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



## **MEDIA MONITORING**

**15 December 2014**

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### **DR Congo's Kabila rejects foreign pressure on electoral process**

Source: AFP

**15 December 2014** - Democratic of Congo President Joseph Kabila on Monday said he would reject foreign admonitions on the electoral process in the vast central African country.

"We are always ready to receive advice, guidance and suggestions, but never injunctions," Kabila said in a speech to both houses of parliament in Kinshasa.

He questioned the "sound basis on which non-Congolese people invite themselves to take part in the debate, however well-intentioned they might be."

The Congolese leader is under strong international pressure, particularly from the United States and France, to step down at the end of his second elected term, in December 2016.

"We will urge leaders not to alter national constitutions for personal or political gain," US Secretary of State John Kerry said shortly after talks with Kabila at a major US-Africa summit in Washington in August.

Kabila was propelled into office after the death of his father Laurent Kabila in 2001, at the height of a civil war that drew in six foreign armies on rival sides and became known as "Africa's Great War".

He won elections in 2006 and again in 2011, in which the opposition cried fraud and which foreign monitors said lacked credibility.

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Last week, Kabila named a new government, more than a year after promising to appoint a cabinet of national unity.

The DRC has vast, widely coveted mineral resources, but years of neglect have left infrastructure and basic services in ruins, while serious unrest prevails in the east.

## **Slow progress in DRC deal endangers peace: Officials**

Source: PressTV

**15 December 2014** - Slow progress in the implementation of an agreement to end violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is putting regional peace in jeopardy, officials warn.

In a statement released on Saturday, international envoys raised "concern that while important steps have been made, the overall implementation of the Nairobi declaration remains slow."

The envoys from the African Union, European Union, United Nations and the United States also noted that "lasting peace and stability" would be resorted in eastern DRC "only with sustained and collective efforts."

The statement comes one year after the DRC's government signed a peace deal with the M23 rebel movement in the Kenyan capital, Nairobi.

The M23 rebels defected from the Congolese Army in April 2012 in protest over alleged mistreatment in the armed forces.

The rebels seized Goma in November 2012 after UN peacekeepers gave up the battle for the main city in eastern DRC. One year later, however, Congolese government forces claimed "total victory" over the rebels in Goma.

The M23 rebels withdrew from the strategic city in December 2013 under the peace accord with the DRC's government.

## **Slow progress in DR Congo's M23 rebel deal risking peace: envoys**

**Slow implementation of a critical peace deal for Democratic Republic of Congo's M23 rebels is jeopardizing peace in the region, the UN, United States and African Union warned.**

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Source: AFP

**13 December 2014** - The rebels' 18-month war, during which they briefly seized the key town of Goma, capital of mineral rich North Kivu province, was brought to an end a year ago by government troops and UN peacekeepers, with fighters fleeing into neighbouring Uganda and Rwanda.

But top international envoys -- including from the African Union, European Union, United Nations and US -- warned in a statement they "note with concern that while important steps have been made, the overall implementation of the Nairobi declarations remains slow."

With their fighters disarmed and held under guard in camps in Uganda and Rwanda the M23 now hold little influence on the ground.

However, M23 leaders have warned they would fight again should agreements fail.

"Only with sustained and collective efforts will lasting peace and stability be achieved in eastern DRC," international envoys said, one year to the day since the deal was signed in the Kenyan capital Nairobi.

Warring forces agreed last year to "find lasting solutions" to end a war that had "caused immense suffering and claimed many lives."

Signatures of the statement include UN regional envoy Said Djinnit, AU envoy Boubacar Diarra, as well as the EU, US and former colonial ruler Belgium.

The defeated rebels told AFP last month of mounting frustrations among the group's confined-to-camp fighters.

Envoys called on "the governments of the DRC, Uganda and Rwanda to strengthen their collaboration to speed up the repatriation to DRC of all eligible ex-M23 combatants and their dependents," the statement added.

DR Congo President Joseph Kabila announced an amnesty in February for M23 fighters, although serious crime are excluded including torture and rape, allegations that have been levelled at large numbers of M23 fighters.

While the M23 were defeated, multiple armed groups still operate in a region that has been in conflict for the best part of the past two decades.

Much of the rebel activity consists of abuses against civilians and illegal exploitation of natural resources, be it metals, ivory or timber.

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## Rwanda: Presidential Polls - Will He or Will He Not Stand?

Analysis

Source: The New Times (Rwanda) via AllAfrica.com

By Lonzen Rugira

**15 December 2014** - Watch out: its election time in Africa! It sounds like a warning, doesn't it? According to emerging reports from across the continent and particularly in our Great Lakes Region, there is trepidation everywhere as countries get ready to hold presidential elections.

Except for Kenya, which held its presidential elections last year, the rest of the countries that make up the core of the Great Lakes Region (the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Tanzania, Uganda, Burundi, and Rwanda) will be heading to the polls between next year and 2017.

Except for Uganda, which doesn't have term limits in its constitution, the rest of these countries have such restrictions for incumbent presidents. More than anything else, this is the source of the orgy of excitement for local, regional and international media.

As a result, the media is shaping presidential term limits to be the overriding issue of our time with the question: Will he or won't he stand? Moreover, as is usually the case, the media is tying the elections in general, and the question of term limits in particular, to people's anxiety.

In their haste, however, media practitioners have constructed the issue of term limits as a significant indicator of democratic progress. Is it?

Of course not, because some of the mature democracies in Europe such as Great Britain, France, and Italy do not have presidential term limits in their political systems.

In the United States, the amendment to insert term limits in the constitution was only passed in 1947. This amendment became necessary after Franklin D. Roosevelt broke tradition, serving four terms from 1933 till his death in office in 1945.

To be fair, those who argue that this cannot be equated to the situation in Africa argue that their political systems have inbuilt corrective measures that ensure that incumbent presidents don't rule for more than 10 years - the equivalent of two terms - regardless of whether this is specified in the constitution or not.

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Examples are given about the shifts in government between the Labour and Conservative parties in Britain and the Liberal and Conservative parties in France, for instance.

But the point remains. The choice of whether to have presidential term limits or not is more of an outcome of a society's elite consensus than it is about democracy, per se.

If tradition can dictate political behaviour, what is wrong with African? The position taken by experts is that African countries belong to the category of 'fragile' societies.

And that this affects political organisation where the majority of states are yet to form a political culture around a set of agreed principles. And that this makes the rules of the (political) game subject to contention.

As a result, experts observe, the outcome of such political disarticulation is usually violence, which often follows elections. In other words, the violence is simply one of the ways in which the contentious political culture manifests itself, which then also informs a conflictual social milieu.

The prescription, therefore, is term limits. These, it is noted, have the potential to lessen conflict as contenders for the highest offices in the land focus their attention away from the incumbent towards time.

For this reason, it is argued, fragile societies have to be treated to a different standard than the more stable societies. In other words, the double standard is justifiable.

**Analytical deficiency:**

While on the surface the above argument has merit, a problem arises from the tendency to lump together countries with diverse political and socio-economic circumstances.

It is as if such differences would count for nothing. And that all countries are expected to behave the same way due to one intervening indicator: elections.

It is for this analytical deficiency that some were quick to conclude that the fall of the Burkinabe strongman Blaise Compaore would lead to the implosion of sub-Saharan Africa in a "Black Fall" akin to the "Arab Spring."

And so, the story is quickly shaping up of the dangers -or violence to be specific - that is forthcoming as a result of the elections and the likelihood that some countries in the region will change term limits.

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But the dangers cannot be the same due to the political and socio-economic diversity and varying historical experiences of the countries involved. As such, it is not likely that these countries will respond in the same way due to a single intervening factor.

It appears that a typology that explains this diversity would be useful. It would sort out the differences and similarities in the countries involved and the likely response from the elections.

It should be sensible that indicators with a direct impact on the lives of ordinary people (health, education, water and electricity, and so on) would be insightful as the absence of such would imply state neglect and generalised popular disenchantment directed towards the incumbent regime.

It would point to leadership with a tendency towards private accumulation and contrast it against one that delivers public goods. And so on.

Such a conversation would also bring to our knowledge which leaders have a legitimate clamor for the removal of term limits and those who have no business even thinking about it.

## **Rwandan General Accused of Supervising Death Squad Leaves UN**

**Rwandan General Jean Bosco Kazura is alleged to have supervised a death squad in Rwanda during the 1994 genocide.**

Source: Foreign Policy Journal

By Judi Rever

**13 December 2014** - The United Nations department of peacekeeping has unceremoniously announced the departure of one of its top commanders, Rwandan General Jean Bosco Kazura, who is alleged to have supervised a death squad in Rwanda during the 1994 genocide.

Kazura -- one of Rwandan President Paul Kagame's most trusted generals -- had been appointed commander of the UN's stabilization force in Mali, known as MINUSMA, in June 2013.

A statement from UN peacekeeping in New York said that while Kazura's appointment had followed established screening procedures, the UN later become aware of a series of serious allegations of human rights violations against the general.

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As a result, the department consulted with the United Nations International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and its Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, whose officials took note of the ‘gravity of the accusations.’

“Following receipt of serious allegations of human rights violations against Major General Kazura, UN Peacekeeping undertook a wide range of consultations with a number of relevant interlocutors, including ICTR and OHCHR both of which are fully aware of the gravity of the accusations,” the statement, sent in an email to this reporter, said.

“You may wish to be in touch with the Office of the High Commissioner in this regard,” a spokesman for UN peacekeeping urged late Friday.

**The UN human rights office was not immediately available for comment.**

“As of 14 December 2014, Major General Jean Bosco Kazura is no longer in the employ of the United Nations,” the spokesman declared. No further explanation was given.

Detailed allegations of Kazura’s human rights record were first reported in December 2013 in Foreign Policy Journal.

The report was based on lengthy interviews with more than a dozen of Kagame’s former soldiers and officers, in addition to a former ICTR official, a human rights activist and other sources.

The sources said Kazura and his colleague General Patrick Nyamvumba, the former commander of the UN/African Union peacekeeping force in Darfur, directed highly organized operations during the 1994 genocide in the prefectures of Byumba and Kibungo -- areas controlled by Kagame’s Tutsi-led army as early as April 1994, at the beginning of the genocide. During those operations, Rwandan Patriotic Army soldiers under Nyamvumba and Kazura’s command hunted down and slaughtered thousands of unarmed Hutu civilians -- men, women and children -- according to testimony. These operations, known as “sweeping” or “mopping up,” were conducted in communes that had already been cleared of soldiers loyal to the former government and Hutu extremists known as Interahamwe.

Some of the Hutu victims were allegedly killed and dumped in graves mixed with Tutsis who had been murdered by Hutu extremists. In other instances, Hutu civilians were rounded up, killed and burned in Akagera National Park near Rwanda’s eastern border.

Former Tutsi officers said that after the genocide, Generals Nyamvumba and Kazura also oversaw the transport at night of male Hutu army recruits from all areas of Rwanda

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to killing grounds near the Gabiro training barracks and in other areas of Akagera Park, which were off limits to outsiders.

The sources said in many cases the recruits were put on trucks, eventually suffocated and were dead on arrival. In other cases Hutu recruits were killed in the park, at different locations.

In gruesome testimony, the Tutsi soldiers revealed that bodies of Hutu victims were often dumped into graves, burned with oil and dissolved with acid. The ashes were then mixed with soil or thrown into lakes.

These operations were directed by then Lt Colonel Nyamvumba, assisted by Kazura, and planned and coordinated by Kagame's Directorate of Military Intelligence (DMI) and intelligence staff from his High Command, according to people interviewed.

Earlier this week, the Rwandan government made no mention of the reason for Kazura's departure from UN peacekeeping, only that he was winding up his tour of duty in Mali.

"We congratulate him for a job well done," Rwanda's defence spokesman Brigadier General Joseph Nzabamwita said.

"He has represented Rwanda Defence Forces and Rwanda well in UN, as Force Commander. RDF is a key contributor to UN in terms of peacekeepers and leadership in several UN leadership positions," Nzabamwita added.

Rwanda is widely considered an important contributor of peacekeepers to the United Nations, employing nearly 5,700 troops, military experts and police officers in global hot spots such as Darfur, the Central African Republic and Mali.

**In July, US Ambassador to the UN Samantha Power lauded Rwanda for its international role.**

"Rwanda's troops were among the first boots on the ground when conflicts metastasized in the Central Africa Republic and South Sudan," Power said in New York.

"And it's not just that the Rwandans volunteer for complex and dangerous missions. It's that because of their commitment to protect civilians, the population in countries where the Rwandans serve trust them; troops from other countries who serve alongside them draw strength from their fortitude; and aggressors who would attack civilians fear them," the diplomat added.



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## Un naufrage fait au moins 129 morts en République démocratique du Congo

Source: AFP/Le Figaro.fr

### Le bateau surchargé assurait jeudi soir la liaison entre les provinces du Katanga et du Sud-Kivu sur le lac Tanganyika.

**14 décembre 2014** - «Les équipes de secours ont repêché au total 129 corps». Le bilan du naufrage d'un bateau surchargé sur le lac Tanganyika, dans le sud-est de la République démocratique du Congo, a été nettement revu à la hausse dimanche. La veille, Laurent Kahenzi Sumba, ministre des Transports de la province du Katanga, avait indiqué samedi que le drame, qui s'est produit jeudi, avait fait au moins 26 morts.

Pour l'heure, on compte «232 rescapés», essentiellement des hommes, ajoute le ministre, expliquant que les secours avaient récupéré encore dans les dernières heures des gens très faibles, qui avaient réussi à s'accrocher à des bidons ou à d'autres objets flottants. «Les recherches pour secourir des personnes vivantes ou repêcher d'autres morts continuent», précise Laurent Kahenzi Sumba. Le drame s'est produit jeudi soir dans le nord de la province du Katanga, au large de Tembwe, entre les villes de Moba et Kalemie, que ralliait le bateau avant de rejoindre Uvira, plus au nord, dans la province du Sud-Kivu. Le M/V Mutambala, qui transportait des passagers et des marchandises, a chaviré parce qu'il était surchargé et à cause de vents violents.

La navigation sur les grands lacs d'Afrique centrale peut s'avérer aussi périlleuse qu'en haute mer lorsque les conditions météorologiques sont mauvaises. Les naufrages sont fréquents et meurtriers en RDC, tant sur les lacs que sur les fleuves ou les rivières, et les accidents se soldent souvent par des bilans très lourds, en raison de la surcharge et de la vétusté des embarcations, de l'absence de gilets de sauvetage à bord, et du fait qu'une grande proportion de la population ne sait pas nager. Fin mars, le naufrage d'un bateau sur le lac Albert, entre l'Ouganda et la République démocratique du Congo, avait fait 210 morts ou disparus. Le navire ramenait des Congolais réfugiés en Ouganda, qui avaient décidé de rentrer d'eux-mêmes et par leurs propres moyens dans l'est du Congo.

## Burundi : à six mois du scrutin, l'opposition en recomposition

Source: RFI

**15 décembre 2014** - À six mois des élections générales au Burundi, l'espace politique est en pleine ébullition, avec la naissance d'une nouvelle coalition d'opposition

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composée de huit partis la semaine passée, dominée notamment par les deux frères ennemis d'hier, les ex-rebelles hutus des FNL et l'ancien parti unique l'Uprona, tutsi. Une alliance en concurrence avec une autre coalition beaucoup plus ancienne, l'ADC-Ikibiri, de force à peu près égale.

Après plusieurs années où l'on ne parlait que de la seule Alliance démocratique pour le changement, l'ADC-Ikibiri, une grande coalition de l'opposition radicale au Burundi, née du boycott des élections générales de 2010, l'opposition burundaise est en pleine recomposition à six mois du rendez-vous de 2015.

Ça n'est pas faute d'avoir tenté d'avancer tous en ordre de bataille, mais après de longs mois de négociations, les principaux leaders de l'opposition burundaise ne sont pas parvenus à s'entendre, pour des questions d'égo notamment. Et à la surprise générale, Agathon Rwasa, le leader historique des ex-rebelles hutus des FNL, considéré comme le principal opposant burundais, a quitté l'ADC-Ikibiri pour former une nouvelle coalition, avec Bharles Nditije, le président de l'aile majoritaire du principal parti tutsi, l'Uprona, longtemps parti unique. Ils ont déjà rallié six autres partis et ont lancé officiellement ce nouveau regroupement le mercredi 10 décembre.

### **Le CNDD-FDD, véritable rouleau compresseur**

Aujourd'hui, les deux coalitions ne désespèrent pas d'aboutir rapidement à une grande coalition de l'opposition, car ils se disent tous conscients d'avoir en face d'eux un adversaire redoutable, le CNDD-FDD, au pouvoir au Burundi, véritable rouleau compresseur qui contrôle, selon eux, l'administration, la police, la justice et même la Commission électorale nationale indépendante (Céni). Un adversaire qui peut en outre compter sur plusieurs petits partis satellites.

À noter qu'Agathon Rwasa est convoqué pour la première fois ce lundi 15 décembre dans la matinée, à 9h00 locale (7h00 TU), devant un magistrat du parquet près la cour d'appel de Bujumbura, officiellement. Il doit être entendu sur le massacre de 166 réfugiés banyamulenge en août 2004 à Gatumba, suite à une plainte déposée par des représentants de cette communauté. Lui, dénonce une instrumentalisation de la justice.

## **Burundi/Elections 2015: Près de 3 700 000 futurs électeurs inscrits – CENI**

Source: AGNEWS

**14 décembre 2014** - A Bujumbura, ce vendredi 12 décembre 2014, la Commission Électorale Nationale Indépendante – CENI a informé que près de 3 700 000 futurs

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électeurs se sont inscrits au cours de ces 2 premières semaines de décembre 2014 pour la phase d'enrôlement concernant les élections démocratiques de 2015.

Le chiffre est très satisfaisant par rapport à la phase d'enrôlement des élections de 2010 où on avait atteint 4,2 Millions d'électeurs. Tenant compte que pour les élections de 2015, contrairement à 2010 où l'on ne devait pas disposer d'une carte d'identité pour être électeur nécessairement (quasiment une empreinte du doigt suffisait), disposer d'un chiffre comme celui-ci est très encourageant pour l'administration burundaise...

M. André Ndayambaje, Commissaire de police principal et directeur général de la Police Nationale du Burundi – PNB –, en conférence de presse, a indiqué qu', au niveau sécuritaire, durant cette période d'enrôlement électoral, aucun incident n'a été déploré dans aucun des 3 483 centres d'inscriptions du pays, où des patrouilles mixtes policiers et militaires des ministères de la Défense nationale et de la Sécurité nationale avaient été postés. Les conditions sécuritaires ont été excellentes.

## **Burundi opposition claims fraud in voter registration**

Source: PressTV

**13 December 2014** - Burundi's opposition parties have claimed fraud in the process of voter registration in the African country's key presidential polls, which is slated for next year.

"We have just witnessed a charade marred by massive fraud in favor of the ruling party," opposition politician Agathon Rwasa, the leader of the National Liberation Forces (FNL) party, said on Saturday.

Rwasa, however, noted that he would participate in the polls.

Opposition parties had called on the country's National Electoral Commission to cancel the registration, which ended on Friday.

They claim that a large number of identification cards were distributed among the supporters of the ruling National Council for the Defense of Democracy-Forces for the Defense of Democracy (CNDD-FDD) party.

The electoral commission, however, expressed its satisfaction over the registration of 3,680,154 people in the presidential election, its spokesman Prosper Ntahorwamiye said on Saturday.

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The government acknowledged that "a lot of irregularities" had occurred in the process of registration. But the electoral commission had announced that it would not stop the process.

Burundi's President Pierre Nkurunziza, who has been in power since 2005, is likely to run for a third term in the coming election, although his opponents see this as a violation of the country's constitution.

## UN mission quits Burundi months ahead of polls

Source: AFP

**12 December 2014** - The United Nations closed their political mission in Burundi Friday after two decades of peace-building following civil war, but amid criticism they leave as tensions grow ahead of elections next year.

Burundi, a small nation in Africa's Great Lakes region, emerged in 2006 from a brutal 13-year civil war, but its political climate remains fractious in the run-up to presidential polls in six months' time.

Speaking after a flag lowering ceremony at the UN Office in Burundi (BNUB) base, Burundi's Foreign Minister Laurent Kavakure said the closure was a "historic moment" that marked the country's transition from a post-conflict state to "the next stage of development".

At its peak, the UN had some 5,500 peacekeepers in the country, but as the mission mandate changed and work was wound down, it was left with just 50 largely political officers.

UN aid agencies remain in the country, one of the poorest in the region.

But civil society groups and opposition politicians opposed the withdrawal, saying it was premature with democracy still under threat.

President Pierre Nkurunziza, in power since 2005, is expected to run for a third term in office despite opponents' claims that that would violate Burundi's constitution.

Relations between the BNUB mission and the government were also difficult.

Bujumbura earlier this year expelled a BNUB officer over a leaked UN report that claimed the government was arming young supporters ahead of elections. The government denied the allegations.

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Top UN political official Jeffrey Feltman warned the country faced tough times ahead.

"There are still many challenges, and more efforts are still needed to ensure that all in Burundi contribute to the consolidation of democracy and the rule of law," he said.

Ex-rebel turned politician Agathon Rwasa, who led the former guerrilla National Liberation Forces (FNL), said it was wrong for the UN mission to leave.

"It is a premature departure because remember the political tension that we have experienced in recent years was defused thanks to the intervention of BNUB," he said.

"Unfortunately, they leave as we approach the elections -- and in the light of what is happening with the many irregularities observed -- I do not know what will happen," he added, saying he feared "the worst".