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



# **MEDIA MONITORING**

**17 October 2014**

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## **Congo expels top U.N. official after report on police abuses**

Source: Reuters World Service

By Aaron Ross; Writing by Emma Farge; Editing by Ken Wills

**Kinshasa, 16 October 2014** - Democratic Republic of Congo on Thursday ordered the expulsion of the United Nations' top human rights official in the country, a day after the global body released a report accusing Congolese police of executions during a crackdown on gangs.

A spokesman from the interior ministry said the order to expel Scott Campbell, director of the United Nations Joint Human Rights Office (UNJHRO) in Congo, would take effect on Friday.

"The present report, under examination, was led in a partial and partisan manner, with the manifest intention of discrediting the PNC (Congolese National Police), of demoralising its agents and destabilising the institutions of the Republic," Congolese interior minister Richard Muyej said on Thursday, calling Campbell a "persona non grata".

The report, released on Wednesday by UNJHRO, said the Congolese National Police summarily executed at least nine men in the capital Kinshasa between November 2013 and February 2014.

Muyej, whom the report said ordered the crackdown called Operation Likofi, on Thursday dismissed its findings and said he had already addressed concerns about the operation several times, including before parliament in December 2013 and in a statement in April to the media and diplomatic corps.

Muyej said that the list of cases purportedly confirmed by the U.N. was "only a litany of presumptions presented in the conditional and resting on manifestly discredited claims".

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He denied details in the report - among them that officers participating in the operation were masked and operated from jeeps - and added that the government planned a third phase of the anti-gang crackdown.

Campbell, who was not the main author of the report but is responsible for monitoring human rights in the country, declined to comment on his expulsion.

Rupert Colville, spokesman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva, called the decision "very disappointing."

"We think this is a very important report, and we believe the government should take it seriously," he said.

The U.N. report said that during the crackdown police were also responsible for the disappearance of at least 32 others.

According to the report, sources told investigators that the victims, men aged between 16 and 44, were usually shot, strangled or hanged at a police station in Kinshasa's Limete neighbourhood.

The Congolese National Police established a commission of inquiry on Aug. 15 to investigate potential abuses committed during the operation. But according to the U.N. report, only one officer has been convicted on charges related to the crackdown.

"In the majority of cases, no steps seem to have been taken by the competent authorities to find and prosecute all the perpetrators of these violations," the report said.

The United Nations plays a key role in ensuring Congolese security and has a 21,000-strong peacekeeping mission known as MONUSCO in the central African country.

## **Congo-Kinshasa: In Goma People Are "Prepared to Die for the Constitution"**

Source: Radio Netherlands Worldwide via AllAfrica.com

By Gaius Kowene

For many weeks, associations, church groups and political parties in the DRC have been mobilising citizens to protest against changes to the constitution which would - among other things - allow President Joseph Kabila a third term of office. In Goma a peaceful march turned into a confrontation with the police but demonstrators are more determined than ever to continue their protest.

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Amini Ngulumira, age 33, lives in Goma, a city near the eastern border of DRC. His dream of passing on a better country to future generations motivated him to join the RCD/KML, a political party opposing President Kabila's government, which is influential in the eastern province of North Kivu.

As national vice president of the party, he helped organise a peaceful march against the changes to the constitution proposed by the presidential party, which holds a majority of seats in the current government. "After a long period of colonisation and more than 32 years of dictatorship, it is now time to give democracy a chance", he says.

**Open dialogue**

Some time ago the RCD/KML party was able to assemble crowds at the Signers roundabout, one of the largest in Goma. They waved banners with messages such as: "Say no to constitutional changes, yes to open dialogue".

Through their megaphones the organisers constantly reminded participants that the march was a peaceful one and cautioned them about using any form of violence. "We have nothing to fear", Ngulumira assured everyone, as RCD/KML had made sure to inform the local authorities in writing about the march, as required under the constitution.

**Tear gas**

Ironically, it was the police who caused trouble at the start of the march and tried to stop it only a few minutes after it had gotten under way. But the demonstrators wouldn't be stopped. "Each time we tried to say anything, the police tried to muzzle us", complains Ngulumira, annoyed. "This time we were going to say what we have to say, no matter what price we may have to pay".

Exasperated, the police threw tear gas canisters to disperse the demonstrators, but this didn't work. A tear gas canister hit Ngulumira, injuring his left arm, before exploding. "I saw my arm bleeding but felt no pain," he recalls. "I kept walking as if nothing had happened."

**Public pressure**

In order to withstand the tear gas attacks, the demonstrators bathed their eyes with bottled water which the organisers had held ready in case it was needed. Ngulumira eventually had to go to a nearby first aid post for help, as his arm had swollen.

However, he remains as determined as ever. "I am prepared to die to prevent changes to the constitution", he swears. "Public pressure will prevail over the political ambitions of certain people who are currently in power."

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Ngulumira has vowed to put even more effort into rallying young people and has invited them to "exercise the power which the constitution of their nation has given them."

## Ugandan rebels suspected to have killed at least 26 in eastern DRC

Source: Deutsche Presse-Agentur GmbH

**Kigali, 16 October 2014** - At least 26 people were killed overnight in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in an attack by suspected Ugandan rebels, a city official said Thursday.

The death toll in the eastern town of Beni could rise as authorities verify figures, Goma Mayor Nason Kabuya Ndowole added.

An army spokesman confirmed the attack but did not give casualty figures.

The killings follow another attack in Beni five days earlier, when the army said nine people were stabbed or hacked to death.

Martin Kobler, head of the UN mission in the DRC, attributed that attack to the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), a Ugandan Muslim rebel group.

The UN mission said the rebels had driven thousands of people from the town of Oicha about 30 kilometres north to Beni.

The Ugandan Army overpowered the ADF in 2004, and the rebel group's remaining followers fled to the DRC's east. The group accuses Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni of having an anti-Muslim agenda.

## At least 27 killed in attacks in eastern Congo -official

Source: Reuters World Service

Reporting by Aaron Ross in Kinshasa; David Lewis and Bate Felix in Dakar; Writing by David Lewis; Editing by Robin Pomeroy

**Kinshasa, 16 October 2014** - At least 27 people were killed in overnight attacks on villages near the eastern Congolese town of Beni, a local official said on Thursday.

Ewanakawa Nyonyi, spokesman for the mayor of Beni, blamed the attack on Ugandan ADF-NALU rebels that operate alongside a string of other local and foreign armed groups in Democratic Republic of Congo's mineral-rich eastern border zone.

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The U.N. peacekeeping mission in Congo was not immediately available for comment. However, it said on Wednesday that ADF-NALU fighters had killed 15 people, including six children between the ages of 7 and 17, in raids in the same area between Oct. 5 and Oct. 8.

Violence simmers in eastern Congo despite U.N. peacekeepers and government troops last year defeating M23 rebels, an insurgency that posed the most serious threat to Kinshasa's authority since Congo's last war officially ended in 2003.

## 26 killed in DR Congo attack blamed on Ugandan rebels: army

Source: AFP World News

**Goma, 16 October 2014** - Twenty six people have been killed in an attack on Beni, a major town in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, a Congolese army spokesman told AFP Thursday.

Civil society groups in the Nord-Kivu region said the attack overnight Wednesday to Thursday in Beni was carried out by an Islamist group called Allied Democratic Forces.

However, army spokesman Lieutenant Colonel Olivier Hamuli said this was not confirmed.

## Venezuela elected to UN Security Council

Source: The Guardian (UK)

**16 October 2014** - Angola, Malaysia and New Zealand also successful, and Turkey and Spain face new round of voting for last available seat

The daughter of Hugo Chávez is set to play a more prominent role in international politics after Venezuela was elected to the UN security council.

María Gabriela Chávez is Venezuela's deputy ambassador at the UN mission. The country garnered 181 votes from member states to secure one of five rotating seats at the security council. Angola, Malaysia and New Zealand were also successful, and Turkey and Spain will face a new round of balloting to decide who takes the last available seat.

Special attention has been on Turkey as it is under growing pressure to do more about the war across its border in Syria. Support for Turkey dipped from the first ballot to the second. It needed at least 129 votes and got 109 in the first and 73 in the second.

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Venezuela's socialist government was unopposed for the single seat allocated to Latin America and the Caribbean. Venezuela's foreign minister, Rafael Ramirez, dedicated "this huge triumph" to Chávez and said it came despite a "malign campaign against our country".

The United States, which torpedoed Venezuela's last attempt to join the council in 2006, would not discuss how it voted in the secret ballot. Ten countries abstained.

Despite the Venezuelan president Nicolas Maduro's close ties with Syria's Bashar Assad and Iran and his support for Russia over the Ukraine crisis, the US chose not to publicly oppose Venezuela's candidacy this year.

Rights observers expressed concern over some of the newly elected council members. Philippe Bolojion, the UN director of Human Rights Watch, said: "The security council's new membership could prove more problematic on human rights issues, with several generally rights-friendly countries leaving and others coming on board with poor voting records.

"This is particularly true of Venezuela, which has consistently challenged protection efforts at the [UN] Human Rights Council, but also of Angola and Malaysia, which need to demonstrate a more human rights-oriented approach in New York than they did in Geneva."

The new members will join the council on 1 January and serve to the end of 2016. The five will replace Argentina, Australia, Luxembourg, South Korea and Rwanda.

## Two peacekeepers killed in Darfur attack: UN chief

Source: Agence France Presse

**United Nations, 16 October 2014** - Two peacekeepers were killed Thursday in an attack in Sudan's troubled Darfur region, UN chief Ban Ki-moon said, the latest deaths in increasingly dangerous peace missions in Africa.

"This has been a bloody October for UN peacekeeping," Ban said.

"In Darfur, Mali and the Central African Republic, we have lost 14 peacekeepers in hostile acts -- nearly one per day."

The two peacekeepers were serving in the joint United Nations-African Union mission deployed in late 2007 to help end bloodshed between militias, rebel forces and gangs in Darfur.

A wave of attacks in northern Mali have left 31 peacekeepers dead since July last year, while a Pakistani blue helmet serving in the Central African Republic was killed last week in an ambush.

Ten UN peacekeepers have been injured in Bangui since Friday in attacks on their patrols.

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"Blue helmets must be allowed to undertake their life-saving work without interference," Ban told reporters at UN headquarters in New York.

The UN's 130,000 troops, police and civilian staff serving in missions worldwide are being drawn into more complex conflicts while being tasked with enforcing fragile peace deals.

## **INTERVIEW-Ebola must be stopped at source, not via travel bans: World Bank's Kim**

Source: Reuters

Reporting by Anna Yukhananov; Editing by Ros Krasny, Doina Chiacu and Eric Walsh

**Washington, 16 October** - Closing national borders to people from countries hit hardest by the Ebola outbreak is "not an effective strategy" for stopping the deadly disease, the president of the World Bank said on Thursday.

There is only one way to end the Ebola crisis, which is to stop the spread of disease in the three worst-hit countries of Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea, the World Bank's Jim Yong Kim told the Reuters Climate Change Summit.

"All this talk about closing our borders ... it's as if you were in a burning house, in your room, and you start putting wet towels under the door to keep the smoke from coming in," Kim said.

"That is not an effective strategy. We've got to get back to putting out the fire," he said. "You either put it out, or it spreads: that's the bottom line."

Several U.S. lawmakers, including House of Representatives Speaker John Boehner, have urged temporary travel bans to the United States from the countries hardest hit by Ebola.

The disease has killed at least 4,400 people, predominantly in West Africa, and the rate of outbreak continues to increase.

Thomas Eric Duncan, a visitor from Liberia diagnosed with from Ebola, died in a Dallas hospital this month. Two nurses involved in his treatment have since tested positive for the Ebola virus.

"If the fear evolves into closing our borders, we're going to take our eye off the ball," said Kim.

Kim said U.S. hospitals could increase their effectiveness in stopping the disease from spreading, but it would be impossible to prevent any person in contact with the disease from traveling, especially as cases have now spread to Spain.

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"The most important thing to prevent more and more cases coming is to maintain our focus in getting the response right," he said at the summit, held in the Reuters Washington bureau. "And we're not close yet, we're not close."

## South Sudan: The Country's Refugees in Sudan Exceed 100,000

Source: Sudan Tribune

**Khartoum, 16 October 2014** - The number of South Sudanese who sought refuge in Sudan since the start of hostilities in the new nation last year has exceeded 100,000.

According to a report released by the UN refugee agency (UNHCR) on 8 October some 100,492 South Sudanese are now in the neighbouring Sudan. They joined 350,000 of their fellow citizens who have remained there after the independence in July 2011.

The agency expects that the number of refugees will rise to 165,000 by the end of 2014.

The South Sudanese refugees, according to the report, are mainly concentrated in Khartoum state where there are 29,800 people.

An assessment done by Khartoum state and UNHR found that the new arrivals are generally accommodated by their relatives in Sudan.

However UN refugee agency estimate that around 40, 000 people are living in "camp-like sites" called open areas.

Sudanese authorities refuse to allow the UNHCR to register the South Sudanese refugees and to establish camps for them, saying they are treated like Sudanese citizens and have the right to settle and work where they want.

But UN humanitarian officials insist on the need to register them and to launch a joint call for humanitarian aid in order to get humanitarian assistance to the South Sudanese refugees.

The South Sudanese community in Khartoum "requires assistance in terms of shelter, livelihoods, education and access to safe water and sanitation," says the UN agency.



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## Tanzania to Grant Citizenship to 200,000 Burundi Refugees

Source: Sabahi (US)

**16 October 2014** - Tanzania said Tuesday (October 14th) it would grant citizenship to 200,000 refugees from neighbouring Burundi who have been residing in Tanzania for decades, AFP reported.

"Those to be granted citizenship are refugees who have stayed in Tanzania since 1972 and have voluntarily opted to stay in the country," Minister of Home Affairs Mathias Chikawe said.

More than 162,000 Burundian refugees are registered in Tanzania and have had children in the country, taking the number of those to be granted citizenship to up to 200,000, according to government documents.

Burundi emerged in 2006 from a brutal 13-year civil war and its political climate is still fractious ahead of a presidential poll next year.

Tanzanian President Jakaya Kikwete presided over a ceremony Tuesday where he handed out citizenship papers to the first batch of refugees.

"Some do not know where to go if asked to go back to Burundi," Kikwete said in a speech broadcast on state media. "We are doing this on humanitarian grounds."

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) welcomed the move. "The naturalisation of nearly 200,000 people is unprecedented and is a hugely important milestone," said UNHCR spokesperson Teresa Ongaro.

In 2008, Tanzania offered to either grant citizenship to the remaining refugees or repatriate them. Many Burundians returned home after the peace process began in 2002, but others preferred to start a new life in Tanzania.

Most of the long-term Burundi refugees stay in UNHCR camps in Tanzania's western regions of Tabora and Katavi.

## Burundi says bagged bodies in lake mystery 'from Rwanda'

Source: AFP

**Bujumbura, 14 October 2014** - Burundi said Tuesday it was certain that bodies found floating in a lake on its border had floated downstream from neighbouring Rwanda, despite repeated denials from Kigali.

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The appearance of the corpses over the past several months have sparked concern in a region scarred by decades of unrest and serious rights abuses. Officials say six bodies were found, although fishermen have reported seeing as many as 10 times that number.

"We are confident these bodies were carried down into the lake from Rwanda," Burundi's Attorney General Valentin Bagorikunda told reporters.

He said the corpses were washed down the Akagera River, which originates in Rwanda before flowing into Lake Rweru.

Teams had carried out "very detailed" investigations around Lake Rweru, which borders the two central African nations, since several bound and bagged bodies turned up in the waters in August, Bagorikunda said.

Both Kigali and Bujumbura have repeatedly denied the bodies were from their countries.

The discoveries come amid concern over political violence in Burundi ahead of presidential polls due next June.

Neighbouring Rwanda is led by President Paul Kagame, who despite being credited with overseeing dramatic economic advances while in office, has also come in for mounting criticism for suppressing dissent, including the alleged assassinations of exiled opposition figures.

Last month the United States urged the nations to conduct a thorough investigation into the corpses.

## **President Kenyatta travels to Rwanda for East African Business Summit**

By PSCU

**Nairobi, 16 October 2014** - President Uhuru Kenyatta left the country Thursday for Kigali, Rwanda, to attend the East African Business Summit.

The summit, whose theme is 'positioning East Africa for inclusive prosperity in 2020 and beyond', brings together participants drawn from Government and private sector from the East African region.

The highlight of the summit will be a session which will be graced by President Uhuru Kenyatta and President Paul Kagame of Rwanda that will focus on improving partnerships for inclusive growth.

President Kenyatta and his Rwandan counterpart will give their views on the topic while also acting as panellists for the session.

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The summit will later turn its focus on how to stimulate the competitiveness of East African enterprises through deeper regional integration.

## Two aid agencies blocking repatriation of Rwandan refugees in DRC

Source: News of Rwanda

By gahiji

**16 October 2014** - Two ‘humanitarian agencies’ in the Democratic Republic of Congo are involved in business dealings with Rwandan FDLR rebels – a factor that is encouraging combatants and their dependents to repatriate as required by UN and regional deadlines.

The Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR) are conniving with aid groups OXFAM and Solidarite International in the Masisi region of eastern DRC, according to a Kigali Today, a Kinyarwanda news site in Rwanda.

As a result, the rebels are unwillingness to disarm and repatriate to Rwanda. The two organisations are said to be using deception and intimidation to discourage the Rwandan refugees. There is an estimated 153,000 refugees who are being held hostage by about 3200 FDLR combatants.

The current revelations are based on testimonies of combatants and civilians who have of recent managed to escape from the FDLR camps. In Kibabi, Gasenyi, Kinigi refugee camps and other several camps supported by these organisations, employees collaborate with FDLR combatants to transport illegal minerals out of DRC. The NGO use their cover as ‘humanitarian aid’ convoys to travel freely without UN and government review.

According to Hafashimana Patrick, a repatriated FDLR combatant who lived in a place called Kavuta in Gasenyi Refugee camp, there are many Rwandan refugees in camps willing to go back home but are blocked by FDLR fighters.

Combatants do not want to be left behind alone without their families. The combatants see the mineral business as profitable – abandoning it is not a decision they are willing to take. FDLR are reported to own several mines in the DRC. The rebels are said to make more than \$72m from minerals, cannabis and charcoal annually.

The International community and the United Nations have been pushing for the FDLR disarmament and surrender but the MUNOSCO say that there are refugees in camps other than FDLR whose lives could be endangered and the rebel group uses their families as a shield.

Hafashimana says FDLR fighters reside with refugees in camps to avoid being shot at in a disarming operation.

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More combatants said that FDLR fighters living in refugee camps are supported and supplied with humanitarian aid like any other refugees due to how they closely work with International Organisations.

In Kinigi refugee Camp, there are about 50 FDLR fighters who also live under such cover despite the fact that International Organisations working in those refugee camps are aware of their existence but keep a blind eye to maintain their mineral deals flourishing.

According to sources, a deal was struck between FDLR and some Europeans from Solidarity International in September 2012 but both partners disagreed on terms of the business leading to FDLR loss of clientele at the time.

The same source says that the Solidarity International had been represented by two white men and one Congolese in a failed business but the deal was closed on a Friday when the OXFAM sent three whites and a Congolese and agreed with the FDLR to buy the pricy stones on yet unknown payment.

Our source could not know exact terms because he was junior to the business man of the FDLR known as Capt. Gerard Ndabiyeretse whose real name is a mystery as he is said to change identity time to time.

Allegedly, FDLR also receives military equipment from various International Organisations in the name of humanitarian aid to refugees; as part of the business deals due to a huge number of valuable mines owned by FDLR in the DR.Congo.

Capt Ndabiyeretse is the FDLR commander in Gasenyi refugee Camp and is one of the best friends to leaders of International Organisations who keep him and his group safe in camps in exchange for provision of minerals.

Meanwhile, it is not the first time international aid groups are alleged to be working with FDLR rebels. British Christian group TEARFUND was also named as providing its vehicles to be used by FDLR commanders, but the agency has denied any links.

## **Central African Republic: UN Wants CAR Citizens to Sink Differences**

Source: Cameroon Tribune

By Emmanuel Kendemeh

**The Head of the UN Mission to the country had discussions with Foreign Affairs Minister.**

**14 October 2014** - General Babacar Gaye, the Head of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilisation Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA), has called on the

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citizens to sink their divergences, stating that the international force cannot solve the crisis in the country without national reconciliation. He spoke in the capital Bangui Monday, October 13 after discussions with the Foreign Affairs Minister Toussaint Kongo Doudou. Their discussions focused on the wave of sectarian attacks that paralysed the capital up to last weekend.

Talking to reporters at the moment some parts of the capital city were still barricaded, the UN senior official reportedly said that the barricades will certainly be cleared and armed people disarmed but that was not enough. He said the greatest problem of the country was reconciliation, cohabitation between the different communities and that of the rise of elite and the population to put the country back on the rails. "The people of the Central African Republic are the ones to do that," General Babacar Gaye said.

The UN, he said was in the country to accompany the authorities in the peace and security process, the official said but stated that there is generalized insecurity with the UN peacekeepers feeling unsecured as they are being fired at. Reports said that three UN peacekeepers were killed in last week's violence. The violence that started on October 7 led to the killing of at least 10 people, many others wounded and thousands displaced. At the time of going to press there was timid calm reported in the capital Bangui. Prime Minister Mahamat Kamoun on Sunday, October 12 called on the population to return to their normal daily activities.

## Uganda to buy weapons on behalf of South Sudan

Source: New Vision

**16 October 2014** - The South Sudanese government has signed a long-term agreement on military cooperation with Uganda, defence Minister, Kuol Manyang Juuk said on Monday.

Full details of the agreement are yet to be made public, although it's understood it will allow Uganda purchase weapons and technological support on behalf of South Sudan if required.

The announcement came after Juuk and his Ugandan counterpart, Crispus Kiyonga held a meeting at which they discussed military and weapons cooperation, Sudan Tribune has reported.

"We have signed the cooperation agreement in order to work together and support each other," Juuk told the state-owned South Sudan Television (SSTV).

The development follows the recent visit of president Salva Kiir to the Ugandan capital, Kampala, where he attended a summit on the Standard Gauge Railway, a regional developmental initiative aimed at fostering the movement of people, goods and services across the region.

According to the minister in the office of the president, Awan Guol Riak, Kiir was able to hold bilateral discussions with the heads of state and governments in the region, including the host,

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President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, with whom the former discussed issues connected to peace talks in Ethiopia.

The talks, which are being mediated by the regional bloc, the Intergovernmental authority on Development (IGAD), are part of attempts aimed at ending the 10-month-long conflict, but appear to have hit an apparent deadlock recently over what executive powers should be granted to the prime minister and the president.

Museveni is among the key players in the conflict and the talks, given the Ugandan's army's (UPDF) deployment to the country following the outbreak of violence to fight alongside government troops, who are battling to contain an armed rebellion led by former vice-president Riek Machar.

Uganda's involvement in the conflict has irked some countries in the region and there have been calls for the Ugandan military to withdraw.

A senior military officer told Sudan Tribune on Tuesday that the UPDF's intervention, with its military hardware, had saved South Sudan's leadership from being toppled.

“Out of record, I want to say that it would have taken us [a] much, much longer time to exert full control and to take back Juba, had Uganda not intervened in the last battle outside Bor (Jonglei state capital) around Jameza,” the officer said.