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



MEDIA MONITORING

18 September 2015

GENERAL NEWS

Grands lacs : les jeunes réfléchissent sur la culture de la paix dans la région

NOUVELLE

Source: Radio Okapi (RDC)

17 septembre 2015 - Les jeunes de la RDC, du Burundi et du Rwanda réfléchissent sur comment créer la culture de la paix dans la sous-région des Grands lacs. Réunis jeudi 17 septembre au deuxième forum des conseils de la jeunesse des pays membres de la Communauté économique des pays des grands lacs (CEPGL) à Gisenyi au Rwanda, ils ont aussi évoqué la question de comment devenir agents du développement dans leurs pays respectifs.

Pour les organisateurs de ce forum, le conseil de la jeunesse des pays membres de la CPGL a permis aux jeunes de la sous-région des Grands-lacs de faire une différence entre les manipulations politiciennes et les conflits communautaires réels.

L'autre objectif de ce forum est le renouvellement du bureau du Conseil régional de la jeunesse, avec une présidence tournante. Après la RD CONGO, le tour devrait revenir au Rwanda, pour deux ans encore, a affirmé le secrétaire exécutif de la CEPGL, Herman Tuyaga.

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DRC**Congo-Kinshasa : la majorité de Kabila ne tient qu'à un fil****ANALYSE**

Source: La Libre.be (<http://www.lalibre.be/actu/international/congo-kinshasa-la-majorite-de-kabila-ne-tient-qu-a-un-fil-55f9a96d35700fb92ef20dde>)

16 septembre 2015 - La lettre envoyée lundi dernier au chef de l'Etat Joseph Kabila par sept partis membres de la Majorité présidentielle pour l'adjurer de respecter la Constitution et ne pas poursuivre la "stratégie suicidaire" actuelle, provoque un séisme politique à Kinshasa.

En effet, une déclaration du Bureau politique de la majorité présidentielle, qui s'est réunie mercredi matin "avec son allié le Palu" (parti d'Antoine Gizenga), affirme que les sept partis "ont choisi de quitter la majorité présidentielle pour rejoindre les rangs de l'opposition".

Les sept signataires indiquent de leur côté, dans un communiqué, que la réunion s'est tenue en présence de "personnalités non-membres du Bureau politique" - "ce qui est inacceptable pour nous", a précisé un des sept signataires à "La Libre Belgique". D'emblée, le ministre de la Santé, Félix Kabange Numbi (PPRD, Katanga), a affirmé que les sept partis s'étaient "auto-exclus", ce que contestent les frondeurs. "Nous avons demandé une motion pour que le problème que nous avons soulevé par notre lettre soit examiné au fond et pas sur la forme. Cela a été refusé. Nous nous sommes donc retirés", poursuit cette source.

Deux révocations

Alors que les sept signataires estimaient que seul le chef de la majorité, soit le chef de l'Etat, pouvait les exclure, le président Kabila a avalisé la position du Bureau politique de la majorité présidentielle additionné du Palu, en révoquant immédiatement deux des signataires : Olivier Kamitatu, de son poste de ministre du Plan, et Pierre Lumbi, de celui de conseiller du chef de l'Etat pour la Sécurité.

On s'attendait, mercredi soir, à ce que suivent trois des sept membres du bureau de l'Assemblée nationale, eux aussi membres des sept partis exclus - mais pour cela il faudra un vote.

Une faible marge

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En confirmant l'exclusion des partis frondeurs, Joseph Kabila ampute sa majorité de sept formations politiques; aura-t-il encore avec lui la majorité des 500 députés ?

"Il va certainement y avoir des tentatives de débauchage dans nos partis", suppute un autre des sept signataires.

Sur le papier, l'exclusion de ces partis prive la majorité présidentielle de "70 à 80 députés, sur environ 350. A priori pas assez pour renverser la majorité mais assez pour l'affaiblir considérablement et la mettre à la merci de quelques défections supplémentaires", poursuit cette seconde source.

L'occasion de se compter ne devrait pas tarder : "Cela peut survenir lors de l'examen du budget" par l'Assemblée, qui a ouvert mardi sa session ordinaire, "soit si un remaniement du gouvernement conduit à poser la question de confiance", ajoute ce signataire.

Vers un nouveau gouvernement

Car les analystes s'attendent à un très prochain remaniement du gouvernement Matata II : les sept partis exclus comptent d'autres ministres que M. Kamitatu, même si ce dernier était le seul à être signataire de la lettre des frondeurs en tant que chef de sa formation.

Du coup, les ministres issus de partis de l'opposition (UFC de Léon Kengo, UDPS dissidente, MLC de Jean-Pierre Bemba) et entrés au gouvernement en décembre 2014 après les "Concertations nationales" de 2013, vont-ils suivre le mouvement

RD Congo: Limogeage de Ministres en RDC: Le Roi de plus en plus nu**OPINION**

Source: <http://www.camer.be/45462/6:1/rd-congo-limogeage-de-ministres-en-rdc-le-roi-de-plus-en-plus-nu-congo-democratic.html>

Par Hamadou GADIAGA

17 septembre 2015 - Faisant suite aux conclusions du Bureau politique de la majorité présidentielle, le président de la RDC, Joseph Kabila a démis de leurs fonctions son conseiller spécial pour la sécurité, Pierre Lumbi, et le ministre du Plan, Olivier Kamitatu. Motif invoqué, les deux parias ont publiquement manifesté leur opposition au maintien de Kabila au pouvoir à la fin de son deuxième et dernier mandat en 2016. Le conseiller spécial du président et son ministre du plan font partie en effet d'un groupe de sept

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partis politiques qui ont qualifié de « suicidaire » la volonté affichée de Joseph Kabila de s'éterniser au pouvoir, en dépit des signaux d'alerte envoyés au locataire du palais de la Nation par plusieurs organisations internationales, par l'opposition politique congolaise et par la société civile. Cette chasse aux sorcières, qui semble être le début d'une série, est un message sans ambiguïté à tous les membres du G7 qui, selon les proches de Kabila, se sont, de fait, exclus de la majorité présidentielle.

Mais au-delà de ces couacs dans les rangs de ceux qui sont aux commandes de la RDC, c'est la question de l'alternance dans de nombreux pays africains qui est remise sur la table. Avec l'insurrection populaire qui a eu lieu au Burkina Faso en fin octobre 2014 pour mettre fin aux velléités de Blaise Compaoré de modifier la Constitution afin de demeurer au pouvoir après la fin de son dernier mandat, tous les Africains s'étaient permis de rêver enfin d'un pouvoir exercé par le peuple pour le bien-être du peuple dans tous les pays du continent. L'euphorie était telle qu'on avait fini par oublier qu'il y avait encore sous nos tropiques des chefs d'Etat que le cas burkinabè était loin de désarçonner, à l'image de ce quarteron de l'Afrique centrale (Kabila, Nkurunziza, Kagamé, Sassou Nguesso) qui se marrait des extrapolations que des analystes politiques faisaient de l'insurrection burkinabè. Depuis en effet, certains comme Nkurunziza au Burundi sont passés en classe supérieure en organisant des élections calamiteuses qu'ils ont naturellement remportées, pendant que d'autres sont encore au stade de la révision de leur Constitution pour sauter les articles rédhibitoires comme c'est le cas aux deux Congos, et au Rwanda.

Joseph Kabila, qui ne fait plus mystère de sa volonté de se porter candidat bien que la Constitution congolaise le lui interdise en 2016, est d'autant plus enclin à le faire que son homologue burundais a pu transformer l'essai alors que tous les observateurs lui prédisaient un sort à la Compaoré. Certes, au regard du chaos qui règne à Bujumbura, le président congolais pourrait être amené à réfléchir par deux fois avant de tenter le passage en force, surtout que ses proches qui n'entendent pas l'accompagner dans ses dérives dictatoriales vont faire le vide autour de lui. Malheureusement, pour ainsi dire, avec les derniers événements qui se déroulent au Burkina Faso et qui portent un coup d'arrêt à la Transition politique mise en place au lendemain de la victoire du peuple sur l'ordre ancien, Kabila fils et tous les autres dictateurs qui avançaient masqués vers des pouvoirs à vie vont définitivement sortir de la gueule de bois dans laquelle la fuite éhontée de Blaise Compaoré les avait plongés. Il ne reste plus au président de la RDC d'écarter tous les opposants à l'intérieur et à museler la presse et les organisations des droits de l'Homme et le tour sera joué. A moins que les événements en cours à Ouagadougou ne provoquent une autre réaction du peuple burkinabè, pour rappeler à tous les putschistes, que quels que soient les moyens qu'ils utiliseront, ils ne pourront jamais venir à bout d'un peuple déterminé.

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Congo court reduces sentences in murder of human rights activist

NEWS STORY

Source: Reuters

By Aaron Ross and Bienvenu-Marie Bakumanya

17 September 2015 - A military court in Democratic Republic of Congo on Thursday reduced the sentence of one police officer convicted of the 2010 murder of a top human rights activist and his driver, and acquitted another, counsel in the case said.

Three other police officers indicted for murder were also acquitted of what rights groups have called a "state crime" orchestrated by allies of President Joseph Kabila, said Richard Bondo, a lawyer representing the families of the victims.

Congo's government has always denied any high-level involvement in the murders.

Bondo said the verdicts could all be challenged in the court of appeals, which could order a retrial if it determined the military court had misinterpreted the law.

Floribert Chebeya, the executive director of Voice for the Voiceless (VSV) and a vocal critic of Kabila, disappeared in 2010 after being summoned to meet the national police chief at the time. He was later found dead in a car, while his driver, Fidele Bazana, disappeared and has never been found.

Five police officers were sentenced to life in prison in the original trial in 2011. Three of them had fled and were sentenced in absentia.

But the military court on Thursday reduced the sentence of Colonel Daniel Mukalay to 15 years, citing "extenuating circumstances" without elaborating, said Bondo, while the murder conviction of Captain Michel Mwila was overturned altogether.

Human rights groups say the Congolese authorities' investigation into the murders was botched and have called for an independent inquiry.

General John Numbi, the police chief at the time and a close ally of Kabila, was never charged despite being considered by the victims' families and rights organisations as the number one suspect.

Numbi was suspended from his post in the aftermath of the murder and has not held an official position since. He has always maintained his innocence.

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Paul Mwilanbwe, a Congolese policeman who has admitted involvement in the murders, was charged in January by a court in Senegal, where he had fled.

RD Congo : deux accusés dans l'affaire Chebeya voient leur verdict allégé en appel

NOUVELLE

Source: France24 avec AFP

La justice congolaise a allégé jeudi en appel le verdict rendu en première instance contre deux policiers condamnés à mort et à perpétuité pour l'assassinat de Floribert Chebeya, défenseur des droits de l'Homme.

17 Septembre 2015 - Deux policiers accusés d'avoir tué Floribert Chebeya ont vu leur peine allégées en appel. Les deux hommes avaient été condamnés à mort et à la perpétuité en première instance pour le meurtre du défenseur des droits de l'Homme et de son chauffeur Fidèle Bazana en juin 2010 à Kinshasa.

Les parties civiles ont immédiatement dénoncé une "banalisation du crime d'État" et annoncé leur intention de se pourvoir en cassation.

La Haute Cour militaire de la République démocratique du Congo a condamné à 15 ans de réclusion criminelle le colonel Daniel Mukalay, condamné à mort en 2011, et a acquitté le capitaine Michel Mwila, qui avait été condamné à la perpétuité en première instance.

Elle a confirmé l'acquittement de trois autres accusés alors que le ministère public avait requis la prison à vie pour les cinq policiers jugés, rejoignant la demande des parties civiles, opposées à la peine de mort.

Fondateur de l'ONG La Voix des sans-voix pour les droits de l'homme (VSV), devenu au fil des ans très critique vis-à-vis du président Joseph Kabila - au pouvoir depuis 2001 - Chebeya a été retrouvé mort dans sa voiture le 2 juin 2010 en périphérie de Kinshasa.

La veille au soir, il s'était rendu au siège de la police après avoir été convoqué pour y rencontrer son chef, le général John Numbi.

Son chauffeur avait disparu après l'avoir déposé à ce rendez-vous. La justice a conclu en première instance qu'il avait été assassiné, tout comme Chebeya.

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Jeudi, la Haute Cour a maintenu la qualification d'assassinats pour ce double meurtre mais a accordé, sans les motiver, des "circonstances atténuantes" au colonel Mukalay, qu'elle a qualifié de "coauteur" des meurtres alors que l'officier avait été reconnu comme l'orchestrateur de ces crimes en première instance.

1,400 children rescued from armed groups in Congo

NEWS STORY

Source: http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/1-400-children-rescued-from-armed-groups-in-congo-115091700826_1.html

17 September 2015 - Military operations aimed at eliminating armed groups have resulted in the rescue of 1,411 children from armed groups in the east of the Congo, the spokesman for the UN mission in the country (MONUSCO) Felix Prospere Basse has said.

Basse said on Wednesday that the children who included 1,339 boys and 72 girls, were rescued between January and September 2015 from armed groups in Katanga, North Kivu, South Kivu and Orientale provinces, Xinhua reported.

They were rescued from groups such as the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda, Mayi Mayi Rahiya Mutomboki, Mayi Mayi Nyatura, FRPI, NDC Cheka and Mayi Mayi Yakutumba.

The UN spokesman said child protection actors were still appealing to armed groups to release children and hand them over to MONUSCO so that they can start living a normal life, especially going to school.

So far in 2015, MONUSCO's Child Protection Unit has documented deaths of 48 children and mutilation of 44 others due to conflict related violence. During the same period, 24 incidents that negatively impacted on the health and education of children were documented.

RWANDA

Rwanda: President Kagame Receives European Union Commissioner

NEWS STORY

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Source: The New Times (Rwanda)

By James Karuhanga and Peterson Tumwebaze

17 September 2015 - The European Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development, Neven Mimica, has said the EU was aligning its development projects with Rwanda's national development reforms and priorities.

His comments came shortly after meeting President Paul Kagame at Village Urugwiro yesterday.

"We do not want our development cooperation to come as a kind of donation. We want to be partners that do not export our views on development but we would like, always, that development changes come from the inside," the Croatian politician and diplomat told reporters.

Mimica said he welcomed the opportunity to discuss such an arrangement with the President with whom he also discussed other wider and broader peace and security issues in the region where, he said Rwanda was "an important contributor to peace and stability."

Before meeting President Kagame, he noted that the politico-economic union of 28 European member states would continue supporting Rwanda's economic development agenda for the next five years.

Speaking during a meeting with the Minister for Finance and Economic Planning, Claver Gatete, Mimica said the bloc was satisfied and impressed with how Rwanda used EU grants.

"Infrastructure improvement and better regional connectivity are recognised as one of the important factors stimulating trade, investment and economic growth. The EU looks forward to a continued partnership with Rwanda in terms of supporting programmes in key priority sectors for the next five years," he said.

"We are also impressed with the excellent leadership in Rwanda and therefore urge the private sector to take full advantage and contribute to the country's economic development."

Gatete acknowledged that EU support was contributing significantly to the socio-economic transformation of Rwandans.

"They [EU] also continue to support our regional integration plans through the recently launched Kigali-Gatuna road as well as their contribution to the rehabilitation of Rusumo-Kayonza-Kagitumba road under the EAC framework," Gatete said.

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In June, the EU also approved a grant of €20 million for Rusumo-Kayonza-Kagitumba road project rehabilitation under EAC framework.

Rwanda has in the past received significant support through the European Development Fund (EDF).

In 2003, it received a €218 million; €429.7 million in 2007 and €460 million in 2014 in grants.

The current and eleventh EDF signed in 2004 for the period running from 2015-2020 was allocated to energy (€200 million); agriculture (€200 million); governance (€40 million); capacity building (€10 million); and civil society programmes (€10 million) sectors.

UGANDA

Uganda: Museveni's Visit to Sudan Good for Peace

NEWS STORY

Source: The Monitor (Uganda)

17 September 2015 - President Museveni's visit to Sudan, which ends today, is a most welcome development. This is not just because it was his first visit to Khartoum in over a decade, but more importantly because it opens up the possibility of normalising relations between the two countries.

For about 15 years until around 2005, Uganda backed the Sudanese Peoples Liberation Army (SPLA) while Sudan backed Joseph Kony's Lord's Resistance Army in a war which led to mass destruction in northern Uganda.

After a series of denials, Museveni publicly defended his backing of the SPLA war against Gen Omar Bashir's Sudan. He argued that the people of southern Sudan, as it was then called, had a right to self-determination, especially because they felt discriminated against by the government in Khartoum.

The Bashir government, out of favour with the West, was accused of backing the "terrorist" tendencies of Kony's rebels. Kony and some of his commanders would later be indicted by the International Criminal Court (ICC) over alleged war crimes. Gen Bashir, because of events unrelated to the Kony war, was himself indicted by the ICC

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over similar allegations in Sudan and a warrant of arrest has since been issued against him.

Southern Sudan has since broken off Sudan to become the world's youngest nation - South Sudan. But the country has been bedeviled by internal strife since December 2013. Uganda got entangled in the war in South Sudan by intervening within hours of fighting breaking out between forces loyal to President Salva Kiir and Dr Riek Machar, his former deputy.

Uganda's intervention on the side of one of the protagonists - president Kiir - helped to forestall a widespread genocide between Kiir's Dinka and Machar's Nuer tribes, observers have noted. But it also denied Uganda what would otherwise have been its natural role of playing arbiter in the conflict.

President Kiir's government is thought to be sustained by the Ugandan forces deployed there, while Dr Machar is thought to look to Khartoum for support.

In South Sudan, therefore, the possibility of a longstanding proxy war between Uganda and Sudan is a living reality. This war could spill over to Sudan and Uganda, as it has done in the past.

This is why Museveni's visit to Sudan is a great opportunity to build on earlier attempts to normalise the relationship between the two countries and to ensure that the peace deal that the rivaling leaders of South Sudan signed stands.

We hope that the two presidents' discussions centred on the key issues that the people of this region want to hear about, particularly peace and trade.

ANGOLA

Rights groups accuse Angola of crackdown after activist jailed

NEWS STORY

Source: Reuters

17 September 2015 - Rights groups accused have Angola's government of using the legal system to crack down on critics after an activist was jailed for six years on charges of stirring rebellion.

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Jose Marcos Mavungo was found guilty on Monday of an "attack on the sovereignty of the Angolan state" as prosecutors accused him of trying to encourage his restive oil-producing home region of Cabinda to fight for independence.

"It was a political judgment. The trial is a serious violation of the basic principles of the democratic state of law," Sizaltina Cutaia, a rights activist at the Open Society in Angola, told Reuters.

Amnesty International called the conviction a "blatant violation of freedom of expression". Mavungo, who had denied the charge, is the latest in a string of activists and protesters who have been jailed in recent months.

There was no immediate response from the government of Africa's second largest crude exporter.

Its permanent representative to the UN said on Monday it respected human rights. "Those who seek to under-estimate the progress made in this field in Angola, they do so in bad faith," Apolinario Correia said in a statement.

Mavungo was arrested on March 14, the day he planned to lead a protest in Cabinda against "poor governance and human rights violations". He has been a supporter of a peaceful campaign for the independence of the northern exclave.

"Ridiculous sentence"

At the trial he was accused of being linked to men found with explosives on the day of the rally, which was eventually cancelled.

"There was no proof of this act of rebellion. It is a ridiculous sentence, pathetic and meaningless," defence lawyer Luis dos Nascimento told Reuters.

Angola has worked to rebuild its reputation since a 27-year civil war ended in 2002 and it is now China's biggest trading partner in Africa and the second largest for the United States.

Painful memories of the war and the best funded security forces in Africa have helped keep the peace, though there have been growing signs of public anti-government sentiment.

A halving of oil prices last year has piled hardships on Angolans as the kwanza currency plummeted and government slashed public spending in one of the most unequal societies in the world.

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Cabinda has suffered sporadic unrest during a four-decades-long battle for independence from Angola by rebels from The Front for the Liberation of the Enclave of Cabinda.

Oil output from wells off the coast of Cabinda, sandwiched between the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Republic of Congo, represents more than half of the around 1.8 million barrels per day produced by Angola.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

UN chief ready to throw out peacekeepers over sex abuse claims

NEWS STORY

Source: <http://www.ngrguardiannews.com/2015/09/un-chief-ready-to-throw-out-peacekeepers-over-sex-abuse-claims/>

By Ujunwa Ochulo

17 September 2015 - UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon warned Thursday he was ready to throw out entire peacekeeping units if their country fails to take action against soldiers accused of sexual abuse.

The warning was among a series of measures unveiled by the UN chief at a meeting with the 124 countries that contribute troops and police to UN peace missions worldwide.

“I will not hesitate to repatriate entire contingents or terminate deployments where there are failures in command and control, evidence of widespread or systematic violations, or when member-states fail repeatedly to respond to requests for investigations or to investigate promptly,” Ban said.

The United Nations has been badly shaken by a string of sexual abuse claims targeting its peacekeepers, in particular in the Central African Republic, where many of the 17 allegations involve underage victims as young as 11.

Ban has moved to toughen the UN response to the crisis in peacekeeping but is heavily reliant on troop-contributing countries to do their part in confronting the serious misconduct allegations.

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Ban last month took the unprecedented step of firing the mission chief of the peacekeeping force in the Central African Republic over the wave of accusations, but new allegations have continued to surface.

In his address to the peacekeeping nations, Ban outlined seven measures that he said would help stamp out sexual abuse such as suspending pay to soldiers who face serious allegations.

The United Nations pays peacekeeping countries a stipend of about \$1,000 per month per soldier who serves in their missions.

Ban proposed that the money from the suspended pay be transferred to a trust fund to help victims, a measure that is bound to meet some resistance from contributors.

DNA samples

Among the most controversial measures is a proposal to begin collecting DNA samples of peacekeepers to help with investigations and setting up courts-martial in the host country to allow justice to be witnessed on site.

Peacekeeping nations must take “prompt and determined action” to prosecute their soldiers and ensure that the punishment is severe, Ban argued.

“I am frustrated that too few cases are prosecuted and sanctions are not nearly strong enough.”

Under UN rules, it is up to member states to investigate and prosecute their soldiers who face serious accusations while serving under the UN flag.

The UN chief warned he was ready to name specific countries whose troops are accused of serious misconduct, a measure that troop-contributing nations have strongly opposed in the past.

In toughening the response to the sex abuse scandals, the UN chief is walking a fine line at a time when peacekeeping missions, in particular in Africa, rely on contingents with varying degrees of military discipline.

For instance, the Democratic Republic of Congo military, which is on the UN list of children’s rights violators, is serving in the MINUSCA force in the Central African Republic.

Ban called for stronger vetting of soldiers and warned that any troops not meeting UN standards will be sent home at the country’s expense.

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More than 105,000 troops and police serve in the United Nations' 16 peacekeeping missions worldwide.

Bangladesh, Ethiopia, India and Pakistan are among the top troop-contributing nations.

UN to name member states whose troops commit sexual abuse

NEWS STORY

Source: dpa Deutsche Presse-Agentur GmbH

New York, 17 September 2015 - Countries whose troops commit sexual abuse while on UN peacekeeping missions will be named and their soldiers repatriated, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon told a meeting of member states Thursday.

Ban outlined the measures to UN countries that send soldiers on peacekeeping missions after a spate of accusations of sexual abuse in recent months.

These include 17 cases in the Central African Republic, 13 of which involve soldiers. While the United Nations is tasked with investigating civilian staff accused of such crimes, troop-contributing countries have the sole responsibility for prosecuting their troops, which they often fail to do.

Ban called sexual abuse a "cancer" of the UN system and vowed to step up the fight in light of mounting allegations.

In his speech Thursday, he said the move was aimed at prompting more thorough investigations.

"My decision to name specific countries is not designed to create public embarrassment but to demonstrate transparency and promote accountability," Ban said.

"There is no shame for a member state that takes decisive action against alleged perpetrators of sexual exploitation and abuse."

Previously, it was unclear whether Ban had the authority to openly name countries.

He also said he would repatriate entire contingents and end deployments if allegations are not swiftly dealt with.

Ban urged countries to establish on-site courts martial to ensure more timely investigations and to build trust with people on the ground.

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Peacekeepers accused of such abuses while on UN missions are rarely convicted.

While the UN pays a monthly sum of 1,000 dollars for each soldier to troop-contributing countries, the organization has no leverage to compel member states to thoroughly investigate allegations of misconduct, essentially providing impunity to peacekeepers.

KENYA

EU lauds Kenya's role in regional peace and security

NEWS STORY

Source: Kenya Broadcasting Corporation

By Beth Nyaga

17 September 2015 - The European Union has lauded Kenya's role in regional peace and security and reiterated the EU's commitment to supporting the African Mission in Somalia (AMISOM).

President Uhuru Kenyatta met a delegation from the European Union led by the EU Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development, Neven Mimica.

Mimica informed the President that the EU is establishing a Sh180 billion trust fund aimed at addressing the root causes of refugee crisis.

Thirty per cent of these funds will be dedicated to programmes in the Horn of Africa, said Mr Mimica.

The President welcomed the EU's commitment to supporting Kenya's development agenda as well as regional peace efforts.

He said Kenya will be represented by a high-level delegation at the forthcoming migration summit that is scheduled to take place in Valleta, Malta from Nov 10-11.

The President and the EU delegation also discussed fisheries partnership agreements which are awaiting Cabinet approval. Last week, the EU announced that Kenya had qualified and been listed as eligible to export farmed fish products to the region.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Affairs Cabinet Secretary Amina Mohamed and Foreign Affairs PS, Prof Karanja Kibicho.

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The EU Head of Delegation in Kenya, Stefano Dejak and his deputy, Bruno Pozzi also attended the meeting.

SOUTH SUDAN

More than 100 killed in South Sudan when oil truck explodes

NEWS STORY

Source: Reuters

By Denis Dumo

Juba, 17 September 2015 - More than 100 people were killed in South Sudan when an oil truck exploded as a crowd tried to gather fuel from the vehicle after it had veered off the road, a regional official said on Thursday, a day after the incident.

In addition to those killed in Wednesday's blast, Charles Kisagna, the minister of information in Western Equatoria, said about 50 people were seriously injured.

"We don't have medical equipment and these people may not survive because we do not have the facilities to treat the highly burnt people," he told Reuters, adding the truck had been traveling from the capital Juba to the Western Equatoria area.

Such incidents have happened before in the east African region where fuel tankers often have to travel long distances along potholed roads and pass through poor communities.

There are almost no tarmac roads in South Sudan, one of Africa's poorest nations, which has been mired in conflict since December 2013. Rebels and the government signed a peace deal in August, although the ceasefire has already been violated.

Presidential spokesman Ateny Wek Ateny said Wednesday's incident was not related to the conflict. "This was an accident," he said.

In June 2013, at least 30 people were killed and scores more injured when a broken-down fuel tanker exploded on a highway in Uganda while they were trying to siphon fuel.

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Soudan du Sud: au moins 85 morts dans l'explosion d'un camion citerne

NOUVELLE

Source: RFI

L'explosion accidentelle d'un camion-citerne transportant de l'essence a fait au moins 85 morts et une centaine de blessés au Soudan du Sud. L'accident s'est produit mercredi 16 septembre à l'ouest de la capitale Juba. Le bilan pourrait s'alourdir. La région manque cruellement d'équipements médicaux pour soigner les grands brûlés.

17 septembre 2015 - L'explosion d'un camion-citerne a fait 85 morts au moins au Soudan du Sud. Le véhicule rempli de carburant se trouvait sur la route reliant Juba à Maridi, à environ 300 km à l'ouest de la capitale.

Le camion-citerne, dans un premier temps accidenté, a finalement explosé. C'est le porte-parole du président sud-soudanais Salva Kiir qui a donné les détails de cet accident survenu mercredi 16 septembre. Plus de 100 personnes ont également été blessées. Elles souffrent de graves brûlures, a indiqué un responsable local.

Les victimes auraient péri en tentant de récupérer la cargaison de carburant dans des bidons, phénomène relativement fréquent dans la région en cas de fuite sur des oléoducs, ou d'accident de camion-citerne. En juin 2013, au moins 30 personnes qui tentaient de siphonner le carburant d'un camion-citerne en panne avaient été tuées en Ouganda. En juillet 2010, en République démocratique du Congo (RDC), 230 personnes avaient péri dans l'explosion d'un camion-citerne accidenté. En décembre 2006, 284 personnes étaient mortes au Nigeria dans l'explosion d'un oléoduc vandalisé à Lagos.

Le leader rebelle sud-soudanais rencontre les présidents soudanais et ougandais à Khartoum (médias)

NOUVELLE

Source: CRI Online (<http://french.cri.cn/621/2015/09/18/502s449594.htm>)

19 septembre 2015 - Le leader rebelle sud-soudanais, Riek Machar, a déclaré avoir rencontré le président soudanais Omar el-Bachir et le président ougandais Yoweri Museveni lors d'une réunion tripartite, ont rapporté jeudi les médias soudanais.

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"La médiation du président el-Bachir a réussi à combler des fossés, alors que M. Museveni a exprimé sa volonté de retirer ses troupes du Soudan du Sud, selon les termes du récent accord de paix signé pendant la réunion mercredi à Khartoum", a déclaré M. Machar.

M. Machar a souligné que M. Museveni l'avait invité à Kampala, capitale de l'Ouganda, mais que le calendrier serait déterminé plus tard.

M. Machar est arrivé mardi à Khartoum, ce qui coïncide avec la visite de M. Museveni mercredi au Soudan.

Quand les affrontements ont éclaté entre l'armée du gouvernement sud-soudanais et les rebelles, l'Ouganda a déclaré son soutien au président du Soudan du Sud, Salva Kir Mayardit, en déployant des milliers de soldats ougandais pour se battre aux côtés de l'armée sud-soudanaise contre les forces rebelles dirigées par M. Machar.

Le Soudan du Sud a plongé dans la violence en décembre 2013, lorsque les combats ont éclaté entre les troupes loyales au président Kiir et les transfuges menés par son ancien colistier, M. Machar.

Le conflit s'est rapidement transformé en guerre, les violences prenant une dimension ethnique.

Les affrontements ont tué des milliers de citoyens sud-soudanais et ont forcé près d'1,9 millions de personnes à fuir leurs maisons.

Mais après la signature d'un accord de paix en août dernier par les parties en guerre, l'Ouganda a promis de retirer ses forces du Soudan du Sud si l'Autorité intergouvernementale pour le développement en Afrique (IGAD) déployait ses forces pour surveiller l'accord de paix dans le sud.

UK troops for UN peacekeeping in South Sudan, PM to say

NEWS STORY

Source: BBC

16 September 2015 - The UK is to devote more troops to UN peacekeeping, with personnel being sent to South Sudan, the BBC has learned.

The prime minister will detail the move at a summit in New York this month.

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The extra troops will be deployed to the world's newest country, where thousands have been killed and millions displaced amid fighting between government troops and rebels.

The mission will be "significant" and involve boots on the ground, the BBC's UN correspondent Nick Bryant said.

Peace deal

Britain has long been a large financial contributor to UN peacekeeping missions and is the fifth highest provider of funds.

But its troop commitment has been relatively small - focused mainly on 250 soldiers based in Cyprus who wear the distinctive blue berets of the UN.

The size of the British contingent in South Sudan is not yet known. But it is expected to go beyond offering logistical support and an airlift capability, and will be a much tougher challenge, the BBC's UN correspondent added.

Both sides in the South Sudan conflict signed a peace deal, which it was hoped would bring to an end 20 months of conflict, last month. But fighting has continued.

Conflict between forces loyal to President Salva Kiir and his former deputy Riek Machar has forced more than 2.2 million people from their homes in the state, which broke away from Sudan in 2011.

At least seven ceasefires have been agreed and then broken.

The US administration has been saying for months that one way for European Union nations to address longstanding criticisms from Washington about inadequate defence spending would be to commit to more UN missions.

SUDAN

Uganda: President Museveni of Uganda Concludes Visit to Sudan

NEWS STORY

Source: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201509170409.html>

16 September 2015 - President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda concluded Wednesday a two-day official visit to Sudan where he held talks with President Omar al-Bashir and senior government officials.

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The talks focused on how the two countries should coordinate efforts in handling regional and international issues as well as finding remedies for the pending questions between Khartoum and Kampala with the view to lead their relations to full normalization.

Khartoum and Kampala had for a number of years, entertained strained relations, trading accusations over harboring rebel movements, besides their differences over other political stances.

But early this year Khartoum announced normalization of ties with Kampala following a short visit by Sudanese Vice President Hassabo Ahmed Abdul Rahman to Uganda during which he concluded a deal with the government there on halting activities of Sudanese rebel movements, who until then moved around freely.

The two sides assigned the joint security committee, which met in Kampala six months ago, to handle all pending security questions. The two sides also agreed to speed up promotion of bilateral relations.

ZAMBIA

Zambia to promote peace-Govt

NEWS STORY

Source: <http://www.znbc.co.zm/?p=21543>

16 September 2015 - Foreign Affairs Minister Harry Kalaba says Zambia will continue to play an active role in promoting peace and security in the region and beyond.

Mr. Kalaba says Zambia is still engaged in the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region in order to find lasting solutions to conflicts in South Sudan, Central African Republic and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

He said this in Lusaka during a meeting with members of the diplomatic corps accredited to Zambia

The Minister said government through the Ministry of Defense has deployed 750 soldiers to Central African Republic to be part of the multi-dimensional United Nations peace keeping operation.

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Meanwhile, Mr. Kalaba says his ministry remains committed to improving service delivery to the diplomatic corps in the country.

He also disclosed that his ministry is formulating the diaspora policy whose objective is to involve all Zambians abroad in the national development agenda.

Mr. Kalaba says Zambia will next month host the national consultative forum on the formulation of the Diaspora policy.