

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

26 May 2015

GENERAL STORIES

Security Council Press Statement on Burundi

24 May 2015 - The members of the Security Council condemned in the strongest terms the killing of Mr. Zedi Feruzi, leader of the opposition Union pour la paix et le développement (UPD) Zigamibanga party in Burundi, and his bodyguard, on 23 May 2015 in Bujumbura. The members of the Security Council also condemned the grenade attack in Bujumbura's central market on 22 May 2015 that left two dead and many others injured.

The Security Council expressed their deepest condolences to the families of those killed and wished a speedy recovery to the injured. They urged the Burundian authorities to swiftly bring the perpetrators of these crimes to justice.

The members of the Security Council reiterated their call on all Burundian stakeholders to demonstrate their sense of responsibility and exercise calm and restraint in the interest of peace and reconciliation in Burundi. They called on the Burundian authorities to take concrete steps to prevent further violence, whilst respecting fundamental freedoms of expression and peaceful assembly.

The members of the Security Council called on all Burundian stakeholders to pursue the consultative political dialogue facilitated by the Special Envoy for the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes region, Mr Said Djinnit, and representatives of the African Union, the East African Community, the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa and the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, to create an environment

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.

conducive to peaceful, credible and inclusive elections in Burundi, in the spirit of the Arusha Agreements.

The members of the Security Council reiterated their intent to respond to violent acts which threaten peace and security in Burundi.

UN urges more efforts to end conflicts in Africa's Great Lakes region

Source: Xinhua

The United Nations (UN) and aid agencies have urged the international community to “re-double efforts” to end conflict and instability in five African nations in the Great Lakes region, namely the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DR Congo), Sudan, South Sudan, Somalia, Yemen and Burundi.

25 May 2015 - The UN resident and humanitarian coordinators from nine countries in the Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes region, such as Burundi, Djibouti, DR Congo, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan and Somalia, met on Monday in Nairobi to discuss humanitarian risks in these areas.

“A further deterioration of humanitarian conditions could undermine security and development gains made in the region and beyond. Many people currently attempting to cross the Mediterranean are fleeing conflicts and repression in this region,” a joint statement from the international agencies said.

The agencies called on the world to work with banks and money transfer organizations to put in place a transitional mechanism until a proper financial system is in place in Somalia.

They also urged the international [community] to continue hosting asylum seekers, refugees and migrants and ensure their protection and safety.

Despite economic growth and progress towards meeting the UN's Millennium Development Goals, the region is home to some of the poorest and most vulnerable people in the world, they said.

The risk of escalating violence in Burundi which has already displaced more than 112,000 people to neighboring states, the armed conflict in Yemen and a rapid intensification of the conflict in South Sudan and the potential for an economic collapse, are of particular concern, they added.

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.

Conflict, the agencies noted, continues unabated in parts of Sudan, Somalia and DR Congo, and there has been a sharp increase in inter-communal conflict in the Rift Valley in Kenya since the beginning of the year.

Minerais du sang: Les importateurs européens doivent être certifiés par l'UE

Source: www.KongoTimes.info

By Dovin Ntelolo Diasonga

25 Mai 2015 - Dorénavant, pour être considéré conforme et laver de tout soupçon, les importateurs européens doivent obtenir une certification obligatoire délivrée par le Parlement européen. C'est ce qui ressort du vote le mercredi 20 mai courant du projet législatif adopté par 402 voix pour, 118 contre et 171 abstentions par les eurodéputés.

Les importateurs européens d'étain, de tantale, de tungstène et d'or doivent être certifiés par l'Union européenne (UE) pour assurer qu'ils n'alimentent pas les conflits et les violations des droits de l'homme dans les zones de conflit, déclarent les eurodéputés dans leur position pour un projet législatif adopté, peut-t-on dans le communiqué final.

Par ce vote, les eurodéputés ont ainsi renversé la proposition de la Commission ainsi que celle adoptée par la commission du commerce international et ont demandé une conformité obligatoire pour « tous les importateurs de l'Union » s'approvisionnant dans les zones de conflit.

En posant cet acte, ils veulent tout simplement empêcher les seigneurs de guerre, dans des régions comme la République démocratique du Congo (RDC) et la région des Grands Lacs africains, de tirer avantage de la vente des minéraux et des métaux.

Depuis cinq ans, souligne l'agence chinoise (Xinua), il y a une démarche volontaire sur la chaîne d'approvisionnement par diligence, mais plus de 80% des entreprises ont décidé de ne pas divulguer d'information sur leurs sources. En mars 2014, la Commission européenne (CE) a proposé un régime d'auto-certification pour les entreprises européennes, mais le PE a rejeté cette proposition et a demandé des lois plus sévères. Les eurodéputés ont demandé une conformité obligatoire pour « tous les importateurs de l'Union » s'approvisionnant dans les zones de conflit.

Pour renforcer davantage la mesure prise, les sociétés intervenant en aval, c'est-à-dire les 880 000 entreprises de l'UE potentiellement affectées qui utilisent l'étain, le

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.

tungstène, le tantale et l'or dans la fabrication de produits de consommation auront également l'obligation d'informer des mesures qu'elles prennent pour identifier et traiter les risques dans leurs chaînes d'approvisionnement des minéraux et des métaux concernés.

Fonderies et raffineries, dernier point pour la traçabilité des minerais

L'allusion est faite particulièrement aux fonderies et aux raffineries d'or qui sont le dernier point où l'origine (la traçabilité) des minéraux peut être efficacement tracée. Les députés vont au-delà de l'approche « d'auto-certification » de la Commission et appellent les entreprises européennes à se soumettre à des vérifications, réalisées par des tiers indépendants, de l'exercice du devoir de diligence.

Les députés demandent également à la Commission de fournir aux micro-entreprises et aux petites et moyennes entreprises (PME) qui le souhaitent une aide financière à la certification à travers le programme COSME de la Commission (programme de l'UE pour la compétitivité des entreprises et des PME).

Le Parlement insiste également sur la surveillance plus stricte du régime, avec un examen deux ans après son application et tous les trois ans ensuite (au lieu de trois et six ans respectivement, comme prévu par la Commission).

Il est de notoriété publique que les conflits armés permanents qui endeuillent depuis plus d'une décennie la partie de la RDC ont comme bas de laine ou trouvent leur origine, dans l'exploitation illicite et illégale des ressources naturelles que regorge cette partie du pays.

D'ailleurs, le Parlement européen, souligne que les zones actuellement concernées sont la République démocratique du Congo et la région des Grands Lacs. Toutefois, le projet de loi ne mentionne pas de régions en particulier mais définit les « zones affectées par les conflits ou à haut risque » comme celles qui sont en situation de conflit armé, avec une violence généralisée, un effondrement des infrastructures civiles, des zones fragiles à l'issue d'un conflit ainsi que des zones où la gouvernance et la sécurité sont déficientes ou inexistantes, caractérisées par des « violations courantes et systématiques des droits de l'homme ».

Au terme d'un vote de 343 voix pour, 331 contre et 9 abstentions, les eurodéputés ont décidé de ne pas clore la position en première lecture et de démarrer des négociations informelles avec les États membres pour convenir d'une version finale de la législation. Ce qui va donc constitué la prochaine étape de cette lutte contre les minerais du sang provenant des zones en conflit.

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.

Pour rappel, l'étain, le tantale, le tungstène et l'or sont utilisés dans de nombreux produits de consommation dans l'UE, en particulier par les industries et machineries automobiles, de l'électronique, de l'aérospatial, de l'emballage, de la construction, de l'éclairage, industrielles et de l'outillage, ainsi que dans le secteur de la bijouterie. La prochaine législation concerne potentiellement 880 000 fabricants de l'UE, dont la plupart sont des PME.

Droits de l'homme et éviter d'alimenter les conflits armés

Prochainement, indique-t-on, les normes européennes en matière de devoir de diligence relatif aux chaînes d'approvisionnement seront basés sur les recommandations du Guide du devoir de diligence de l'OCDE, qui sont conçues pour aider les entreprises à respecter les droits de l'homme et éviter de contribuer à des conflits à travers leurs achats de minéraux provenant de zones de conflit ou à haut risque.

Ouverture du sommet de la CEEAC à N'Djamena

Source: Journalducameroun.com

La capitale tchadienne a abrité ce lundi, 25 mai, l'ouverture des travaux de la 16ème session ordinaire des chefs d'Etat de la Communauté économique des Etats de l'Afrique centrale

25 Mai 2015 - N'Djamena, la capitale tchadienne, a abrité ce lundi, 25 mai, l'ouverture des travaux de la 16ème session ordinaire des chefs d'Etat de la Communauté économique des Etats de l'Afrique centrale (CEEAC).

Ce sommet est organisé un peu plus de trois mois après la session extraordinaire de la conférence des chefs d'Etat du Conseil de paix et de sécurité de l'Afrique centrale (Copax) de la CEEAC, tenue à Yaoundé le 16 février dernier. Lors de cette session extraordinaire consacrée à la lutte contre le groupe terroriste Boko Haram, il avait été convenu de la mise sur pied d'un fonds d'urgence de 50 milliards de F CFA afin de soutenir les pays impliqués dans la guerre contre la secte d'essence nigériane

La rencontre de N'Djamena permettra de nouveau aux dirigeants de la sous-région d'aborder les défis sécuritaires: crise en République centrafricaine; tensions au Burundi avec l'élection présidentielle en vue; mais surtout l'insurrection au nord-est du Nigéria avec Boko Haram, entre autres. Idriss Déby Itno, le président tchadien, devrait également passer la main à la tête de la présidence de la CEEAC.

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.

Prendent part à cette 16ème session ordinaire, les chefs d'Etat et de gouvernement et leurs délégations.

La première à fouler le sol tchadien pour la circonstance, dimanche 24 mai, a été la présidente de la transition en Centrafrique, Cathérine Samba Panza. Le couple Présidentiel équato-guinéen, Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo et Constancia Mangué Nsue Okomo de Obiang, est également arrivé hier.

Le Chef de l'Etat camerounais, Paul Biya, est représenté à ces assises par son Premier ministre, Philémon Yang. Il a été accueilli à sa descente d'avion par le Premier ministre tchadien Kalzeubé Payimi Deubet.

Sao-Tome, le Burundi, le Rwanda et la RDC sont représentés par leurs ministres des Affaires étrangères respectifs.

L'Angola est représenté par son Ambassadeur accrédité au Tchad.

Les présidents congolais Denis Sassou Nguesso et gabonais Ali Bongo Ondimba sont effectivement arrivés ce lundi, 25 mai, dans la matinée, avant l'ouverture officielle des travaux.

Avec le Rwanda qui a décidé de réintégrer l'instrument communautaire, la CEEAC compte désormais 11 pays: Rwanda, Angola, Burundi, Cameroun, République centrafricaine, République du Congo, République démocratique du Congo, Gabon, Guinée Equatoriale, Tchad, Sao Tomé-et-Principe.

CEEAC: l'ancien président tchadien Weddeye nommé envoyé spécial aux Grands Lacs

Source: Xinhua

26 Mai 2015 - L'ancien président tchadien Goukouni Weddeye a été nommé envoyé spécial de la Communauté économique des Etats de l'Afrique centrale (CEEAC) dans les pays des Grands Lacs, en particulier le Burundi, par la 16ème session des chefs d'Etat et de Gouvernement de l'organisation régionale tenue lundi dans la capitale tchadienne.

L'ancien chef de l'Etat tchadien (entre 1979 et 1982) est nommé à ce poste au moment où le spectre des conflits et les bruits de guerre continuent à secouer et hanter la sous-région, à l'intérieur de ses frontières et tout autour. Le climat d'insécurité prévaut à l'est de la République Démocratique du Congo, en République Centrafricaine et dans la

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.

région des Grands Lacs, notamment au Burundi où les violences pré-électorales se succèdent depuis plusieurs semaines.

"Le Burundi, qui a eu une expérience exaltée dans le domaine du maintien de la paix en Afrique, ne mérite pas la situation de déstabilisation dans laquelle il est plongé", a déclaré le président tchadien, Idriss Déby Itno, en ouvrant les travaux de N' Djaména.

Le chef de l'Etat tchadien et ses homologues centrafricaine, gabonais, équato-guinéen et congolais, ainsi le chef du gouvernement camerounais ont condamné le coup d'Etat manqué au Burundi et l'assassinat de l'opposant Zedi Feruzi, le week-end dernier.

Ils ont par ailleurs demandé "à la classe politique, société et au président Nkunrunziza de maintenir le cap du dialogue en vue de rassembler toutes les filles et tous les fils du Burundi".

D.R. CONGO

Congo soldiers clash with Rwandan rebels in transit camp

Source: Reuters

Kinshasa, 25 May 2015 - Congolese soldiers clashed with Rwandan Hutu rebels being held in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo on Monday, wounding at least six, as an agreement to move the rebels from one transit camp to another fell apart.

Congolese troops were moving rebel officers from a camp in Kanyabayonga in North Kivu province, which is run jointly by the country's United Nation mission and Congo's army, to a larger camp in the northern city of Kisangani. From there they would be returned to Rwanda, or possibly to a third country.

"There was some unrest and the ... soldiers shot in the air," said Daniel Ruiz, the head of the mission's North Kivu office. "In principle, there was an agreement. In reality, it turned out differently." Six people were injured, he said.

It was not immediately clear what provoked the clash. A local activist said the rebels had stockpiled arms in the camp, but his claim could not be confirmed.

A similar transfer on Monday from a camp in Walungu in neighbouring South Kivu province to Kisangani went smoothly, Ruiz said. The governor of North Kivu and an army spokesman both said they did not have enough information to comment.

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.

More than 11,000 rebels from the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Rwanda have been demobilized and returned to Rwanda since 2002. Their number includes remnants of the Hutu militia that took part in the 1994 Rwandan genocide before fleeing across the border.

But repatriations have slowed to a trickle, as remaining fighters say they fear reprisals from the Rwandan government. U.N. officials have raised the possibility of sending them to a third country, but none has been found yet.

In February, Congo's army launched a campaign against the estimated 1,400 rebels still active, vowing to eradicate them from Congolese soil.

Congo Electoral Commission Updates Voter List

Source: AP

23 May 2015 - Congo's national electoral commission has updated the country's electoral list ahead of local and provincial elections later this year, the commission said.

Nearly 200,000 voters who had been omitted from 2011 elections were integrated into the new electoral register of more than 30 million people, said Flavien Misoni, executive secretary of the Independent National Electoral Commission, known as CENI. The 18-month operation cost about \$30 million dollars, he said.

Commission spokesman Jean Pierre Kalamba said that the operation "was intended to reassure the public about the seriousness of the local and provincial elections" before they take place in October 2015.

Experts from the international organization of French-speaking countries have been invited to externally audit the electoral role, the commission said as the ceremony presenting the voter list was aired Friday on national TV and in front of political parties, civic organizations and journalists.

The opposition has said that voters who have turned 18 since 2011 must still be added to the list and the final list is not yet complete. A fringe opposition group is also calling for registration online.

President Joseph Kabila last week called for dialogue with the opposition and all political parties in anticipation of local, provincial, parliamentary and presidential elections that will take place through the end of 2016, his office said in a statement. Presidential elections are slated for November 2016.

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.

Tensions have been rising in Congo over elections.

In January, mass protests erupted against proposed changes to the electoral law, widely seen as a ploy to delay the 2016 presidential elections and to allow President Joseph Kabila to prolong his time in power. Human Rights Watch reported that at least 40 people were killed in the unrest.

Kabila has been president since 2001 and under current law is barred from seeking another term. Elections in 2011 gave Kabila a second term, but the vote was widely criticized as fraudulent.

BURUNDI

Burundi police kill one during anti-Nkurunziza protest

Source: Africa Media Agency

26 May 2015 - Monday's violence in Muyange in Bururi province, around 60km southeast of the capital, is one of the first confirmed reports of civil unrest erupting outside the capital Bujumbura since protests against President Nkurunziza's decision to stand for a third term erupted last month.

Civil unrest was also reported in Matana, further south in the same province.

Protests against Nkurunziza's controversial bid to stand for the presidency again have been taking place in the small central African nation since late April, but the violence, which has left at least 30 dead, has largely been confined to the capital.

Nkurunziza has insisted that the unrest has only affected four districts of the capital, and that there is "peace and security in 99.9% of the country."

Some small, minor protests had been reported in rural areas of the nation in recent weeks, but far smaller and more sporadic in nature than in the capital.

Around 110 000 Burundians, however, have fled the country in fear of an outbreak of widespread unrest, including 70 000 to neighbouring Tanzania.

Opposition and rights groups say that Nkurunziza's bid for a third five-year term violates the constitution as well as the terms of a peace deal that ended a 13-year civil war in 2006.

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 condemns foreign diplomatic pressure over political crisis

Source: AFP

26 May 2015 - Bujumbura: Burundi's government on Tuesday condemned mounting diplomatic pressure over President Pierre Nkurunziza's controversial bid to stand for a third consecutive term, signalling it would not bow to international criticism.

"The government of Burundi is profoundly preoccupied by the current diplomatic activity which could undermine and denigrate our republican institutions and constitution," government spokesman Philippe Nzobonariba said on state radio.

L'UA condamne vivement les actes de violence au Burundi

Source: CRI online (<http://french.cri.cn/621/2015/05/26/502s434740.htm>)

26 Mai 2015 - L'Union africaine (UA) a vivement condamné, lundi, les actes de violence au Burundi.

La présidente de la Commission de l'UA, Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, a déclaré avoir appris avec consternation l'assassinat du président de l'Union pour la paix et le démocratie (UPD- Zigamibanga), Zedi Feruzi, samedi dernier à Bujumbura, selon un communiqué publié lundi par l'UA.

La présidente "condamne vivement cet acte lâche et odieux, ainsi que l'attaque criminelle à la grenade contre le marché central de Bujumbura le 22 mai 2015, qui a tué deux personnes et en a blessé plusieurs autres", selon ce communiqué.

Elle a exprimé les sincères condoléances de l'UA aux familles des victimes et souhaité un prompt rétablissement aux blessés et demandé "une enquête indépendante et crédible pour faire la lumière sur ces actes criminels et amener leurs auteurs devant la justice", indique ce communiqué.

Mme Dlamini-Zuma a appelé les autorités burundaises en urgence pour prendre toutes les mesures afin d'assurer la sécurité des responsables de partis politiques et d'organisations de la société civile et des médias.

Elle a rappelé l'impératif de respecter les droits de l'homme et les libertés fondamentales.

Elle a souligné que les actes de violence de ces derniers jours, ainsi que ceux qui ont entâché les manifestations organisées par l'opposition et par la société civile, avaient eu

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.

lieu à un moment où sont déployés des efforts continus pour mettre fin à la crise grave que traverse le Burundi.

Elle a souligné l'importance du dialogue politique consultatif organisé sous la médiation de l'envoyé des Nations unies dans la région des Grands Lacs, Said Djinnit, ainsi que des représentants de l'UA, de la Communauté d'Afrique de l'Est (CAE), du Marché commun pour l'Afrique orientale et australe (COMESA), et de la Conférence internationale pour la région des Grands Lacs (CIRGL).

La présidente a appelé les parties burundaises à réaffirmer leur engagement pour trouver une solution politique et consensuelle à la crise que connaît le pays, à mettre en place des conditions propices à la tenue d'élections véritablement libres et transparentes, et à préserver les progrès essentiels obtenus grâce à l'Accord d'Arusha pour la paix et la réconciliation au Burundi, dont l'UA et les autres acteurs internationaux sont les garants.

Elle a réaffirmé la détermination de l'UA, en coopération étroite avec la région et les autres acteurs internationaux, à continuer de faire tout ce qui est en son pouvoir pour contribuer à une résolution rapide de la crise actuelle.

A cet égard, elle a réitéré sa gratitude à la mission de haut niveau de l'UA menée par Edem Kodjo et comprenant le professeur Ibrahima Fall, saluant les efforts et l'engagement continus de cette mission.

"Une guerre au Burundi et une extension régionale ne sont pas à exclure"

Source: RTBF.be (http://www.rtbf.be/info/monde/detail_filip-reyntjens-une-guerre-civile-au-burundi-n-est-pas-a-exclure?id=8989574)

Filip Reyntjens, constitutionnaliste à l'Université d'Anvers et grand spécialiste de la région des Grands Lacs était ce mardi matin l'invité de Matin Première. Il craint qu'après les violentes manifestations de ces derniers jours, la situation au Burundi ne dégénère. Soit vers une guerre civile, qui se répandrait aux pays voisins, soit vers un durcissement du régime de Pierre Nkurunziza.

26 Mai 2015 - "Nous venons ce week-end d'assister au premier assassinat d'un opposant politique depuis des années. La tension augmente clairement d'un cran", constate Filip Reyntjens. Car après plusieurs jours de manifestations de plus en plus violentes, le régime du président burundais Pierre Nkurunziza tient bon. Il est largement soutenu par la majorité des Burundais vivant dans des zones rurales, et Nkurunziza

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.

assuré de sa réélection. "On vit une déconnexion assez nette entre la ville et la campagne. Quatre-vingt pourcents des Burundais vivent en milieu rural, alors que les manifestations ont lieu principalement à Bujumbura. Le président Nkurunziza est très populaire dans le Burundi profond."

Le pouvoir s'appuie également sur des informations et des rumeurs propagées par des médias qui lui sont proches. Ils évoquent depuis quelques jours des manifestants mobilisés et payés par des puissances étrangères. "De la propagande", selon Filip Reyntjens. "On se cherche un ennemi commun, et de préférence étranger, de façon à se présenter comme la victime d'un complot international, de préférence impérialiste ", explique-t-il.

Si l'avenir est incertain à Bujumbura, les perspectives sont toutes sombres. Filip Reyntjens dégage deux hypothèses.

La première verrait "le parti au pouvoir faire le gros dos, continuer à réprimer les manifestations " et miser sur la lassitude des opposants comme de la communauté internationale pour "repasser aux affaires courantes". "Le régime sera alors plus répressif qu'il ne l'est aujourd'hui."

"Le Rwanda sera obligé d'intervenir"

La deuxième verrait "un certain nombre de partis politiques, voire certaines ailes de ces partis, reprendre les armes, et que la guerre civile au Burundi recommence. Une relance de la guerre civile n'est pas à exclure", redoute-t-il. Pire, ajoute-t-il, "dans un contexte où les frontières sont poreuses, une extension internationale à la République démocratique du Congo et au Rwanda n'est pas non plus à exclure ". "Si les FDLR, les rebelles Hutus qui opèrent au Congo, devaient intervenir dans ce conflit, et qu'il y avait l'impression, à Kigali, que des Tutsis burundais sont ciblés, le Rwanda a déjà averti qu'il serait obligé d'intervenir", poursuit-il.

Même si des discussions ont lieu, et que les chefs d'Etat de la région se rendent compte du danger que présente la situation burundaise, "le compromis paraît peu probable" selon Filip Reyntjens. "Le Président a déjà annoncé plusieurs fois qu'il se représenterait. Il est très difficile pour Nkurunziza de rebrousser chemin. L'opposition ne négociera rien d'autre que le retrait de sa candidature. Si le CNDD-FDD, le parti du président, proposait un autre candidat que Nkurunziza, il serait plus que probablement élu." Le maintien au pouvoir du président, il est vrai, n'est pas qu'une question personnelle. "On oublie souvent qu'il y a derrière ces chefs d'Etat toute une cour qui perdrait tous ses avantages", lance Filip Reyntjens.

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.

L'imbroglio burundais est-il appelé à se reproduire chez ses voisins? Paul Kagamé au Rwanda et Joseph Kabila en République Démocratique du Congo seront en tout cas bientôt dans une situation similaire. "Le cas Nkurunziza est perçu comme un précédent, puisque nous aurons des élections présidentielles en 2016 au Congo et en 2017 au Rwanda. Kabila et Kagamé sont tous deux interdits de nouveau mandat par leur constitution." Ce qui reposera inmanquablement les questions de l'instabilité et de l'autoritarisme. Le régime rwandais, le plus stable de la région, semble se diriger toujours plus vers le second. "Il y a déjà au Rwanda une campagne en faveur d'une révision constitutionnelle pour autoriser Paul Kagamé à exercer un troisième mandat. Les esprits sont préparés, il y a des pétitions qui sont envoyées au Parlement, tout ça est préparé. S'il y a un référendum constitutionnel, Kagamé aura près de 100% des voix. Il n'y aura pas de débat à l'intérieur de ses frontières ", conclut Filip Reyntjens.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

'Wall' of religious hatred divides Central African town

Source: AFP

Boda, 25 May 2015 - The outbreak of violence that plunged the Central African Republic into chaos in 2013 has left a legacy of suspicion, fear and hatred that still plagues places like the southern mining town of Boda.

"There's an invisible wall. It's as if we're in prison," says Bouburori Bindowo, deputy mayor of the town of around 11 000 people, whose Muslim residents, of whom he is one, live segregated from the often hostile Christian majority.

The violence erupted after the 2013 coup that ousted President Francois Bozize and pushed the country into a conflict that took on an unprecedented religious dimension, pitting sections of Christian and Muslim populations against one another.

Largely Christian "anti-balaka" - or anti-machete - militias were formed to avenge atrocities by the mostly Muslim Seleka rebels behind the coup, resulting in waves of killing, rape and pillaging since.

Despite the deployment of French forces and the United Nations Minusca mission to restore peace, the UN's refugee agency says continuing violence displaced around 30 000 people within the country since last December alone, with another 20 000 having sought refuge in neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo.

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.

Tensions

Violence around Boda in 2014 saw anti-balaka militias massacring Muslim Fulani shepherds, and destroying most shops in the centre of town.

As a result, local Muslims - whose extremist elements also engaged in killing sprees - now live massed together for protection, relying on the ruins of walls in central Boda to serve as a buffer zone between the two communities.

Tensions in the town still run high, says Evariste Mitolo, a soldier with the Minusca mission, despite a period of calm the past two months.

"The illness comes quickly, but it is cured slowly," Mitolo says of the situation.

Congolese soldiers from the UN force operate from a hill overlooking the diamond mining town, whose Christians and Muslims no longer interact, despite often living just metres apart.

Wounds inflicted by the violence continue to dampen any desire for intermingling.

'Nowhere to go'

Saidou Bouba, a Muslim farmer with scars from machete blows criss-crossing his face, recalls how he was attacked on March 25 last year by anti-balaka militants as he was trying to flee the nearby town of Ngkontikil with his family.

The militants killed his two wives - one of whom was pregnant - and four children, and left him for dead.

These days many Muslim residents do not venture out of their enclave, are caught in a limbo and subsist primarily on humanitarian aid.

"We can't work in the mines, can't go into the fields, look for firewood, trade, travel. We sell our belongings to survive. We don't have the means to leave, but we don't have the means to stay," says Bindowo.

"We have nowhere to go [although] we are sons of this land," comments Ahamat Ali as he walks through the ruins of his former shop, estimating the losses he and his partners suffered at between 50 million and 100m CFA (\$82 600 to \$165 100).

Fear runs high on both sides of the divide.

Christelle Dovasio, a 22-year-old Christian, says her husband and father-in-law were killed in attacks by Muslim assailants that she escaped by fleeing with her three children into the bush.

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're scared," she says. "We want the Muslims to leave!"

Both communities accuse the other of stockpiling arms and preparing new attacks - suspicion that may not be entirely unfounded.

"There are arms caches on both sides, but now is not the time to attempt to disarm [them] - it's too early," said the deputy chief of the local police, which has moved its station to the town's invisible Christian-Muslim border.

Nearby, a Christian merchant named Blaise opens a new store - his previous shop having been "destroyed by Muslims", he says.

Blaise believes Boda will only begin to heal when full light has been shed on past crimes.

"There can be no reconciliation before there is justice. There must be justice for both sides," Blaise says, preparing to welcome customers to the store he has baptised "Promised Land."

KENYA

Al-Shabaab Militants Kill 20 Kenyan Policemen in Northeast

Source: Bloomberg Business

26 May 2015 - Suspected al-Shabaab militants ambushed a police convoy in northeastern Kenya's Garissa County, killing 20 officers, two local officials said.

Assailants used rocket-propelled grenades in the Monday night attack near Kenya's border with Somalia, Fafi sub-county Commissioner Geoffrey Taragon said by phone. Three other people were injured and four vehicles were burned, Taragon said.

Mahat Osman, a local politician who was among leaders who visited the scene, said he saw as many as 20 bodies. Both officials said the al-Qaeda-linked militant group was responsible.

The ambush comes less than two months after an al-Shabaab raid on the county's Garissa University College left at least 147 people dead. That was the deadliest attack on Kenya since al-Qaeda bombed the U.S. Embassy in 1998.

Somalia-based al-Shabaab has claimed responsibility for a series of attacks in Kenya over the past four years. The group says it's retaliating over Kenya's 2011 deployment

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.

of troops in Somalia, where the militants have been waging an insurgency against the government since 2006.

SOUTH AFRICA

S. Africa's Zuma marks Africa Day, calling for unity

Source: Xinhua

South African President Jacob Zuma on Sunday marked Africa Day, pledging to continue working in unity and to make Africa a continent of hope for the youth and future generations.

Pretoria, 25 May 2015 - South African President Jacob Zuma on Sunday marked Africa Day, pledging to continue working in unity and to make Africa a continent of hope for the youth and future generations.

"Africa Day is a celebration of African progress. We have a lot to celebrate and we have a lot to look forward to. It is also a day to reflect on challenges that still remain," Zuma said on the occasion of the Africa Day celebrations in Mamelodi, Pretoria.

Africa Day is celebrated annually within the African continent to mark the formation of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) on May 25, 1963 and the African Union (AU) in 2002 and the progress made by the continent since then to advance democracy, peace, stability and socioeconomic development.

South Africa rejoined the continent and the international community in 1994 following the dawn of freedom and democracy. Africa Day 2015 is thus a celebration of 21 years since South Africa's reintegration into the international community and into the African continent in particular.

"Africa Day is a celebration of African unity and a reminder that we should never lose sight of that noble goal of the founding leaders of the OAU," Zuma said.

Africa Day, Zuma said, is about recalling selfless solidarity and friendship that South Africa received from the African continent during its struggle for liberation.

"We also at the same time celebrate the solidarity and friendship provided by South Africans in many townships and villages to African nationals who came to settle in our country in search of opportunities even at the height of apartheid colonialism."

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 Africa has for decades been home to many nationals of Mozambique, Rwanda, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Nigeria, Democratic Republic of Congo (DR Congo), Republic of Congo, Tanzania, Burundi, Somalia, Ethiopia, Lesotho, Swaziland, Botswana, Algeria, Uganda, Kenya and others, Zuma said. "We are happy to be joined by nationals from these countries at this celebration. "We became one people, and shall remain one people, living together in peace and friendship at all times."

Zuma apparently was trying to assure foreigners from other African countries that they would not be attacked again.

Xenophobia attacks took place in parts of South Africa in April, leaving seven killed and thousands of foreigners displaced, most of them from other African countries.

Africa Day, Zuma said, is also a celebration of the strides that Africa has made since the establishment of the OAU in advancing peace and stability, democracy and sustainable development.

"We are proud of our modest contribution to the success of the continent through involvement in peacemaking, peacekeeping as well as reconstruction and development, working within the ambit of the African Union with other sister countries."

African countries continue to work together as Africans to find solutions in the DR Congo, Somalia, Mali, Sudan, the Central African Republic and other parts of the continent facing challenges such as Burundi in recent weeks, Zuma said.

"Today we also celebrate the advancement of the continent economically, although there is still a long way to go," he said.

Africa is one of the fastest growing regions in the world, with a sound socioeconomic development plan in the form of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), Zuma said.

"We have clear programs to advance infrastructure development, industrialization and advancement in agriculture, health and other social programs."

The challenge is to make the growth inclusive and for it to translate into an improved quality of life for the 1 billion Africans who inhabit the continent, Zuma added.

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: la guerre du pétrole menace toute l'économie

Source: AFP via Romandie.com (<http://www.romandie.com/news/Soudan-du-Sud-la-guerre-du-petrole-menace-toute-leconomie/596483.rom>)

Juba, 25 Mai 2015 - Les rebelles menacent de s'emparer des derniers champs de pétrole encore en activité au Soudan du Sud, ce qui serait pour eux une victoire majeure et probablement le coup de grâce pour une économie agonisante, entièrement dépendante de l'or noir.

Les forces rebelles et l'armée gouvernementale s'affrontent depuis un an et demi sur plusieurs fronts le long du Nil Blanc, aux confins des Etats d'Unité, du Jonglei et du Haut-Nil, dans le nord du pays.

Dans l'Etat d'Unité, l'armée a annoncé avoir repris l'enclave stratégique de Leer après une vaste offensive lancée fin avril - une des plus violentes depuis le début de la guerre civile il y a 17 mois, avec comme d'habitude d'innombrables exactions.

Région natale de l'ancien vice-président devenu chef rebelle Riek Machar, Leer avait déjà été complètement mise à sac en janvier 2014.

Les rebelles ont répliqué la semaine dernière par une contre-attaque sur Malakal, capitale en ruine de l'État du Haut-Nil, qu'ils affirment contrôler. Malakal a changé sept fois de mains ces derniers mois.

Les rebelles ont également annoncé vouloir prendre le contrôle de la zone pétrolifère de Palouch toute proche, exigeant des sociétés y travaillant qu'elles évacuent leurs travailleurs.

Sous contrôle gouvernemental, les puits de Palouch, dont le pétrole transite par le Soudan avant d'être exporté par la mer Rouge, sont les derniers encore en fonctionnement au Soudan du Sud. La bataille en cours est donc cruciale.

La guerre avait éclaté en décembre 2013, lorsque le président sud-soudanais Salva Kiir avait accusé Riek Machar de fomenter un coup d'État. Le conflit a depuis été marqué par des exactions à grande échelle commises par les deux camps (massacres ethniques de civils - adultes comme enfants -, viols de masse, recours aux enfants-soldats...) et a fait des dizaines de milliers de morts et plus de deux millions de déplacés.

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.

- Risque de 'guerre régionale' -

Les revenus pétroliers ont représenté jusqu'à 90% des maigres ressources nationales, ce qui en fait une des économies les plus dépendantes au monde de l'or noir. Derrière le Nigeria et l'Angola, le sous-sol sud-soudanais abrite les troisièmes plus grandes réserves d'Afrique sub-saharienne.

Palouch est le tuyau par où coule l'entière économie du Soudan du Sud, résume Luke Patey, auteur de *The New Kings of Crude*, ouvrage de référence sur le pétrole soudanais.

Si Palouch tombe et que la production s'arrête, les rebelles pourraient être tentés de chercher une victoire militaire totale, ou d'utiliser le pétrole comme un moyen de pression pour négocier un plus grand rôle dans un futur gouvernement, analyse M. Patey.

La télévision d'Etat a diffusé vendredi des images de violents combats à Melut, à 35 km à l'ouest de Palouch, montrant des chars gouvernementaux en train de faire feu tandis qu'un hélicoptère de combat Mi-24 - probablement de l'armée ougandaise, qui soutient le gouvernement dans ce conflit - fond sur la ville en flammes. Selon la télévision, les rebelles ont été repoussés de Melut.

Depuis le début de la guerre, la production pétrolière du Soudan du Sud, alors de 240.000 barils par jour (b/j), s'est effondrée d'environ 40%. Officiellement, elle est actuellement de 165.000 b/j, mais serait en réalité plus proche de 130.000 b/j, et reste la principale source de revenus pour Juba, soit directement, soit par des prêts gagés sur la future production.

Sans le pétrole, le gouvernement perdrait donc sa principale source de financement du conflit.

De plus, la chute de Palouch pourrait mener à une guerre régionale impliquant le Soudan, qui impose de lourdes taxes au pétrole sud-soudanais transitant sur son territoire, ou encore l'Ouganda, dont les troupes soutiennent déjà Salva Kiir, prévient M. Patey.

Ateny Wek Ateny, un porte-parole de la présidence sud-soudanaise, estime injustifiées les critiques envers le gouvernement, qui dépense 40% de son budget pour la défense, et appelle à réaliser que le pays est en guerre, et que cela a coïncidé avec la chute mondiale du cours du pétrole.

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.

S Sudan gains 'full control' of oil town from rebels

Source: Al Jazeera

26 May 2015 - South Sudan's military has gained 'full control' of the strategic oil town of Malakal, after days of fierce fighting with rebel forces, the government has said.

Army spokesman Philip Aguer said troops loyal to President Salva Kiir had "completed their control of Malakal town" after several days of fighting during which "whole enemy force was destroyed".

However, he also said defence chiefs had "ordered a hot pursuit to track down the rebels wherever they may be heading from Malakal".

There was no immediate reaction from the rebels, who attacked the town 10 days ago after a pro-government militia leader defected to the rebels.

South Sudanese government forces launched a major assault on rebel-held areas in the north in late April, in what has been described as one of the heaviest offensives in the 17-month long civil war.

The town, already in ruins after repeated clashes in December 2013, is the state capital of Upper Nile and the gateway to the country's last remaining major oil fields.

The fighting has cut off over 650,000 people from aid, with gunmen accused of torching towns, raping residents and looting relief supplies, according to the United Nations and aid agencies.

The African Union has demanded sanctions and an arms embargo be imposed on South Sudan's warring leaders. While Washington's envoy to the UN, Samantha Power, has said the US was working with the Security Council to gather evidence for possible sanctions.

Violence in the world's youngest nation has been characterised by rape, attacks on civilians and medical facilities and ethnic massacres.

Fighting broke out in December 2013 when President Kiir accused his former deputy Riek Machar of attempting a coup, setting off a cycle of retaliatory killings across the country.

Tens of thousands of people are believed to have been killed since the country gained independence from Sudan in 2011.

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.

African Union renews call for arms embargo on South Sudan

Source: Sudan Tribune

23 May 2015 - The African Union has supported calls for an arms embargo on South Sudan as fighting resumed between its warring parties, in violation of the cessations of hostilities agreement.

The AU commission, at the meeting held in Namibia, had briefed its Peace and Security Council on the developments and situation in South Sudan.

The Council expressed its concern over the deteriorating situation in South Sudan, including the escalation of hostilities and the grave humanitarian situation of civilians affected by the ongoing conflict.

The continental body criticised the warring parties for abandoning dialogue and resorting to war as a way to end their impasse.

The Council further noted that the people of South Sudan have already been devastated by war, and that the current escalation threatens to unleash irreversible consequences on the young nation.

“[The] council strongly condemned the resumption of hostilities in South Sudan and the untold suffering inflicted on the civilian population, in total disregard of International Humanitarian Law,” the AU said in a statement.

It further expressed deep disappointment over the failure of the leaders of the belligerent parties in South Sudan to rise above personal and factional political interests and put the national interest and well-being of their people first.

The council has stressed that these actions are wholly contrary to the expressed will of the AU, the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development, UN and the international community as a whole.

“In this regard, [the] council called for urgent steps by the sanctions committee, established pursuant to resolution 2206 (2015), to designate individuals and entities subject to the measures provided for therein. Council requested the UN Security Council to urgently consider the immediate imposition of an arms embargo on the belligerents,” its statement further read.

Meanwhile, the council reiterated its commitment to extend full support to the IGAD mediation efforts in South Sudan, notably through the early operationalisation of the AU

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.

High-Level ad hoc Committee, established by the Peace and Security Council in December 2014, and other related measures.

SUDAN

Neuf quotidiens suspendus au Soudan

Source: Le Figaro.fr

25 Mai 2015 - Les forces de sécurité soudanaises ont saisi lundi les exemplaires de neuf quotidiens et suspendu les autorisations de publier de quatre d'entre eux, ont indiqué journalistes et ONG. Des officiers du Service national de renseignements et de sécurité (NISS) confisquent régulièrement des journaux en raison de la publication d'articles qu'ils jugent inappropriés, mais il est rare qu'ils en saisissent autant en une seule fois.

"L'appareil de sécurité a saisi les éditions de neuf journaux" sans fournir de raisons à une telle mesure, a déclaré dans un communiqué l'ONG Journalists for Human Rights Sudan (JHR).

Le NISS a saisi les éditions des quotidiens al-Soudani, al-Jarida, Akhir Lahza, al-Intibaha, al-Rai al-Aam, Alwan, al-Tayar, al-Khartoum, and al-Youm al-Tali, selon JHR.

Ensuite, les agents du NISS ont appelé les directeurs de quatre de ces journaux pour leur dire que leur autorisation de publication avait été suspendue. "Les services de renseignements et la sécurité nous ont dit par téléphone que les journaux al-Khartoum, al-Jarida, Akhir Lahza et al-Intibaha étaient tous suspendus de façon indéfinie", a déclaré Al-Bagir Ahmed Abdallah, le rédacteur en chef d'al-Khartoum.

Il a indiqué avoir été informé que son journal avait été suspendu pour un article sur un forum sur les droits du consommateur où l'un des intervenants parlait d'"agression sexuelle sur les écoliers dans les bus les transportant".

Les rédacteurs en chef du journal pro-gouvernemental Akhir Lahza et de la publication indépendante al-Jarida ont confirmé avoir reçu le même appel mais n'ont pas été informés de la raison pour laquelle leur publication avait été suspendue.

Les journalistes soudanais se plaignent régulièrement de pressions et de harcèlement de la part des services de sécurité.

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.

En février, avant les élections nationales qui ont vu la réélection du président Omar al-Béchrir avec 94% des suffrages, le NISS avait saisi les éditions de 14 journaux, une des plus grandes mesures de répression contre la presse menée depuis des années.

UN expert urges Sudan to investigate mass rape allegations in Darfur

Source: Sudan Tribune

24 May 2015 - The United Nations special rapporteur, Rashida Manjoo, has called on the Sudanese government to establish a probe commission to investigate allegations of mass rape by the Sudanese army in North Darfur state village of Tabit last November.

“I urge Sudan’s government to establish a commission of inquiry comprised of national and international figures to investigate claims of mass rape in various areas including those pertaining to the village of Tabit in North Darfur,” said Manjoo in a press conference in Khartoum.

“In spite of the several but limited investigations and my visit, it is impossible to monitor and document claims of mass rape,” she added.

She attributed difficulty of conducting thorough investigation on mass rape claims to the absence of the evidence which meets requirements for holding objective and neutral probes without fear or nepotism or revenge.

Manjoo, who concluded a 12-day visit to Sudan on Sunday, said she visited Tabit accompanied by government troops and UN officials, noting she met with several women but was unable to hold individual meetings with any of the victims.

“I found them all in a state of denial and silence and we need to conduct further investigations to find out what really happened there,” she said.

Last November, social media extensively circulated testimonies of victims from Tabit, a village 45 kilometres south-west of El-Fashir, capital of North Darfur, claiming that 200 women and minors were raped by Sudanese army soldiers.

Following these allegations, Sudanese authorities initially prevented a verification team from the hybrid peacekeeping mission in Darfur (UNAMID) from probing the claim but allowed them to visit the area one week later.

After the visit, UNAMID said they found no evidence confirming the mass rape claims.

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.

However, Sudanese officials were angered by the remarks of UN officials who stressed the need for further investigation mentioning the heavy presence of military and police during the first probe.

Since then, Sudan refused to authorise a second investigation and called publicly for an exit strategy for the joint mission from Darfur.

Sudanese Government Denies Supporting Rebels in South Sudan

Source: AP

25 May 2015 - The Sudanese government denied on Monday it was supporting rebels in South Sudan after it accused Khartoum of supplying arms to the insurgents threatening its oil fields.

Sudanese Foreign Ministry spokesman Ali al-Sadiq told the official SUNA news agency that his country has "no interest in such an intervention." He said instability in South Sudan would send more refugees into Sudan and create of hotspots along its border.

South Sudan military officials have alleged that Khartoum provides weapons and ammunition to a defected army leader in its Upper Nile state. Rebels are threatening South Sudan's remaining functional oil fields.

South Sudan gained independence from Sudan in 2011 after the region was engulfed in years of bloody civil war with Sudanese government troops.

Also Monday, the country's journalists' union said that authorities had confiscated at least 14 newspapers without giving any notice or justification. In a statement protesting the move against press freedom, it said that four of the papers were ordered shut down entirely.

A similar incident occurred last February, when 14 daily newspapers were confiscated in a single day. The union said it would be following the case and urging authorities to rescind the order.

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.

TANZANIA

Tanzanie: élections présidentielle et législatives le 25 octobre

Source: AFP

Arusha (Tanzanie), 25 mai 2015 - Les Tanzaniens se rendront aux urnes le 25 octobre pour élire leur président et leurs députés, a annoncé lundi le gouvernement, mettant fin aux rumeurs d'un éventuel report des élections.

La date des élections pour tous ceux qui seront inscrits sur la liste électorale est fixée au 25 octobre prochain, a indiqué le gouvernement tanzanien dans un communiqué citant le président de la Commission nationale électorale (NEC), le juge à la retraite Damian Lubuva.

Les listes des candidats aux législatives et à la présidentielle seront publiées par la NEC le 21 août et la campagne électorale démarrera le lendemain pour se terminer le 24 octobre, selon ce calendrier.

La publication de cet échéancier met fin aux rumeurs prêtant à l'actuel gouvernement du président Jakaya Kikwete, en fin de deuxième mandat et à qui la Constitution interdit de se représenter, l'intention de se maintenir au pouvoir après octobre.

Ces craintes étaient nées du retard enregistré dans le recensement électorale, une opération biométrique menée pour la première fois dans ce pays d'Afrique orientale.

A cause de ce retard, la Commission électorale a déjà suspendu sine die le référendum constitutionnel qui était prévu en avril dernier.

Réunis le week-end dernier à Dodoma, la capitale administrative dans le centre du pays, les plus hauts responsables du parti de M. Kikwete, le CCM, ont eux-mêmes reconnu que l'état d'avancement des préparatifs ne permettait pas l'organisation de ce référendum avant les élections générales.

La direction du parti a donc finalement reconnu le bien-fondé de la proposition des partis de l'opposition d'organiser les élections générales avant le référendum constitutionnel.

Contrairement aux années antérieures, une pléthore d'aspirants à la présidence de la Tanzanie se sont déjà manifestés au sein du parti au pouvoir, qui désignera en juillet son candidat.

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.

Parmi ces aspirants, figurent l'actuel Premier ministre Mizengo Pinda et son prédécesseur, le richissime Edward Lowassa, entaché par un énorme scandale de corruption alors qu'il était aux affaires.

Dans la course, se trouve également l'actuel vice-ministre des Finances Mwigulu Nchemba, considéré comme le candidat des jeunes intellectuels du CCM.

L'opposition a elle décidé de présenter un candidat unique. Aucun nom n'a encore été rendu public, mais en coulisses, circule le nom du prêtre catholique défroqué Willbrod Slaa, candidat malheureux au dernier scrutin présentiel (2010).

M. Slaa, réputé incorruptible, est membre du Chadema (Chama cha demokrasia na maendeleo, Parti pour la démocratie et le développement), le principal parti de l'opposition.

Lors de la réunion de son parti, le président Kikwete a reconnu que la tâche était plus difficile pour le CCM que lors des élections précédentes et qu'il fallait que sa formation politique choisisse un candidat capable de rallier des suffrages même en dehors du parti.

Il faut tenir compte des signes des temps, a-t-il suggéré.

Defence requests more time in case against ADF leader

Source: Daily News (Tanzania)

23 May 2015 - The defence in the extradition proceedings involving the leader of Congo-based Ugandan Islamist rebel group Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), Jamil Mukulu, will file a counter affidavit next Monday at the Kisutu Resident Magistrate's Court in Dar es Salaam.

Advocate Martin Rwehumbiza informed the court yesterday before Principal Resident Magistrate Cyprian Mkeha, while requesting for more time to prepare their response on why the accused should not be taken to Uganda for trial of his case.

"After being assigned as the accused's lawyer, I requested for a prisons' accesses permit from the Commissioner of the Tanzania Prisons Services to talk to my client," said Mr Rwehumbiza.

He told the court that he was not in a position to prepare the affidavit due to lack of enough time to merge with the courts order that had directed the document to be filed on or before Thursday.

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.

Mr Rwehumbiza had therefore requested the court to give him up to Monday before 11 am by then he would have lodged his reply. Jamil Mukulu arrived at the court in a prisons bus at around 9.00 am amid very tight security.

The court room was packed with a lot of officials from Uganda and Kenya and prison and police officers were on attention guarding the suspect.

Principal Resident Magistrate Mkeha ordered the matter to come for hearing on May 25, this year, at 12.30 pm when the defence will file its counter affidavit.

The prosecution was being led by Principal State Attorney Edwin Kakolaki, who filed the extradition proceedings for the AG and was assisted by Principal State Attorney Tumaini Kweka and Senior State Attorney Hamidu Mwanga.

He had appeared before the Kisumu Resident Magistrate's Court in Dar es Salaam the previous Friday to face extradition proceedings initiated by the Attorney General (AG).

A former Roman Catholic, Mukulu is reported to have converted to Islam and is accused of commanding a spate of brutal attacks against civilians in both Uganda and Congo since the late 1990s. Mukulu allegedly founded the group in the 1990s with the aim of toppling the Ugandan government.

Since then, he and his fighters have swept across Uganda and eastern DR Congo, killing thousands of people, mainly civilians, officials say.

In the application, the AG has attached several documents, including his affidavit and that of the police in Uganda, showing that Mukulu was wanted in his country; not for political grounds but for prosecution of several criminal offences such as murder, attempted murder and armed robbery.

Another important document filed in support of the proceedings include an arrest warrant issued by a resident magistrate court at Jinja, Uganda, showing the rebel group leader was facing criminal charges in his country.

The two affidavits show that the fugitive is required in Uganda for arraignment on five murder charges, three relating to attempted murder and two involving armed robbery and that such offences fall under criminal law of the land and that Tanzania has an agreement with Uganda for exchange of fugitives.

Reports show that Mukulu was arrested by Tanzanian police last month after entering the country from eastern DR Congo, bringing to the end a long manhunt for one of the suspected region's most brutal rebel leaders Ugandan Police spokesman Fred Enanga

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.

was quoted in the media as saying that Mukulu would be tried at Uganda's International Crimes Division in Kampala after he was repatriated.

"We are aware that he has committed crimes beyond our borders, but it is Uganda which initiated his arrest warrant," he reportedly said. The ADF fled a Ugandan army offensive around 2000 and established rear bases in the eastern DRC.

ADF's presence has for years accelerated the lawlessness in Congo, in addition to giving Kampala a pretext for intervening there. It is alleged that in 1998, ADF rebels massacred 80 students during an attack at a college in western Uganda.

In November, last year, ADF rebels killed more than 100 people in a series of gruesome attacks in Eastern Congo, according to the UN.

Last year, it was reported that Tanzanian forces attacked ADF rebel camps near Congo's gold trading town of Beni, shortly after defeating another rebel group, known as the M23 in a US-backed campaign to rid the mineral-rich region of dozens of rebel groups.