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



MEDIA MONITORING

18 December 2014

Angola: Rwanda's President Meets with Angolan Counterpart

Source: AngolaPress

Luanda, 17 December 2014 - The Head of State of Rwanda, Paul Kagame, is at the Presidential Palace, in Luanda, for a private meeting with his Angolan counterpart, José Eduardo dos Santos, in order to analyse the situation of peace and stability in the region Great Lakes.

At his arrival at the presidential Palace, the Rwandan leader was received with honour by the presidential guard and then received welcome greetings from the Angolan Head of State and members of his Executive.

Peace in the Great Lakes region, primarily in the Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo and South Sudan, as well as issues of bilateral interest are expected to be discussed between the two leaders.

The Angolan Head of State, José Eduardo dos Santos, is since January 2014, the chairman of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) and has done everything for the search of consensus between the parties involved in internal conflicts within these three countries.

The ICGLR was created after the political conflicts that marked the Great Lakes region in 1994, whose results marked the recognition of its dimension and the need for a concerted effort in order to promote peace and development in the region.

This regional body comprises Angola, Burundi, Central African Republic, Republic of Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Sudan, South Sudan and Tanzania.

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The Rwandan president [was] expected to return this Wednesday to his country.

Angola: Rwandan President Leaves State House after Meeting His Angolan Counterpart

Source: AngolaPress

Luanda, 17 December 2014 - The President of Rwanda, Paul Kagame, has already left the Presidential Palace under his few-hour visit to Angola, where he held a private meeting with his Angolan counterpart, José Eduardo dos Santos, aimed to analyse the current situation of peace, security and stability of the member countries of the Great Lakes Region.

Angop learnt that the meeting was topped by aspects related to the situation prevailing in the DR Congo and Central African Republic, countries that are being hit by various armed internal conflicts.

The Angolan leader José Eduardo dos Santos as the acting President of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) has been holding periodical consultations with some counterparts of this region, aiming to seek solutions to end these conflicts that have been killing many people, as well as creating a great number of refugees that flee to other neighbouring country, seeking for peace.

Paul Kagame left the state house for the Luanda's "4 de Fevereiro" International Airport, where he is expected to fly back to his country.

The ICGLR was created after the political conflicts that marked the Great Lakes region in 1994, whose results marked the recognition of its dimension and the need for a concerted effort in order to promote peace and development in the region.

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DR Congo ex-rebels found in Uganda refugee camp

Source: AFP World News

Kampala, 17 December 2014 - Around 1,000 ex-fighters from a Democratic Republic of Congo rebel group were found in a Ugandan refugee camp Wednesday, a day after fleeing moves to repatriate them, the Ugandan army said.

The ex-rebels from the M23 group fled the Bihanga camp 300 kilometres (190 miles) southwest of Kampala on Tuesday, as the Ugandan army attempted to repatriate some of the group.

Ugandan army spokesman Paddy Ankunda told AFP that around 1,000 ex-rebels were in the nearby Rwamwanja refugee camp, run by the UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), on Wednesday.

Thirty five returned to Bihanga, he said on his Twitter account.

On Tuesday night, 120 former rebels flew out of Kampala to return to DRC.

Rwamwanja houses around 50,000 refugees who fled fighting between M23 militants and the DRC army in the east of DRC.

The ex-rebels were reportedly worried about their safety if they were sent back home.

M23 chief Bertrand Bisimwa said from Kampala Tuesday that several of the ex-rebels were wounded by gunshots after those in the camp refused to board army trucks sent to take them to the airport.

Around 1,300 rebels had been at Bihanga since November 2013.

The rebels' 18-month war, during which they briefly seized the key DRC town of Goma, capital of mineral-rich North Kivu province, was brought to an end in 2013 by government troops and UN peacekeepers. The fighters fled into neighbouring Uganda and Rwanda.

They signed papers in May vowing not to fight again in return for a possible amnesty.

The repatriation process has slowed in recent weeks, and Kinshasa is demanding the return of around 560 amnestied ex-fighters by December 25.

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Une délégation mixte SADC- CIRGL- MONUSCO-gouvernement congolais évalue les conditions d'hébergement des éléments FDLR à Kisangani

Source: ACP / MCN, via mediacongo.net

Kisangani, 17 décembre 2014 - Une délégation mixte SADC, CIRGL, MONUSCO et le gouvernement Congolais a effectué dimanche à Kisangani, dans la province Orientale, une mission d'évaluation du processus de désarmement volontaire des éléments des Forces Démocratiques pour la Libération du Rwanda (FDLR), mais également des conditions de leur hébergement au Camp Général Bahuma situé à plus de 13 kilomètres de la ville de Kisangani.

Accompagnée du Gouverneur de la Province Orientale, Jean Bamanisa Saidi, cette délégation conduite par Mme Stergomena Tax Laurence, Secrétaire Exécutif de la SADC, a visité les différents compartiments de ce centre de transit qui loge environ 820 âmes comprenant les combattants et leurs dépendants.

Elle a indiqué, à l'issue de la descente, que son organisation tient au retour de ces éléments FDLR au Rwanda. De son côté, le Professeur Alphonse Ntumba Lwaba de la CIRGL, a soutenu que l'opération du désarmement volontaire des FDLR qui prendra fin le 2 janvier 2014 ne bénéficiera aucunement d'une quelconque rallonge, avant que Martin KOBLER de la MONUSCO n'encourage, quant à lui, certains éléments FDLR réfractaires à emboîter les pas des 11.000 éléments déjà retournés dans leur Rwanda natal.

C'est depuis le 27 novembre 2014 que les ex-combattants FDLR et leurs dépendants cantonnés antérieurement à Kanyabayonga (Nord-Kivu) et Walungu (Sud-Kivu) sont arrivés sur le site de transit de Kisangani, rappelle-t-on.

Congo, UN troops launch operation against rebels

Source: Associated Press

Kinshasa, 17 December 2014 - U.N. peacekeepers and the Congolese army have launched an operation against rebels in the country's east blamed for a series of attacks in recent months.

Lt. Col. Felix Prosper Basse told reporters Wednesday that the operation began Saturday in the region around the town of Beni. A series of rebel attacks in that region

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has killed more than 250 civilians in the last two months, according to a local civil society group.

The attacks have been blamed on the Allied Defense Forces rebels. Eastern Congo is home to a myriad of armed groups and militias, many vying for control of the region's vast mineral resources.

The U.N. peacekeeping force is authorized to battle the rebels groups but has been criticized for doing too little to protect civilians.

Rwanda: Developing Story - Terror Suspect Accuses Governor Aime Bosenibamwe of Financing FDLR

Source: News of Rwanda

11 December 2014 - An FDLR suspect linked to terrorist acts has accused Northern Province Governor, Aime Bosenibamwe, of supporting groups linked to the militia group plotting to overthrow the Rwandan government.

The Genocidal Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR) operates in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

While appearing in court alongside 13 other suspects today in Musanze District, Jonathan Nsengiyumva accused governor Bosenibamwe of clandestinely funding groups that threw grenades across the country.

Reacting to prosecutors' accusations, Jonathan Nsengiyumva pleaded guilty of having a hand in the formation of a terror group, and revealed how he directly worked with the Governor.

He said that they used chair meetings while driving from Musanze to Kigali in a vehicle that belonged to Alfred Nsengimana- a former executive secretary of Cyuve sector in Musanze District.

Nsengimana had also been arrested over terror crimes, but was later shot dead by a prison warden as he tried to flee.

Without providing credible evidence though, Nsengiyumva told court that the three held three meetings together. He cited one Sadiki Habimana whom they conducted terror operations together, as an eyewitness.

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According to the suspect, the trio's meeting had promised former Cyuve sector executive secretary, Nsengimana, to become a mayor once they killed the serving Musanze district Mayor, Winfrida Mpembyemungu.

Congo-Kinshasa: Still Awaiting Justice for M23 Abuses

Press release

Source: AllAfrica.com

By Ida Sawyer

16 December 2014 - A year ago today, a rebellion by the M23 armed group in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo ended when the group's leaders and the Congolese government, as well as the guarantors of the peace process, signed a series of peace commitments, known as the "Nairobi Declarations," following the M23's military defeat. It was an important moment. M23 fighters, backed by Rwanda, had fought against the government for 19 months, briefly taking the main eastern town of Goma and committing numerous war crimes, including killings, sexual violence, and the forced recruitment of children.

The Nairobi Declarations were clear that M23 leaders responsible for war crimes, crimes against humanity, and other grave human rights abuses would not be eligible for any amnesty. Instead, those responsible for such crimes would be brought to justice.

Yet a year later, no progress has been made. Most of the M23's leaders are in Rwanda and Uganda, effectively shielded from justice, despite commitments from all three countries to support regional justice efforts and not harbor or protect individuals allegedly responsible for serious human rights abuses.

Over the past decade abusive rebel leaders have been integrated into the Congolese army as part of peace agreements. This "reward for crimes" pattern has helped no one, least of all Congolese civilians. The abusive rebel leaders often continued to commit the same crimes while serving in the Congolese army and, when unhappy with their pay, their posts, or where they were deployed, defected to start new rebellions. The Congolese government's commitment to arrest and prosecute abusive M23 leaders represented an important shift to end the revolving door. But it is meaningless if it is not followed up with action, and cooperation from Rwanda and Uganda is essential.

When the M23 was defeated in early November 2013 - after significant international pressure on the group's Rwandan backers and the deployment of a United Nations

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Intervention Brigade to carry out offensive operations against armed groups - most of the M23 fighters and their leaders fled to neighboring Rwanda and Uganda. They included more than a dozen who are sought on Congolese arrest warrants for war crimes and crimes against humanity and six who are listed on UN and United States sanctions lists.

This month, a Congolese government delegation is in Uganda to prepare the repatriation of former M23 fighters to Congo. The delegation is due to travel to Rwanda in January to plan for the return of fighters who are there. As regional leaders discuss the conditions for these returns, a top priority should be ensuring the justice commitments made in the Nairobi Declarations are implemented and fair and credible trials are launched.

The international envoys to the Great Lakes region also have an important role to play. Their leadership played a crucial role in ending the M23's rebellion and the signing of the Nairobi Declarations. That same leadership is needed now to ensure the commitments to justice become a reality, not just words on paper.

Burundi: l'opposition exige la démission de la commission électorale

Source: Jeune Afrique

16 décembre 2014 - Les 18 partis d'opposition du Burundi ont unanimement exigé mardi la "démission immédiate" de la commission électorale indépendante (Céni) qu'ils accusent de "fraude massive" dans l'enregistrement des électeurs, menaçant de paralyser l'organisation des élections générales de 2015.

"Nous (. . .) exigeons la démission immédiate et sans conditions de la Céni, discréditée et incapable de conduire un processus électoral digne de ce nom", a déclaré à la presse Agathon Rwasa, figure de l'opposition et chef historique de la principale ancienne rébellion burundaise, au nom de ces 18 partis.

L'opposition avait demandé le 10 décembre à la Céni d'annuler l'ensemble du processus d'inscription sur les listes électorales, dénonçant des "fraudes massives" attribuées au parti au pouvoir.

La Céni a annoncé samedi, au lendemain de la clôture des opérations, que 3,7 millions d'électeurs s'étaient inscrits, et s'est dit "très satisfaite" de leur déroulement, malgré les irrégularités dénoncées non seulement par l'opposition mais aussi par la société civile et les médias.

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"Ces irrégularités sont le résultat d'une opération de fraude massive soigneusement organisée par le parti au pouvoir et la Céni", basée sur "une distribution massive de cartes d'identité irrégulières" aux partisans du pouvoir, a dénoncé M. Rwsa.

La communauté internationale a exprimé depuis plusieurs mois ses inquiétudes sur les tensions croissantes au Burundi, dans un contexte de violence politique et d'entraves aux libertés, à l'approche des législatives prévues le 26 mai et de la présidentielle, dont le premier tour est fixé au 26 juin.

Au pouvoir depuis 2005, le président Pierre Nkurunziza est soupçonné de vouloir briguer un troisième mandat, que ses opposants estiment inconstitutionnel.

"Si la Céni ne part pas, nous allons faire appel à tous les citoyens de ce pays, à vous tous, pour qu'on arrête ce processus (électoral) par des manifestations", a menacé Jean Minani, président du parti d'opposition Frodebu Nyakuri, excluant de boycotter les élections.

Les précédentes élections de 2010, boycottées par l'opposition, avaient débouché sur des violences. L'histoire de Burundi, petit pays des Grands Lacs est jalonnée de massacres ethniques et le pays a connu une sanglante guerre civile entre 1993 et 2006.

Central Africa: Twenty Six Police Officers of the ICGLR Member States Get Certificates in the Use of Dna Technology to Investigate Sexual and Gender-Based Violence

Press Release

Source: AllAfrica.com

16 December 2014 - Twenty six police officers of the ICGLR Member States of Burundi, DRC, Republic of Congo, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Central African Republic, Uganda, South Sudan, Sudan, Zambia) have followed a three-day training in Entebbe, Uganda from 10 to 12 December 2014 on the management of forensic evidence using DNA-based technology for the prevention and suppression of sexual violence in the Great Lakes region.

Certificates were awarded to those police officers Friday by Honorable Mary Karoro Okurut, Minister of Gender, Labour and Social Development in Uganda, during a closing ceremony attended by the Acting Director of the ICGLR Regional Training Facility, Mr. Nathan Byamukama, the team leader of the team of UN experts on sexual violence in

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conflict, a representative of the Office of the UNSG Special Envoy to the Great Lakes Region, representatives of Bode Technology which developed and provided the training materials, and representatives of the ICGLR Secretariat.

The Minister praised the fact that the training took place during the 16 days of activism against gender violence towards women and girls and she called on the participants to ensure the lessons learned at the training are applied in home jurisdictions concretely. This was also noted by the Executive Secretary of the ICGLR, Professor Ntumba Luaba in his opening remarks of the training in which he indicated that the coincidence of the two events sufficiently demonstrates the will of the ICGLR to participate in the fight against impunity for the against SGBV.

The training provided a platform for ICGLR Member States through their representatives to share good practices on how they handle various challenges related to the collection, administration, and presentation of forensic evidence in sexual violence cases in different jurisdictions and in various national and regional institutions.

The police officers got opportunity discuss about key challenges regarding conflict-related sexual violence in the region.

The training workshop was co-organized by the ICGLR Regional Training Facility based in Kampala and the UN Team of Experts on the rule of law -Sexual and the Office of the Special Envoy UNSG on sexual violence in conflict.

RD Congo - Présidentielle 2016 : que va décider Kabila ?

La Constitution interdit au président congolais de briguer un 3e mandat, mais son opposition le soupçonne de vouloir se succéder à lui-même.

Source: Le Point Afrique

Par Karine Kamatari

15 décembre 2014 - Sa décision n'est pas encore prise. Mais Joseph Kabila a tenu à mettre en garde les partenaires de son pays. Il prononçait ce lundi un discours devant les deux chambres du Parlement réunies en congrès. "De nos partenaires, et pourvu que cela soit fait dans le respect de notre souveraineté, nous sommes toujours prêts à recevoir des avis, conseils et suggestions, mais jamais des injonctions."

Élu président de la RDC en 2006

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L'allocution de Joseph Kabila, une semaine après l'annonce d'un remaniement ministériel, était très attendue, notamment par l'opposition qui lui demande avec insistance de proclamer publiquement son intention de quitter le pouvoir à la fin de son mandat, en décembre 2016. Arrivé au pouvoir en 2001 pour succéder à son père assassiné, Laurent-Désiré Kabila, rebelle ayant pris le pouvoir par les armes en 1997 avec le soutien du Rwanda, Joseph Kabila a été élu président de la RDC en 2006 à l'issue des premières élections démocratiques tenues dans le pays depuis son indépendance de la Belgique en 1960. Il a été reconduit pour un nouveau mandat de cinq ans en 2011 lors d'un scrutin dont les résultats n'ont pas été reconnus par la majeure partie de l'opposition, alors que la communauté internationale a dénoncé de nombreuses irrégularités.

Les États-Unis souhaitent son retrait

L'opposition soupçonne Joseph Kabila de vouloir se succéder à lui-même en 2016 alors que la Constitution lui interdit de briguer un troisième mandat. La communauté internationale, notamment l'ONU et l'Union européenne, réclame depuis plusieurs mois aux autorités congolaises la publication d'un calendrier électoral complet jusqu'à la prochaine présidentielle de façon à pouvoir soutenir le processus électoral, et demande que la Constitution du pays soit respectée. Les États-Unis ont même dit très clairement qu'ils voulaient voir Joseph Kabila se retirer du pouvoir à la fin de son mandat, en décembre 2016. Déplorant "la tendance (...) de certains compatriotes (à) en appeler systématiquement à l'étranger pour régler les différends entre Congolais comme si dans ce pays nous n'avions pas collectivement assez de sagesse et de maturité pour le faire nous-mêmes", le président a affirmé, déclenchant des vivats, que "le peuple congolais était (...) jaloux de son indépendance conquise de haute lutte".

Processus électoral bloqué depuis 2011

La contestation des résultats des élections présidentielle et législatives de 2011 a plongé la RDC dans une crise politique ayant bloqué le cycle électoral : aucune élection n'a eu lieu depuis lors dans le pays. La Commission électorale nationale indépendante (Ceni) a proposé en 2014 de reprendre le cycle par les élections locales en 2015, mais elle ne va pas pouvoir fournir un calendrier électoral complet tant que les fonds nécessaires à l'organisation des différents scrutins n'ont pas été validés par le Parlement. Le Parlement doit se réunir en session extraordinaire à partir de janvier pour se pencher sur ces questions. Joseph Kabila a néanmoins affirmé que le résultat du recensement général de la population était "nécessaire pour la bonne fin du processus électoral", laissant entendre qu'aucune élection ne pourrait avoir lieu tant que celui-ci n'a pas été achevé.

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Stratégie de "glissement du calendrier électoral"

Étant donné que l'Office national d'identification de la population (ONIP), chargé de mener à bien ce recensement, vient tout juste d'être mis en place, et que certains diplomates estiment qu'un tel travail pourrait prendre jusqu'à trois ans, cela risque de repousser à une date assez tardive les prochaines élections. Plusieurs analystes et diplomates estiment que, depuis la chute de Blaise Compaoré au Burkina Faso, le pouvoir congolais privilégie une stratégie dite du "glissement du calendrier électoral" pour permettre à Joseph Kabila de rester en poste au-delà de 2016. "Je crois que le président vient de rater une occasion d'apaiser tout le monde. Au contraire, il a manifesté son intention de glisser en 2016", a commenté le député d'opposition Jean-Baudouin Mayo, de l'Union pour la nation congolaise (UNC). Pour "l'opposition, nous disons que nous allons lui barrer la route", a prévenu ce parlementaire.

Louis Alphonse Koyagialo est décédé en Afrique du Sud

Source: Radio Okapi/MCN, via mediacongo.net

Kinshasa, 18 décembre 2014 - Le gouverneur de l'Équateur, Louis Alphonse Koyagialo, est décédé dimanche 14 décembre en Afrique du Sud où il suivait des soins depuis plusieurs mois. Le porte-parole du gouvernement congolais, Lambert Mende, l'a annoncé sur Radio Okapi.

« Malheureusement, je dois confirmer le décès du gouverneur Koyagialo en Afrique du Sud aujourd'hui. Nous sommes ravagés par cette triste nouvelle. Le gouverneur Koyagialo comme homme politique et comme administrateur était l'un des meilleurs d'entre nous. C'est quelqu'un que j'ai fréquenté, que j'ai appris à connaître. C'est une très triste nouvelle pour ce pays », a déclaré Lambert Mende.

Au sujet du programme des funérailles, il a dit attendre que la famille du défunt et le gouvernement le publient.

La maladie l'éloigne de sa province

Élu gouverneur de l'Équateur en juin 2013, Louis Alphonse Koyagialo a souvent été éloigné de sa province à cause des problèmes de santé.

Il quitte l'Équateur pour la première en septembre 2013 pour se faire soigner à Kinshasa et en Afrique du Sud. Il y rentre en mars 2014.

De nombreuses personnes viennent l'accueillir à sa descente d'avion à Mbandaka.

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Mais il n'y reste pas longtemps.

Quelques semaines après, il est obligé de quitter l'Equateur pour se faire soigner. Il ne rentrera pas cette fois-ci pour diriger cette province à la tête de laquelle il a été porté en 2013.

Long parcours dans la territoriale

Louis Koyagialo né à Yakoma le 23 mars 1947. Il est licencié en Droit de l'Université de Lovanium [aujourd'hui Université de Kinshasa, Unikin]. En 1972, il travaille comme conseiller juridique à l'Office national de logement (ONL). Il rejoint l'année suivante le ministère des Affaires sociales.

Réputé pour son expertise dans la territoriale, carrière qu'il embrasse en 1979, d'abord comme directeur de région au Katanga (appelé alors Shaba), Louis Alphonse Koyagialo devient ensuite commissaire sous régional de Likasi (1980 – 1982), puis commissaire urbain de Lubumbashi jusqu'en 1985.

Il devient ensuite vice-gouverneur du Kasai-Oriental et du Kivu. Entre 1986 et 1990, Louis Alphonse Koyagialo occupe le poste de gouverneur du Katanga.

« Massacre des étudiants de Lubumbashi »

Louis Koyagialo était gouverneur de la province du Shaba (actuel Katanga) en 1990 quand survient ce qui est connu sous le nom de « massacre des étudiants de Lubumbashi ».

Il a alors été accusé d'avoir été responsable d'un prétendu massacre de plusieurs étudiants de l'Université de Lubumbashi. Il a écopé d'une peine d'emprisonnement de 4 ans avant d'être gracié.

En 2012, Koyagialo publie « Massacre de Lubumbashi du 11 au 12 mai 1990 ». Dans cet ouvrage, il se considère comme « un bouc-émissaire ».

Invité sur Radio Okapi pour parler de ce livre, il affirme que cette affaire est « une grande manipulation politique » qu'il compare à l'affaire Dreyfus.

« Il y a un étudiant qui est mort. A part lui, il n'y a pas eu un autre », indique-t-il, affirmant qu'il s'agissait d'une affaire entre étudiants.

En 2013, Koyagialo est assigné en justice par les parents de l'étudiant Ilombe Ilombe. Pour les plaignants, leur fils serait décédé à la suite de coups et blessures portés contre lui par les forces de sécurité qui obéissaient aux ordres de Louis Koyagialo.

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Ministre puis Premier ministre intérimaire

Cadre de la Majorité présidentielle, Louis Koyagialo est vice-Premier ministre et ministre des Postes et Nouvelles technologies de communication dans le gouvernement Muzito III.

En mars 2012, il est nommé Premier ministre intérimaire de la RDC en remplacement d'Adolphe Muzito, élu député.

Rwanda: Howard Buffett to Support Congolese Refugees

Source: The New Times (Rwanda)

By Théogène Nsengimana

16 December 2014 - Howard G. Buffett, an American philanthropist, has pledged to help Congolese refugees currently living the country's camps repatriate.

Buffett made the pledge yesterday at Gihembe Refugee Camp in Gicumbi District where he landed after an aerial visit to various refugee camps in the country.

"I have seen that they have some basic infrastructure like water and schools, but when people are not in their homes they do not feel comfortable," Buffett said.

"We helped some of their daughters to pursue secondary education, but this is not enough. I will make advocacy to the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) so that they can be repatriated and I will keep supporting them from Congo," he pledged.

Buffett supports girl child education in Rwandan refugee camps providing them with school fees and other scholarstic materials through the Howard Graham Buffett Foundation (HGBF) that works in nearly 80 countries worldwide.

The Foundation has sponsored 437 girls in refugee camps across the country. Among those sponsored, 397 of them have already completed secondary studies with 21 employed as teachers, while 23 are pursuing university education, four are working with non-governmental organisations as social workers, and others employed in both private and public institutions.

Those who managed to complete their secondary studies appreciate the support, but some said they needed more support to improve their welfare.

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Asifiwe Kanyange, one of the 76 girls in Gihembe camp who completed secondary school, said: "I am glad to have completed secondary school, but I wish I had more support to further my studies."

"I am now employed as a teacher. I use my salary to cater for my family but our welfare could improve further if I got a chance to pursue university studies," Kanyange said.

Ever since the Foundation started helping the refugees in December 2009, Buffett has already injected over \$600,000 in the project.

Some residents of the camp said they wished the government and stakeholders could increase the money for subsistence to meet current market prices.

"We are each allocated Rwf200 daily for subsistence. We wish the money was increased," said Rwamajonge Munyangoboka, an elderly man who arrived at the camp in 1997 from Masisi, DR Congo.

Between 1991 and 2011, HGBF invested \$100 million in Africa's Great Lakes region to support conservation, agriculture and economic development. When conflict reignited in Congo in 2012, it set out to help secure lasting peace and spur economic development.

Currently, Buffett serves on the corporate boards of Berkshire Hathaway, an investment holding company; Coca Cola; Lindsay Corporation; and Sloan Implement. He is the director of Berkshire Hathaway, the multinational conglomerate holding company run by his father Warren Buffett, that is the fifth largest public company in the world, and he is a major sponsor of the World Food Programme (WFP).

Uganda: National IDs Replace Passports

Source: The Observer (Kampala)

By Yudaya Nangonzi

16 December 2014 - In Nairobi, Kenya on December 13, President Museveni launched the use of Uganda's national identity cards as travel documents in the East African region.

At the launch of the document at the Jomo Kenyatta International airport in Nairobi, Museveni displayed his identity card as he travelled back to Uganda instead of a passport. According to a State House statement, Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta had earlier asked President Museveni to use his identity card to demonstrate to Ugandans its relevance in the region.

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The president was in Nairobi to attend the Northern Corridor Summit and Kenya's 51st Independence day anniversary celebrations. Early this year, Presidents Kenyatta and Paul Kagame used their national IDs to travel from Nairobi and Kigali to Uganda for the fourth summit of the Northern Corridor Integration project.

Kenyatta was pleased that many Ugandans had started using the document to travel to Kenya as well as transact business. The ID project was launched last year in the three countries to replace the use of a passport or visa when travelling in East Africa in an effort to make it easier for entrepreneurs to operate across borders.

Kenya and Rwanda are using their respective IDs as travel documents and Uganda will now join them after the ongoing distribution of national IDs.

Cooperation with Africa must occur at earliest signs of crisis, Ban tells Security Council

Source: UN

16 December 2014 - 16 December 2014 – Cooperation between the African Union and the United Nations on peace and security is crucial and should occur systematically at the earliest signs of crisis said UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon this morning as he urged the Security Council to work more effectively to prevent, manage and resolve conflicts on the African continent.

“The Security Council and the AU [African Union] Peace and Security Council are working together more closely, and there is increased support for African-led peace operations and their transition into UN peacekeeping operations, as we have seen in Mali and the Central African Republic,” Mr. Ban told the 15-member Council.

“The UN Secretariat and the AU Commission meet regularly for the UN-AU Joint Task Force on Peace and Security, mapping out joint initiatives and strategies. Through the Regional Coordination Mechanism, both organizations have undertaken joint planning and implementation of programmes,” he explained.

In the Council’s open debate on “Peace Operations: The UN-AU Partnership and Its Evolution”, Mr. Ban was joined by Moussa Faki Mahamat, Foreign Minister of Chad and Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, Chairperson of the African Union.

“Our partnership must be based on a common understanding of what each organization can do in any given context, and on a realistic assessment of each other’s comparative advantages.”

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In the Central African Republic, for example, cooperation between the African Union, the UN and the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) led to the signing of the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement in Brazzaville in July, Mr. Ban said.

In Somalia, the AU and UN are working together with other partners to support the people and the Federal Government in its critical phase of state-building. The UN is also working closely with the African Union in Sudan and South Sudan.

In the Great Lakes region, strong cooperation has been vital to the progress that has been made under the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the region, the Secretary-General explained.

In Burkina Faso, there was close cooperation between the UN, the AU and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in the immediate aftermath of the uprising that led to the departure of former President Blaise Compaoré. But this crisis also points to the need for greater emphasis on preventive action.

“We also need to adapt in the face of an evolving peace and security landscape,” the UN chief said, pointing out that many peacekeeping missions are being mandated to advance national reconciliation and dialogue in the absence of peace agreements.

“Peacekeeping is also becoming a more crowded field, involving diverse actors and even parallel missions,” Mr. Ban said, underscoring his recently launched inquiry into peace operations as part of efforts to address some of these challenges. The review will encompass every aspect of the UN’s peace operations, from mandates to cooperation with the AU, to peacebuilding, the protection of civilians, accountability and the role of Special Political Missions and UN Police.

In addition to this review, the Secretary-General is also studying the handover modalities from AU to UN operations. He plans to submit an assessment with recommendations on the partnerships between the UN and regional organizations in March 2015.

The Secretary-General provided some recommendations today as well. First, building stronger political partnerships that are anchored in a clear strategic vision is crucial as is a clear, agreed role for the African Union and sub-regional organizations.

Further, he said that the UN, regional organizations and other partners must cooperate to enhance joint logistical capabilities. Member States with certain specialized capacities, from helicopters and intelligence to engineering expertise, can make invaluable contributions. Trilateral discussions with the European Union could be strengthened, as it also plays an important regional role in deploying and managing peace operations.

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Lastly, he called for alternative methods of financing and advocated for further resources from within Africa while finding creative ways to mobilize the international community.

At the outset of the open debate this morning, the Security Council adopted a Presidential statement acknowledging progress made in the ongoing cooperation between the UN and the AU in peace operations but also urging Member States to contribute to strengthening the African Union's capacity in conflict prevention and management.

By the text, the Council also stressed the importance of "supporting the political role of the AU," both during the transition from AU to UN peacekeeping missions and the implementation of governance. Equally important is strengthening AU and UN capacities for early warning, conflict analysis, dialogue and mediation.

The Council also stressed the importance of a coordinated international response to causes of conflict and recognizes the need for development of effective long-term strategies. Like the Secretary-General, the Security Council also stressed the need to secure more financial resources from within the African continent.

Ban Ki Moon Calls to Strengthen Cooperation with Africa

Source: Prensa Latina

16 December 2014 - United Nations, Dec 16 (Prensa Latina) UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon called to strengthen the links of the United Nations with Africa and the mechanisms of integration in that continent, to foster peace and stability.

"The problems in Africa are the problems of everyone there. And there is a possibility to solve the problems, only if the parts of the international community work as one, Ban Ki Moon said in the forum centered in the links with the African Union.

The diplomat said there are examples of the usefulness of joint work with African organizations to prevent conflicts or try to solve them, but there is a lot to do still to strengthen such an alliance.

Burkina Faso, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan, Central African Republic and the Great Lakes region show the importance of cooperation to face the crisis, he added.

Ban Ki Moon said there are many challenges to go forward in the search for peace and stability, and create key scenarios for socio-economic development.

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"We should foster political links with the African Union, fix them into a clear strategy, foster the peace joint operations and promote the search for greater spaces and access to financial resources in the region," he concluded.