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



## **MEDIA MONITORING**

**21 January 2015**

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### **SECURITY COUNCIL PRESS STATEMENT**

#### **TRANSFER OF DOMINIC ONGWEN TO THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT**

**Source: UN**

**20 January 2015**

The members of the Security Council welcomed the arrival of Dominic Ongwen from the Central African Republic (CAR) to the International Criminal Court in The Hague, Netherlands, on 20 January 2015.

The members of the Security Council paid tribute to all victims of serious crimes of international concern committed by the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA).

They expressed their appreciation to all states and organizations that cooperated on this effort, notably the governments of Uganda, CAR, and the United States, and the African Union, the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA), as well as to the International Criminal Court. They emphasized that their efforts were essential in order to bring Mr. Ongwen to justice.

The members of the Security Council viewed this development as a positive step for international criminal justice and for the fight against impunity for the perpetrators of the most serious crimes of concern to the international community, as well as towards efforts to address the threat posed by the LRA.

The members of the Security Council recalled that the International Criminal Court's arrest warrants for other LRA leaders, including Joseph Kony, on charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity, including murder, rape, enslavement, cruel treatment, intentionally directing attacks against a civilian population and forced enlistment of

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children, have yet to be executed, and called upon all States to cooperate with relevant national governments and the International Criminal Court, in accordance with their respective obligations, in order to execute those warrants, and to bring justice to those responsible.

The members of the Security Council thanked the African Union Regional Task Force for its ongoing efforts to counter the threat of the LRA in the region.

The members of the Security Council demanded an immediate end to all attacks by the LRA and urged the LRA to release all those abducted, and to disarm and demobilise. The Council welcomed the progress made with regard to ending LRA war crimes and crimes against humanity in Central Africa and reiterated its resolve to maintain the current momentum until a permanent end to the threat posed by the LRA has been achieved.

## **Statement attributable to the Spokesman for the Secretary-General on the surrender and transfer of LRA commander Dominic Ongwen to the International Criminal Court**

**Source: UN**

**New York, 20 January 2015**

The Secretary-General welcomes the transfer to the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague today of senior Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) commander Dominic Ongwen, as well as his surrender on 6 January in the Central African Republic (CAR).

The Secretary-General welcomes the cooperation among the Governments of the CAR, Uganda and the United States, Belgium and the Netherlands, and the support provided by the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the CAR (MINUSCA), the African Union Regional Task Force (AU-RTF) and the ICC in facilitating the expeditious transfer of Mr. Ongwen to The Hague.

The Secretary-General highlights that Mr. Ongwen's transfer to the ICC marks an important milestone in accountability, with the first LRA commander being brought before the Court. It is a step forward in efforts to bring justice to the thousands of victims of LRA violence in Uganda, South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and CAR over the past 28 years.

The Secretary-General pays tribute to the courageous efforts of the AU-RTF and urges all troop-contributing countries and governments of the region to remain committed to the ending the threat posed by the LRA and bringing to justice LRA leader Joseph Kony. He calls on the LRA to immediately disarm and demobilize, cease attacks and release all those abducted.

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## La RDC et l'Angola améliorent les transports transfrontaliers

Source: Le Magazine du Manager

**La République démocratique du Congo (RDC) et l'Angola améliorent la libre circulation des personnes et des biens entre leurs deux pays. Ces deux états de la région des grands lacs ont signé, lundi 19 janvier 2015 à Kinshasa, quatre (4) accords de coopération dans le domaine de transports transfrontaliers. C'est lors de la visite d'état qu'a effectué le président angolais José Eduardo dos Santos dans la capitale congolaise que les discussions ont débouché sur ces accords.**

**20 janvier 2015** - Les dits accords concernent les différents secteurs de transports. La coopération est relative à l'exploitation des services aériens, le transport ferroviaire transfrontalier, le transport routier transfrontalier et le transport maritime.

Outre la signature des accords sur les transports transfrontaliers, José Eduardo dos Santos et son homologue congolais Joseph Kabila, ont décidé « de renforcer la coopération entre les deux pays dans plusieurs domaines, notamment diplomatique, économique et commercial ainsi que dans la gestion des mouvements migratoires », précise le communiqué final qui a sanctionné la rencontre entre les deux hommes d'états..

Sur le plan régional, les deux chefs d'Etat ont examiné la situation politique et sécuritaire qui prévaut dans la région, indique le communiqué. « Afin de consolider les acquis, les deux chefs d'Etat se sont convenus de conjuguer leur efforts en vue de parachever l'éradication des forces négatives qui sévissent dans l'Est de la République démocratique du Congo et endeuillent ce pays ainsi que l'ensemble de la région », a souligné le ministre congolais des affaires étrangères, Raymond Tshibanda Ntungamulongo qui a lu le communiqué.

Le document ajoute que « Mr Dos Santos, également président en exercice de la Conférence internationale pour la région des Grands Lacs (CIRGL), et Mr Kabila ont examiné le climat sécuritaire et politique qui prévaut dans la région des Grands Lacs ».

Le président angolais a félicité les efforts de son homologue de la RDC ainsi que les résultats obtenus dans le cadre de la mise en œuvre de l'accord-cadre d'Addis-Abeba. Cet accord signé en février 2013 par onze pays africains vise à restaurer la paix dans l'Est de la RDC et dans la région des Grands Lacs.

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## Great Lakes region requires new laws to protect natural resources

Source: Xinhua

**Nairobi, 21 January 2015** - A regional body has urged member states of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) to put in place national laws to fight against the illegal exploitation of natural resources.

Secretary General of the Forum of Parliaments (FP) of Member States of the FP-ICGLR Prosper Higiuro told journalists in Nairobi that the uncontrolled exploitation of resources is a major cause of conflict in the region.

"Parliaments should spearhead the process of enacting laws that will ensure natural resources are used for the benefit of its local citizens," Higiuro said during a media briefing on the upcoming fifth Ordinary Session of the Plenary Assembly of the FP-ICGLR that will take place from Jan. 20 to 22 in Nairobi.

FP-ICGLR member states include Angola, Burundi, Central African Republic (CAR), Republic of Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo (DR Congo), Rwanda, Sudan, South Sudan, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and Zambia.

Higiuro said that countries such as Rwanda and DR Congo have already put in place laws to ensure its minerals and natural resources uplift the lives of its citizens, adding that all contracts that governments sign for mineral exploitation must be made public.

"This will improve transparency in the use of public resources, " he said.

Higiuro added that rebels prefer to use proceeds from the sale of natural resources to fund their negative activities.

The FP-ICGLR also plans to carry out research on the electoral systems in the region in order to encourage free and fair elections.

The regional body has also played a keep role in finding lasting solutions for the on-going conflicts in the CAR, DR Congo and South Sudan.

## Lord's Resistance Army commander en route to The Hague -court

Source: Reuters World Service

**Dakar, 20 January 2015** - A commander of the Ugandan Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) wanted for war crimes was being transferred to the International Criminal Court in The Hague on Tuesday, the court said in a statement.

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Dominic Ongwen, a one-time child soldier who rose through the ranks of the rebel group, was among five senior commanders of the guerrilla movement indicted by the global court for war crimes and crimes against humanity in 2005.

"Upon arrival, Mr Ongwen will receive a medical visit and will appear, as soon as possible, before the judges in the presence of a defense lawyer. The date of the initial appearance hearing will be announced soon," the ICC said in the statement.

Ongwen, 34, defected from the LRA in late December and handed himself over to the Seleka rebels who control swathes of the north and east of the Central African Republic. Seleka then transferred him to the U.S. forces supporting a regional anti-LRA task force.

He was transferred to ICC custody on Jan. 17.

Regional analysts say the LRA abducted Ongwen as a 10-year-old on his way to school in Uganda. Having earned a reputation as a fighter, he quickly rose through rebel ranks.

## **Congo's problems are Museveni, Kagame and Kabila, not the FDLR**

Source: KPFA Weekend News broadcast (18 January 2015) via San Francisco Bay View web site: [sfbayview.com](http://sfbayview.com)

By Ann Garrison

**Friends of the Congo Executive Director Maurice Carney told KPFA that the Democratic Republic of the Congo's real problems are Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni, Rwandan President Paul Kagame and Congo's own President Joseph Kabila, not the FDLR or any other militia operating in the eastern DRC.**

### **20 January 2015 - Transcript**

**KPFA Evening News Anchor Anthony Fest:** Potentially catastrophic military operations, authorized by the U.N. Security Council, may lie ahead soon for the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The U.N. Security Council has urged the Congolese army to join U.N. combat troops from South Africa, Tanzania and Malawi in hunting down the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda, a Rwandan refugee militia commonly known as the FDLR.

It's accused of perpetrating the Rwandan Genocide of 1994, even though the organization did not exist then and most of its members are too young to have been involved. Nearly 20 years of regional war and resource plunder in DR Congo have already been cloaked in the pretense of hunting down the FDLR. KPFA reporter Ann Garrison spoke to Maurice Carney, executive director of Friends of the Congo, about why another huge conflict may be close to happening.

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**KPFA/Ann Garrison:** Maurice, it's obvious to anyone who's been following this that the U.S., through its Special Envoy Russ Feingold, is twisting the arms of at least four African presidents to go to war inside DR Congo's borders. If the tables were turned, a Special Envoy from the DRC would be in North America urging a regional war inside U.S. borders. Why do you think the U.S. is pushing this so hard now?

**Maurice Carney:** Well, I think there are several reasons: One, following up on arrangements that were made which called on the U.N. Force Intervention Brigade to pursue the M23 and, after that, the FDLR. The second, I think in a lot of ways the U.S. is in alignment with Rwanda in this.

Rwanda wants to see action on the FDLR, irrespective of how that action is going to turn out, especially for Congolese civilians, because we've seen in the past, especially going back to 2009, when there's been military action taken on the FDLR, the Congolese civilians are the ones who bear the brunt of the results of those military operations. And I also think, strangely enough, that the U.S. believes that the routing of the FDLR will bring stability to the region, which we don't think.

Really, if you look at it for the past 20 years, there's been three primary forces of instability: The leadership in Kigali (Rwanda) under Paul Kagame, the leadership in Uganda under Yoweri Museveni and the leadership in Kinshasa (DR Congo), now under Joseph Kabila. And all three of these leaders – one can arguably characterize them as sociopaths – they have kept the region in a death trap for the past 20 years.

All three of these leaders – one can arguably characterize them as sociopaths – they have kept the region in a death trap for the past 20 years.

And that's where the pressure needs to be put, for these leaders to leave the political scene and clear up space for people who are in support of peace, people who are in support of democracy, people who are in support of stability to assume leadership in the region. And it's at that time that we're going to see any kind of peace in that region.

The issues aren't the militia groups like the ADF, FDLR. The issues are the heads of state, primarily in those three countries, which continue to fuel the conflict and breed instability.

**KPFA:** Well, all three act as the heads of various resource smuggling networks, don't they?

**Maurice Carney:** Yeah, absolutely. Not only mineral smuggling networks, but also networks that facilitate the pilfering of the region by multinational corporations, which is the more important and destabilizing action. For example, Kabila, in Kinshasa, if we look at the access he's providing to Soco Oil for the Virunga region, the Virunga Park, Africa's oldest heritage site, he's providing access to it for Soco Oil to drill in that region and destabilize the environment there.

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If you look at the relationship that Kabila has with Dan Gertler, the Israeli businessman that has made over \$2 billion in the Congo over the last decade or so, where he gets mineral concessions and oil blocks for pennies on the dollar that he can sell back on the international market for billions of dollars.

Rwanda has consistently looted Congo's coltan and cassiterite and served as an outlet for multinational corporations that are trading in those minerals. And Uganda – everyone knows in Uganda that they have looted Congo's timber and gold and are trying to encroach on Congo's oil.

One cannot speak to the role that those leaders have played in the instability in the region without looking at how they have been in cahoots not only with illegal smuggling operations but also with “legal” multinational corporations, to the disadvantage of the Congolese people in particular and to the people of the region in general.

**KPFA:** OK, General, aka President Museveni of Uganda has now been in power for nearly 30 years. General, aka President Kagame (of Rwanda) is threatening to stay beyond his term limits, as is Congolese President Joseph Kabila.

**Maurice Carney:** These three presidents have been the source of the bulk of the instability in the region. And as long as they are in power, Ann, we do not believe that there will be any stability in the region. We do not believe that there will be any peace in the region. We do not believe that there will be any “democracy” in the region.

So it's vital that there be a transition to another type of leadership, that there be a process whereby individuals from the population can ascend to power peacefully.

These folks that are in power – these are the strong men that Obama talked about in his speech, President Obama talked about in his speech in Ghana a number of years ago, where he said, “Africa doesn't need strong men. It needs strong institutions.” So these folks have to leave the political scene in order for peace to be ushered in in the region.

Remember, these are the individuals that President Clinton held up as the renaissance leaders of Africa, the new leadership of Africa that's going to take Africa into prosperity and democracy. And with these leaders in power, it's been nothing but hell and tragedy for African people in the Central Africa region. So these people must leave the scene in order for us to see peace.

**KPFA:** Maurice Carney, thank you for speaking to KPFA.

**Maurice Carney:** Thank you, Ann.

**KPFA:** For Pacifica, KPFA and AfrobeatRadio, I'm Ann Garrison.

*Oakland writer Ann Garrison writes for the San Francisco Bay View, Black Agenda Report, Black Star News, Counterpunch, Colored Opinions and her own website, Ann Garrison, and produces for AfrobeatRadio on WBAI-NYC, KPFA Evening News, KPFA Flashpoints and for her own YouTube Channel, AnnieGetYourGang. She can be reached at [ann@afrobeatradio.com](mailto:ann@afrobeatradio.com). In March*

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**2014 she was awarded the Victoire Ingabire Umuhoza Democracy and Peace Prize for promoting peace in the Great Lakes Region of Africa through her reporting.**

## **Gunshots heard at police crackdown on DR Congo student demo: AFP**

Source: AFP World News

**Kinshasa, 21 January 2015** - Gunshots were heard Wednesday as police cracked down on a new student demonstration at Kinshasa's university following two days of bloody violence in the capital of the Democratic Republic of Congo, an AFP reporter said.

Twenty eight people have been killed since Monday in anti-government protests, according to a local human rights organisation. The authorities put the death toll at five.

Protesters oppose a draft law that would enable President Joseph Kabila to extend his stay in power beyond his current mandate which ends in 2016.

Two shots rang out as dozens of students shouting "Kabila get out!" faced off against a small group of police officers. In the Ndjili neighbourhood, youths destroyed a police vehicle.

"This morning we're working all out again because there is a students' protest" at the university, police spokesman Israel Mutumbo said. "We are in the process of checking across the city because there are little groups (of possible demonstrators) forming."

On Tuesday, hundreds of youths torched a town hall in Ngaba, a southern neighbourhood of Kinshasa, while several prisoners escaped from a neighbouring building. Looters also made off with police guns stored at the site.

The army and police arrested at least 20 people as protesters hurled rocks at state buildings, public buses and even passing cars. Soldiers fired in the air to scare off looters who targeted a Chinese-owned store.

In Brussels, opposition leader Etienne Tshisekedi urged the Congolese people to force a "dying regime" from power.

Tshisekedi, 82, who is recovering from illness in Belgium, has been in opposition since the 1960s, previously taking on the dictator Mobutu Sese Seko as well as Kabila's father Laurent-Desire Kabila.



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## **Hundreds of youths torch town hall in DR Congo's capital**

Source: AFP World News

**Kinshasa, 20 January 2015** - Hundreds of youths ransacked and burned a town hall in the Democratic Republic of Congo's capital Tuesday amid unrest over a controversial election bill, an AFP correspondent reported.

Several prisoners in a building attached to the town hall in southern Kinshasa escaped and rioters made off with police firearms stored there, witnesses said. Clashes began Monday between police and protesters against legislation that could extend President Joseph Kabila's hold on power.

## **Police and protesters face off in DR Congo over election law**

Source: AFP World News

**Kinshasa, 20 January 2015** - Hundreds of youths confronted police in the capital of the Democratic Republic of Congo Tuesday after deadly protests over a draft law that would enable President Joseph Kabila to extend his stay in power.

Opposition parties have called for mass demonstrations against the new electoral bill being debated in the Senate.

But in an apparent attempt to keep a lid on the protests, authorities have shut down the Internet in the capital Kinshasa.

The unrest is the latest upheaval to rock the troubled central African county, which has been plagued by multiple wars and weakened by ineffectual governance for decades.

Four people were killed Monday, according to the authorities, when security forces forcibly dispersed thousands of protesters in Kinshasa, a sprawling tropical city of some nine million people.

The opposition is demanding that Kabila -- who has been in power for 14 years -- quit when his mandate expires in 2016.

About 350 youths massed again on Tuesday in the central district of Lemba, where security forces put out fires set with blazing tyres, and about 30 riot police were trying to restore order, an AFP journalist said.

Police have cordoned off a broad perimeter around parliament, known as the Palace of the People, to stop protesters interrupting the Senate session, which began studying the controversial bill already passed by the lower house on Saturday.

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The three main opposition parties jointly called on Kinshasa residents to "massively to occupy" the premises and stall the debate.

**- New electoral roll -**

Government spokesman Lambert Mende said two policemen who died on Monday were killed by bullets, saying the other two killed were "looters".

Witnesses said police had fired live ammunition to disperse demonstrators.

At least 10 people were admitted to hospital with gunshot wounds, medical staff reported, while the opposition and diplomatic sources said the casualty figures were most likely higher than the official toll.

A day after the bloodshed, mobile phone operators said they had been told to shut down the Internet.

"The National Intelligence Agency gave us the order to block the Internet in Kinshasa until further notice," the manager of one service provider told AFP.

Many African presidents have tried, and often succeeded, to stay in power by reforming their countries' constitutions to get rid of limits on presidential terms.

Kabila, now 43, first came to power in January 2001 when Kinshasa politicians rushed to make the young soldier head of state after the assassination of his father, President Laurent-Desire Kabila.

In 2006, Kabila was returned to office in the DRC's first free elections since independence from Belgium in 1960, then he began his second and last five-year constitutional term after a hotly disputed vote in 2011.

His opponents believe that Kabila wants to prolong his mandate by making the presidential and parliamentary elections contingent on a new electoral roll, after a census across the vast mineral-rich country set to begin this year.

The government has acknowledged that the census could delay elections due at the end of 2016, but regional analysts and diplomats estimate the process could take up to three years.

France voiced concern over the "recurring trouble" accompanying the debate of the election law.

Foreign ministry spokesman Romain Nadal said Paris was urging all parties to negotiate on the proposed reforms "in a consensual fashion, respecting the Democratic Republic of Congo's constitution and civil liberties".

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Last year, Burkina Faso's president Blaise Compaore was chased from power when he tried to change the constitution to extend his mandate.

## **RDC: calme précaire et communications coupées dans une partie du pays**

Source: RFI

**20 janvier 2015** - En République démocratique du Congo, le Sénat reprend ce mardi l'examen de la loi électorale. Un texte fortement contesté par l'opposition qui a tenté de défiler lundi à Kinshasa. Une manifestation violemment réprimée par la police. Le bilan officiel fait état de trois morts alors que du côté de la Fédération internationale des droits de l'homme, on évoque le nombre de 14 victimes.

Ce mardi, le calme semble être revenu, mais le climat reste très tendu dans la capitale. Tout d'abord parce qu'il y a beaucoup d'interrogations du côté des réseaux de communication. Par exemple, depuis lundi soir minuit à Kinshasa, mais aussi sur l'ensemble du territoire, plus aucun accès à Internet ne fonctionne ; de même les SMS ne passent plus.

Les opérateurs téléphoniques confirment avoir reçu des instructions des autorités pour couper l'accès aux SMS et à Internet. Cette mesure, entrée donc en vigueur lundi soir, concerne les six opérateurs du pays, pour l'ensemble de leurs clients, et pour une durée indéterminée. Aucune raison officielle n'a été donnée par les autorités. En tout cas, la loi autorise l'Etat à couper l'accès pour raison de sécurité. Tôt ce matin, le ministre des Télécommunications et le porte-parole du gouvernement n'étaient pas été en mesure d'expliquer cette coupure tout en démentant toute implication. Il n'empêche que forcément beaucoup s'interrogent. En effet, des photos de blessés et de civils tués par balle ont circulé lundi sur Twitter tout comme des informations sur la mobilisation.

Interrogations aussi quant à la situation sécuritaire notamment à Kinshasa. Dans le quartier des affaires, la circulation a repris normalement, mais plusieurs sources signalent avoir entendu des tirs du côté de la place de la Victoire, non loin du Parlement, et à l'université de Kinshasa. Deux endroits où la mobilisation a été particulièrement forte hier.

### **Des opposants arrêtés**

Enfin, il y a beaucoup de questions aussi autour des arrestations. Le président du SCOD, cet ex-parti de la majorité présidentielle qui a rejoint l'opposition il y a peu, Jean-Claude Muyambo a été arrêté ce mardi matin à l'aube à son domicile. A Goma également dans l'est du pays, deux responsables locaux des plus gros partis d'oppositions du pays, l'UDPS et l'UNC, ont été interpellés suite à la manifestation de ce lundi.

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Et ces arrestations pourraient se poursuivre, car le porte-parole du gouvernement, Lambert Mende, a prévenu hier soir [19 janvier] dans un message télévisé que la justice allait sévir. Notamment suite aux débordements et aux cas de pillage constatés à Kinshasa.

## **Burundi arrests journalist tied to suspect in Italian nun killings**

Source: Reuters

By Patrick Nduwimana

**Bujumbura, 20 January 2015** - The host of a popular radio show in Burundi was arrested on Tuesday and accused by prosecutors of helping to conceal the identity of a guest who said he was involved in last September's murder of three Italian nuns, his lawyer said.

Two of the nuns, Lucia Pulici, 75, and Olga Raschietti, 82, were found partially decapitated in their dormitory, while a third, 79-year-old Bernadetta Boggian, was found dead the following day.

Prosecutors ordered Bob Rugurika, from Radio Publique Africaine, to identify the interview subject who said he took part in the killings north of the capital, Bujumbura.

The guest also identified others suspected of involvement in the killings, including former and serving intelligence and police officers, but did not provide any evidence.

"My client refused to reveal his source, explaining to the prosecutor that it is not his job to arrest criminals," the lawyer, Lambert Nigarura, told reporters.

He said Rugurika was accused of complicity in assassination, violating the secrecy of an investigation and lack of public solidarity.

Pierre Claver Mbonimba, head of the Association for the Defense of Human Rights and Prisoners, condemned the arrest saying Rugurika "has done his job as a journalist."

Soon after the killings, police arrested a 33-year-old, saying he had been discovered with a blood-stained stone, which they think was used as a murder weapon, and a key, which they believe he used to enter the convent. That separate case is still proceeding.

According to Burundian criminal law, Rugurika will be brought before a panel of judges within one week to decide whether he will be kept in detention or freed.

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## South Sudan president rules out stepping down from power

Source: Sudan Tribune

**Juba, 20 January 2015** – South Sudan’s president, Salva Kiir, says he has no intention of stepping down for the sake of unity between the rival factions of the governing Sudan People’s Liberation Movement (SPLM).

Kiir said calls his removal were coming from those seeking to fan discord and instability.

“The demands the others are making are not consistent with the SPLM constitution. Some of them are even calling for the dissolution of the party structure. Their wish is that I must step down, which is a problem if it is not done through proper processes and in [a] peaceful manner,” he said.

“They just want to cause confusion and create enmity within the country ... I don’t think I will be in the position to accept stepping down before all the leadership is approved,” he added.

Kiir was speaking at a consultative meeting with Tanzanian president Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete who was in the capital, Juba, on a one-day visit to explore options for securing a peaceful resolution of the country’s ongoing conflict.

South Sudan has been embroiled in conflict since mid-December 2013 when political differences and debate on reforms within the SPLM leadership turned violent.

The conflict has reignited tribal tensions across the country, pitting pro-government troops loyal to Kiir against rebel forces aligned with former vice-president Riek Machar.

Kiir also questioned Kikwete whether he would be willing to accept similar treatment as leader of Tanzania’s ruling Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM) party.

“The issues they (the rebel faction) are raising shows that they are not interested in peace and unification. They still believe they can change the government through unconstitutional means,” he said.

“There are ways to handle administrative and leadership issues. But in South Sudan, they are mixed up in the name of reforms so that someone is blamed,” he added.

Kikwete’s visit comes after he held a meeting with Ugandan president Yoweri Museveni over the collapse of the intra-SPLM dialogue.

Museveni had earlier personally approached the Tanzanian president to initiate the dialogue on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly held in New York last year.

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Machar currently remains in Tanzania and is expected to be briefed on Kikwete's visit to South Sudan on Monday.

## **FDLR - EU Says It's Time to Strike Militia**

Source: The New Times (Rwanda)

By James Karuhanga

**20 January 2015** - The European Union (EU) yesterday pressed for military action against the genocidal FDLR militia after it ignored a January 2 disarmament deadline.

Pressure continues to pile on the UN Mission in DR Congo (Monusco) and Kinshasa to strike the militia.

"The EU stresses that the moment has come to start military action as per UNSC Resolution 2147, and as called for also by the UNSC Presidential Statement of January 8, and the International Envoys for the Great Lakes Region Communique of January 2," reads a release from the EU's Foreign Affairs Council meeting in Brussels, Belgium.

The January 2 deadline passed without the militia complying with the decisions of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the United Nations Security Council (UNSC).

Instead of disarming, sources say, the militia used the six-month window of the ultimatum to recruit and consolidate its military and political organisation, especially intent on further destabilising Rwanda.

Edouard Munyamaliza, president of the Rwanda Civil Society Platform (RCSP), has expressed disappointment since key actors, including Kinshasa, SADC, ICGLR and UN keep talking about military action but "don't walk the talk."

Munyamaliza appreciated the EU statement but wondered why when it comes to "decisions for Africans and by Africans, concerned parties drag their feet until the likes of EU, America and others decide."

"What are African leaders lacking?" he asked, noting that although the DR Congo problem is under the UN, leaders on the continent should not wait for statements from Europe.

### **'What are African leaders doing?'**

Questioning the importance of the African Union (AU) in the face of continental crises such as the Libyan crisis (2011-present), and numerous others, Munyamaliza sounded frustrated.

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"Is the EU more responsible than [Congolese President Joseph] Kabila, SADC and other countries in the ICGLR? What are they lacking after they were given a go-ahead? Should we say now, that the EU has given a new go-ahead?"

The EU's Foreign Affairs Council configuration (FAC) is responsible for the 28-member bloc's external action, which includes foreign policy, defence and security, trade, development cooperation and humanitarian aid.

The FAC, comprising foreign ministers from all EU states, may also, depending on the agenda, bring together defence ministers, when considering common security and defence policy; or development ministers, on development cooperation.

The EU statement calls on DR Congo and Monusco to engage immediately to disarm the FDLR.

"At any point, FDLR combatants can still choose a peaceful path by entering into the existing Disarmament, Demobilisation, Repatriation, Reintegration and Resettlement (DDRRR) programme."

Kigali has reiterated its call to Kinshasa and Monusco to abide by their regional and international obligations, notably UNSC Resolutions 2147 (2014) and Resolution 2098 (2013) which authorise offensive operations through the special UN Force Intervention Brigade, the first UN peacekeeping unit mandated to conduct targeted operations to neutralise armed groups in the eastern DR Congo, either unilaterally or with the Congolese army.

FDLR's political leaders, Ignace Murwanashyaka and Straton Musoni, are facing trial in a German court, with 65 counts of crimes against humanity and war crimes committed on Congolese territory.

The militia's current strength is estimated to be more than 3,000 and it reportedly continues to beef up collaboration with the Congolese army, and other backers.

## **Ugandan youth to petition UN over poverty**

Source: Daily Monitor (Uganda)

By Stephen Wandera

**Kampala, 20 January 2015** - Over 10,000 Ugandan youth have drafted a petition to Parliament calling on government to make interventions in the increasing poverty rates due to unemployment. According to the Ministry of Finance statistics over 70 percent of the youth are unemployed.

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"Young people will challenge the Speaker of Parliament this week to listen to their demands when they hand over a petition signed by over 10,000 young people. The plea is also to be sent to two UN summits later this year; UN Special Summit on Sustainable Development due to take place in September in New York and the UN Climate talks in Paris in December," Uganda National NGO Forum executive director, Mr. Richard Ssewakiryanga said.

In a statement issued on Monday, Mr. Ssewakiryanga said, "In Uganda we celebrate the halving of income poverty as a target met under the MDGs (Millennium Development Goals), the need to end all forms of poverty, securing development and economic systems that benefit everyone not only a few is still a development challenge. Policy makers must tackle this unfair and dysfunctional trend and realize that real recovery means a recovery for all, not simply the recovery of few economic indicators and wealthy persons."

The handing over of that petition is part of the launch of the action/2015 campaign which calls on local and world leaders to take urgent action to halt man-made climate change, eradicate poverty and address inequality during the upcoming international UN summits, whose decisions affect the ordinary person.

The action/2015 campaign activities are taking place in more than 50 countries across the world, he noted. Adding, "The new calculation released by the action/2015 coalition shows that, even using relatively conservative scenarios, the number of people living in extreme poverty on less than U\$1.25 (about Shs3500) a day could be reduced dramatically from over a billion to 360 million by 2030."

Based on work by the University of Denver, in the year 2030, about 4 percent of the global population would live in extreme poverty, (compared to 17 percent today) if critical policy choices on inequality, poverty investment and climate change are made this year and implemented thereafter.

Mr. Ssewakiryanga further noted that the eradication of extreme poverty can be achieved for the first time in history, a key objective of the campaign.

"However, if leaders fail to deliver and build on the growing momentum for ambitious deals at the UN Special Summit on Sustainable Development in September and the UN Climate talks in Paris in December, and scale back their efforts, the number of people living in extreme poverty could actually increase to 1.2 billion by 2030. This increase would be the first in a generation (since 1993) and almost a billion higher (886 million) than if resolute action is taken. Under this scenario 1 in 3 of the world's population would live under U\$2 (Shs5000) a day," he observed.