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



MEDIA MONITORING

4 June 2015

DRC

«Le dialogue est incontournable», selon François Muamba

Source: Radio Okapi

3 juin 2015 - Le coordonnateur du Mécanisme national de suivi de l'Accord d'Addis-Abeba, François Muamba Tshishimbi salue l'initiative du dialogue politique, préconisé par le chef de l'Etat. Il a donné son avis, mardi 2 juin, au cours d'une rencontre avec le représentant spécial du secrétaire général de l'Onu en RDC, Martin Kobler.

Pour le coordonnateur du Mécanisme national de suivi de l'Accord d'Addis-Abeba, la tenue du dialogue fait partie d'engagements internationaux signés par la RDC:

«Nous avons, nous RDC, signé des engagements souverains parmi lesquels il est postulé que nous devons promouvoir la réconciliation nationale par conséquent le dialogue est aussi quelque chose d'incontournable. Dans un pays aussi complexe que le nôtre, les conditions qui précèdent l'organisation des élections sont aussi importantes que les élections elles-mêmes».

De son côté, le patron de la Monusco estime que le Mécanisme national de suivi aura un rôle important à jouer au cours de ce dialogue politique.

«Ce dialogue est aussi le contenu de l'Accord-cadre d'Addis-Abeba. Ce n'est pas seulement les élections, la réforme du secteur de sécurité, la bonne gouvernance et la décentralisation mais également de trouver une solution par le dialogue. C'est aussi un rôle que le Mécanisme national de suivi pourrait jouer».

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Le chef de l'Etat a entamé, depuis lundi 1er juin, des consultations nationales avec les différentes couches sociales en vue de créer un climat de paix et de confiance à l'approche des élections générales.

Des acteurs politiques notamment ceux de l'UNC et du MLC continuent de boycotter ces consultations, redoutant un éventuel glissement du mandat du chef de l'Etat en 2016.

D'autres par contre jugent nécessaire ce dialogue qui, selon eux, reste la seule clé pour des élections apaisées en RDC.

J. Kabila nomme les commandants des Secteurs Opérationnels, de la 32ème Région militaire...

Source: Forum des As via DigitalCongo.net (<http://www.digitalcongo.net/article/107581>)

Par Didier Kebongo

Kinshasa, 3 juin 2015 - Le chef de l'Etat vient de signer des ordonnances dont la première concerne création et organisation des secteurs opérationnels, la deuxième portant nomination des commandants et des commandants seconds de ces secteurs.

C'est tombé tard dans la nuit. Le président de la République, Joseph Kabila a signé 5 ordonnances le mardi 2 juin cinq ordonnances dans le domaine de la défense nationale. La première porte création et organisation des secteurs opérationnels. La deuxième ordonnance porte nomination des commandants et des commandants seconds des secteurs opérationnels.

La troisième ordonnance elle, porte nomination au sein du commandement de la 32ème Région militaire des Forces armées de la République Démocratiques du Congo.

La quatrième porte nomination au sein du corps de santé militaire des Forces armées de la République Démocratique du Congo.

La cinquième et dernière ordonnance porte nomination des conseillers à la réforme au sein de l'état-major général des FARDC.

Dans la foulée de ces ordonnances, il y en a une, signée le 12 mai dernier, qui n'a rien à voir avec le domaine militaire. Elle porte plutôt renouvellement de la durée du Mécanisme national de suivi et de supervision de la mise en œuvre des engagements souscrits au terme de l'Accord-cadre pour la paix, la sécurité, la coopération pour la

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République Démocratique du Congo et la région du 24 février 2013. Ci-dessous la liste des commandants nommés par le chef de l'Etat.

Sont institués secteurs opérationnels:

- A. Première zone de défense: Secteur opérationnel du Nord Equateur
- B. Deuxième zone de défense: Secteur opérationnel du Nord Katanga
- C. Troisième zone de défense: Secteur opérationnel du Nord -Kivu, Rutshuru, Masisi, Walikale

Secteur opérationnel du Nord-Kivu: Grand-Nord

Secteur opérationnel du Sud-Kivu: Nord

Secteur opérationnel du Sud-Kivu: Sud.

Secteur opérationnel de l'Ituri

Secteur opérationnel de l'Uele

ORDONNANCE N°15/038 DU 2 JUIN 2015 PORTANT NOMINATION DES
COMMANDANTS ET DES COMMANDANTS SECONDS DES SECTEURS
OPERATEURS AU SEIN DES FARDC

Sont nommés aux fonctions ci-dessous au sein des commandements des secteurs opérationnels les officiers généraux et supérieurs dont les noms, post noms, prénoms suivent:

Commandement secteur opérationnel du Nord-Kivu, Grand Nord, Opération Sukola 2:
Commandant secteur opérationnel: Gén. de Brigade Mbangu Mashita Marcel

Commandant Second secteur opérationnel chargé des opérations et du renseignement:
Colonel Moyo Rabi Richard:

Commandement secteur opérationnel du Sud-Kivu: Sud, opération Sukola2 Sud, Sud-Kivu:

Commandant secteur opérationnel: Gén de Brigade Bwange Safari Gustave

Commandant second secteur opérationnel chargé des opérations et du renseignement:
Colonel Ramazani Fundi

Commandant second secteur opérationnel chargé de l'administration et de la logistique:
Colonel Funga Ngizo Michel.

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ORDONNANCE N°15/039 DU 2 JUIN 2015 PORTANT NOMINATION AU SEIN DU COMMANDEMENT DE LA 32EME REGION MILITAIRE DES FARDC.

Est nommé Commandant adjoint de la 32ème Région militaire, chargé des opérations et du renseignement, le Gén de Brigade Muchando Eustache Wiseye.

ORDONNANCE N°15/40 DU 2 JUIN 2015 PORTANT NOMINATION AU SEIN DU CORPS DE SANTE DES FARDC

Sont nommés ci-dessous au sein du commandement de l'Hôpital militaire central:

Commandant de l'Hôpital militaire central: Général de Brigade Amisi Okito Edmond

Commandant adjoint de l'Hôpital militaire central chargé de l'administration et de logistique: Colonel Puati Di Mapana José Daniel

Commandant adjoint de l'Hôpital militaire central chargé des études et techniques : Colonel Ngonga Mune Matthieu.

ORDONNANCE N°15/041 DU 2 JUIN PORTANT NOMINATION DES CONSEILLERS A LA REFORME AU SEIN DES FARDC

Sont nommés conseillers à la réforme au sein des FARDC, les officiers généraux et supérieurs dont les noms suivent:

Général de Brigade Ngizo Siadilo Tungonyo Louis: conseiller à la réforme attaché au service d'éducation civique patriotique et d'action sociale

Général de Brigade Godace Supa Emery: conseiller à la réforme attaché au corps de troupe de transmission.

Général de Brigade Bofale Efonze Pierre Roger: conseiller à la réforme attaché à la force terrestre.

Général de Brigade Mulimbi Nyembo Zacharie: conseiller à la réforme attaché à la force aérienne.

Général de Brigade Wiyandi Emedi Lukombo Albert: conseiller à la réforme attaché à la force navale.

Général de Brigade Muland Yav Joseph: conseiller à la réforme attaché au service de communication et information des FARDC.

Général de Brigade Ngoy Lushiba Symplice: conseiller à la réforme attaché à la première zone de défense.

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Général de Brigade Alunda Georges Mahukia: conseiller à la réforme attaché à la 2ème zone de défense

Général de Brigade Ngonga Bolamba Ted Basile: conseiller à la réforme attaché à la 3ème zone de défense.

Colonel Kasonga Mufuta Bakajika Siera: conseiller à la réforme attaché au commandement général des écoles militaires.

Colonel Gogo Tolomo Jean: conseiller à la réforme attaché au corps logistique.

Congo forces arrest suspected leader of Goma airport attack

Source: Reuters

By Aaron Ross; Editing by Matthew Mpoke Bigg and Robin Pomeroy

Kinshasa, 3 June 2015 - Soldiers in the Democratic Republic of Congo have captured the man suspected of being behind a deadly attack this week on the largest airport in the east of the country, the government's spokesman said on Wednesday.

At least four soldiers and three suspected assailants were killed in the gun attack at Goma airport on Tuesday that military and diplomatic sources said was the work of ethnic Mai-Mai fighters.

The region has seen years of conflict involving dozens of armed militia such as the Mai-Mai that control large parts of the mineral-rich eastern borderlands, but attacks of this kind are rare.

Government spokesman Lambert Mende described the man captured as a "criminal" from the town of Butembo, some 270 km (170 miles) north of Goma.

"He recruited the band of criminal authors of this aggression before supervising their trip to Goma and the perpetration of the attack on the airport," Mende said in a statement.

The man was arrested in Goma thanks to information provided by three captured assailants and intelligence help from neighbouring Rwanda, whose phone networks the attackers used, Mende later told Reuters.

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Attaque de l'aéroport de Goma: 4 personnes arrêtées

Source: Radio Okapi

3 juin 2015 - Les Forces armées de la RDC ont arrêté mercredi 3 juin trois personnes, parmi celles qui ont attaqué la veille l'aéroport de Goma (Nord-Kivu). Dans un communiqué officiel du gouvernement, le ministre des Médias, Lambert Mende, a indiqué que le cerveau moteur de cet assaut, Kambale Malonga, a aussi été pris dans les filets des forces de sécurité. Mais des sources provinciales parlent d'une vingtaine de personnes interpellées.

Des hommes armés non autrement identifiés ont attaqué très tôt mardi 2 juin matin l'aéroport de Goma. L'attaque a été repoussée par les FARDC. Un assaillant a été tué et trois autres blessés. Un militaire congolais a également péri dans ces accrochages.

Selon le document officiel du Gouvernement, les services de sécurité de la RDC ont localisé le commanditaire de cette attaque Kambake Malonga et l'ont arrêté à proximité de la frontière congolaise.

Kambale Malonga a été arrêté grâce à la coopération des services d'intelligence d'un pays voisin dont les assaillants de l'aéroport de Goma utilisaient le réseau téléphonique, a ajouté ce communiqué.

Le cerveau moteur de cette bande, Kambale Malonga, est un criminel opérant à BUtembo, au Nord-Kivu, où il a recruté la bande de malfrats auteurs de cette agression avant de superviser leur voyage vers Goma et la perpétration de l'attaque sur l'aéroport.

Kambale et ses complices sont pour l'instant à la disposition de la justice congolaise pour donner toute la lumière sur « les mystérieuses attaques barbares qui ont arraché la vie de centaines d'innocents dans la région de Béni », poursuit le communiqué officiel signé par Lambert Mende.

Une vingtaine d'interpellations

De leurs côtés, des sources provinciales parlent d'une vingtaine de personnes interpellées depuis mardi à Goma par les services de sécurité. Elles sont suspectées d'avoir participé à la tentative d'attaque de l'aéroport de Goma.

Ces personnes disent appartenir à un groupe armé dénommé « Union des patriotes congolais pour la paix », dont l'initiateur serait Kambale Malonga, originaire du territoire de Lubero. La plupart de suspects arrêtés disent avoir été recrutés à Beni, Oicha et Nyamilima dans le Rutshuru.

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Plusieurs armes à feu et des armes blanches ont également été récupérées au village Katalengwa de Munigi.

Les villageois ont démolé une maison en planche. Ils ont expliqué que c'est là que se cachaient quelques combattants, auteurs présumés de cette attaque.

« Des couteaux, des lances, liés avec des tissus rouges ont été trouvés dans cette maison. Ils ont également sorti deux sacs qui contenaient des armes et des cartons qui contenaient des revolvers. Cette maison contenait beaucoup de choses que nous ne pouvons pas décrire ici », a affirmé un villageois de Katalengwa.

Une commission, constituée de l'armée, de la police et des services de renseignement a été mise en place par les autorités provinciales pour suivre le dossier. C'est cette commission qui mène les investigations et procède à l'arrestation des suspects.

RDC: Consultations nationales - Délégations annoncées pour ce jeudi 4 juin

Source: Agence d'Information d'Afrique central

Par Roger Ngombé

3 juin 2015 - Les consultations politiques qui ont commencé le 20 mai dernier s'achèvent ce jeudi 4 juin. Le président de la République recevra les dernières délégations selon le programme suivant:

Le matin : l'Organisation des femmes du Congo ; le Front uni des républicains congolais; la Synergie et développement de l'Afrique ; le Parti libéral congolais et le Parti congolais du travail.

L'après-midi: le haut conseil national des sages du Congo ; l'alliance pour la démocratie, le développement économique et social du Congo ; la Synergie des femmes des plateaux et le Club perspectives et réalités.

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En RD Congo, les entreprises françaises pillent le bois

Source: La Croix

L'ONG Global Witness dénonce de multiples entorses au droit.

3 juin 2015 - Elle va porter plainte cette semaine contre une petite dizaine d'entreprises françaises.

L'accusation est grave. Elle est portée par l'ONG britannique Global Witness, dans un rapport rendu public mercredi 3 juin. L'industrie du bois en France serait gravement affectée par l'importation de bois précieux de la République démocratique du Congo (RDC).

BURUNDI

Burundi: l'ONU s'efforce d'aider à la reprise du dialogue politique

Source: Centre d'actualités de l'ONU

New York, 2 juin 2015 - L'Organisation des Nations Unies continuait mardi de multiplier les efforts pour aider à une reprise du dialogue politique au Burundi afin de sortir ce pays de la crise qu'il traverse.

L'Envoyé spécial du Secrétaire général pour la région des Grands Lacs, Saïd Djinnit, se trouvait mardi dans la capitale burundaise Bujumbura après avoir assisté dimanche à Dar es Salam, en Tanzanie, à un sommet de la Communauté de l'Afrique de l'Est.

« Il consulte actuellement les parties prenantes burundaises en vue d'une reprise du dialogue politique consultatif », a précisé le porte-parole du Secrétaire général, Stéphane Dujarric, lors d'un point de presse au siège de l'ONU à New York.

De son côté, le Secrétaire général adjoint des Nations Unies aux affaires politiques, Jeffrey Feltman, a rencontré lundi après-midi le Premier Vice-Président du Burundi, Prosper Bazombanza.

Lors de cette rencontre, M. Feltman a noté que les recommandations du Sommet de la Communauté de l'Afrique de l'Est fournissaient au gouvernement burundais une occasion supplémentaire de créer les conditions pour des élections pacifiques et crédibles.

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Il a encouragé le gouvernement à saisir cette opportunité pour prendre des mesures concrètes afin de garantir la sécurité du processus électoral et des acteurs politiques et de la société civile, d'assurer le désarmement des civils armés, de renforcer la Commission nationale électorale indépendante et d'assurer le vote des réfugiés. Il a aussi encouragé le gouvernement à reprendre de bonne foi sa participation au dialogue politique consultatif.

« Nous restons préoccupés par la possibilité d'une escalade de la violence et nous réitérons nos appels au calme et à la retenue », a dit le porte-parole du Secrétaire général. « Nous continuons à appeler les forces de sécurité à exercer le maximum de retenue dans leur gestion des manifestations et insistons sur le droit des Burundais à s'exprimer, tout en les exhortant à le faire de manière pacifique ».

Pour sa part, le Secrétaire général de l'ONU, Ban Ki-moon, a discuté lundi au téléphone avec le Président Kikwete de la Tanzanie, et avec le Président dos Santos de l'Angola.

Lors de ces conversations, M. Ban a remercié les deux Présidents pour leurs efforts destinés à répondre à la crise politique au Burundi et discuté comment l'ONU, la Communauté de l'Afrique de l'Est et la Conférence internationale sur la région des Grands Lacs peuvent aider à apaiser les tensions et à organiser des élections pacifiques et crédibles au Burundi.

Burundi parliamentary vote postponed amid political crisis

Source: AFP

3 June 2015 - Burundi's parliamentary polls scheduled for Friday [5 May 2015] will be postponed until a new date is set by the electoral commission, an aide to the president said, with the country rocked by weeks of political crisis.

"It is sure. There will be no elections on Friday," Willy Nyamitwe told AFP on Wednesday.

The announcement came as opposition parties said they were ready to resume talks to find a solution to the political crisis triggered by President Pierre Nkurunziza's controversial bid for a third term in office.

More than 30 people have died in protests that began when Nkurunziza announced in late April that he would stand for re-election after Burundi's constitutional court gave him the green light.

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Opponents say his candidacy is unconstitutional and goes against the 2006 Arusha peace deal that ended 13 years of civil war.

Nkurunziza survived a coup attempt last month and has since ignored international pressure, including aid cuts, aimed at forcing him to withdraw or at least delay this month's parliamentary and presidential polls.

The electoral commission had been considering Wednesday whether to hold the parliamentary elections on June 5 as scheduled. The presidential election is still set for June 26.

In Musaga, a district in Burundi's capital that has been at the heart of the violent protests, there had been little enthusiasm and much trepidation in the run-up to Friday's polls.

With independent media silenced during the fighting sparked by the May 13 coup attempt, many people had not even been informed that voter cards were being handed out.

Nyamitwe said the new timetable for the parliamentary polls would take into account recommendations from regional leaders as well as constitutional limits.

Regional heads of state held a crisis summit at the weekend and urged a delay to the presidential vote until at least mid-July.

- 'People are tired' -

A group of 17 political parties and organisations issued a joint statement earlier Wednesday reaffirming their "commitment to continued dialogue" aimed at ensuring "free, calm, transparent and credible elections".

"For us the issue of Nkurunziza's third term remains non-negotiable, but as regional heads of state have formulated a framework for dialogue, we are ready to discuss this issue around the table," said Charles Nditije of the UPRONA party.

"There is no taboo issue," he said, adding that protests should continue in the meantime.

Sporadic unrest continued Wednesday. At least one man was killed in a grenade attack during a night of sporadic gunshots after which security forces were deployed Wednesday throughout the capital Bujumbura, which has seen more than a month of anti-Nkurunziza protests.

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A rare anti-Nkurunziza protest was also held outside the capital. Thousands of people, displaced since the end of civil war, demonstrated in the president's home province of Ngozi, in the north of the country.

But in Bujumbura police were out in force to block attempts by protesters to take to the streets, witnesses said.

The slightest hint of a group gathering was met with automatic weapons fire and the use of tear gas, AFP correspondents said, and there were signs the daily demonstrations were beginning to fizzle out.

"If the number of demonstrators is falling, it's because a lot of them are in prison, injured, dead or terrified," said Jean-Marie, an unemployed driver in Musaga district, one of the areas of the capital that has been at the heart of the protest movement.

"People are tired," added Anatole, another resident of the district. "It's been a month since anyone went to work, they have nothing more to eat, and there are bullets whizzing by."

A senior police official said the intensified crackdown appeared to be working.

"We've adapted, and now we are out around the clock and we stop any gathering," he said, asking not to be named.

Burundi Opposition Welcomes Parliamentary Vote Delay

Source: VOA

4 June 2015 - Burundi's opposition parties and civil society groups said they welcome Wednesday's announcement by the electoral commission to postpone Friday's parliamentary election. They maintain that President Pierre Nkurunziza's contentious decision to seek a third term, which has sparked weeks of violent protests, is non-negotiable.

Leaders of the East Africa Community have asked Bujumbura to postpone the elections. A spokesman for Nkurunziza said Wednesday the electoral commission is considering a new timetable.

Innocent Muhozi, general manager of the independent Renaissance radio television network, said the third term bid is one of many issues the opposition and organizers of the protests want to highlight during the next round of talks.

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The opposition has agreed to resume the dialogue with the government.

“Most of the people on the ground – the opposition and protesters – are happy with that, even if they didn’t talk about the question of term mandate and many other questions. But, as the communique said, it’s possible that this postponement will help to deal with all the other questions that are on the table now,” he said.

Muhozi said the international community must understand that the demonstrations taking place daily in Burundi are not just about Nkurunziza’s controversial third term bid, but rather a combination of issues that he said are destroying the fabric of the society.

“Nkurunziza is just a symbol of our system that has been killing people, torturing people, almost destroying the economy of the country. So, when the people are fighting against this term mandate, mostly it’s much about the way the system has worked during the last ten years than specifically against Mr. Nkurunziza himself,” Muhozi said.

He said Nkurunziza’s third term bid is one of many issues the opposition and organizers of the protests want to highlight during the next round of talks.

“The basic human rights, the right to protest peacefully, the right to have access to information. As you know, the independent media has been destroyed and today the owners cannot access their own places of work, this question of extrajudicial executions, political leaders in exile, the brutality of the security services. So, there are many questions that will be for sure on the table, including about the militia,” he said.

The opposition has been complaining about what it calls the “militarization of the ruling CNDD-FDD party’s youth wing,” known as Imbonerakure, and accused the government of supporting the violence.

East African leaders at an emergency summit Sunday on the Burundi crisis called on all parties to disarm all youth groups and stop the violence to create "conditions for the return of refugees.”

As for a new election timetable, Muhozi said the electoral commission is no longer a legally constituted entity given that some of its members of have either resigned or fled the country.

“It’s not anymore legally constituted because there were supposed to be five persons on this commission, and the way they have to take decisions is supposed to be three on (out of) four, but today it cannot work anymore. So, the first question to be addressed is to rebuild another independent electoral commission,” he said.

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Muhozi said the electoral commission has not indicated whether the presidential election scheduled for June 26th was still on track or would also be postponed. He said the commission has probably left that decision to Nkurunziza, perhaps in the form of a decree.

Burundi: Opposition calls for UN help to disarm youth militias

Source: International Business Times

3 June 2015 - Burundi's main coalition opposition party has told IBTimes UK it will call on the United Nations to set up a special budget to help the country disarm youth groups, including members of the ruling party National Council for the Defense of Democracy (CNDD-FDD)'s Imbonerakure youth wing.

During a crisis meeting on Sunday (31 May), leaders of the East African Community (EAC) called on the government in Bujumbura to postpone elections by no less than six weeks after more than a month of sometimes deadly protests.

Government to "punish" armed youth

Willy Nyamitwe, the presidential adviser, told IBTimes UK the government would act on the recommendation to disarm "every young person without taking into account their political affiliation".

Nyamitwe said he believes many young people allied to other political parties hide behind the Imbonerakure label – which has been accused of being behind a campaign of intimidation that has led to the flight of over 72,000 Burundians to bordering countries – when they commit crime.

"The Imbonerakure is the young wing of our party, and have, for a long time, been accused of having arms. The fact is that we have arrested young people who have thrown grenades during protests: yes some young people have arms, but these all belong to different political formations, not necessarily to the CNDD-FDD, or working for the government," the adviser said.

"People in the opposition want them to take all the blame. This foul play must stop and the government must disarm every youth. A criminal is a criminal and should be punished."

Many Imbonerakure members are former rebel combatants from Burundi's civil war which took place between 1993 and 2005.

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More than 100,000 arms have been removed from civilians, Nyamitwe said, adding that the government would continue a disarmament and demobilisation program established in 2005 at the end of the war that killed some 300,000.

"It is in this framework that the government will re-enforce its disarmament program," Nyamitwe said.

UN budget for disarmament

However according to Leonce Ngendakumana, president of the main coalition opposition party the Democrats' Alliance for Change (ADC-Ikibiri), the EAC recommendation failed to name the pro-President Pierre Nkurunziza militia, which he alleges is armed by the government.

"The EAC cannot ask the Burundian government to disarm the militia because the ruling party is arming them. Therefore, we will refuse the EAC recommendation to the government, but we will send a quantified request to the UN as disarming those groups will require huge material means," Ngendakumana told IBTimes UK on Tuesday.

The politician claims that such a request would fall within the EAC framework, which has a regional peace and security article including a clause that states the region may send a peacekeeping force to combat an issue that could create instability.

The call follows over a month of street violence, which has left more than 30 people dead and over 500 injured since 26 April when Burundi's ruling party nominated Nkurunziza to stand for re-election.

"The EAC will definitely support us because if they leave us, they will have to mobilise enormous funds to dig out bodies and to rebuild a completely destroyed country," Ngendakumana, a former president of the assembly, warned.

"To prevent all this it must be put at the disposal of the government and the opposition the means to neutralise and dismantle the militias such as the Imbonerakure and engage in a path of peace and security for the country."

International backup force

Jean Claude Nkundwa, a Bujumbura-based peace activist, however, recommends that the Burundian army receives an "international backup force" to allow it to play a constructive role in the disarmament of the militias.

But since senior army leadership is likely to be divided, he said, the UN allied with the African Union "must prepare to directly intervene as quickly as possible".

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The issue at hand, Nkundwa explained, is that the EAC failed to propose the setup of an institution to overlook the disarmament of a divided group.

"It is also important to underline that when we speak about Imbonerakure, we are speaking about different categories. You have those who don't want to participate in violent activities, those who are rebelling against the group, and maybe those who feel they have been taken hostage by the more extremists members," he told IBTimes UK.

Referring to allegations that the government has been arming youth groups, Pancrace Cimpaye, a spokesman for ADC-Ikibiri, said Nkurunziza would not accept "getting rid of his force".

He said only "an economic embargo pressure would have a sufficient impact" in the disarmament.

A legal route?

Burundi's civil society lawyer, Belgian attorney Bernard Maingain, believes the EAC recommendations "could be enough, judicially speaking", to ensure Nkurunziza's government disarms every youth group.

"From a legal point of view, these recommendations have introduced important things, including the disarming of the Imbonerakure," said Maingain, who handed a case on 8 May to the UN Security Council allegedly describing a plan to destabilise the region by sending members of the Imbonerakure to train in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

"There is a lack of precision in the text, but I think that it basically intends to tackle the Imbonerakure – it seems so obvious to me. I think the way in which we will be able to change things at that level will be a major issue now," he added.

"It will help to gauge the goodwill of the authorities at the dawn of both the disarmament and fundamental freedom issues."

Opposition leaders want Nkurunziza to withdraw his third-term bid in the upcoming 26 June elections, claiming it violates the country's constitution and the Arusha Accords, a peace deal that ended the ethnic civil war in 2005.

Nkurunziza's supporters, however, argue that the president's first term should be discounted as he was chosen by the Parliament and not by the people in an election as is specified in the agreement.

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CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Viols en Centrafrique: Ban Ki-moon annonce une enquête de l'ONU

Source: Voix de l'Amérique

Ban Ki-moon affirme que les Nations unies n'abandonnent pas les victimes d'abus sexuels, particulièrement lorsqu'ils sont commis par ceux qui sont censés protéger les populations, a indiqué mercredi le porte-parole Stéphane Dujarric du secrétaire général de l'ONU.

3 Juin 2015 - Il s'agira, selon Dujarric, d'une enquête externe indépendante sur les agressions sexuelles présumées d'enfants par des soldats français et africains déployés en République centrafricaine.

Les Nations unies ont été vivement critiquées pour leur lenteur à répondre aux allégations d'abus sexuels très graves sur des enfants, qui font actuellement l'objet d'une enquête des autorités françaises.

L'ONU a notamment été accusée d'avoir temporairement sanctionné un fonctionnaire qui avait de sa propre initiative transmis un rapport aux autorités françaises pour les alerter.

L'affaire a été révélée en avril par le quotidien britannique The Guardian sur la base d'un rapport de l'ONU contenant des témoignages d'enfants affirmant avoir été violés par des militaires français au début de l'intervention française en Centrafrique, entre décembre 2013 et juin 2014, en échange de nourriture.

La France a annoncé le mois dernier que 14 soldats français sont mis en cause dans cette affaire potentiellement désastreuse pour l'image de la France et de son armée en Afrique.

Les enfants, âgés de 8 à 13 ans, auraient également été violés par des soldats du Tchad et de Guinée équatoriale.

Pour Aids Free World, qui a publié un rapport interne de l'ONU, de hauts responsables onusiens étaient au courant des allégations de viols mais n'ont rien fait.

"Il y a des procédures qui ont échoué ici", a reconnu M. Dujarric devant les journalistes. "Cela n'a pas été géré comme le secrétaire général l'aurait voulu".

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U.N. Creating Panel to Review Handling of African Children Sex Abuse Inquiry

Source: The New York Times

3 June 2015 - Jolted by allegations of a mishandled inquiry into sexual abuse of African children by French peacekeepers, the United Nations announced Wednesday that it was creating an independent panel to review what had happened.

In a brief statement, the office of Secretary General Ban Ki-moon said that such a panel was needed and that he would be providing further details on who would lead it in coming days.

A confidential report undertaken last year by investigators from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva found that French soldiers, deployed in the Central African Republic to halt violence there, had sexually abused children, sometimes offering them food in exchange for oral sex.

Although the human rights office acted quickly to investigate the abuse, which began in December 2013 and lasted into mid-2014, the French authorities did not even learn about it until last July, when the office's report was shared with them by a United Nations human rights officer, Anders Kompass, who later became the subject of an internal disciplinary proceeding.

No arrests of abuse suspects have been announced.

Confidential United Nations documents about the episode, first leaked to the British newspaper The Guardian, which reported them in April, were deeply embarrassing to the United Nations, in particular the high commissioner for human rights, Zeid Ra'ad al-Hussein, who has been on the job for less than a year.

While United Nations officials said the leaks had distorted the facts, the documents nonetheless raised questions about why more aggressive action had not been taken to halt the abuse and why Mr. Kompass appeared to have been penalized.

"The review will examine the treatment of the specific report of abuse in the Central African Republic as well as a broad range of systemic issues related to how the U.N. responds to serious information of this kind," Mr. Ban's office said in its statement.

Mr. Ban, it said, was "deeply disturbed by the allegations of sexual abuse by soldiers in the C.A.R., as well as allegations of how this was handled by the various parts of the U.N. system involved."

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Mr. Hussein and his spokesman, Rupert Colville, have said action was taken against Mr. Kompass because he had broken a basic rule of such investigations by sharing the report without redacting the names of witnesses, jeopardizing their security and the credibility of the human rights office. Mr. Kompass has not made himself available for comment.

Critics have sought to portray the disciplinary action as an attempt by Mr. Hussein, in collaboration with other United Nations officials, to silence Mr. Kompass and cover up their failure to take action on the allegations.

Mr. Hussein welcomed Mr. Ban's announcement.

"Given the gravity of the allegations of sexual abuse by foreign troops in C.A.R., it is essential to conduct a thorough review of what was done, whether it could have been dealt with better, and what caused the current widespread confusion about the handling of the situation by the U.N. and other actors," Mr. Hussein said in a statement.

Mr. Ban's announcement also was welcomed, with some qualifications, by AIDS-Free World, a New York-based advocacy group that was the source of the leaked documents. It has been highly critical of the United Nations and has questioned its professed zero tolerance for sexual abuse.

"We're eager to see the details, and we think that some of those will be the defining points of the success of this investigation," Paula Donovan, AIDS-Free World's co-director, said by telephone. The panel Mr. Ban selects, she said, must be empowered to investigate "very senior members of his own staff."

Mr. Ban's announcement reflected a heightened sensitivity at the United Nations about the behavior of peacekeeping troops, even if they are not acting under the organization's direct authority, as was the case with France in the Central African Republic, a former French colony.

Over the weekend Mr. Hussein urged African countries that had deployed peacekeepers in the Central African Republic to "intensify their efforts" to prosecute what he described as longstanding allegations of egregious rights abuses.

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Prosecutor receives files from French military probe into alleged child sex abuse in Africa

Source: Associated Press

Paris, 3 June 2015 - The Paris prosecutor's office has received documents linked to a military investigation of alleged sexual abuse by French soldiers against children in Central African Republic.

Prosecutor's office spokeswoman Agnes Thibault-Lecuivre said Wednesday that the documents were received a day earlier. Defense Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian ordered the documents declassified, paving the way for the handover.

Thibault-Lecuivre said the documents won't be made public during the judicial investigation of the case.

French troops arrived in Central African Republic in late 2013 to help stabilize the country amid sectarian violence. The ministry has said children told U.N. officials of the alleged abuse between December 2013 and June 2014.

France says it was informed of the allegations last July. They only came to light publicly in an April report by Britain's Guardian newspaper.

Central Africa: CAR President Says Elections Must Hold This Year

Source: Cameroon Tribune

3 June 2015 - Although doubts still persist, the Interim President has reiterated that there should be an end to transition.

Presidential elections in the Central African Republic must hold before the end of 2015 so as to put an end to the transitional system in the country, Transitional Head of State Catherine Samba Panza has said. Reports say apparently pressurized by international organizations, the country's authorities are posed to organising the elections by December 2015.

It is worth noting that elections in the country have been postponed twice. Earlier this month, a national reconciliation forum called for presidential and legislative elections to be delayed to give the transitional authorities more time to organise the polls. But the recommendation drew protests in the capital city Bangui despite the backing of over 600 national stakeholders.

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The insistence on the holding of elections before the year ends made during her visit to France last week came days after Catherine Samba Panza made a similar statement in an international conference in Brussels on boosting support to CAR which the European Union hosted on May 27, 2015. Here, she is quoted to have said that, "I reaffirm my determination to organise democratic and credible elections... which will whatever the case take place before the end of 2015." Pundits hold that the Central African Republic government is in an effort to organise elections and leave behind a brutal conflict sparked after a 2013 coup pitting mainly Muslim rebels against Christian vigilantes.

Analysts also hold that as good as the announcement may sound, the greatest challenge remains mobilizing the funds needed to organise the polls. Speaking during the Brussels' conference, the interim president of the Central African Republic, Catherine Samba Panza, urged rich donor countries to deliver on aid promised to her war ravaged nation, including funds to pay for elections later this year. She stated that her country still needs \$17m (about FCFA10.25 billion) to hold the elections, which are seen as a critical step to avoiding an irreversible descent into a failed State.

SOUTH SUDAN

African Union appoints high representative for South Sudan

Source: Sudan Tribune

2 June 2015 - The Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union (AU), Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, has on Tuesday appointed former Malian president, Alpha Oumar Konaré, as the AU high representative for South Sudan to coordinate an "African action" in the peace process aimed to stop the ongoing civil war in the young nation.

In a statement extended to Sudan Tribune on Tuesday, it said the appointment for the high representative aimed at further strengthening the AU's contribution towards ending the conflict in South Sudan and the untold suffering inflicted upon the civilian population.

The newly appointed high representative is charged with responsibility to facilitate and coordinate various regional and international efforts geared towards ending the war.

"In the discharge of his responsibilities, the High Representative will maintain close contact with the South Sudanese parties and other stakeholders; interact with the IGAD leaders, other African stakeholders and the members of the ad hoc High-Level Committee, to facilitate a collective and coordinated African action, in the search for a

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negotiated solution; and work with the United Nations and other international actors, in support of the African-led efforts,” partly reads the statement.

It also explained this was in furthering the same spirit of the commission in working to operationalize the AU high-level ad hoc committee which was established by the Peace and Security Council (PSC) at its 47th meeting on 5 December 2014 in order to support the mediation of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD).

The statement further revealed that AU summit will take place in mid-June on Johannesburg, South Africa, and that the ad hoc committee will as well meet on the margins of the summit.

“The High-Level ad hoc Committee, which comprises the Heads of State and Government of Algeria, Chad, Nigeria, Rwanda and South Africa, will meet on the margins of the next AU Summit, scheduled to take place in Johannesburg, South Africa, in mid-June 2015,” it said.

The high representative for the war-torn South Sudan has an “outstanding” experience. He was president of the Republic of Mali from 1992 to 2002, chairperson of the AU commission from 2003 to 2007 and chairperson of the AU high-level panel for Egypt between 2013 and 2014.

He was also described in the statement as a leader with long standing commitment to pan Africanism and therefore a major asset in the search for a solution to the conflict that is tearing South Sudan apart.

Recent approaches by IGAD and AU suggest that the continent is backing away from the previous idea of imposing peace on the warring parties to now encouraging them to further negotiate and end the war through a negotiated peaceful settlement.

Afrique: Alpha Oumar Konaré nommé Haut représentant de l'UA pour le Soudan du Sud

Source: Infosplusgabon (<http://www.infosplusgabon.com/index.php/actualites/submenu-1/1704-afrique-alpha-oumar-konare-nomme-haut-representant-de-lua-pour-le-soudan-du-sud>)

Libreville, 3 Juin 2015 - L'Agence panafricaine de presse (PANA) a annoncé mercredi [3 juin] que la présidente de la Commission de l'Union africaine (UA), Mme Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, a nommé l'ancien président malien, Alpha Oumar Konaré, au poste de nouveau représentant pour le Soudan du Sud.

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Un communiqué publié par la Commission indique que la présidente a exprimé sa profonde gratitude au président Konaré pour avoir accepté de mener cette importante mission.

"Cette décision de la présidente de la Commission a pour but de renforcer la contribution de l'UA en vue de mettre un terme au conflit au Soudan du Sud et aux souffrances indescriptibles infligées aux populations civiles", indique le communiqué.

En procédant à cette nomination, la Commission de l'UA a indiqué que la présidente était convaincue que la riche expérience de M. Konare, qui a été président du Mali de 1992 à 2002, président de la Commission de l'UA de 2003 à 2007 et président du Haut comité de l'UA pour l'Egypte entre 2013 et 2014, et de son engagement de longue date aux idéaux du pan-africanisme seront un atout majeur dans la recherche d'un règlement au conflit qui déchire le Soudan du Sud.

US Condemns South Sudan's Expulsion of UN Diplomat

Source: VOA

3 June 2015 - The United States has condemned South Sudan's decision to expel a United Nations deputy representative to the east African nation.

The State Department called the expulsion of Toby Lanzer, the U.N. humanitarian coordinator in South Sudan, "an affront to the international community working to bring peace and stability to South Sudan."

Lanzer, a British national, was soon to depart the country for a new assignment. He had been known as an outspoken diplomat, frequently criticizing the fledgling South Sudanese government for failing to halt the country's internal violence.

The State Department said the government's priority should be bringing an end to the violence that has displaced more than two million citizens of South Sudan. It said half a million of those are now refugees in neighboring countries, and that 4.6 million South Sudanese are left facing "extreme, life-threatening hunger."

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon called on South Sudan to reverse the decision immediately.

South Sudan has been mired in conflict for more than a year between soldiers backing President Salva Kiir and rebels who support former vice president Riek Machar.

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South Sudanese rebels react to revocation of dismissal of SPLM leaders

Source: Sudan Tribune

3 June 2015 - The South Sudanese armed opposition faction of the ruling (SPLM) party has welcomed the decision to revoke the “unconstitutional” dismissal of their leader, Riek Machar, and his colleagues from the ruling party, saying the move was an “overdue” good gesture in complementing the Addis Ababa peace process.

President Salva Kiir’s SPLM faction on Wednesday announced their leadership had revoked dismissal of opposition leader Riek Machar and others and that he was reinstated to his previous position as first deputy chairperson of the ruling party. They also said the frozen assets or bank accounts for members of the former detainees and armed opposition faction were unfrozen in the country and they could access them.

The rebels commended the decision as correct one but added that this was not the end of the story as many other processes and decisions were still pending in order to end the crisis in the country.

“Well, we welcome the good gesture. It does not come out of the blue. Actually it is overdue because it is a provision in the roadmap agreement on SPLM reunification process signed in Arusha several months ago,” Machar’s spokesman, James Gatdet Dak, told Sudan Tribune on Wednesday evening when contacted for comment.

“President Kiir who was responsible for this unconstitutional dismissal of senior party leaders was directed by the roadmap agreement to unconditionally revoke his decision,” he added.

Dak pointed out that the revocation of the dismissal decree was meant to smoothen further steps in the tripartite intraparty dialogue in order to further negotiate within the party and reach an agreement on reforms in structural, organizational and future party leadership matters.

He blamed president Kiir’s group for aborting internal party transformation processes which sparked the violence and had now developed into a national crisis beyond the party.

Even from the onset of the crisis in December 2013, he recalled that the opposition leader Machar immediately composed a team of SPLM leaders from his side in January 2014 to meet with president Kiir’s SPLM team in Addis Ababa so that the crisis would have been arrested at the party level, adding Machar’s idea was rejected and the “conflict has now developed into a national crisis.”

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He however said the particular decision to revoke dismissal would be complementary to the Addis Ababa peace process led by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), particularly on the executive power-sharing for government during a transitional period.

“Let us wait and see how this reinstatement to previous party leadership positions will reflect on the government’s position in regard to leadership structure and executive power-sharing in a transitional government of national unity,” he further added.

He challenged that the government was opposed to IGAD proposed executive power-sharing which would see the rebel leader, Riek Machar, become either a prime minister or first vice president with shared executive powers.

The rebel leader’s spokesman however said the intraparty dialogue did not confirm president Kiir to continue as the party chairman, stressing that there were pending processes on mechanisms within the dialogue that would address party leadership in the course of reunification.

He said this would be like restarting from square one from where we left in December 2013 when president Kiir violently interrupted the processes of party transformation, reforms and leadership contest.

On government leadership, he also said president Kiir has become illegitimate president either through expiry of his term limit or by his deeds which caused the war and administered massacre of thousands of civilians in the capital, Juba.

“These are some of the issues the warring parties shall be tackling in the two complementary processes in Arusha or in Addis Ababa,” he said.

He however commended partial implementation of the Arusha roadmap agreement in order to help expedite the Addis Ababa process, but ruled out possibility that the rebel leader would return to Juba as first deputy chairman of the SPLM per party agreement without a comprehensive peace agreement in Addis Ababa.

Guerre au Soudan du Sud - L'Afrique de l'Est tente une nouvelle initiative de paix

Source: L'Expression (Quotidien)

Un nouvelle initiative a été lancée lundi par les pays d'Afrique de l'Est pour tenter de ramener la paix au Soudan du Sud, secoué par 17 mois de guerre civile.

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Libreville, 3 Juin 2015 - Ce plan vise à réconcilier le président Salva Kiir et son ancien vice-président Riek Machar, dont la rupture a provoqué le conflit. Toutes les tentatives diplomatiques ont échoué jusqu'à présent et plusieurs cessez-le-feu ont été brisés à peine conclus. En vertu de ce plan, un groupe d'anciens dirigeants du parti au pouvoir, le SPLM, est rentré à Juba lundi. Ils avaient été arrêtés au début de la guerre civile par les forces du président Kiir, puis expulsés au Kenya peu après. Les diplomates espèrent que ces personnalités influentes pourront mettre fin à la brouille entre MM. Kiir et Machar, devenu chef de la rébellion. «Aujourd'hui est un grand jour pour le Soudan du Sud», a commenté le vice-président sud-africain Cyril Ramaphosa à l'aéroport de Juba, où il a accompagné les cinq leaders sud-soudanais. «C'est une nouvelle étape dans le processus de paix». La délégation diplomatique comprenait également les ministres des Affaires étrangères du Kenya et d'Ethiopie, et le chef du parti au pouvoir en Tanzanie, Abderhaman Kinane - les pays qui ont déjà tenté de lancer, sans succès, des initiatives de paix. Les pourparlers, sous l'égide de l'organisation intergouvernementale est-africaine Igad, ont abouti à plusieurs accords de cessez-le-feu, quasi immédiatement violés dans la foulée. Des discussions parallèles à Arusha, en Tanzanie, pour réunifier le SPLM, ont encore rendu la situation plus confuse.

Pendant ce temps, les forces de MM. Kiir et Machar ont continué de chercher à remporter une hypothétique victoire sur les champs de bataille. La guerre civile dans la plus jeune nation de la planète avait éclaté en décembre 2013, lorsque Salva Kiir avait accusé l'ancien vice-président Riek Machar de fomenter un coup d'Etat. Les affrontements de ces dernières semaines ont coupé plus de 650.000 personnes d'une aide humanitaire vitale, tandis que des combattants en armes brûlaient villes et villages, violaient et tuaient des civils - adultes et enfants - et pillaient les stocks des organisations humanitaires, selon l'ONU et d'autres agences impliquées sur le terrain.

Les Nations unies ont indiqué lundi que les autorités sud-soudanaises avaient décidé d'expulser Toby Lanzer, le coordinateur de l'aide humanitaire au Soudan du Sud. Aucune raison n'a été fournie par Juba. Plus de la moitié des 12 millions de Sud-soudanais ont besoin d'une assistance humanitaire, dont 2,5 millions sont menacés de famine, selon les Nations unies. Plus de 120.000 Sud-soudanais sont réfugiés dans des camps des Nations unies, craignant d'être massacrés s'ils se risquent à en sortir.

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S. Sudanese activists organise consultative forum on peace talks

Source: Sudan Tribune

3 June 2015 - South Sudanese civil society activists have organised a one-day consultative meeting on peace talks between the country's two warring factions mediated by regional leaders.

The event in Western Bahr el Ghazal state, also focused on the country's Financial Policy Bill 2015, currently before the national legislative assembly.

Religious leaders and political parties attended the forum, organised by Community Empowerment for Progress Organisation (CEPO).

"Today, CEPO in Western Bahr el Ghazal state with support from Justice Africa is organising a one day consultative meeting aimed at gathering ideas on challenges facing both the Inter-governmental Authority for Development and civil society organisation at the peace venue in Addis Ababa," said CEPO's state coordinator, Stephen Robo.

"We need public demands on how the Financial Bill will look like," he added.

The forum, Robo said, will also explore ways of how taxes can be collected to save the seemingly collapsing South Sudan economy.

"Since our financial situation appears to be collapsing, there is a need for us to find a possible situation of collecting the national taxes that would help rebuild our national economy," he stressed.

The official further said the forum will also suggest ideas to the mediators and other stakeholders in the negotiation between the warring parties in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

"Both IGAD and other mediating terms are having a lot of weakness during this peace talk. Therefore, this consultation meeting will help the mediating teams by providing them with ideas for the two warring parties to reach a lasting peace," said Robo.

Peace talks between the rebels and government hit a deadlock on 6 March prompting the mediators to initiate an IGAD-Plus arrangement, involving the five African countries, the African Union, United Nations and the Troika (Britain, Norway and United States).

The negotiations, being brokered by the East African regional bloc offers the best chance to end nearly 18 months of conflict in the world's youngest nation.

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SUDAN

Sudan Reiterates Willingness to Help S. Sudan Achieve Peace

Source: Sudan Vision

3 June 2015 - Omdurman - Speaker of the National assembly Prof Ibrahim Ahmed Omer has affirmed the imperative importance of eliminating attempts of influencing relations between Sudan and South Sudan States.

He called for the necessity of cooperation between the two countries in all commercial, investment, economic and educational spheres at all levels.

He said upon meeting yesterday the delegation of South Sudan led by Dr. Riek Gai Kok who presented an explanation about the conditions in South Sudan, the people in the two countries are capable of sparing the factors of rift stressing that Sudan cares about South Sudan state stability.

On his part Gai called for the need to activating the cooperation agreements signed in 2012 between the two countries.

In another development and on the honor of participation of the parliamentary delegation of Oman Sultanate in the opening of the deliberation of the Legislature and the inauguration of the 4th President of the Republic Prof. Ibrahim held a review session with Omani delegation that touched on the importance of working on developing relations between parliamentarians.

On his part Sheikh Khalid Bin Hilal the President of Omani shura Council has affirmed the excellence of political relations between the two countries highlighting that view points are identical over many issues of concern to the Arab nation.