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



MEDIA MONITORING

30 June 2015

GENERAL NEWS

France: Charles Pasqua décédé

ARTICLE

Source: BBC Afrique

Ancien ministre de l'intérieur, il était à l'origine d'une loi restreignant le droit d'asile en France

29 Juin 2015 - La loi Pasqua conditionnait l'obtention de la nationalité française pour les enfants nés en France de parents étrangers à une demande expresse à partir de 18 ans, alors que l'obtention de cette nationalité était automatique.

Charles Pasqua était également connu pour ses réseaux parallèles africains et sa présumée implication dans près d'une dizaine d'affaires, dont une vente d'armes à l'Angola.

Auteur de formules chocs, il avait déclaré que « la démocratie s'arrête là où commence l'intérêt de l'Etat ».

Il est décédé lundi dans un hôpital près de Paris, à 88 ans.

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DRC

RDC: les évêques pour une modification du calendrier électoral

ARTICLE

Source: AFP/RFI

En République démocratique du Congo, les évêques catholiques demandent une modification du calendrier électoral. Pour l'instant, le calendrier fixé par la Céni prévoit une série de scrutins, dont des élections locales, cette année, au mois d'octobre et une dernière échéance, la présidentielle, au mois de novembre 2016. Un calendrier chargé et trop compliqué à tenir pour l'opposition. Les évêques ont demandé que la présidentielle se tienne avant les élections locales et provinciales.

29 Juin 2015 - Selon le calendrier rendu public par la Commission électorale nationale indépendante (Céni) en février, les élections locales et provinciales sont prévues en octobre 2015, les législatives de la présidentielle le 27 novembre 2016. Des voix s'étaient déjà élevées pour décrier la programmation de la Céni.

Aujourd'hui, les évêques se joignent à ceux qui estiment que pour faire des élections apaisées, il faut commencer par la présidentielle et les législatives, des élections qualifiées de très importantes et qui doivent être tenues en premier. Des élections qui doivent être organisées dans les délais constitutionnels. L'autre scrutin viendrait en second lieu, soit en 2017, ce qui selon les évêques, donnerait au pays le temps et les moyens de les préparer.

Pour les évêques, ni dans son déroulement ni dans ses conclusions, encore moins dans ses recommandations, le dialogue envisagé ne peut aller à l'encontre de la Constitution. Il ne peut non plus ignorer les autres institutions prévues par cette Constitution.

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Dialogue national en RDC: Kabila ferme la porte à une médiation étrangère

ARTICLE

Source: AFP

29 Juin 2015 - Le président congolais Joseph Kabila a semblé fermer la porte lundi à toute forme de médiation étrangère dans le "dialogue national" qu'il a proposé en vue de parvenir à des élections apaisées, alors que c'est une condition posée par une partie de l'opposition pour y participer.

"L'écrasante majorité" des Congolais qui se sont déjà exprimés sur le sujet "souhaite que dans l'éventualité du dialogue, celui-ci soit mené sans ingérence étrangère, à travers un nombre limité de participants, et pour une durée relativement courte", a déclaré M. Kabila dans un message diffusé par la télévision publique.

Le président de la République démocratique du Congo, qui s'exprimait à la veille de la fête nationale, faisait là référence aux résultats provisoires des consultations qu'il a lancées avec "les forces vives de la Nation" au début du mois de juin, pour un éventuel "dialogue national" en vue des élections à venir à la fin de 2016.

Après avoir reçu représentants religieux ou politiques à Kinshasa, le chef de l'État a laissé les consultations se poursuivre dans le pays, sous la férule des gouverneurs des provinces, qui lui ont remis leur rapport il y a quelques jours.

L'opposition réclame de longue date un dialogue politique alors que le pays est sous tension à l'approche d'un cycle d'élections devant s'achever en novembre 2016 avec la présidentielle.

Mais la même opposition, qui soupçonne M. Kabila, au pouvoir depuis 2001, de chercher à s'accrocher à tout prix au pouvoir, apparaît désunie face au dialogue proposé par le chef de l'État, à qui la Constitution interdit de se représenter à la présidentielle.

L'Union pour la démocratie et le progrès social (UDPS), parti de l'opposant historique Étienne Tshisekedi, a dit être disposée à y prendre part, mais à condition que celui-ci soit supervisé par un médiateur étranger.

Une coalition de l'opposition réunissant les deux autres partis principaux de l'opposition a déjà annoncé son intention de boycotter le dialogue, y voyant une manœuvre du camp présidentiel pour retarder les élections.

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La RDC traverse une grave crise politique depuis les élections législatives et présidentielle de 2011, marquées par des irrégularités et des fraudes massives.

CIRGL: ouverture de l'Atelier de dynamisation du Forum national de la société civile de la CIRGL en RDC

ARTICLE

Source: DigitalCongo (<http://www.digitalcongo.net/article/108164>)

Par Raymond Okeseleke

Le Coordonnateur National de la Conférence internationale sur la Région des Grands-Lacs, Baudouin Hamuli Kabaruzza, a procédé à l'ouverture, lundi [29] juin 2015 à l'hôtel Memling, de l'Atelier de la Société civile de la Cirgl. La cérémonie d'ouverture s'est effectuée devant les notabilités de cette structure, à savoir le président du Forum régional de la Société civile de la CIRGL, le président du Cadre de Concertation nationale de la Société civile de la RDC, la représentante des Nations Unies et le représentant de l'organisation sud-africaine Accord.

Kinshasa, 29 Juin 2015 - Les délégations venues de toutes les provinces de la République démocratique du Congo, ont pris part à cette rencontre qui a été ponctuée à l'ouverture par les mots de la représentante des Nations-Unies, et entre autres interventions, le mot d'ouverture du Coordonnateur national de la Cirgl, Baudouin Hamuli.

Dans son discours d'ouverture, le Coordonnateur Baudouin Hamuli a indiqué que la Conférence internationale sur la Région des Grands Lacs, Cirgl, a voulu être un espace de participation des populations de la Région des Grands Lacs. Les Chefs d'Etat de toute la Région de Grands Lacs ont décidé d'inclure parmi les principes directeurs de la CIRGL le principe de la participation.

Dans le cadre de cet atelier et en ces moments précis de l'histoire des pays concernés, la Société civile devait nécessairement participer à ce processus appelé à redorer le blason de sa crédibilité et de sa légitimité à travers la participation des populations de la région.

Pour permettre à la Société civile de participer de manière responsable, le Forum régional de la Société civile a été créé à cette fin.

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Pour Baudouin Hamuli, la mise en œuvre du Pacte sur la sécurité, la stabilité et le développement dans la région du Grands Lacs exige l'exécution de quatre grands programmes de la Cirgl. Il s'agit du programme Paix et Sécurité, du programme Démocratie et Bonne gouvernance, du programme Développement économique et Intégrité nationale ainsi que du programme sur les questions humanitaires.

Vue l'importance que revêt la participation de la Société civile dans la mise œuvre de ces programmes, le Coordonnateur national de la CIRGL en République démocratique du Congo, a laissé entendre dans son mot d'ouverture que la mise en œuvre du Pacte requiert la mise en œuvre des dix Protocoles de la Cirgl.

Au cours de l'évolution de la mise en œuvre du Pacte, la coordination nationale de la Cirgl a constaté que la société civile de la RDC qui était très dynamique dans la préparation du Pacte a malheureusement réduit son implication et s'est affaiblie elle-même. Les responsables se sont occupés à autres choses au-lieu de s'y impliquer de manière responsable.

En effet, a souligné le coordonnateur national de la Cirgl, le secrétaire exécutif de la Cirgl, le Pr. Tumba Luaba, a besoin du soutien de tous les acteurs de la Société civile congolaise en vue de la réussite de son mandat. A cet effet, l'espace d'implication de la Société civile en RDC est légalement reconnu par la Constitution et par le Gouvernement, a-t-il renchéri.

Dans ce cadre également, le Chef de l'Etat, Joseph Kabila, a aussi, au cours du Dialogue, invité la société civile à donner ses avis à la fois au niveau national et en provinces. Il a par ce fait souligné que la place de la société civile est largement reconnue dans les efforts du soutien des Nations Unies à la paix, la sécurité et la stabilité en RDC et dans la région des Grands Lacs.

DRC to Offer Training for Former Child Soldiers, Sex Abuse Victims

NEWS STORY

Source: VOA

Goma, 29 June 2015 - The Democratic Republic of Congo's government has launched a training program for former child combatants and victims of sexual violence.

Nearly 80 people crammed into a small village hall Friday in Nyiragongo territory in eastern Congo to witness the signing of an agreement to help young victims, and perpetrators, of recent violence rebuild their lives.

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The two most important signatures on the document were those of the DRC president's personal representative in charge of the fight against sexual violence and the recruitment of children, Jeanine Mabunda, and that of the administrator of Congo's National Institute for Professional Training, Maurice Tshikuyi.

Speaking through a translator, Tshikuyi said he and his Institute for Professional Training colleagues came to the meeting from Kinshasa because they wanted the agreement to be witnessed by local people.

"Do you want me to sign this document?" he asked, to a chorus of approval.

Making payments

Under the agreement, the government will pay the Institute for Professional Training \$25,000 to give two months of skills training to 75 people, mostly young former combatants or victims of sexual violence.

Officially, Mabunda's office has a mandate to work for the reintegration of former child soldiers into civilian life. In a sense that mission is largely accomplished, as the Congolese army demobilized its own under-age fighters years ago.

Mabunda told reporters that her office and the U.N. Children's Fund found there was not a single child soldier at any DRC army camp that they visited.

There are still many under age combatants and former combatants from eastern Congo's armed groups, however, and sexual violence is still a major problem, although its scale should not be exaggerated, said Mabunda. She cited statistics indicating sexual violence cases reported in eastern DRC fell by 33 percent between 2013 and last year, from about 15,000 to about 10,000.

The U.N. reports the Congolese security forces' involvement in sexual violence has fallen sharply.

The 75 youngsters to be enrolled for training are likely just a first wave, said Mabunda.

This training for Nyiragongo is a pilot program, she said, and it should be repeated in other territories of North Kivu and in other provinces.

Thomas Ngumijimana, one of the ex-combatants who wants to enroll on an INPP course, said most of them want training in agriculture, livestock rearing or carpentry, because that is what most people do around here.

Ngumijimana said that after some training he could make \$150 with agriculture over three months.

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Learning skills

The young women said they hoped to enroll on courses in dressmaking, pastry making and soap making.

The Institute for Professional Training already has partnerships with the French Development Agency and other donors and is a trusted provider of training.

The government's pledge to spend \$25,000 on these training courses comes two days after the head of the United Nations Mission in Congo, Martin Kobler, raised questions about the government's commitment to reintegrating former combatants.

Kobler said the official program for reintegrating former combatants has not yet started, although MONUSCO has allocated \$6 million to a World Bank trust fund for the process. Donors have been reluctant to contribute to the fund because the government's contribution is not clear, he said.

But he added the new DRC defense minister is very active in trying to launch the program.

RWANDA

African Union demanding release of Rwanda intelligence chief

NEWS STORY

Source: Xinhua

28 June 2015 - The African Union (AU) has condemned the arrest of Lieutenant-General Emmanuel Karenzi Karake, Chief of the National Intelligence and Security Services of Rwanda, in London, UK.

Karenzi was arrested last Saturday while he was on an official visit in London, UK.

The Peace and Security Council (PSC) of AU on Friday convened a meeting on the situation of the arrest of the Rwandan intelligence chief at the AU Headquarters in Ethiopia's capital Addis Ababa.

The AU-PSC has called for the immediate and unconditional release of the official, according to a statement from AU on Sunday.

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At the meeting, the Council took note of the introductory remarks made by Smail Chergui, AU Commissioner for Peace and Security, and the briefing made by Louise Mushikiwabo, Rwanda's Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation.

The Council also took note of statements made by Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Ethiopia's Foreign Minister, Okello Oryem, Uganda's Minister of State for International Affairs, and Githu Muigai, Attorney-General of Kenya, as well as by the permanent representative of Zimbabwe to AU, in its capacity as the chair of the AU.

Recalling the decision on the abuse of the principle of universal jurisdiction adopted by the AU assembly in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, in 2008, the Council stressed the need for international justice to be conducted in a transparent and fair manner, in line with the principles of international law.

The Council also expressed concern that the abuse of the principle of universal jurisdiction poses a threat to the efforts aimed at promoting the rule of law and stability, as well as at building strong national and regional institutions.

It further recalled the decision calling on all UN member states, in particular the European Union (EU) member states, to impose a moratorium on the execution of arrest warrants until all relevant legal and political issues have been exhaustively discussed between the AU, the EU and the UN.

The Council expressed its deep concern about the arrest of Karenzi on the basis of an arrest warrant issued by a Spanish Judge, and considered it as not only an attack on a Rwandan national, but on Africa as a whole.

It strongly condemned the blatant violation of the principle of universal jurisdiction by some non-African states against African government officials and its implications for peace and security on the continent.

It also stressed that the abuse threatens to reverse the hard-won security and stability in Rwanda and in Africa as a whole.

The Council stressed that the arrest is politically motivated and underscores the fact that arrest warrants issued by individual non-African judges and other non-African national legal systems are a clear violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of African states and constitute an attempt to subordinate African legal systems to those of non-African States.

The Council condemned the arrest as it violates AU's earlier decision and the spirit of the agreement of April 2014 between the EU and Africa during the 4th EU-Africa

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Summit held in Brussels, Belgium, on political dialogue between the EU and Africa to address the issue of the abuse of the principle of universal jurisdiction once and for all.

It called for the immediate and unconditional release of Lieutenant-General Emmanuel Karenzi Karake by the UK authorities.

The Council expressed concern at the continued support by certain quarters of the international community to groups that perpetrated genocide and continue to vehicle its toxic ideology, as well as attempt to absolve those who committed genocide in Rwanda and, in this respect, it stressed that extremist groups should in no way be sanitized.

It called upon the international community to respect the sovereignty and dignity of the African member states, as required by international law and conventions.

It requested the Chairperson of the AU Commission to formally convey the Council's decision to the UK and Spanish authorities, as well as to all the UN and EU member states, and to further engage them towards the speedy resolution of the matter.

BURUNDI

Burundi Ruling Party Happy With Election Turnout

NEWS STORY

Source: VOA

30 June 2015 - Burundi's ruling National Council for the Defense of Democracy-Forces for the Defense of Democracy (CNDD-FDD) party said it is happy with the turnout in Monday's parliamentary elections despite an opposition boycott and international criticism the atmosphere was not conducive for a free, fair and transparent vote.

Party Chairman Pascal Nyabenda said Burundians defied opposition boycott calls because they prefer democracy to a coup d'état.

He dismissed global criticism saying the government organized the elections for Burundians and they responded.

"For the CNDD-FDD, we appreciated the election of today because there was a very good participation of the population and the security was everywhere in the country," he said.

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Nyabenda denied claims the poll was marred by poor turnout. He said it was expected that some opposition parties would not take part adding that Burundians turned out large numbers because they want democracy.

“What is surprising people is that Burundians want democracy even if their leaders say they should not vote. Still, people went to vote which means that there is no connection now between the leaders and some members of some political parties,” he said.

President Pierre Nkurunziza's decision to run for a third term in office triggered a failed coup last month and criticism from those who say he is violating the two-term limit in the constitution.

The Constitutional Court ruled he is eligible because he was first elected by parliament, not voters, in 2005.

The African Union did not send observers because it said conditions were not conducive for free, fair and transparent elections.

AU Commission Chairperson Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma expressed concern about what she called "the serious political and security situation" in Burundi.

But Nyabenda said there were other election monitors from the United Nations and Kenya.

“Someone who would like to say that this election was not transparent was not fair I think they will be wrong because, as all people have seen, even the UN has sent some observers. Some countries like Kenya sent some observers.”

Zuma said the AU, U.N. and regional bodies had called on Burundi to delay the vote until July 30, along with the presidential vote. She said Burundi is at a "crucial phase of its history," and that the political turmoil has "serious implications for peace and security" in the country and the region.

A U.S. State Department spokesman also expressed disappointment in the elections saying there were "woefully inadequate conditions for free and fair elections.”

Nyabenda said the presidential election scheduled for July 15 will go ahead as planned.

“The plan is still the same. Now we continue with other election as it has been planned by the electoral commission. We are in campaign for the presidential election which means we go on, we don't stop,” Nyabenda said.

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Burundians elect parliament amid violence and boycott

NEWS STORY

Source: Deutsche Presse-Agentur

Bujumbura, 29 June 2015 - Burundians cast their ballots Monday in parliamentary elections overshadowed by violence, an opposition boycott and criticism from the international community.

A low turnout was reported at many polling stations in the capital, Bujumbura, while longer queues formed in neighbourhoods regarded as government strongholds.

Voting took place under tight security after gunshots were heard and two polling stations set on fire overnight.

During voting, grenades were hurled at a polling station in Bujumbura and another in Kibago in the south, witnesses said.

The East African country has seen two months of violent protests against President Pierre Nkurunziza's campaign for a third five-year term in office, which opponents say violates the constitution.

Human rights activists say about 80 people have been killed in demonstrations held in the run-up to the July 15 presidential election.

About 3.8 million people registered to vote to elect 106 members of parliament. The ruling CNDD-FDD has 81 seats in the outgoing assembly.

The opposition boycotted Monday's election, which took place in a tense atmosphere. Three people were killed in Bujumbura at the weekend, while opposition parties said several of their representatives had been arrested.

The speaker of parliament, Pie Ntavyohanyuma, fled to Belgium on the eve of the vote after criticizing Nkurunziza's presidential bid. Other high-ranking officials have also fled. They include Vice President Gervais Rufyikiri and members of the electoral commission and the Constitutional Court.

Many Bujumbura residents headed to neighbouring Rwanda to avoid possible election violence.

The United Nations, the African Union, the East African Community, the European Union and the United States had all called on the government to postpone the elections.

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The African Union refused to monitor them, arguing that "the necessary conditions are not met for the organization of free, fair, transparent and credible elections."

The European Union said it had also withdrawn its observers. Staging the elections without seeking a consensus with the opposition "can only exacerbate the deep crisis Burundi is experiencing," the EU said in a statement.

The opposition and human rights activists accuse the ruling party's youth wing, the Imbonerakure, of attacking government opponents. More than 100,000 people have fled the violence to neighbouring countries.

There is concern that the unrest could spark a new conflict between Burundi's majority Hutus and minority Tutsis, who represent 85 per cent and 14 per cent in the population respectively.

An ethnically charged civil war killed about 300,000 people between 1993 and 2005.

The constitution gives the Hutus about 60 per cent and the Tutsis 40 per cent of the seats in parliament.

Burundi votes in boycott-hit poll; blasts, gunfire heard

NEWS STORY

Source: Reuters

By Clement Manirabarusha

29 June 2015 - Burundians voted for a new parliament on Monday after a night of sporadic blasts and gunshots and weeks of violent protests against President Pierre Nkurunziza's attempt to win a third term in office.

Voting appeared slow in several districts for an election boycotted by the opposition and condemned by the international community as lacking the conditions to ensure it was fair.

"We don't see many people," one diplomat said.

The European Union, a major donor to the aid-reliant country, threatened on Monday to withhold more funds after Burundi ignored U.N. and African calls for a postponement of the parliamentary vote and a presidential election on July 15.

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In Washington, State Department Deputy Spokesman Mark Toner said there were "woefully inadequate conditions for free and fair elections" in Burundi and said the United States was "deeply disappointed" in the decision to go ahead with the vote.

The government has pressed on with the election schedule despite going through its worst political crisis since an ethnically-charged civil war ended in 2005. But opponents say the president's bid to stand again violates the constitution.

Aimable Niyonkuru, 20, once a supporter of Nkurunziza's CNDD-FDD party, said he would not vote because the president had not improved the economy or delivered on other promises.

"I am really disappointed about what all politicians are doing," he said.

Dozens of people queued at a polling station in one district in the capital Bujumbura, but in areas that have seen the most unrest against the president, there was little sign of any election.

Nkurunziza, a rebel commander-turned-president who has built a powerbase mostly in rural areas with a down-to-earth style, cycled from his village in north Burundi to vote at a nearby polling station, one witness said.

Almost 140,000 people, or more than 1 percent of the population of 10 million, have fled across the country's borders, stoking concern in a region with a history of ethnic conflict, particularly in neighbouring Rwanda which saw genocide in 1994.

A presidential spokesman said voting was proceeding smoothly and African and European states could not judge the process before it was completed. He also said any further delay in the votes was "out of the question".

The president cites a court ruling saying he is permitted to run for a third term and has refused to back down. Dozens have died in the unrest since April when he said he would run again.

Blasts

Sounds of shooting and at least two explosions were heard overnight in Bujumbura. A witness reported another blast in Bujumbura's Musaga district on Monday morning.

The private Iwacu newspaper website cited police as saying two grenades exploded in Mayuyu district about 25 km (15 miles) southeast of the capital. A police spokesman could not be reached for comment.

A spate of such attacks in recent days has killed four people and wounded dozens.

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The European Union said Burundi's decision to ignore U.N. and other international demands to delay voting further was a "serious matter" and could lead to more aid being withheld.

The EU, European nations and the United States have already halted some funds, including support for the elections. European states together fund about half of Burundi's annual budget.

"The organization of legislative elections on June 29 without establishing the minimum requirements to ensure their credibility, transparency and inclusiveness, can only exacerbate the deep crisis in Burundi," the European Union said.

The African Union said on Sunday it would not send observers as it did not believe voting would be fair. The European Union also said it was withdrawing its observers.

"Not being there means they are playing the game of the radical opposition who have boycotted the process," presidential spokesman Gervais Abayeho said, adding U.N. observers were still monitoring the vote.

Critics have said basic requirements for a fair poll mean ensuring the media operates freely and that the ruling party's Imbonerakure youth wing and other groups are disarmed. The CNDD-FDD dismisses charges its youths are armed.

U.S. 'deeply disappointed' in Burundi decision to hold election

NEWS STORY

Source: Reuters

By Lesley Wroughton and Doina Chiacu; Editing by Sandra Maler

29 June 2015 - The United States is "deeply disappointed" in Burundi's decision to go through with parliamentary elections on Monday despite calls for a postponement, the State Department said.

Department spokesman Mark Toner told reporters there were "woefully inadequate conditions for free and fair elections" in the central African nation.

Burundi ignored U.N. and African calls for a postponement of the parliamentary vote and a presidential election on July 15.

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Burundi in for more instability: Analyst

OPINION

Source: Press TV

29 June 2015 - Press TV has conducted an interview with Abayomi Azikiwe, an editor for the Pan-African News Wire from Detroit, to ask for his insight on the African Union (AU)'s stance toward presidential elections in Burundi.

The following is a rough transcription of the interview.

Press TV: By not sending its observers, isn't the AU putting the credibility of this vote in question from the get-go?

Azikiwe: Most definitely, and I think there's a big controversy that's going on, surrounding these elections not only internally but also on a regional and international level.

The AU had opposed the attempted coup that was carried out several weeks ago. They in fact have been attempting to mediate between the opposition parties and the ruling party in Burundi. However, these negotiations have failed.

Now, with the Speaker of Parliament Mr. Pie Ntavyohanyuma, who has apparently fled into exile along with the Second Vice President Gervais Rufyikiri, it indicates that there are internal problems within the government itself.

So, it would be very difficult for the AU to actually send monitors and sign off on this election when there's so much opposition.

Press TV: So, you would say there's still the potential of things getting worse on the ground in Burundi and after this election if things don't go peacefully or according to plan, there is the chance of violence, breaking out again.

Azikiwe: Yes, just overnight there were three people reportedly killed in clashes with the police. The demonstrations are continuing. There's also been attacks on voting booths and also officials of the electoral commission over the last several days.

And if the African Union refuses to send observers and with the defections of the speaker of the parliament as well as the second vice president, then this will fuel the opposition. And it will also increase the tensions inside the country. So, I think, the country is in for more unrest and instability over the next few days.

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UGANDA

Ouganda: L'adversaire de Museveni veut l'empêcher de se représenter car trop âgé

ARTICLE

Source: Koaci.com (<http://koaci.com/ouganda-ladversaire-museveni-veut-lempecher-representer-trop--102662.html>)

29 Juin 2015 - 'ex-Premier ministre Amama Mbabazi, candidat déclaré contre le président Yoweri Museveni Search Yoweri Museveni a lancé une action en justice pour empêcher le chef de l'Etat de de se représenter en raison de son âge avancé.

Amama Mbabazi, le rival du Président Museveni à la présidentielle de 2016 aurait lancé une action en justice pour empêcher le chef de l'Etat de se représenter au motif qu'il est trop âgé pour exercer un nouveau mandat.

Selon le quotidien The Monitor, le porte-parole de campagne de l'ex Premier ministre Amama Mbabazi Search Amama Mbabazi invoque "l'incapacité physique et constitutionnelle" de M. Museveni d'exercer ses fonctions "en raison de son âge".

Le président Yoweri Museveni, qui dirige l'Ouganda depuis 29 ans a officiellement fêté son 70e anniversaire le 14 septembre. Des activistes l'accusent de mentir sur son âge afin de contourner la législation du pays qui fixe un âge limite de 75 ans au chef de l'Etat.

SOUTH SUDAN

Soudan du Sud: rencontre entre le président et le chef rebelle, aucune avancée

ARTICLE

Source: AFP

Nairobi, 29 Juin 2015 - Le président et le chef de la rébellion du Soudan du Sud, ravagé par une guerre civile émaillée d'atrocités à grande échelle, se sont rencontrés ce week-end au Kenya sans parvenir à aucun résultat, a annoncé la présidence kényane.

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Le président Salva Kiir et son ancien vice-président Riek Machar, devenu chef rebelle, se sont vus samedi et dimanche à Nairobi dans une nouvelle tentative du président kényan Uhuru Kenyatta d'arriver à un accord de paix, après un précédent round de négociations infructueuses en Ethiopie et en Tanzanie.

Mes deux frères se sont entretenus face-à-face durant cinq heures, ce qui a permis d'établir la confiance entre eux et d'identifier des problèmes importants, a déclaré M. Kenyatta dans un communiqué diffusé dimanche soir.

Mais au final, les entretiens n'ont permis d'arriver à aucun résultat tangible, selon un porte-parole rebelle, Mabior Garang.

Au moins sept cessez-le-feu ont été signés, et rapidement rompus, durant les cycles successifs de négociations, entachés d'une évidente mauvaise foi des deux camps aujourd'hui menacés de sanctions par l'ONU.

Alors même que MM. Kiir et Machar discutaient à Nairobi, les combats faisaient rage dans une capitale régionale stratégique du Soudan du Sud.

La ville de Malakal, capitale en ruine de l'Etat pétrolier du Haut-Nil, est désormais sous le contrôle total de l'ex-général Johnson Olony, un chef de milice pro-gouvernementale passé récemment à la rébellion, selon un communiqué de cette dernière. L'armée a démenti ces informations.

Johnson Olony est accusé par les Nations unies d'avoir enlevé des centaines d'enfants sud-soudanais pour en faire des combattants.

Des travailleurs humanitaires à Malakal ont indiqué que de violents combats avaient commencé samedi, mais qu'un calme relatif semblait régner lundi matin dans la ville, où se trouvaient toujours les rebelles.

Clé d'accès aux derniers champs pétroliers encore en activité dans le pays, Malakal a changé de mains à de multiples reprises depuis le début du conflit.

Les combats avaient éclaté mi-décembre 2013 à Juba, la capitale, au sein de l'armée sud-soudanaise, lorsque le président Kiir avait accusé Riek Machar de fomenter un coup d'État. Le conflit marqué par de multiples exactions des deux camps a depuis dégénéré en massacres interethniques à travers le pays.

Aucun bilan officiel n'a jamais été établi, mais selon des observateurs, des dizaines de milliers de personnes ont péri.

Les Nations unies estiment que les deux tiers des 12 millions de Sud-Soudanais ont besoin d'aide humanitaire pour survivre.

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La semaine dernière, des experts américains ont déclaré que des civils mouraient actuellement de faim dans des États du Soudan du Sud en proie aux combats.

Le Fonds des Nations unies pour l'enfance (Unicef) avait signalé plus tôt ce mois-ci des atrocités visant spécifiquement des enfants, dont des castrations et des viols. Des témoignages évoquent également des enfants ligotés ensemble avant d'être égorgés, ou jetés vivants dans des bâtiments en flammes.

South Sudan's rival leaders meet as fighting continues

NEWS STORY

Source: Reuters

29 June 2015 - South Sudan's warring rival leaders held face-to-face talks in Kenya but failed to make progress as fighting continued on the ground this weekend.

President Salva Kiir and his sacked deputy Riek Machar met in Nairobi as part of the latest peace push led by Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta, after previous efforts in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and Arusha, Tanzania, failed.

"My two brothers held five hours of face-to-face talks," Kenyatta said in a statement, adding it was an important step to "build confidence and trust between them."

Kenyatta sought to put a positive spin on the direct meeting, the first in more than four months. He said "important issues" had been "identified and isolated" and that Kiir and Machar "reaffirmed their commitment to security peace for their people".

At least seven ceasefires have been signed and broken during successive rounds of bad-faith talks that began soon after the new civil war started in December 2013.

There were no concrete outcomes or commitments from the weekend's talks, and rebel spokesman Mabior Garang said the talks "failed to bear any tangible results".

Even as the Nairobi talks were underway, a key regional capital in South Sudan reportedly changed hands once again as a renegade tribal warlord attacked the town of Malakal and declared his allegiance to Machar's rebels.

A rebel statement said that ex-government general Johnson Olony — accused by aid agencies of forcibly recruiting hundreds of child soldiers — was in "full control" of the ruined town of Malakal, the state capital of Upper Nile, but the army dismissed the claim.

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Aid workers in the town confirmed heavy fighting began on Saturday. The town is the gateway to the country's last remaining major oil fields and has been repeatedly fought over during the 18-month long conflict.

Civil war began when Kiir accused Machar of planning a coup, setting off a cycle of retaliatory killings across the country that has split the poverty-stricken, landlocked country along ethnic lines.

Two-thirds of the country's 12 million people need aid, according to the UN and one-sixth have fled their homes.

The UN children's agency said in a report this month that warring forces have carried out horrific crimes against children, including castration, rape and tying them together before slitting their throats. Others were thrown into burning houses.

Soudan du Sud: L'ONU pourrait sanctionner six commandants au Soudan du Sud

ARTICLE

Source: AFP

Une commission des Nations unies étudie la possibilité de sanctionner six hauts responsables militaires au Soudan du Sud, qui serait une première depuis le retour de la guerre civile dans le pays il y a 18 mois, ont indiqué des diplomates.

29 Juin 2015 - Cette commission mise en place spécifiquement sur le Soudan du Sud pourrait geler les avoirs et interdire de déplacements six hauts commandants de l'armée régulière et des rebelles, selon des documents obtenus par l'AFP.

Parmi les militaires visés figurent Marial Chanuong Yol Mangok, qui commande la garde du président Salva Kiir, Gabriel Jok Riak, dont les forces combattent dans l'Etat d'Unité (nord), et Santino Deng Wol, qui a mené une offensive armée dans le même Etat dans laquelle des femmes, des enfants et des personnes âgées ont été tuées.

Côté rebelles sont visés Simon Gatwech Dual, qui aurait mené des offensives dans l'Etat de Jonglei (est), James Koang Chuol, qui a mené des attaques dans l'Etat du Nil supérieur (nord-est), et Peter Gadet, chef d'état-major adjoint chargé des opérations.

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La guerre civile a éclaté en décembre 2013 au sein de l'armée sud-soudanaise fracturée le long de lignes politico-ethniques par la rivalité à la tête du régime entre le président Salva Kiir et son ancien vice-président Riek Machar.

Plus de deux millions de personnes ont été chassées de chez elles par les combats accompagnés d'exactions attribuées aux deux camps, tandis que des civils meurent de faim dans les zones de guerre.

Plus de 120.000 personnes se sont en outre réfugiées sur des bases de l'ONU dans le pays.

Le Conseil de sécurité avait menacé en mars de sanctionner ceux qui empêchaient le rétablissement de la paix et adopté une résolution pour l'établissement de cette commission sur les sanctions.

Rebels Recapture South Sudan's Oil Hub Malakal

NEWS STORY

Source: The Wall Street Journal (<http://www.wsj.com/articles/rebels-recapture-south-sudans-oil-hub-malakal-1435571918>)

29 June 2015 - Rebels in South Sudan recaptured the oil-pumping hub of Malakal, a setback to the embattled government's effort to regain control of the top industry in a country slipping deep into economic and humanitarian crisis.

South Sudan's military spokesman, Col. Philip Aguer, said some army units had made a tactical withdrawal from Malakal following the clashes.

Government troops were trying to reclaim Malakal from the north on Monday, said rebel spokesman James Gatdek Dak. South Sudan's weak government, at war with a rival faction since late 2013, reclaimed the hub for the country's only active oil fields just two months ago.

With Malakal again in rebel hands, a conflict that has already killed more than 50,000 people and sent nearly two million fleeing their homes looks set to deepen.

The conflict was triggered by a power struggle between President Salva Kiir and his former deputy, Riek Machar. More than a year of peace talks have gone nowhere, prompting the U.S. and European Union to impose sanctions on several commanders from both sides.

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The most recent clashes have raged even as Messrs. Kiir and Machar held direct talks on the peace process in the Kenyan capital, Nairobi.

South Sudan's oil regions have seen the heaviest combat, as factions seek to gain control of the country's strategic assets. One whole state has stopped producing oil, while output in the Upper Nile state around Malakal has dropped to 160,000 barrels a day from 220,000 before fighting started in December 2013.

The fighting has forced many farmers to abandon their fields and hampered aid deliveries to displaced civilians. Nearly a third of South Sudan's 11 million people face a food crisis, the United Nations said.

The U.S.-funded Famine Early Warning Systems Network on Monday said prices of sorghum increased as much as 90% between March and May in Juba, putting the country's main staple out of reach for the majority of the population.

"Continued deterioration of macroeconomic conditions is expected to depress trade further, pushing food and fuel prices upward" the research group said.

IGAD, war, power sharing, and peace in South Sudan

OPINION

Source: Sudan Tribune

By B. Yongo Bure

30 June 2015 - The latest IGAD peace proposal cannot bring long lasting peace to South Sudan. But we should not blame IGAD but ourselves. Where is our own "good" South Sudanese peace proposal?

Power sharing should not be based on political parties or between the government and the rebels. At present, these bodies are not representative of all the people of South Sudan. After all, it was the concentration of power between two ethnic groups that led to polarization and clash. Had the Presidential Guard Unit (or Tiger Battalion) not being entirely or predominantly Dinka and Nuer, polarization would have been avoided. Any tensions that developed might have been defused by members of the unit from the other ethnic groups. Historically, a bi-polar system has been unstable and explosive (anywhere in the world, except during the era when major powers possess nuclear weapons).

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South Sudan does not really have political parties with national membership. Hence, no political party, including the SPLM, is nationally representative. The SPLM appealed to most South Sudanese before independence because it was seen as the only credible party (with an army) that could liberate South Sudan from Khartoum, either through the transformation of the Old Sudan or by the separation of the South from the North. Once, South Sudan was freed from Khartoum, the SPLM became irrelevant to most South Sudanese. It is just being sustained/revived for power purposes. But this is not going to hold. It might plunge South Sudan into another tragedy. A political party should be formed by people with fairly common vision for the country, but not for the convenience of clinging or sneaking to power.

If the various factions of the SPLM were honest to South Sudan, they should have formed different political parties based on their ideologies and visions for the country- but not by just adding a hyphen to the SPLM. The SPLM had served its purpose of liberation. People worked under the SPLM, even if they had different ideologies, because of the goal of liberating South Sudan from Khartoum – people sacrificed their personal ideologies for the sake of liberating South Sudan from Khartoum.

Even the very name SPLM (Sudan Peoples' Liberation Movement) is no longer relevant to South Sudan. We are no longer Sudanese, but South Sudanese. The people clinging to the name SPLM are now a government. They are no longer a movement.

IGAD and other international mediators are just trying to appease the warring parties because this is the only way they believe they can bring the fighting to stop. As much as they sympathize with the South Sudanese population, there is no way they can help the South Sudanese population without the fighting ending. They are not prepared to sacrifice the lives of their own soldiers to bring the war to an end if the South Sudanese “leaders” are not willing to care about their own people. Why must they (IGAD and other non-South Sudanese) sacrifice their soldiers? They have already sacrificed more than enough time and other resources to help us resolve our problems, but we continue to be arrogant, instead of being grateful; and yet we are the losers. We pretend to care for those we have already killed, but we go on killing more.

I do not understand why the government is unwilling to accept federalism, yet the recent conference of “ALL TRIBES” in Juba concurred on federalism. I believe that given our current divergent outlooks, each cultural group needs to be given some breathing space from the others for some years. Then through interactions in towns, economic projects, boarding schools, colleges, and universities, we will come to know and appreciate each other's cultures. Overtime, ethnocentrism will decline. Our ordinary people are good, but a minority of our elites, from all ethnicities and regions, want to use their numbers to

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dominate others. They play on ethnic and regional sentiments. They are able to fool their gullible followers.

Power Sharing

Power-sharing should be based on administrative units. Given that the populations of Bahr el Ghazal, Equatoria, and Upper Nile are roughly equal, positions in the national government should be allocated on the basis of one third for each region. Say we have twenty-one ministers, each region should have seven. Likewise for the distribution of deputy ministers.

States could be used as the basis for power and resource sharing. But Bahr el Ghazal has four states now while Equatoria and Upper Nile have three states each. Should we create two more states: one in Equatoria and another in Upper Nile? Should the former district of Akobo be added to the Greater Pibor Administrative Area to create a fourth state in Upper Nile; while the Equatorians should agree on the creation of a fourth state in Equatoria? Should this be done during the peace talks or should it be done during the Pre-Interim Period?

Of course, we can create more states; but not twenty one as proposed by the rebels. The creation of twenty one states as advocated by the rebels does not take into account the changes that have occurred since the colonial period. For example, the Aweil and Bentiu Districts of the colonial periods are now states. Under the twenty one states proposal, these two states will continue to be individual states, while the other eight states would have to be divided. Furthermore, the twenty one states would be inequitable among the three regions; Bahr el Ghazal would have seven states, Equatoria six, and Upper Nile eight.

We will probably have to share power on the basis of the three regions while thrashing out the number of states in the first year of the Interim Period. After the existence of ten states, we can no longer return to the three regions as the basis of administration. Many areas of the three regions are very far from their capitals. We can only create more states. But the number of states in each region must be equal. This creation (equal number of states) will disadvantage no one. If you are a large ethnic group, you will have more states. If you are a small group you will be in a state of minorities that does not fear any domination from an extraordinarily larger group.

At the national level, employment in the offices of the president, vice president, and national ministers must reflect the national characters of these offices. Most of the appointments must be distributed by counties if they are more than the number of states. However, the president, vice president, or minister should be allowed to appoint

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not more than five employees of his choice depending on the total number of employees in the particular office.

Likewise, at the state level, the state executive should be appointed proportionately on county basis. The counties that are not well represented at the state level should be the ones from where the central government ministers and deputy ministers should be appointed. Every county has plenty of educated people that can fill their positions in the state and national cabinets. The employees in the offices of the governor, deputy governor, and state ministers should reflect the populations of the counties, payams, or bomas.

More counties should be created in Western Bahr El Ghazal State and in the former Juba District. When counties were created during the war, the former districts of Juba, Pibor, and Western Bahr El Ghazal were not fairly treated. The Pibor situation has been rectified by the creation of counties in the Greater Pibor Administrative Area, but the situations in Juba and Western Bahr El Ghazal have not been addressed. Of course, there may be other areas such as those of Kapoeta East (too big to be one county), Lopa (Lafon and Lopit), Magwi and Nimule, Tore and Yei, etc.

The issue of a National Capital Territory should also be tackled in the first year of the Interim Period. Should it be addressed with Juba and Ramciel; or with the new future national capital so that it is planned accordingly? Being in the center of the country, where the three regions meet, each of the three regions should cede equal area to constitute the National Capital Territory? But what should be the size of the National Capital Territory?

Revenue Sharing

Fiscal decentralization or fiscal federalism is a must. Regardless of whether a system is labelled decentralized or federal, each level of government must have a reliable source of revenue for effectively carrying out its expenditure assignments. Since the central government controls the most lucrative sources of revenues in the country, what it collects is national revenue, belonging to all citizens. Hence, an appropriate formula for sharing it between the three levels of government is a must. Budget allocations of national revenue may begin with a 50:30:20 percentage formula for central, state, and county governments respectively. Likewise, state governments should share the state revenue with the county governments. The county council should allocate county government spending equitably by boma. As the technical capacities of payams and bomas are developed, the county revenue will eventually be subjected to formal sharing with payams and bomas. The formulae should be reviewed every five years and adjusted according to past experiences and changes in expenditure reassignments.

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Each level of government must publish its revenues and expenditures and their allocations to various units and levels. Public sector investment programs and their implementation should be closely monitored and progress reports regularly made available to the public and their representatives at every level of government.

Basic salary scale should be the same for the same qualifications and experience regardless of whether one is employed by the central, state, or county government. This will encourage many capable people to work at the lower levels of government where service delivery is mostly undertaken. Each county in South Sudan has a reasonable number of educated people who can be trained to become capable civil servants at any level of government. Those who prefer prestigious or glamorous positions in central government will have themselves to blame for lack of capable civil servants at their local government level. However, technical personnel should be free and willing to work in any part of the country instead of being confined to their states or counties.

Political positions and super scale salaries must be greatly reduced. More money should be allocated for investment rather than on politicians and highly placed civil servants. The number of members of parliament, and their remunerations must be drastically reduced. Fiscal pruning is necessary, with increasing allocation to provide for socioeconomic development and the needs of the poor and vulnerable groups. So far spending has favored the powerful. Now is the time for the appropriate adjustment of the allocation of resources. Salaries must be paid on time.

Federalism can be signed into the agreement but the details must be worked out during the first year of the transitional period. But it must be accepted as the basis of rule so that there will be no reneging after the peace agreement. The problem is that as long as power is concentrated in few hands, it can be used effectively to frustrate any system whether it is called federalism or decentralized. So mechanisms must be put in place to ensure that power sharing (between the center, state, and county) is sustained and is periodically reviewed (every five to ten years).

The top civil servants and diplomats must be distributed roughly proportionate by states or counties. Most importantly, the army must be proportionate by county and boma. No one ethnic group must any longer constitute a larger percentage of the army beyond the proportion of its bomas. The sizes of counties, payams, and bomas must be based on agreed national formulae.

The police and other security forces should be in the hands of the state and county governments. The central government can have a police body dealing with the investigation of crimes committed at national level or internationally.

Regular Elections

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Power should change hands through regular elections after every five years. Nobody must be allowed to shoot himself to power no matter how large or powerful his/her ethnic group is. Such an imposition must be resisted. Nobody must hold an executive power for more than two consecutive five-year terms (de jure) or for more than ten years (de facto).

Working an agreement along these lines can promise South Sudan a hopeful future, which is for the good of all its people, including the selfish ones, who want everything for themselves only. Fairness and justice serve all members of society positively. Any war negatively affects us all; directly and/or indirectly. There is no winner. Only that some lose more than others. But we are all losers.

SUDAN

UNAMID rebuts Sudan's allegations of delaying Darfur DDR process

NEWS STORY

Source: Sudan Tribune

29 June 2015 - The joint peacekeeping mission in Darfur (UNAMID) refuted accusations of impeding the activities of the Sudan Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration Commission (SDDRC).

The SDDRC commissioner Salah al-Tayeb Awad, on Sunday said the UNAMID refuses to support the demobilization of Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) the paramilitary Popular Defence Forces (PDF), adding this position is a clear breach of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur.

In a statement issued on Monday the hybrid mission rejected the claims of the Sudanese official saying it is not concerned by SAF and PDF demobilized elements.

"The DDPD provides for UNAMID supporting the SDDRC in its endeavour to disarm and demobilise former combatants from Liberation and Justice Movement (LJM) and Justice and Equality Movement (JEM-Sudan/Dabajo)," the UNAMID said.

The peacekeeping mission which chairs the cease fire commission confirmed it turned down a request by the SDDRC to extend its cooperation to the demobilisation of Sudanese government troops but added they accepted to help the former rebels signatory of the 2006 Abuja Agreement.

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The UNAMID "declined to support the proposed demilitarization of the SAF and PDF, on the grounds that this is a demilitarization as opposed to a DDR exercise, which falls outside the remit of the DDPD," said the statement.

Regarding the fighters from the former rebel groups of Abuja agreement, the operation said they just provided that the Commission presents a complete master list of potential combatants to be demobilised.

"However, up to the present time, the Mission has not received this list and hence the delay in processing Abuja Agreement caseloads."

However, UNAMID called on the demobilization body to engage positively with them to successfully conclude outstanding DDR activities, adding it has encouraged the SDDRC to seek bilateral support for the demilitarization of the SAF and PDF on several occasions.