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



# **MEDIA MONITORING**

**24 November 2014**

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## **Burundi: vers une coalition politique historique?**

Par RFI

**Burundi, 21 novembre 2014** - Au Burundi, une nouvelle coalition politique, sans précédent dans l'histoire du pays, pourrait voir le jour. Ce jeudi 20 novembre, les leaders des ailes majoritaires du principal parti tutsi, l'Uprona, et des ex-rebelles hutus des FNL ont signé secrètement une déclaration dans laquelle ils s'engagent à travailler ensemble. L'Uprona de Charles Nditije, les FNL d'Agathon Rwasa, mais aussi le parti Frodebu Nyakuri de Jean Minani sont les principaux acteurs de cette possible coalition. Une première dans un pays longtemps miné par les divisions et les guerres ethniques.

C'est une annonce qui n'est pas sans surprendre au Burundi : les ennemis d'hier qui décident de s'allier. D'un côté, l'Uprona (Union pour le progrès national), le principal parti tutsi qui a dirigé le pays d'une main de fer pendant 30 ans. De l'autre, son adversaire historique, les FNL (Forces nationales de libération), la première rébellion hutue à avoir pris les armes dans les années 80.

Une nouvelle coalition présentée comme une union sacrée face au danger. Le pays « est au bord du gouffre », martèle-t-on dans ces partis. Et pour Charles Nditije et Agathon Rwasa, le danger s'appelle CNDD-FDD (Conseil national pour la défense de la démocratie-Forces de défense de la démocratie). Tous deux ont été officiellement évincés de la tête de leurs partis par des proches du parti au pouvoir et ne pourront concourir aux prochaines élections en 2015 qu'en candidats indépendants.

### **Barrer la route au CNDD-FDD**

L'objectif de cette coalition est donc clair : barrer la route au CNDD-FDD. Les deux partis ont donc signé une déclaration qui les engage à mettre rapidement en place une

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même plateforme politique. D'abord en présentant un programme et des listes communes aux communales et aux législatives, mais aussi un candidat unique à la présidentielle.

Ils appellent dans ce texte toutes les forces politiques, morales et sociales du Burundi à s'engager dans ce combat contre le pouvoir en place pour « sauver le Burundi ». Pour l'instant, rien de tout cela n'est encore fait. Mais l'Uprona de Nditidje et les FNL de Rwasa affichent leur optimisme : « Nous avons déjà négocié à Arusha », rappellent-ils. L'Uprona et les FLN présentent cette coalition comme la preuve que la donne politique a changé au Burundi, elle n'est plus ethnique.

## **Rwanda: Who Will End the FDLR Menace?**

Source: The New Times (Rwanda)

By James Karuhanga

**23 November 2014** - With only five weeks to the January 2 UN Security Council deadline for the DR Congo-based FDLR militia to disarm or face military action, there is virtually nothing to suggest that the group largely blamed for the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi will surrender.

In fact, a November 18 report by Enough Project, says the militia is after all regrouping and mobilizing political and financial support to continue its operations. Its strategy is focused on: generating more income to trade for ammunition and weapons, mobilizing political support in an attempt to gain greater legitimacy, and preparing to avoid military defeat through alliance-building and recruitment.

As a result of this, debate is now shifting from whether the FDLR will disarm to whether the UN Mission in the DR Congo (MONUSCO) will move against the militia responsible for the death of a million victims of the Genocide after the deadline.

Last month, the Security Council expressed "deep concern over the lack of progress" in FDLR's voluntary disarmament process following an assessment by the International Conference of the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) and Southern African Development Community (SADC).

Martin Kobler, head of MONUSCO, recently told the Security Council that after January 2, military action against the FDLR would be inevitable. Dissonantly, however, he also admitted the disarmament process was "at an impasse."

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Yet the militia is reportedly generating revenue mainly by trading gold and by illegally producing and trading charcoal, a trade worth an estimated \$32 million annually.

Enough Project asserts that, Kinshasa, which would play a critical role in efforts to counter the FDLR, hesitates partly because "its ties to FDLR are economically and politically beneficial," while South Africa and Tanzania support Kinshasa "in large part due to business interests related to the Inga III mega-dam and because of strained relations with Rwanda".

Most likely, some analysts say, the militia will, as it did in May, send another dead beat group of their own to a disarmament centre if only to postpone military action.

**UN aware of delaying tactics**

"We all know that the FDLR have never had the intention to disarm," Olivier Nduhungirehe, Rwanda's envoy to UN said.

"They are only proceeding by delaying tactics. And the Security Council has also recognized this in its presidential statement of November 5, 2014".

Though the Council has rejected any call for political dialogue with the FDLR, the bigger picture of what happens after January 2 remains hazy.

"The Security Council didn't elaborate any scenario. It only gave MONUSCO the month of January to launch its operations for the neutralization of the FDLR," Nduhungirehe said, adding: "What is expected is that in case of non-compliance by MONUSCO and the FARDC, the Security Council may redouble its pressure on MONUSCO, on its FIB and on the DRC Government".

The latter scenario appears to be another high-level smokescreen that keeps repeating without effect. Nearly two years after the Council adopted resolution 2098 to disarm FDLR, it is clear MONUSCO is never going to pursue the militia. Due to MONUSCO's past reluctance to fight FDLR, analysts say, military action by the former against the militia is not plausible today or in the near future.

Prof. Jean de la Croix Nkurayija, a political scientist at the University of Rwanda, said the reluctance was due to political will by groupings such as SADC to neutralize the FDLR.

"There are organizations like MONUSCO and SADC which don't really want to see that implemented because of their own self interests," Nkurayija said.

Analysts previously noted that Tanzanian and South African troops leading the 3,000-strong special UN Force Intervention Brigade (FIB) - the first UN peacekeeping unit

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mandated to conduct targeted operations to neutralize armed groups in the eastern DRC - under MONUSCO - cannot be trusted to do the job. Why? Last year, Tanzanian President Jakaya Kikwete urged Kigali to open political negotiations with the FDLR and, mid this year, his foreign minister, Bernard Membe, referred to the FDLR as "freedom fighters".

Genocide scholar Tom Ndahiro said: "Among other things, Tanzania's foreign minister called the FDLR 'freedom fighters.' Was this a lapsus linguae? I doubt it was. It was well thought and he meant it. When others, including the UN are calling them a Genocidal force, he calls them freedom fighters. How then will they engage them"?

Before it was integrated into MONUSCO, the FIB, comprising of troops from the Southern African Development Community (SADC) - Tanzania, South Africa, and Malawi -was initially a SADC military mission in support of the Congolese army (FARDC) against the M23.

The UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) currently headed by Frenchman Hervé Ladsous, is part of another thick puzzle. Ladsous who was France's Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN during the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi and defended his government's policies, including aiding the escape of the masterminds of the Genocide into eastern DR Congo.

Other possible western interests aside, Ladsous' current intentions remain open to discussion. In June, he requested for the lifting of a travel ban for FDLR president Gaston Rumuli Iyamuremye (a.k.a Victor Rumuli Byiringiro), to permit him travel to Italy. The UN actually flew a sanctioned FDLR leader on a UN aircraft in the DR Congo, before the operation aborted following protests from Kigali.

**Game changer:**

Meanwhile, even if a unilateral incursion by Rwanda into eastern DR Congo to eliminate the militia threat is unlikely, it appears that something else could give it effect.

In the past few months, 10 regional countries: Burundi, Comoros, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, Sudan and Uganda - members of the Eastern Africa Standby Force (EASF) - hastened plans to establish a 5,000 strong fighting force by next month.

The force which is expected to be combat ready a year ahead of schedule will target negative forces including the FDLR, the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), a rebel group opposed to the Ugandan government, and the al-Shabaab, a jihadist group based in Somalia which pledges allegiance to the militant Islamist organisation al-Qaeda. This could be a game changer.

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Other factors constant, a willingness by EASF countries to go it alone could possibly shake and galvanize the UN into action - whichever form it takes - to prevent a new massive regional conflict.

Nkurayija sees the EASF as a viable option in checking the FDLR impasse or any other negative force weighing down on the region. "The EASF may not be the only solution but it can be a last alternative if there is no progress by January 2. It is a good strategy to prevent what may happen if these negative forces are not disarmed."

"Perhaps, a solution we never anticipated could pop up but a plan B is essential. The last solution is to protect ourselves," he added.

The EASF, formerly Eastern Africa Standby Brigade, is largely buttressed by Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda and Ethiopia, which committed nearly the entire force.

Kigali often indicates that some states in the region continue to sanitize and protect the FDLR and are unwilling to support decisive action against the FDLR.

In 2011, there were reports indicating that Rwandan fugitives, including Kayumba Nyamwasa, established ties with the FDLR. Related meetings were allegedly held in South Africa, among other places.

According to Ndahiro: There has to be another FIB as I don't see the current composition's chemistry doing it. EASF would be a better alternative to the FIB, which is actually a fib, when it comes to fighting the FDLR".

## **About 100 people massacred in DR Congo's restive east last week: lawmakers**

Source: AFP World News

**Kinshasa, 24 November 2014** - About 100 people were slaughtered last week in the east of the Democratic Republic of Congo, the latest massacre to shake the restive region, regional deputies told AFP on Monday.

The latest carnage took place near the town of Beni in the North Kivu province, where Ugandan rebels have been blamed for killing more than 200 civilians in gruesome attacks since October.

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## Angola: President Dos Santos Gets Message from DRC Counterpart

Source: Angola Press

**Luanda, 21 November 2014** - A message from President Joseph Kabila of the Democratic Republic of Congo to his Angolan counterpart, José Eduardo dos Santos, related to strengthening of cooperation between the two countries was delivered Friday, at the Presidential Palace , in Luanda.

The bearer of the letter was DRC Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Tunda Ya Kasende Celestin, as a special envoy of President Joseph Kabila, at the end of the meeting with the Angolan president, who told the press that it also expresses condolences on the passing away of the Angolan nationalist, Afonso Van-Dunem "Mbinda".

He recalled that Angola and DRC are sister countries that have relations of friendship and very fruitful cooperation and his presence in the Angolan capital is based on the strengthening and reviving of this cooperation.

Asked to comment on the current political and military situation in his country, Celestin Tunda Ya Kasende clarified that it is "stable".

## Congo's army hunts assailants after attack in east

Source: Associated Press

**Kinshasa, 22 November 2014** - A provincial governor says Congo's army is searching for the perpetrators of a new attack in the country's east that civil society groups say killed at least 50 people.

North Kivu Governor Julien Paluku said Saturday that nine bodies had been recovered from the attack committed by unknown assailants near the town of Beni, more than 300 kilometers (186 miles) north of Goma, the provincial capital.

A coalition of North Kivu civil society groups said Friday that between 50 and 80 people were killed in the attack Thursday.

More than 100 people have been killed in recent attacks in the region. The government has blamed the Allied Defense Forces rebel group.

Congo's U.N. mission, which is authorized to battle rebel groups, has vowed to help find the perpetrators.

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## Up to 80 people killed by suspected Ugandan rebels in Congo -group

By Aaron Ross

Source: Reuters World Service

**Kinshasa, 21 November** - Suspected Ugandan ADF-NALU rebels have killed between 50 and 80 people in attacks near the eastern Congolese town of Beni, slitting the throats of many of their victims, local sources and witnesses said on Friday.

In a statement, Civil Society of North Kivu, the province where Beni is situated, said the killings had occurred on Thursday evening about 10 km (6 miles) east of Beni airport, where U.N. peacekeepers, known as MONUSCO, are based.

"We already saw 70 bodies. The authorities are searching for other bodies," said a priest who saw the massacre site.

The attackers were dressed in Congolese army fatigues and pretended to be soldiers before the killings and they slit many of their victims' throats, said the priest, who declined to be named.

Authorities in the Democratic Republic of Congo and civil society groups have blamed a string of recent attacks in the east of the country on ADF, a secretive organisation formed in the 1990s to fight the Ugandan government, though some analysts have questioned this assessment.

North Kivu Governor Julien Paluku told Reuters nine bodies had arrived at the morgue in the nearby town of Oicha after the latest attacks, but said the toll could rise. Paluku also blamed the Ugandan rebels for the deaths.

"They were savagely killed by the ADF ... It was far from the main road. About 12 kilometres from Mavivi, I believe, in the bush," he said.

In Beni, U.N. spokesman Major Raphael Shonza said MONUSCO could not confirm details of the attacks but would send troops on Saturday to the site of the violence.

(Additional reporting by Bievenu Marie Bakumanya; Editing by Gareth Jones; Writing by Matthew Mpoke Bigg)

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## **Après la chute de Compaoré, Kabila peut-il faire réviser la Constitution de RDC ?**

Source : Jeune Afrique (France)

**20 novembre 2014** - On le sait : la chute de Blaise Compaoré a été énormément suivie et commentée dans les pays africains. En RDC notamment, où l'hypothèse d'une révision constitutionnelle en vue d'une réélection de Joseph Kabila en 2016 agite les esprits.

La chute de Blaise Compaoré au Burkina Faso semble avoir refroidi à Kinshasa les partisans d'une révision constitutionnelle susceptible de permettre au président Joseph Kabila de rester en poste après 2016. Pour plusieurs diplomates et analystes, l'option désormais privilégiée pour permettre à M. Kabila d'effectuer un troisième mandat consiste à retarder au maximum l'échéance de la présidentielle censée avoir lieu en novembre 2016.

"La chute de Blaise Compaoré a changé les choses ici, cela a été un vrai coup de tonnerre, un vrai signal d'alerte pour le pouvoir", dit un diplomate en poste à Kinshasa. "Kabila et ses acolytes ont dû suivre cela de près et non sans inquiétude. La censure de ces événements ou leur minimisation dans le discours public sont assez révélateurs", commente un analyste congolais sous le couvert de l'anonymat.

Cela a été un vrai coup de tonnerre, un vrai signal d'alerte pour le pouvoir, dit un diplomate en poste à Kinshasa.

André Atundu, ancien ambassadeur et responsable de la communication pour la Majorité présidentielle, doute que les Congolais suivent "aveuglément ce qui s'est passé au Burkina", mais concède : "La leçon c'est que la classe politique doit faire attention au pouvoir que le peuple lui a donné, car le peuple peut le lui reprendre."

Arrivé au pouvoir en 2001, Joseph Kabila a été élu en 2006 à l'occasion des premières élections démocratiques du pays, puis en 2011 lors d'un scrutin contesté par l'opposition et la communauté internationale. La Constitution lui interdit donc de briguer un nouveau mandat en 2016.

S'il n'a jamais révélé publiquement ses intentions, des membres de la majorité et du gouvernement ont plaidé ouvertement pour un changement de Constitution dont il serait bénéficiaire. Difficile de croire que ces déclarations se seraient faites sans son accord.

Le scénario battait déjà de l'aile



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Au cours de la session en cours, le Parlement doit étudier des projets de révision constitutionnelle présentés par l'exécutif pour modifier le mode de scrutin des prochaines élections provinciales. Mais l'opposition soupçonne que l'examen de ces textes sera le moment choisi par la majorité pour toucher plus largement à la loi fondamentale.

Mais les événements au Burkina ont conduit, "au moins provisoirement, à mettre sous le boisseau le projet de révision constitutionnelle", note le diplomate. Selon des sources parlementaires, les élus devraient à la place se pencher sur une proposition de loi électorale, déposée par un député indépendant.

Pour Fidel Bafilemba, chercheur de l'ONG américaine Enough Project, le scénario d'une modification constitutionnelle avait déjà "perdu de l'élan" avant la révolte burkinabè, à cause des pressions de la communauté internationale et de l'Église catholique, et des mises en garde de plusieurs responsables politiques influents, certains membres de la majorité.

"Seule l'armée" serait en mesure de déstabiliser le régime

Pour retarder la présidentielle, plusieurs scénarios sont jugés possibles : l'organisation préalable d'un recensement administratif, qui devrait prendre au minimum 18 mois, ou la tenue en premier d'élections locales (prévues en théorie pour 2015).

Plusieurs analystes et hommes politiques estiment qu'une telle consultation risque d'attiser les antagonismes locaux, en particulier dans l'est, et d'aviver une violence susceptible de servir de prétexte pour bloquer le processus électoral.

L'ONU, l'Union africaine, l'Union européenne et les États-Unis tentent d'éviter un report des élections. Néanmoins, indique-t-on de source diplomatique, certains pays pourraient s'en accommoder, si et seulement si cela permettait de "faire de bonnes élections".

Pour plusieurs diplomates, la forte augmentation des budgets alloués à l'armée, à la police et aux autres services de sécurité inscrite dans le projet de loi de finances pour 2015, comme les récentes nominations à la tête de l'armée, pourraient être le signe que le pouvoir se prépare à une épreuve de force.

Le récent déboulonnage d'une statue du président Kabila par une foule en colère dans l'est serait-il le signe avant-coureur d'émeutes populaires susceptibles d'emporter le pouvoir ? Beaucoup en doutent. Les habitants de Kinshasa rappellent volontiers qu'on tire facilement à balles réelles sur les manifestants, et les morts des violences pré et postélectorales de 2011 sont encore bien présentes dans les mémoires. Pour un haut

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fonctionnaire de l'ONU à New-York, "seule l'armée" serait en mesure de déstabiliser le régime. .

## **East Africa: E. Africa Standby Force Ready for Operationalisation**

Source: The New Times (Rwanda)

By Edwin Musoni

**24 November 2014** - The Eastern Africa Standby Force (EASF) is now ready to respond swiftly to the current security challenges in the Eastern Africa region, the Minister for Defence, James Kabarebe, has said.

The regional force announced its readiness for deployment on peace operations as it wrapped up the last major EASF exercise over the weekend.

The exercise dubbed; EASF Command Post Exercise (CPX) Mashariki Salam 2014 was concluded in Adama, Ethiopia in an event that was attended by the Ethiopian Prime Minister, Hailemariam Desalegn, regional defence ministers, officials from the African Union, regional Chiefs of Defence Staff and Police chiefs.

Speaking at the event, Kabarebe said: "It is an exciting moment to witness EASF preparedness as we move closer to full operational capability in December this year, a year before the planned date."

"Member states pledged all the required 5,200 forces and EASF Secretariat has already confirmed these pledges," he added.

He stated that CPX 2014 has demonstrated and validated the multidimensional force readiness.

"It provides a comprehensive package of necessary measures to respond to the current and future regional security challenges," he said.

EASF consists of military, police and civilian components and mechanism to provide capability for rapid deployment of forces to carry out preventive deployment, rapid intervention, peace support and peace enforcement. Its mandate is to enhance peace and security in the Eastern African region.

Ten member states that form the EASF are; Rwanda (the current chair), Burundi, Comoros, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Seychelles, Somalia, Sudan and Uganda.

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EASF has been working toward full operationalisation of the African Standby Force which was targeted in 2015 within the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) but with Rwanda as the chair, the EASF was fast-tracked to be ready by next month.

Kabarebe said the August Command Post Exercise was one of the activities aimed at preparing 5,200 troops for the December 2014 Full Operational Capability (FOC).

"Much as attaining FOC by December 2014 is an important milestone for the region, it is long overdue. Our citizens have suffered from threats of intra-state conflicts and state collapse among others," he said.

In justifying the need for the EASF, Kabarebe singled out insecurity caused by negative forces like FDLR, ADF-Nalu, Lord's Resistance Army, and Al Shabaab which he said have destabilised the region.

For the last 10 years, EASF has focused on building capacity to respond to security needs using an integrated approach that brings the three components; military, civilian and police, together to train in various areas of peace support operations.

As part of preparations for operational capability, EASF has also organised major exercises in different member states to provide an opportunity for interaction as well as help to assess their readiness for deployment.

"It is unacceptable of our continent to depend on outside intervention yet our partner states have intervened in Somalia, Central African Republic, South Sudan and Darfur," the minister said.

"We, therefore, have all that it takes to take charge of our collective security. We have the political will and a formidable force that has gained operational capability," he added.

The EASF Command Post Exercise 2014 was conducted in Ethiopia as the last major exercise to validate the readiness of EASF before declaration of full operational capability.

Rwanda, the current chair of the regional grouping, pledged to contribute a motorised battalion of 850 troops and a police contingent of 140 police officers under Formed Police Unit (FPU) as well as 100 Individual Police Officers (IPOs) to the EASF.

During the event, Desalegn commended the successful completion of the command post exercise.

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"I congratulate the respective militaries for having undertaken such a successful exercise that will go a long way in fully operationalising the long-awaited EASF that will help solve conflicts and support peace operations," he said.

The Premier added; "The transition from the previous arrangement of East African Standby Brigade to what we have today is indeed a very encouraging progress as it represents one of the first successful initiatives among the five regional forces comprising the African Standby Force."

## **Sudan asks UN mission in Darfur to prepare to leave**

Source: Reuters

**21 November 2014** - Sudan has asked a joint U.N.-African Union peacekeeping mission in its western Darfur region to prepare plans to leave, a senior official said on Friday, amid a dispute between the United Nations and Khartoum over an alleged mass rape in the area.

Sudan initially refused to let the UNAMID peacekeepers visit a village to investigate the rape allegations. They were later allowed in and found no evidence that Sudanese troops had raped about 200 women and girls there, but the U.N. complained of a heavy military presence during interviews.

"Sudan formally requested - I formally requested - that UNAMID make an exit strategy. That does not mean it will pack up its things and say goodbye," foreign minister under-secretary Abdallah al-Azraq told reporters, suggesting the mission's departure would take a long time.

Azraq gave no reason for the request but said it had first been submitted a few weeks ago, before the media reports of mass rape. Sudan has denied any wrongdoing by its soldiers in Darfur and says the rape allegations are part of an international plot to mar its image.

A UNAMID spokesman contacted by Reuters could not say whether it had received the request to draw up an exit strategy.

The U.N. peacekeeping office in New York said a Security Council resolution passed in August had mentioned an exit strategy as an option. It also said an assessment would be ready by the end of February for the U.N. Security Council, which will decide the mission's eventual fate.

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UNAMID has been deployed in Sudan's western Darfur region since 2007. Law and order had collapsed in many places after mainly African tribes took up arms in 2003 against the Arab-led government in Khartoum, accusing it of discrimination.

Azraq said Sudan had rejected a fresh U.N. request to visit the village of Tabit, saying: "We look at this statement as an attempt to create an atmosphere for further escalation and decisions against Sudan."

Last month, an internal U.N. review said UNAMID had failed to provide U.N. headquarters in New York with full reports on attacks against civilians and peacekeepers. The review was ordered after media reports alleged that UNAMID had deliberately covered up details of deadly attacks.

The conflict in Darfur has killed as many as 300,000 people and displaced two million, the United Nations says

## **Le Soudan demande à la mission au Darfour de préparer son départ**

Par Maaz Alnugomi, Jean-Philippe Lefief pour le service français, édité par Tangi Salaün

Source: Reuters

Khartoum, 21 novembre 2014 - Le gouvernement soudanais a invité vendredi la Mission conjointe des Nations unies et de l'Union africaine au Darfour (Minuad) à se préparer à quitter le pays, sur fond de contentieux dans une affaire de viols de masse imputés aux forces gouvernementales.

Après leur avoir refusé l'accès au village de cette région de l'Ouest où 200 femmes et jeunes filles auraient été violées, Khartoum a finalement autorisé les enquêteurs de la Minuad à s'y rendre. Ils n'ont trouvé aucun élément à charge, mais se sont plaints de l'omniprésence des militaires pendant les entretiens.

"Le Soudan a formellement demandé- je demande formellement - que la Minuad élabore un plan de retrait. Cela ne veut pas dire qu'elle va plier bagage et dire au-revoir", a déclaré à la presse le ministre soudanais des Affaires étrangères Abdallah al Azrak.

Un porte-parole de la mission interrogé par Reuters a dit ignorer si cette demande avait été reçue. Au siège des Nations unies, on rappelle qu'une résolution adoptée en août par le Conseil de sécurité évoque l'hypothèse d'un retrait. L'examen de cette option pourrait être achevé en février et ce sera alors au Conseil de trancher, ajoute-t-on.

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La Minuad, qui compte 26.000 hommes, a été déployée en 2007 pour assurer la protection des civils et des organisations humanitaires au Darfour, où les violences sont récurrentes depuis le soulèvement de tribus qui ont pris les armes en 2003 contre Khartoum qu'elles accusent de discriminations. Le conflit a fait 300.000 morts et deux millions de déplacés.

## **Soudan du Sud : l'ONU demande à la communauté internationale de renforcer les efforts humanitaires**

Par LIANG Chen

Source: Agence de presse Xinhua

**21 novembre 2014** - A l'issue d'une mission de trois jours au Soudan du Sud, la sous-secrétaire générale des Nations Unies aux affaires humanitaires, Kyung-wha Kang, a appelé vendredi l'ensemble des parties prenantes au conflit dans ce pays à respecter leurs engagements conformément à l'accord de cessez-le-feu et elle a demandé à la communauté internationale de renforcer son soutien aux efforts humanitaires.

"Le niveau de la violence au Soudan du Sud a été absolument dévastateur. J'étais ici il y a un an et je suis consternée de voir le niveau de souffrance dans ce jeune pays. L'ampleur des besoins est considérable. Même en renforçant nos capacités, nous ne serons jamais en mesure de répondre à ces besoins tant que le conflit continuera de détruire les vies et les moyens de subsistance", a souligné Mme Kang dans un communiqué.

Le conflit au Soudan du Sud a causé une grave crise humanitaire avec près de deux millions de personnes déplacées, dont plus de 100.000 ont cherché un refuge dans les bases de la Mission des Nations Unies au Soudan du Sud (MINUSS) pour échapper à la violence.

Malgré les conditions très difficiles, l'hostilité des parties prenantes, l'accès difficile et le manque de moyens logistiques, les agences humanitaires de l'ONU ont réussi à apporter une aide à plus de 3,5 millions de personnes cette année. Cependant, la situation ne cesse de s'empirer et le nombre de personnes en situation d'insécurité alimentaire devrait augmenter de 2,5 millions d'ici le début de 2015, toujours selon le communiqué.

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## President Kikwete heading to Italy

By Andrew Zablon

**23 November 2014** - Florence, Italy, would see the Tanzanian President Jakaya Kikwete giving a keynote address.

According to the Minister for Energy and Minerals, Prof Sospeter Muhongo, the decision to select President Kikwete to give a keynote address in a meeting to be attended by more than 1,000 delegates gives pride to the country.

This, Prof Muhongo said, “is an appreciation that Tanzania is an incoming major player in oil and gas economy.”

“Participation of Tanzania in GE General Meeting and assigning it a key role is a testimony that we have built trust and respect internationally,” Prof Muhongo said.

Mid last October, 2014 Prof Muhongo was in Italy and one of the area in the new envisaged economic partnership between Tanzania and Italy will see Italy reviving Tiper Refinery in Dar es Salaam and expand the oil storage.

Prof Muhongo attended the Ministerial Conference, “Italy-Africa, Working Together for a Sustainable Energy Future”, from 13-14 October, 2014.

The GE meeting is an opportunity for delegates to join more than 1,000 industry leaders worldwide to share their vision of the macro trends impacting the oil and gas sector and the future of GE’s evolving technology-intensive industry.

## Tanzania: Gender Equality Initiative Needs Sustainable Firm Applications

Source: Tanzania Daily News

By Deo Mushi

**23 November 2014** - It is undeniable fact that gender inequality has impeded development in this country, compromising people's lives especially in rural areas where majority of the people do not know their rights.

Across the country, rigid gender norms and harmful perceptions of what it means to be a man or a woman have encouraged men to engage in high risk behaviours.

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Such practices condone violence against women, grant men the power to initiate and dictate the terms of sex, and make it difficult for women to protect themselves from either HIV or violence.

A growing body of research has recently reported that gender roles contribute to gender-based violence, alcohol, and drug abuse, and they also exacerbate the spread and impact of HIV/in our communities.

Despite such odds, some efforts have worked, as girls are completing primary school at rates nearly equal to boys in different parts of the country, thus entering the workforce in unprecedented numbers and benefiting from economic empowerment policies and maternal health initiatives.

It is at this juncture that efforts engineered by some initiatives like Gender Equality and Women Empowerment (GEWE II) deserve praise because women in rural areas like Lindi and Pemba have started understanding the need for men and women to get equal rights in society.

Tabu Chande who resides at Dodoma ward in Ruangwa district confirms that GEWE II has enabled men and women in her area to understand the benefits of fighting genderbased violence for the prosperity of society.

"Our men have slowly started reducing habits of beating their wives, and they have also desisted from marrying school girls, thanks to this GEWE II project", she says.

GEWE II was implemented by TAMWA, Tanzania Gender Networking Programme (TGNP), the Tanzania Women Lawyers Association -(TAWLA), the Zanzibar Female Lawyers Association (ZAFELA) and TAMWA's Crisis Resolving Centre- (CRC) in ten districts.

The five organizations established the status of gender based violence in Kinondoni, Ilala, Kisarawe, Wete, Unguja West, Mvomero, Lindi Rural, Ruangwa, Newala and Unguja South, to establish benchmarks which were the basis for regular monitoring of Gender Equality and Women Empowerment Initiatives.

The project identified and analyzed the GBV prone villages in the 10 districts which were used as focal places for the project intervention. The plan also described community and women group's definitions of "equality" "empowerment" and "rights" using methodology that were shared by the project's stakeholders.

A brief literature review of Gender Based Violence coverage in the media, with preference to the 10 targeted districts was presented, examining the thrust of women



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interaction with the media particularly in addressing Gender Based Violence cases and complaints.

"We identified and analyzed the nature and quality of interaction between women and local governance institutions, and how these interactions affect women empowerment with the view of analyzing level that the existing social, political and cultural barriers slow down women empowerment", says Amina Makota who resides in Nachingwea district.

By proactively preventing and responding to gender- based violence, Tanzania stands to reduce a major obstacle to social and economic development, if it can formulate plans to carry forward the GEWE II initiative.

That is why reducing such violence is an operational target in the nation's anti-poverty plan like the Mkukuta II plan, the Big Results Now (BRN) Kilimo Kwanza and efforts to build laboratories in all secondary schools in the country.

TAMWA Executive Director Ms Valerie Msoka insists that violence against women and girls is not just a gender or economic issue, but one encompassing international human rights and national security.

"We need laws in place to criminalize such acts. These laws need to be enforced and hold people accountable, since impunity too often helps to fuel the violence", she always insists.

Recognizing the magnitude of gender based violence, the five non-governmental organizations and the government have worked assiduously to raise public awareness of gender-based violence, particularly domestic abuse and rape and Female Genital Mutilation especially in Mara and Manyara regions.

As a result of such efforts, social attitudes are beginning to change and services to support survivors of genderbased violence are expanding, particularly in the health sector thanks to some initiatives like GEWE II.

Mariam Machamba who stays in Newala district and a beneficiary of GEWE II trainings says that police and courts in that area are increasingly taking action to effectively serve adult and child victims of violence and to bring the perpetrators of these crimes to justice.

She adds that the government through district authorities is taking steps to clarify the relevant legislation in order to ensure women and children in Newala district are adequately protected.

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"We should look for ways and means aimed at making sure that the GEWE II programme is sustained, and this should be done by equipping women in the ten districts with knowledge on how to carry forward what was implemented in our district", she insists.

There is also a need to look at countless Tanzanian heroes leading the way in efforts to promote women's rights and address the scourge of gender-based violence.

For example in March last year, the US embassy bestowed the 2012 Tanzanian Woman of Courage award on High Court Judge Joaquine De-Mello for her efforts to promote equality, opportunity, and justice for Tanzanian women and girls.

Mama De-Mello has exhibited great courage in conveying the message that women's rights in Tanzania must be observed and promoted by all citizens.

She had raised awareness that public apathy, discrimination, and oppressive traditions such as female genital mutilation, contribute to violations and abuses against women and children.

As a result of her work, and that of other women leaders in their fields, Judge De-Mello's work raised a public discourse on these sensitive subjects, and challenged the public to defend women's rights.

Women are the key to progress and prosperity in the 21st century, and when they are marginalized and mistreated, humanity cannot progress.

When they are accorded their rights and afforded equal opportunities in education, health care, employment, and political participation, they lift up their families, their communities, and their nations.

For our efforts to succeed and bring about a future of promise for women, it is necessary for every citizen, especially men, to combat violence against women in their communities and to promote greater opportunities for women and girls.

This is one of the most noble, necessary, and highest priorities of our time that should always be encouraged. In Tanzania, a recent nationwide survey revealed that 44 per cent of married or previously married women experienced some form of physical and/or sexual violence at the hands of their husbands.

As defined by the government gender-based violence is an umbrella term for any act, omission, or conduct that is perpetuated against a person's will and that is based on socially ascribed differences (gender) between males and females.

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In this context, genderbased violence is not limited to sexual violence, physical violence and harmful traditional practices, and economic and social violence.

The term refers to violence that targets individuals or groups on the basis of their being female or male. Types of gender-based violence can include female infanticide, child sexual abuse, sex trafficking, forced labour, sexual coercion and abuse, domestic violence, early/forced marriage, and female genital mutilation (FGM).

The GEWE II initiative designed plans to fight such vices in the ten pilot districts. Can we propose sustainable ways of carrying forward such a wonderful programme?

## **Central African Republic women stage topless protest**

Source: Associated Press

**Bangui, 23 October 2014** - Residents say hundreds of women have marched topless through a town in the Central African Republic to protest sectarian violence.

Saturday's unusual demonstration occurred in the southeastern town of Zemio, with the women saying that going partially nude would bring a curse on those responsible for the violence.

The fighting in the country between Christian and Muslim militias has killed at least 5,000 people this year and displaced thousands.

This week it reached Zemio, wounding about 10 people and displacing most of the local population, which contains Christians and Muslims.

The Central African Republic has been rocked by violence since a rebel coalition toppled the nation's president last year. Widespread human rights abuses committed by the coalition led to the formation of a Christian militia.