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



MEDIA MONITORING

27 October 2014

DR Congo: UN, African Union urge eastern town to support operations to end rebel threat

Source: UN News Centre



From right: Head of MONUSCO Martin Kobler, UN Special Envoy for the Great Lakes region, Said Djinnit and Boubacar Diarra, AU Special Representative for Burundi and the Great Lakes region meeting in Beni, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) with Commanders of FARDC. Photo: MONUSCO

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24 October 2014 – Visiting the site of a recent flare-up of deadly violence in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), United Nations and African Union (AU) envoys met with the Mayor of the town of Beni, Congolese military officials and local leaders, urging a united front to “put an end to the terror imposed on the population by armed groups,” including Ugandan-based rebels operating in the area.

Martin Kobler, head of the UN stabilization mission in the country, known by its French acronym, MONUSCO, Saïd Djinnit, UN Special Envoy for the Great Lakes region, and Boubacar Diarra, AU Special Representative for Burundi and the Great Lakes region, reiterated that only united action by the Congolese Armed Forces (FARDC), MONUSCO and the population would the armed groups be successfully reigned in.

According to a press release, the envoys had meetings with the mayor of Beni, FARDC officials and the local population. They stated their assurance in the determination of the FARDC and MONUSCO to end, once and for all, the threat posed by the Ugandan rebel group in Beni territory.

They stressed that the confidence and support of all stakeholders involved to the FARDC and MONUSCO is essential for the success of joint operations. They appealed to the population to unite and cooperate with all actors in eliminating the authors of these terrorist acts.

Nearly a week ago, Mr. Kobler called for “decisive joint military actions” by the Congolese army and UN peacekeeping troops in the wake of two deadly attacks by suspected to quell the activities of suspected Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) rebels near the town Beni.

Around two dozen of people in Eringeti, North of Beni were killed by suspected ADF elements in the night between 17 and 18 October, the Mission says. This follows an incident in the early evening of 15 October, when a group of assailants presumed to belong to the ADF attacked the Ngadi and Kadu localities in Beni area leading to the death of more than two dozen people.

Earlier this week, MONUSCO stepped up its security following several attacks on its bases in Beni, including when a large number of youths converged on the premises, and another which required the evacuation of 12 staff members.

RDC: La Mission de l'ONU promet des actions contre les rebelles ougandais

Source : AFP via AfriqueInside.com

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23 Octobre 2014 - Des actions militaires seront menées contre les rebelles ougandais accusés de massacres dans l'est de la République démocratique du Congo, RDC, a promis jeudi le chef de la Mission de l'ONU sur place, Martin Kobler.

Je vous promets des actions. Ce sont les actions qui comptent. Il faut vraiment combattre les ADF conjointement. On a eu des massacres à Oicha, Eringeti et ailleurs. Ca doit se terminer, on est décidés à le faire, a souligné M. Kobler, sans préciser les dates de ces futures opérations.

Le chef de la mission onusienne (Monusco) s'exprimait lors d'une visite du territoire de Beni avec l'envoyé spécial de l'ONU pour la région des Grands Lacs, Saïd Djinnit. Environ 80 personnes ont été assassinées en moins de quinze jours dans la région par de présumés rebelles ougandais des Forces démocratiques alliées (ADF).

M. Djinnit a demandé à la population locale de continuer à soutenir les opérations menées par les FARDC (l'armée congolaise) et la Monusco.

Les autorités de la Monusco sont venues nous exprimer leur compassion (...). Ils (nous) ont assuré qu'ils sont venus pour passer à l'action aux côtés des FARDC pour pacifier la région, a déclaré le maire de Beni, Nyonyi Bwanakawa.

Le déplacement de MM. Kobler et Djinnit intervient au lendemain de violentes manifestations contre la Monusco, au cours desquelles les manifestants demandaient le départ des Casques bleus.

A Mbau, à 25 kilomètres au nord de Beni, deux personnes ont été tuées mardi soir quand des jeunes ont pris à partie une patrouille mixte FARDC-Monusco, selon la fédération d'associations Société civile du Nord-Kivu. La Monusco n'a pas confirmé le bilan mais a souligné qu'une enquête avait été ouverte.

Opposée au régime du président ougandais Yoweri Museveni, l'ADF est présente depuis 1995 dans l'Est congolais, où de nombreux groupes armés sévissent depuis 20 ans. En janvier, l'armée et la Monusco ont lancé des attaques qui l'ont affaiblie mais les rebelles ont repris l'initiative depuis quelques mois.

M. Djinnit a été nommé mi-juillet pour veiller à l'application d'un accord régional pour la paix, la sécurité et la coopération signé en 2013 par 11 pays africains pour tenter de mettre un terme aux conflits qui déchirent l'est de la RDC.

Les récents massacres, d'une rare violence, nous confortent dans notre détermination à oeuvrer avec les pays de la région pour appliquer l'accord et à consolider la paix à travers la neutralisation de toutes les forces négatives, a-t-il souligné dans un communiqué publié jeudi soir, au terme de sa première visite au Nord-Kivu.

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Southern Africa: UN Envoy Praises Efforts of SADC/ICGLR Countries Stabilizing DRC

Source: Angola Press via AllAfrica.com

Luanda, 21 October 2014 - The special envoy of the UN Secretary-General for the Great Lakes region, Said Djinnit praised on Monday in Luanda, the efforts and determination of the ICGLR and SADC member countries in the stabilization of the eastern DR Congo (DRC).

Speaking at the opening session of the Third Joint Ministerial Meeting SADC/ICGLR, Said Djinnit stated that negative forces have been perpetuating violence and distrust, as well as they hamper the region from reaching its full socio-economic development.

In this domain, he also recognized the contribution of MONUSCO and its forces, the intervention brigade and paid tribute to the sacrifice of the men who died for this work.

Said Djinnit also welcomed as part of the peace process, the agreement to receive the elements of the FDLR in transit camps, but he argued the importance of the states to stand firm in the decision of implementing the opportunity offered by the regional leaders.

To him, the FDLR and other negative forces must realize that their criminal activities will be punished by the region or the international community.

Similarly, he encouraged the parties involved in the Nairobi Declaration to accelerate the process, including the repatriation of the members of the M23 who remain in Rwanda and Uganda.

The meeting was attended by ministers of Foreign Affairs and Defence of the member states, special envoys of the UN Secretary General, the United States, the European Union (EU), the Kingdom of Belgium and the African Union (AU), as well as Chief of General Staffs of SADC and Great Lakes, among others.

In Burundi, UN envoy lauds role of women, youths in bringing peace to Great Lakes

Source: UN News Centre

20 October 2014 – Women and young people must play a central role in establishing a long-term peace for Africa's Great Lakes Region amid the area's renewed efforts to overcome a past scarred by conflict, a top UN official said today.

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Following his visit last week to Burundi, where he met with the country's President, Pierre Nkurunziza, as well as key political figures and other civil society stakeholders, Said Djinnit, the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region, expressed his commitment to ensuring a regional peace through the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework, and by working with its 13 signatories.

Established on 24 February 2013, the PSC Framework is a diplomatic push aimed at ending the recurring cycles of conflict and violence that have regularly afflicted the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and the wider Great Lakes region for the past 17 years. 13 African countries have signed the Framework which is seen as an avenue of hope for the region's people to build stability by addressing the root causes of the conflict and fostering trust between neighbours.

As part of his mandate, one of Mr. Djinnit's responsibilities is to draw attention to the insecurity in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), where fighting and a decrease in financial resources is causing millions of people to go hungry.

Described as a "hallmark" agreement by the Special Envoy's office, the Framework calls on signatories to respect the sovereignty of neighbouring countries in terms of international affairs and territorial integrity; to neither tolerate nor provide assistance to armed groups; to strengthen regional cooperation, including economic integration and judicial cooperation; and, to neither harbour nor provide protection to any person accused of war crimes or crimes against humanity.

In Burundi, Mr. Djinnit also met with leaders of both the country's ruling political party, the National Council for the Defense of Democracy – Forces for the Defense of Democracy, and of the opposition coalition, whom he urged "to work toward opening the political space and promoting inclusiveness." He added that such an approach would be "the best way to achieve lasting stability," according to a press release.

At the same time, in a meeting with a cross-section of Burundian women groups, the Special Envoy informed them of the establishment of a Great Lakes coalition of civil society actors to develop and coordinate a regional approach for the monitoring and evaluation of the Framework's implementation. Moreover, he reassured them of his intention to support the enhancement of initiatives targeting women and youths while stressing "the centrality of the role for women and youths" in the Framework.

Upon his departure from Bujumbura, Burundi's capital, Mr. Djinnit made a stop-over in Kinshasa on his way to Luanda where he was expected to take part in the 3rd Joint International Conference of the Great Lakes Region/South African Development Community Ministerial Meeting.

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L'Envoyé spécial de l'ONU pour la région des Grands Lacs appelle à la coopération régionale

Source : Agence de presse Xinhua

21 octobre 2014 - Suite à une visite au Burundi, l'Envoyé spécial du Secrétaire général de l'ONU pour la région des Grands Lacs, Saïd Djinnit, a indiqué lundi que les femmes et les jeunes ont un rôle important à jouer pour consolider durablement la paix dans la région.

Selon un communiqué de l'ONU, lors de sa visite la semaine dernière, M. Djinnit a notamment rencontré le président burundais, Pierre Nkurunziza, en affirmant son engagement à soutenir les efforts en faveur de la paix dans la région, dans le cadre de l'accord pour la paix, la sécurité et la coopération qui a été signé par 13 pays.

L'accord est une initiative visant à mettre fin aux cycles récurrents de conflits et de violence qui affectent la République démocratique du Congo (RDC) et ses 13 voisins dans la région des Grands Lacs au cours des 17 dernières années. L'accord constitue un espoir pour les habitants de la région pour consolider la stabilité en trouvant des solutions aux causes profondes du conflit et favoriser la confiance entre les voisins.

Dans le cadre de son mandat, l'une des responsabilités de M. Djinnit est d'attirer l'attention sur l'insécurité en RDC, où des combats et une perte de ressources financières est à l'origine de l'insécurité alimentaire de millions de personnes.

Selon l'accord, les pays signataires doivent respecter la souveraineté des pays voisins en matière d'affaires internationales et d'intégrité territoriale ; ils doivent s'abstenir de toutes formes d'assistance à des groupes armés, renforcer la coopération régionale, dont l'intégration économique et la coopération judiciaire. Les pays signataires sont également tenus de ne pas fournir de protection aux personnes accusées de crimes de guerre ou de crimes contre l'humanité.

UN envoy praises Tanzania's peace

Source: Guardian on Sunday

By Special Reporter

19 October 2014 - UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Great Lakes Region Saïd Djinnit has commended the country for its role in promoting peace and stability in the region.

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According to the statement availed to The Guardian on Sunday from the office of the Special envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes United Nations Office in Nairobi, the special envoy praised Tanzania's role as a peace-broker in the region.

The envoy was on his two day familiarization visit to signatory countries of the peace, security and cooperation (PSC) framework for the Democratic Republic of Congo and the great lakes region.

According to the Public Information Officer, Office of the special envoy Penangnini Toure while in Tanzania, Djinnit met President Jakaya Kikwete and foreign Affairs Minister Bernard Membe where they discussed the implementation of the PSC-framework and the urgent need to tackle negative forces in eastern DRC's Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR).

He said other issues discussed included the repatriation of former M23 combatants from Uganda and Rwanda in line with a peace deal signed in Nairobi, Kenya, in December 2013.

He said the envoy also exchanged views on the forthcoming joint ministerial meeting of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) scheduled on October 20, in Luanda, Angola, to assess progress on the FDLR voluntary disarmament process.

Other issues in discussion also consisted of the need to strengthen regional cooperation and build confidence in ICGLR, SADC and EAC, member states where Tanzania is playing a key role in peace initiatives.

"Tanzanian troops in the United Nations Force Intervention Brigade (FIB) have contributed immensely in maintaining stability in eastern DRC, and I commend the dedication of men and women of the FIB troops contributing countries assigned to this crucial task," he said.

He also commended the people and Tanzania government for offering asylum, support and protection to refugees from different countries in the great lakes region including offering citizenship to 165,000 Burundian refugees who fled their country since 1972.