization. Further use or distribution of this media monitoring must be guided accordingly.

Le forum de Bangui recommande le report des élections en RCA

Source: Reuters

Par Sebastien Lamba; Jean-Stéphane Brosse

Bangui, 10 Mai 2015 - Le forum de réconciliation nationale en République centrafricaine s'est prononcé samedi pour le report des élections présidentielle et législatives prévues en juin ou juillet, que l'Autorité nationale des élections (ANE) a jugé impossible d'organiser dans ces délais.

Les délégués à cette réunion ont recommandé la mise en place d'un nouveau calendrier électoral sur la base de consultations entre l'ANE, le gouvernement de transition et les médiateurs régionaux et internationaux.

Ils ont également souhaité la prolongation du mandat du gouvernement transitoire, qui expire en août prochain.

Dans un rapport présenté cette semaine devant le forum, l'ANE a souligné que l'organisation d'élections d'ici juin ou juillet serait impossible en raison du manque de matériel électoral, des difficultés logistiques liées à la saison des pluies et de la persistance de poches d'insécurité dans le pays. L'ANE a également relevé qu'un quart seulement du budget nécessaire à cette organisation était pour l'instant réuni. Le forum de Bangui, qui rassemble quelque 580 représentants des partis politiques, des milices, de la société civile et des religions, ainsi que des émissaires des pays voisins, de l'Union africaine, de la France et des Nations unies, vise à mettre fin à des années de violences qui ont fait des milliers de morts et plus d'un million de personnes déplacées en RCA.

US urges probe of UN handling of Central Africa abuse charges

Source: Reuters

9 May 2015 - The United States on Friday described as horrifying accusations of sexual abuse of children by French and African troops in Central African Republic, and called for a separate inquiry into how the United Nations handled the allegations.

An internal UN report detailed the alleged abuse by troops from France, Chad and Equatorial Guineabetween December 2013 and June 2014 at a center for displaced people at M'Poko airport in the Central African Republic capital, Bangui.

Disclaimer:

This media monitoring is sent to you only for your information. The inclusion of the attached news items is not an endorsement of the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region in Africa or that of the United Nations Organization. Further use or distribution of this media monitoring must be guided accordingly.

The accusations came to light in April after the UN report summarizing victim interviews was leaked. The six-page document said the young children who were interviewed alleged they had performed oral sex on the French troops. The soldiers from Equatorial Guinea and Chad were accused of sodomizing children.

"The allegations are completely horrific," US Ambassador to the United Nations Samantha Power said. "If these allegations prove true, it is such a profound violation, not only of the dignity and physical security of individuals in their most vulnerable state, but it is a complete abrogation of trust.

"They are certainly very credible and very disturbing allegations," she told reporters.

French prosecutors opened a preliminary inquiry into the claims last July, and said on Thursday they would open an investigation after written consultation with the author of the UN report.

A UN staff member has admitted leaking an unredacted report on the investigation with the victims' names before it reached top management in the UN's Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. The United Nations said that was "a serious breach of protocol" that could endanger victims.

"In terms of the UN and the member state's handling of the issue, I think it is extremely important that an impartial investigation be done also of that, on top of investigating the allegations themselves," Power said.

Power said it was "extremely important that any individual who comes into possession of allegations of this gravity acts swiftly, (but) it is also extremely important that victim and witness safety be a very significant, a primary consideration."

UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric said there was an internal UN investigation of the staff member who leaked the report.

"Obviously, there will come a time, I think, when we will need to take a look at how this issue was handled," he said.

France intervened in Central African Republic, a former French colony, some 18 months ago to help an African Union peacekeeping force try and stem violence between Christian militias and largely Muslim Seleka rebels. The United Nations took over the African peacekeeping force in September.

Disclaimer:

This media monitoring is sent to you only for your information. The inclusion of the attached news items is not an endorsement of the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region in Africa or that of the United Nations Organization. Further use or distribution of this media monitoring must be guided accordingly.

SOUTH SUDAN

Soudan du Sud : plus de 300.000 personnes ont besoin d'aide (ONU)

Source: ONU, Agence de presse Xinhua

11 Mai 2015 - Les Nations Unies ont déclaré lundi que plus de 300.000 personnes ont besoin d'aide dans l'Etat d'Unité, Etat riche en pétrole du Soudan du Sud.

"Les hostilités qui ont éclaté dans l'Etat d'Unité obligent maintenant toutes les organisations non-gouvernementales et les agences onusiennes à évacuer leurs employés de Leer et des autres endroits", a déclaré Toby Lanzer, coordinateur humanitaire de l'ONU au Soudan du Sud, dans un communiqué lundi.

Selon lui, la réponse humanitaire au sud de Bentiu dans l'Etat d'Unité a été "suspendue".

"Par conséquent, plus de 300.000 civils qui ont besoin d'une aide d'urgence, notamment d'une aide alimentaire et de services médicaux, n'ont actuellement pas accès à l'aide médicale", a souligné M. Lanzer.

D'après les Nations Unies, près de 100.000 personnes ont été déracinées la semaine prochaine à cause des combats au Soudan du Sud.

A cause des combats violents, Médecins Sans Frontières et le Comité international de la Croix Rouge ont déclaré séparément samedi qu'ils allaient retirer leurs équipes de Leer.

Le Soudan du Sud, devenu indépendant en 2011, a sombré dans la violence en décembre 2013, lorsque les combats ont éclaté entre les troupes fidèles au président Salva Kiir et leurs rivaux menés par Riek Machar.

Le conflit s'est vite transformé en une guerre, les violences prenant une dimension ethniques opposant les Dinka, la tribu du président, au Nuer, groupe ethnique de Riek Machar.

Les affrontements ont fait des milliers de victimes et obligé près de 1,9 millions de personnes à fuir leurs maisons.

Disclaimer:

This media monitoring is sent to you only for your information. The inclusion of the attached news items is not an endorsement of the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region in Africa or that of the United Nations Organization. Further use or distribution of this media monitoring must be guided accordingly.

Week of violence uproots 100,000 in South Sudan: UN

Source: Press TV

9 May 2015 - The United Nations says up to 100,000 South Sudanese people have fled their homes over the past week due to heavy fighting between government troops and rebel forces in the country's northern oil-rich state of Unity.

Toby Lanzer, the UN's humanitarian coordinator in South Sudan, said in a statement released on Friday that the ongoing violence south of the town of Bentiu in Unity State has uprooted up to 100,000 people from their homes since early May.

"Civilians living in the areas of and around Guit, Ngop and Nhialdu have been particularly struck by violence and, in an attempt to avoid it, have fled," Lanzer added.

South Sudan plunged into violence in December 2013, when fighting erupted between troops loyal to the government of President Salva Kiir and defectors led by his former deputy, Riek Machar, around the capital, Juba.

Lanzer called on both sides to allow aid workers to access the worst-hit places, as agencies are at the moment unable to reach the areas to assess and respond to the residents' needs.

"I call on state and non-state armed actors alike to take all measures to prevent civilians from being hurt or displaced, and to facilitate fully the work of aid agencies responding to the needs of populations, based on the principles of humanity, impartiality and neutrality," said Lanzer.

The UN official emphasized that under international humanitarian law all warring sides in the conflict are obliged to protect civilians adding, "People should never be harmed, and certainly not targeted or forced to flee from their homes."

According to the UN, since the fighting broke out 17 months ago over 2,000,000 South Sudanese have fled their homes, with more than 520,000 of them seeking refuge in neighboring Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan and Uganda.

In addition, the international body has said tens of thousands of people have been killed during the war in the world's youngest country, with the clashes leaving more than half of its 12 million people in need of aid, including 2.5 million people who are facing severe food insecurity.

Both army soldiers and rebel forces have been accused of widespread atrocities during the violence. The two sides have held several rounds of peace talks, but the

Disclaimer:

This media monitoring is sent to you only for your information. The inclusion of the attached news items is not an endorsement of the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region in Africa or that of the United Nations Organization. Further use or distribution of this media monitoring must be guided accordingly.

negotiations have so far failed to produce a lasting truce deal between the conflicting sides.

TANZANIA

Le président Bouteflika s'entretient avec son homologue tanzanien

Source: <http://www.aps.dz/algerie/22693-le-pr%C3%A9sident-bouteflika-s-entretient-avec-son-homologue-tanzanien>

Alger, 10 Mai 2015 - Le président de la République, Abdelaziz Bouteflika, s'est entretenu dimanche avec son homologue tanzanien, Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, en visite d'Etat de trois jours en Algérie.

L'entretien s'est déroulé en présence du président du Conseil de la nation, Abdelkader Bensalah, du Premier ministre, Abdelmalek Sellal, du ministre d'Etat, directeur de cabinet de la présidence de la République, Ahmed Ouyahia, du ministre des Affaires étrangères, Ramtane Lamamra, du ministre de l'Industrie et des Mines, Abdeslem Bouchouareb et du ministre délégué chargé des Affaires maghrébines et africaines, Abdelkader Messahel.

Le président tanzanien avait entamé samedi une visite d'Etat en Algérie à l'invitation du président de la République, Abdelaziz Bouteflika.

Cette visite "qui vient renforcer les relations traditionnelles de fraternité et de solidarité entre l'Algérie et la Tanzanie, offrira l'occasion de "procéder à une évaluation exhaustive de la coopération bilatérale et d'examiner les voies et moyens de l'approfondir et de développer un partenariat mutuellement avantageux".