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



MEDIA MONITORING

15 September 2014

CEDEAO: Ibn Chambas nommé représentant de l'ONU dans la sous-région

Source : koaci.com

Ghana, le 13 septembre 2014 – Le Ghanéen Ibn Chambas est nommé au poste de Représentant spécial et Chef du Bureau des Nations Unies pour l'Afrique de l'Ouest (UNOWA).

La nomination a été annoncée hier vendredi par Ban Ki-moon, le Secrétaire général de l'Organisation des Nations Unies (ONU).

Ibn Chambas est nommé à la tête de l'UNOWA en remplacement de l'algérien Said Djinnit. L'envoyé sortant est appelé par l'ONU à servir comme son envoyé spécial dans la région des Grands Lacs.

Avant sa nomination au poste de l'UNOWA, l'ancien député et ancien ministre du Ghana exerçait comme le Représentant spécial conjoint Union africaine-ONU pour le Darfour et aussi comme le Chef de l'Opération hybride Union africaine-Nations Unies au Darfour.

Les rebelles Hutu rwandais des FDLR s'opposent encore à leur désarmement volontaire

Source : La Prospérité via Digitalcongo.net

Par Kevin Inana

Kinshasa, 12 septembre 2014 - L'éradication du problème des FDLR se corse de plus belle avec le refus que la direction de cette rébellion rwandaise retranchée à l'Est de la RDC vient encore d'opposer au désarmement volontaire de ses éléments, position clairement signifiée dans une

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correspondance adressée à la SADC comme à la CIRGL qui ont donné des ultimatums précis à ce groupe négatif.

Lors de la conférence hebdomadaire de la Mission des Nations Unies pour la Stabilisation au Congo, MONUSCO en sigle, hier mercredi, 10 septembre 2014, il a été révélé que les FDLR résistent pour se rendre volontairement. Cette affirmation a été faite par le, Général Abdallah Waft chargé des opérations de cette force onusienne en RDC. A en croire ses propos, le FDLR font preuve de mauvaise foi. Il s'est appuyé sur une correspondance de FDLR signé par son Président a.i. et envoyée aux différentes autorités de la Région dont la SADC et le CIRGL.

Dans celle-ci, a-t-il indiqué, le président a.i. des FDLR fait savoir que ses hommes ne quitteront la République Démocratique du Congo, sous aucune condition. Cette position prouve à suffisance que le FDLR refuse d'obtempérer à la décision du gouvernement, de la SADC, ainsi que de la CIRGL.

La coutume a été respectée hier, au quartier général de la Monusco. Les professionnels des médias ont été en face des autorités de cette mission pour aborder différentes questions d'actualité.

C'est notamment, la question de la maladie à virus Ebola et le dossier FDLR. S'agissant de la gestion du virus Ebola, la MONUSCO affirme contribuer, conjointement avec les agences de l'ONU et le gouvernement de la RDC, au soutien du Plan d'action conjoint pour surveiller et empêcher la propagation d'Ebola dans la Province de l'Equateur (Mbandaka-Boende-Lokolia) Le personnel supplémentaire a été déployé à Mbandaka ; et du matériel à Boende, la base logistique avancée. Pour ce faire, des avions sont disponibles pour le transport du matériel et du personnel.

Par ailleurs, des que seront identifiés le site d'atterrissage pour les hélicoptères et le site pour l'installation du camp à Lokolia, alors la MONUSCO va déployer les matériels de déconstruction du camp, y compris une unité de traitement de l'eau, un réservoir de stockage de l'eau, des tentes, des toilettes et douches chimiques, des groupes électrogènes, ainsi que du personnel d'ingénierie pour établir et maintenir un camp pouvant accueillir 60 à 90 personnes, a-t-il souligné.

Il est aussi prévu des fournitures diverses comme est-il de camp, sacs de couchage, les gilets de survie, moustiquaires, matériaux de nettoyage, tables, chaises, sceaux, eau en bouteilles.

Les FDLR s'entêtent

La situation des FDLR préoccupe au plus haut point les autorités de la MONUSCO qui tiennent à en finir une bonne loi pour toutes avec ce groupe armé. Mais, les choses se compliquent davantage chaque fois qu'on est prêt à trouver une solution, a indiqué le Général Abdallah Wafi, qui intervenait par vidéoconférence à partir de Goma. C'est là qu'il a fait savoir que les FDLR bloquent le processus DDRRR en faisant preuve de mauvaise foi et en refusant de se rendre volontairement.

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Les FDLR ont adressé une lettre aux autorités de la SADC, de la CIRGL pour dire qu'en aucune condition ils quitteront les Kivu... c'est la mauvaise foi des FDLR, qui bloquent le processus de désarmement volontaire. Ils n'ont pas concrétisé la volonté qu'ils avaient exprimée », a dit Abdallah Wafi, S'agissant de l'ultimatum, il a signalé que la MONUSCO ne donne pas d'ultimatum, c'est, plutôt le gouvernement congolais. « Cette affaire est gère par le Gouvernement de la République Démocratique du Congo. La MONUSCO n'a donné aucun ultimatum », a-t-il insisté. Il a de ce fait rappelé l'ultimatum de six mois accordé aux FDLR par la SADC, à Luanda.

A en croire ses propos, la MONUSCO n'a pas assez des ressources pour être partout au même moment parce que les besoins sont importants et le pays est vaste. Nous allons faire une évaluation à mi-parcours et tire toutes les conséquences. Les FDLR sont un groupe rebelle étranger, ils doivent rentrer au Rwanda. Le problème qui se pose c'est au niveau de .principe que ce groupe armé viole. La fin des FDLR ne pourra que renforcer la paix et la stabilité en République Démocratique du Congo, a-t-il souligné.

Smail Chergui, le « Monsieur Paix et sécurité de l'UA » apporte son soutien à la RDC

Source : Forum des As via Digitalcongo.net

Par Rachidi Mabandu

Kinshasa, 12 septembre 2014 - François Muamba et son hôte ont parcouru les dossiers urgents qui conditionnent parfois la restauration, non seulement de l'autorité de l'Etat congolais, mais aussi la paix dans la région.

Smail Chergui, a eu un entretien avec François Muamba, Coordonateur du Mécanisme National de Suivi (MNS) des engagements de paix dans la région des Grands Lacs. La situation sécuritaire dans l'Est du pays et dans la région des Grands lacs a été au centre des échanges entre les deux personnalités. Le diplomate algérien a indiqué que son souhait est que la RDC reprenne son rôle de premier rang dans la région des Grands lacs et au niveau continental.

Porteur d'un message de paix, Smail Chergui a noté que l'UA et la RDC ont des préoccupations communes légitimes dans cette région et surtout à l'Est de la RDC. D'où, l'option de travailler la main dans la main pour éliminer toutes les forces négatives qui ont jusqu'ici retardé le développement de ce pays et celui de toute la région.

« Donc, le moment est venu pour parler un langage vrai, direct, franc et définitif pour dire que cette situation a trop duré et il faut que nous avancions ensemble dans la paix, la sécurité et le développement, mais également pour que ce genre de procédés et activités ne se répète plus non seulement au Congo, mais aussi ailleurs... », a-t-il souligné, faisant allusion à ce qui se passe au Sahel, en Libye, etc.

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Accompagné de l'ambassadeur Boubacar Gaoussou Diarra, envoyé spécial de la présidente de la commission de l'UA pour la région des Grands Lacs, du général de Brigade Muxito Luis Ignacio, conseiller en matière de sécurité au bureau de la présidente de la Commission ainsi que l'ambassadeur Nakaha Stanislas, conseiller politique au bureau du Commissaire à la paix et à la sécurité de la Commission de l'Union africaine, Smail Chergui a aussi délivré un message d'amitié à ses interlocuteurs de Kinshasa.

Pour sa part, le coordonateur du MNS, François Muamba, a fait savoir à la presse que la RDC est toujours le bon élève en matière du respect de ses engagements pris à Addis-Abeba. A l'en croire, la mise en œuvre de cet accord se fait sans désenparer et sans atermoïement par les différents responsables au niveau du Gouvernement. François Muamba et son hôte ont parcouru les dossiers urgents qui conditionnent parfois la restauration, non seulement de l'autorité de l'Etat congolais, mais aussi la paix pérenne que tout le monde veut dans la région des Grands Lacs.

« Smail Chergui a vérifié avec nous cette volonté, cette détermination qu'il y a en RDC pour en finir définitivement avec cette question des FDLR. Les instructions du président Joseph Kabila sont très claires, ces FDLR doivent tous quitter aujourd'hui le territoire congolais. Il reste à définir avec les autres partenaires, la bonne approche, la bonne méthodologie pour atteindre cet objectif... » a-t-il insisté.

Congo opposition pledges more protests after govt crackdown

Aaron Ross

Source: Reuters World Service Date: September 13, 2014

Kinshasa, 13 September - Democratic Republic of Congo's opposition pledged to escalate its campaign against a possible third term for President Joseph Kabila after police dispersed a protest march with teargas in the capital Kinshasa on Saturday.

Anti-government protests were suppressed in at least three other towns, the opposition said. In Butembo, in the eastern province of North Kivu, police fired teargas and threw stones at protesters, according to Fabrice Kakubuzi, a local civil society coordinator.

Provincial authorities in Kinshasa refused to authorize the march in the capital, organized by a coalition of leading opposition groups, arguing they had already permitted another rally on Saturday and could not secure two of them.

The international community has spent billions of dollars and deployed a 21,000-strong U.N. **peacekeeping** mission in Congo in the wake of a 1998-2003 civil war in which millions of people died mostly from starvation and disease. However, stability has remained elusive in the giant nation at the heart of Africa and dozens of armed groups still prowl its mineral-rich east.

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Vital Kamerhe, president of the Union for the Congolese Nation (UNC) opposition party, said that police had teargassed protesters near Kinshasa's central train station. Several protesters were injured or arrested by police, he said.

Opposition supporters had voiced anger after UNC General Secretary Jean-Bertrand Ewanga was sentenced to one year in prison on Thursday for insulting Kabila at a protest in August. Authorities accused Ewanga of inciting tribal tensions by demanding at the rally that Kabila return to Rwanda when his second term expires in 2016 -- repeating an opposition accusation that the president was born in Congo's tiny eastern neighbor.

"We know that they have imprisoned Ewanga but they haven't imprisoned the spirit of Ewanga," Kamerhe said, vowing more protests.

A crowd of about 100 demonstrators gathered later outside UNC headquarters, some holding anti-government placards. "Kabila 2016: Let's avoid a Congolese Spring," read one.

A statement from the opposition movement, the Social and Political Forces for the Unity of Action, said that protests took place in several other towns in addition to Kinshasa and Butembo, including Bukavu in South Kivu province and Masi-Manimba in the west.

"The Social and Political Forces invite the entire Congolese population to participate massively, as today, in marches that they will organize all across the republic in the near future," it said, calling for its detained supporters to be released.

The suppression of the protests is likely to inflame tensions between Kabila's government and the opposition.

Allies of the 43-year-old president have grown increasingly vocal in their calls for an amendment to the constitution to remove a limit on the presidential mandate to two five-year terms. Kabila took office in 2001 shortly after the assassination of his father, then-president Laurent Kabila, before winning election for the first time five years later.

He won reelection in 2011 in a poll that was criticized by the U.N. **peacekeeping** mission for irregularities. Kabila has not publicly ruled out another run despite pressure from the United States to step down in 2016.

(Reporting by Daniel Flynn; editing by Ralph Boulton)

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Congo : une manifestation contre Kabila dispersée par la police

Source : 7sur7.be

14 septembre 2014 - La police congolaise a dispersé samedi à Kinshasa des manifestants hostiles à tout projet qui permettrait au président Joseph Kabila de briguer un troisième mandat en 2016, interpellant plusieurs personnes dont un journaliste vidéaste de l'AFP.

Vendredi, les autorités avaient vivement « *déconseillé* » de se rassembler, arguant que d'autres opposants se réunissaient samedi et qu'il était « *difficile (...) d'encadrer les deux manifestations* », a expliqué le ministre de l'Intérieur, Richard Muyej, à l'AFP.

Certains initiateurs avaient renoncé à manifester mais samedi matin des dizaines de personnes, surtout des jeunes, ont tenté d'atteindre la Gare centrale, point de départ de la marche.

Ils se sont retrouvés face à des policiers dont une centaine est intervenue pour disperser les manifestants regroupés près de l'hôtel Memling, dans le nord de la capitale, ont constaté trois journalistes de l'AFP. Au moins une grenade lacrymogène a été tirée.

Forces de l'ordre et opposants ont joué au chat et à la souris mais l'opération s'est déroulée sans incident majeur, selon ces journalistes. Les organisateurs affirment toutefois dans une déclaration qu'il y a « *des blessés* » et des personnes « *conduites vers des destinations inconnues* », exigeant leur libération.

Un vidéaste de l'AFP a été violemment interpellé par la police avec un confrère de la télévision privée Sango Malamu alors qu'ils filmaient.

Ils ont été relâchés à distance de la manifestation après avoir été forcés à monter dans un véhicule de la police pendant une quinzaine de minutes.

Les journalistes de l'AFP ont par ailleurs vu quatre autres personnes être interpellées et emmenées dans des véhicules de la police.

M. Muyej a expliqué qu'en tout « *huit personnes* », « *dont un député de l'opposition* », avaient été interpellées.

Il a ajouté que « *toutes* » avaient été « *libérées* » après une « *cure de redressement* » de la police : elles ont reçu des « *conseils* » pour ne plus se retrouver dans pareille situation. Mais cela n'a « *rien à voir avec la dictature* », a-t-il dit.

Parmi les principaux organisateurs de la manifestation figurent des responsables de l'Union pour la Démocratie et le Progrès social (UDPS, première force d'opposition au Parlement) et de l'Union pour la Nation congolaise (UNC, troisième parti d'opposition).

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Ils dénonçaient toute tentative de modification constitutionnelle qui permettrait à M. Kabila, au pouvoir depuis 2001, de se représenter en 2016 et réclamaient la libération des détenus politiques – dont le député Jean-Bertrand Ewanga, le secrétaire général de l'UNC condamné jeudi à un an de prison ferme pour offense au chef de l'Etat.

Cet élu avait été arrêté le 5 août, au lendemain d'un rassemblement autorisé qui avait réuni à Kinshasa des milliers d'opposants à tout maintien au pouvoir de M. Kabila au-delà de son second mandat.

Samedi matin à Butembo (Nord-Kivu, est), une autre marche de l'opposition a été « dispersée » sans violence par la police, malgré des « jets de pierres », a déclaré à l'AFP un responsable de la société civile sur place.

Le président de l'UNC, Vital Kamerhe, ex-meilleur allié de M. Kabila, et Bruno Mavungu, secrétaire général de l'UDPS, ont promis d'organiser d'autres marches à une date non encore fixée.

« Les gens ne veulent pas de la révision de la constitution, le mandat pour le président actuel, c'est le dernier : il se termine le 19 décembre (2016) à minuit, et nous voulons de bonnes élections », a plaidé M. Kamerhe samedi devant la presse.

Les violences ethniques rongent une vallée de l'est de la RD Congo

Source : France24

11 septembre 2014 - Des massacres ont été perpétrés ces derniers mois dans plusieurs villages de l'est de la République démocratique du Congo, sans que ni l'armée congolaise, ni les casques bleus n'interviennent. Les habitants vivent aujourd'hui dans la peur.

Depuis plusieurs mois, des villages de la plaine de la Ruzizi, situé à l'est de la RD Congo, vivent dans la peur. Le 6 juin dernier, 37 personnes ont été assassinées dans le village de Mutarule, toutes membres de l'ethnie des Bafulero.

Après ce massacre, le village s'est totalement vidé de ses 10 000 habitants, qui ont fui la zone. Les tensions déjà vives entre les communautés se sont accentuées. "Beaucoup [d'habitants] ont été touchés, ils ont tout abandonné. Les babouches, les pagnes, tout. Ce fut terrible. Beaucoup [de gens] sont morts ici", raconte le capitaine Ramazani à Mehdi Meddeb et Lea-Lisa Westerhoff, les envoyés spéciaux de France 24.

Deux mois après le massacre, un autre drame a touché le village voisin, où une famille a été assassinée en pleine nuit. Elle était cette fois de l'ethnie Barundi. S'agissait-il de représailles ?

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L'enquête n'a pas retrouvé les coupables. Mais les tensions communautaires sont telles que cette hypothèse apparaît plausible.

"La base de nos problèmes entre Bafulero et Barundi remonte à l'assassinat du Mwami, le chef coutumier des Barundi. Les Bafulero refusent de reconnaître l'autorité du nouveau chef. Ils veulent que les Barundi partent de la plaine et qu'eux-mêmes soient maîtres du terrain", explique le chef de secteur, Mathias Gahungu, à France 24.

D'un côté et de l'autre, les membres des deux clans continuent de vivre la peur au ventre car la menace est toujours présente. La nuit du massacre de Mutarule ni l'armée, ni les casques bleus ne sont intervenus alors qu'ils avaient été alertés.

L'ONU a officiellement présenté ses excuses mais jusqu'à présent aucun des assaillants n'a été arrêté. Les exactions se multiplient dangereusement sans susciter la moindre intervention des forces militaires présentes sur place. La plaine de la Ruzizi demeure plus que jamais livrée à elle-même et à ses divisions ethniques.

Summit of ICGLR, SADC to be held for peace in DRC

Source: Xinhua

Luanda, 15 September 2014 - A joint summit of heads of state and government of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) and the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) will be held later this year with the venue still to be determined to seek coordinated actions for peace in DR Congo, Angola's official news agency Angop reported on Wednesday.

The information was announcement by Angolan Foreign Minister Georges Rebelo Chikoti after meeting with Special Envoy of the Secretary General of the United Nations to the region of Africa Said Djinnit.

Georges Rebelo Chikoti said the summit was expected to establish a joint strategy to fight the rebels in the DR Congo and to restore peace in the country and consequently in the Great Lakes region.

The Angolan minister blamed the rebel forces in DR Congo for not fulfilling agreements which had been reached, a situation which "will force countries to better coordinate to impose order, resorting to force, if necessary."

The minister also said the armed movement in DR Congo wanted to force a political negotiation which was not based on UN resolutions.

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Currently ICGLR groups Angola who assumed its two-year presidency this year and Burundi, Central African Republic, Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Sudan, South Sudan and Tanzania.

SADC members are South Africa, Angola, Botswana, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Uganda's President Yoweri Museveni

Source: Reuters

Reporting by Elias Biryabarema; Editing by Louise Ireland

Kampala, 11 september 2014 - Rebel-turned-statesman Museveni is one of Africa's longest serving leaders, securing the presidency in 1986 after leading troops through the bush to oust Milton Obote and declaring that his presidency was "not a mere change of guard" from one strongman to another but heralded a new era of democracy.

Riding a wave of popularity, he initially backed statist policies and boasted personal austerity, mocking the extravagance of past leaders. He soon adopted a more liberal approach, signing up to the International Monetary Fund's structural adjustment programs in the early 1990s and securing foreign investment.

Ugandans, who had endured years of turmoil and the arbitrary rule of Idi Amin, began enjoying sturdy economic growth and political order for the first time since independence in 1962. Museveni won praise from the then U.S. President Bill Clinton, who called him one of a "new breed of African leaders".

But Western politicians have shown growing unease at his ever-extending time in office. Museveni has won every vote since the first election under his presidency in 1996. Opponents have increasingly said votes are rigged, a charge he denies.

In 2005, parliament dominated by his supporters changed the constitution to allow a multi-party democracy, ending the monopoly of his National Resistance Movement. At the same time, it removed the two-term presidential limit, a move critics said was aimed at letting him stay in power for life.

He has kept close ties with the United States, Britain and other Western powers in part because Uganda has been a valuable ally in a volatile region, sending troops to hotspots such as Somalia

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that Western capitals want to avoid. But he drew reprimands from Western donors when he ratified a law early in 2014 to toughen sentences against gays. The law was later overturned.

Museveni has said he does not know his exact birth date because his parents were illiterate but has estimated he was born in 1944 based on events his parents said happened at the time.

Qui sont ces hommes armés, en uniforme burundais, dans l'est du Congo?

Par RFI

12 septembre 2014 - La présence d'une centaine d'hommes a été constatée par RFI et dénoncée par les oppositions et sociétés civiles des deux pays. Officiellement du côté de la RDC comme du Burundi, et de la MONUSCO, la Mission des Nations unies au Congo, on dément cette présence. Cette affaire rebondit alors que l'activiste des droits de l'homme burundais, Pierre-Claver Mbonimpa, est hospitalisé. Il est accusé d'atteinte à la sécurité de l'Etat pour avoir dénoncé la présence d'entraînement de jeunes Burundais dans l'est du Congo. Son procès est en cours.

C'est ce qu'on appelle un secret de polichinelle. En 2010, le président burundais Pierre Nkurunziza rencontre à Kinshasa son homologue congolais Joseph Kabila. A l'époque, Bujumbura s'inquiète de la présence de rebelles FNL dans l'est du Congo.

Un accord secret a été signé, murmure-t-on à Kinshasa comme à Bujumbura, pour permettre aux militaires burundais de faire des opérations. Une décision difficile à avouer aujourd'hui, dit-on, quand le gouvernement congolais refuse le même droit de poursuite au Rwanda contre les FDLR.

Mais entre 2011 et aujourd'hui, selon plusieurs sources, on est passé de moins d'une compagnie à plus d'un bataillon. Entre 750 et 900 hommes, essentiellement dans le lieu dit de Kiliba Onds, mais aussi le long de la rivière Ruzizi. Les rangs ont-ils été grossis comme ont pu le suggérer certains médias et activistes locaux, par les Imbonerakure, la jeunesse du parti au pouvoir au Burundi qui comprend de nombreux démobilisés ?

Un démenti général

Personne n'est aujourd'hui en mesure de confirmer ou d'infirmer, explique un chercheur, quand personne ne reconnaît déjà la présence de militaires burundais qui seraient de toute façon difficile à différencier d'autres hommes en uniformes burundais.

Même la Monusco dément officiellement tout en bloc. « *On sait que les militaires burundais sont là, mais on fait comme si on ne les voyait pas* », explique une source onusienne « *pour s'aligner sur les démentis congolais et burundais* ».

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La traque contre les FNL est-elle l'unique raison de cette présence ? Plusieurs sources expliquent qu'il n'y a que peu d'opérations militaires, mais beaucoup de trafic entre les deux pays, d'or, de bois ou même de pagnes. Dans son rapport de décembre dernier, le groupe d'experts des Nations unies estimait que le trafic de minerais vers le Burundi était en augmentation. Une affirmation démentie par Bujumbura.

Residents confirm Burundi troops have been in eastern D.R. Congo for months

Source: BBC Newsfile

Text of report by French state-funded public broadcaster Radio France Internationale on 11 September

11 September, 2014 - Whether the men spotted in Burundi military uniform are the youth of the Burundi ruling party, the Imbonerakure, or not, RFI went to the ground in Sud-Kivu in the eastern DR Congo around Uvira.

There are indeed armed men in Burundi military uniform. The civil society and the local people confirmed that they are soldiers of the Burundi army who have been there for months now.

The Burundi and Congolese governments as well as MONUSCO [United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo] peacekeepers deny it. We will continue following this story.

Congo-Brazzaville: campagne électorale pour les votes du 28 septembre

Par RFI

14 septembre 2014 - Au Congo, la campagne en vue des élections locales et municipales du 28 septembre a démarré effectivement hier, samedi, pour deux semaines. La Commission d'organisation se dit prête pour la tenue du scrutin, tandis que le Collectif des partis de l'opposition appelle d'ores et déjà au boycott arguant que ces consultations sont convoquées sur la base de faux documents.

De Madibou à Djiri, en passant par Bacongo, Poto-Poto et Ouenzé, des banderoles et d'autres affiches ont été déployées le long des principales artères par les candidats qui prennent part aux élections. Ces candidats sont appelés à la retenue, tout comme la presse.

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La commission d'organisation assure que toutes les dispositions ont été prises pour la bonne tenue du scrutin. « *Pour les locales, nous avons un avantage important, c'est que, les listes qui serviront aux locales sont issues du recensement administratif spécial et ces listes sont prêtes, il en est de même des cartes d'électeurs* », explique Henri Bouka, président de la Conel.

Face à la presse jeudi, le collectif des partis de l'opposition a dénoncé les conditions dans lesquelles le corps électoral a été convoqué aux urnes le 28 septembre. Il appelle déjà au boycott. « *Ces élections ont été convoquées sur la base des documents faux, et le décret, et la loi posent des problèmes. Nous appelons au boycott* », déclare à RFI Clément Mierassa, un des membres du collectif.

Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda seek bids for regional pipeline extension

Source: Reuters via the Star.co.ke

11 September 2014 - Kenya, Uganda and Rwanda have invited bids to build a 784-kilometre pipeline in two phases that will transport refined petroleum products from Western Kenya to regional markets. The project, part of East African regional integration plans, involves extending an existing products pipeline which now runs between the Kenyan port of Mombasa and the western town of Eldoret. The extension will link that pipeline to Kampala and Kigali and help serve markets in Tanzania, Burundi, South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Products now have to be trucked by road. Uganda and Kenya have discovered commercial quantities of oil and plan to start production in about three years. Those finds are among a series of discoveries along Africa's eastern coast and Rift Valley which runs through Kenya and other states. As well as exporting crude, Uganda plans to refine some oil, making products that could flow through the pipeline extension. Plans include modifying the existing pipeline, which pumps products from the coast inland, so products can flow both ways. The tender, published in a local daily yesterday, said expressions of interest should be submitted by September 30. It did not provide cost, but the price tag for a products pipeline between Eldoret and Kampala has previously been estimated at \$300 million. The existing products pipeline is owned and operated by the state-run Kenya Pipeline Company. The extension would be built in two phases, comprising a 350-km stretch between Eldoret and Kampala and a 434-km pipeline that would link the Ugandan capital to Kigali. Storage terminals will be constructed in Kampala, Mbarara and Kigali. Separate to the products pipeline, Kenya, Uganda and Rwanda invited bids in June for a consultant to oversee a feasibility study and initial design for a 1,300-kilometre oil export pipeline to the Kenyan coast.

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U.S. warns citizens in Uganda to stay home: Ugandan authorities conducting anti-terror operation

Source: CNN

By Faith Karimi

13 September 2014 - Ugandan forces arrested several terror suspects and recovered explosives in an operation to foil an "imminent" terrorist attack on the city of Kampala, the country's police said Saturday.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Embassy warned Americans there to stay indoors. The country's security forces have ratcheted up security in all public places, vowing to "effectively defeat whoever tried to endanger the lives and property of the people of Uganda," according to a police press statement.

The foiled terror plot was by the Somalia-based militant group Al-Shabaab, the U.S. Embassy in Kampala said; it did not specify the targets. However, local police said that based on the type of explosives seized, they saw this attack plot as a possible repeat of last September's attack on Nairobi's Westgate Mall and were particularly concerned about crowded areas.

Security forces were still searching for more suspects and have declined to release the identities or number of suspects arrested, but said they were of various nationalities.

Earlier this month, a U.S. airstrike killed Ahmed Godane, the terror group's leader in Somalia. The group has since installed a new leader and vowed to avenge Godane's death.

"We are continuing our engagement with Ugandan authorities as we seek to assess the scope of the disrupted Al-Shabaab terrorist plot and whether there are members of the cell still at large," the embassy said.

Ugandan troops are part of African Union forces battling the Somalia-based militants whose attacks have crossed into Uganda before.

Last year, unidentified gunmen attacked the Westgate shopping mall in Nairobi, resulting in the deaths of 67 people, including four of the attackers. In 2010, the militants conducted suicide bombings in bars filled with patrons watching soccer in Kampala, killing more than 70 people.

U.S. officials have issued warnings to its citizens in Uganda before. In July, it asked travelers to avoid Entebbe International Airport near Kampala. The embassy cited a "specific threat" involving an unknown terrorist group. Information on the threat came from Ugandan police, it said.

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Ugandan authorities have increased security at key sites, including the Entebbe airport, the embassy said Saturday. Entebbe is the only international airport in the nation.

Terror cell discovered in Uganda, "imminent attack" planned - US Embassy

Source: Reuters

Reporting by Elias Biryabarema; Writing by Edith Honan; editing by John Stonestreet

Kampala, 13 September - Ugandan authorities have uncovered a "terrorist cell" run by the Somali militant Islamist group al Shabaab which they believe was planning for an imminent attack, the U.S. Embassy in Uganda said on Saturday.

"At this point we are not aware of specific targets, and the Ugandan authorities have increased security at key sites, including Entebbe International Airport," the embassy said in an announcement on its website.

"We urge that you exercise all possible caution, remaining at home or in a safe location until the all clear is issued."

Thirty killed in truck crash in Central African Republic

Source: Reuters

Reporting by Crispin Dembassa Kette; Writing by Daniel Flynn; Editing by Rosalind Russell

Bangui, 13 September - At least 30 people were killed when an truck carrying oil and laden with passengers plunged into a ravine in Central African Republic, a local official said on Saturday.

The accident took place near the town of Boali, some 95 km (60 miles) northwest of the capital Bangui, on the main road to the Cameroonian border. The highway is used to transport food and supplies to the Central African capital.

"The vehicle was transporting cans of oil and there were a lot of people travelling on top," Mathurine Gbadin, deputy prefect of Boali, told Reuters by telephone. "It wanted to overtake another vehicle and plunged into a ravine."

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Gbadin said at least 30 people were killed and dozens more injured had been transported to Bangui by African Union peacekeepers.

The African Union has deployed some 6,000 troops, alongside some 2,000 French peacekeepers, to stem sectarian violence in Central African Republic that erupted after the mostly Muslim Seleka rebels seized power in March 2013.

Seleka left power in January but still control the northern half of the country. Violence by Christian militias has driven tens of thousands of Muslims from the south, which is controlled by an interim government.

UN Peacekeepers to Deploy in CAR

Source: VOA News Africa

Bangui, 14 September 2014 - A United Nations peacekeeping force will deploy Monday in the Central African Republic, which has been devastated by more than two years of sectarian violence and civil war. Many hope the U.N. troops will have a strong impact on economic development of this poor nation.

The Security Council authorized the force, known as MINUSCA, to take all necessary means to carry out its mandate in the CAR. For many in Bangui this means that the U.N. troops will not hesitate to use force against armed groups.

CAR government spokesperson Gaston Mackouzangba says the arrival of well-equipped U.N. troops will be a deterrent for armed groups.

"When you have 12,000 armed people, with better equipment than that of the CAR, that should be enough dissuade," says Mackouzangba.

University of Bangui rector Gustave Bobossi-Sérénghé says economic development in the country took a big hit in recent years. He says beyond the restoration of security and peace, the U.N. troops will have a big impact on local development.

"There are no roads, there is no communication, school almost equates to zero. So everything is at level zero. And we are going to have almost 10,000 people with all kind of expertise coming in," says Bobossi-Sérénghé.

Many leaders of the armed groups also say they welcome the U.N. troops. Movement of Central African Liberators for Justice leader Abakar Sabone, a member of the former Seleka coalition,

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says the U.N. troops are welcome because they will help bring peace. "They have the support of the people of CAR," he adds.

According to U.N. officials, only 7,500 of the approximately 12,000 men expected will deploy Monday. Most of the 6,000 African Union troops already in the CAR will join the new U.N. mission.

Doctors Without Borders (Medecins Sans Frontieres) Deputy Head of Mission in the CAR, Claude Cafardy, says he does not expect much will change.

"It seems that forces will look different. But right now, we are not confident [in] their efficiency in the coming months in CAR," says Cafardy, adding that U.N. troops should expect resistance.

"We have been noticing that although things are improving in Bangui in terms of security, it is not the case in the rest of the country," says Cafardy.

Professor Bobossi-Séréngré also thinks armed groups will resist.

"There will be some resistance, but it will diminish over time. We have to convince them, they are citizens of CAR, and a civil war has already proven its limits," says Bobossi-Séréngré.

In addition to the AU soldiers in the country for the past nine months, new troops from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Indonesia have recently arrived. According to the United Nations, a 400 member U.N. police force will be deployed in the coming weeks in Bangui.

More than 5,000 dead in C. African Republic

Source: Associated Press

By Krista Larson

"The international community said it wanted to put a stop to the genocide that was in the making. But months later, the war has not stopped," said Joseph Bindoumi, president of the Central African Human Rights League.

Guen, 14 September 2014 - More than 5,000 people have died in sectarian violence in Central African Republic since December, according to an Associated Press tally, suggesting that a U.N. peacekeeping mission approved months ago is coming too late for thousands.

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The AP found at least 5,186 people were killed in fighting between Muslims and Christians, based on a count of bodies and numbers gathered from survivors, priests, imams and aid workers in more than 50 of the hardest-hit communities. That's more than double the death toll of at least 2,000 cited by the United Nations in April, when it approved the mission. There has been no official count since. U.N. peacekeepers prepare to take over from African forces on Monday, bringing about 2,000 extra troops to the country. It will fall short of the almost 7,000 more that were authorized in April, with the rest expected by early 2015. Yet violence in the Central African Republic has only spread since. "The international community said it wanted to put a stop to the genocide that was in the making. But months later, the war has not stopped," said Joseph Bindoumi, president of the Central African Human Rights League. "On the contrary, it has gotten worse." The U.N. is not recording civilian deaths on its own, unlike in Iraq or Afghanistan, and has cited figures gathered by the local Red Cross. It has taken months simply to gather troops from different countries for the mission launch on Sept. 15, especially with poor infrastructure in landlocked terrain, said Stephane Dujarric, spokesman for the U.N. secretary-general. "Mobilizing troops for peacekeeping mission takes time because it's not like they're waiting in New York for us," Dujarric said Wednesday. "We have to go knock on doors for troops, for equipment, helicopters..." Many deaths in this country of about 4.6 million were never officially counted, especially in a vast, remote swath of the west that is still dangerous and can barely be reached in torrential rains. Other deaths were overlooked by overwhelmed aid workers but registered at mosques and at private Christian funerals. Even the AP tally is almost certainly a fraction of the true death toll.

"The continued killings of civilians underscore the urgency of deploying the full 12,000-member U.N. force," said Joanne Mariner, a senior crisis adviser for Amnesty International who has documented abuses in Central African Republic. The conflict started when Muslim rebels captured the capital last March and killed hundreds, possibly thousands, of Christians. When Christian militias forced the rebels to withdraw in late January, they killed as they went. In the tiny, mostly Christian village of Nzakoun, the rebels set ablaze more than two dozen houses in early February and then went door-to-door. One 13-year-old boy, Maximin Lassananyant, stumbled out of his hut into the darkness and hid for two days in the bush, petrified. He left only when other survivors found him and told him it was time to come home and bury his family. Maximin's hands still shake as he tries to write down their names, and he cannot bring himself to say them aloud. A village chief has printed the names of 22 buried victims on a weathered piece of notebook paper. Maximin's mother, Rachel, is No. 11 on the list of females, and his 5-year-old sister, Fani, is No. 13. His 7-year-old brother Boris is on the list of males. It was only a matter of time before Christian militias took revenge and in turn killed thousands of Muslims. Muslims make up about 15 percent of the country's population, and Christians 50 percent. In the town of Guen, Christian fighters stormed a house where dozens of Muslim men and boys had sought refuge, according to survivors. The fighters herded the Muslims to a shady lawn beneath two large mango trees, ordered them to lie on their stomachs and shot them, one by one. The 43 people dead included two 11-year-old boys. The lives of three Muslims in town were spared: They transported the bludgeoned bodies to two mass graves on a wooden stretcher. A villager named Abakar lost four sons between the ages of 11 and 16, and sobs so hard at the thought of his boys awaiting death

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that he cannot speak. “Each night before I go to sleep I pray to God that I don’t have nightmares about that day,” he chokes out, too afraid to give his full name in case the militants come back. Edmond Beina, the local leader of a Christian militia, is unrepentant. Everyone killed that day was a Muslim rebel, he says. Even the children. The violence is now bubbling up in previously stable corners of the Central African Republic, hitting both Christians and Muslims. In Bambari, northeast of the capital, at least 149 people were killed in June and July alone, according to witnesses. In the Mbres area, Muslim rebels left at least 34 people dead in August. In the tiny enclave of Boda, there are grieving fathers everywhere. Abakar Hissein, a Muslim man, has lost two sons, both shot to death — Ahmat earlier this year in Bangui and Ali on Aug. 20 in Boda. His wife has been missing for five months and does not know Ali is dead. “Somehow I was able to carry his body back in my own arms, but it was very hard for me,” he said. “I was truly in shock.” Even in death, there is no peace for the victims. Earlier this summer, a Muslim man was buried at a cemetery in Boda, just a mile away from the zone where Muslims are barricaded. Later that evening, after the sun set, his body was dug up from the ground and set on fire. Associated Press writer Steve Niko in Boda, Central African Republic, and Edith M. Lederer at the United Nations contributed to this report.

UN Secretary-General urges immediate halting of violence in CAR

Source: UN/BNA

New York, 15 September - The Spokesman of the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Sunday issued a statement on the Central African Republic in which he urged all Central African stakeholders to sustain their commitment to an inclusive political process to ensure the successful completion of the country’s transition.

The statement was issued after the transfer of authority today from the African-led International Support Mission to the Central African Republic (MISCA) to the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA).

For full statement, please visit: <http://www.un.org/sg/statements/>

S. Sudan demands foreign intervention to resolve dispute with Khartoum

Source: Sudan Tribune

Juba, 11 September 2014 - South Sudan had demanded the intervention of the African Union, United Nations and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) for it to resolve its current dispute with neighbouring Sudan.

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This came after the Sudanese government delegation reportedly failed to participate in a presentation, by experts, on disputed areas.

“The Sudanese government did not send delegation to participate at the presentation of experts. Our delegation went and they stayed there [Addis Ababa] until they returned on the 9 [September],” South Sudan’s information minister, Michael Makuei Lueth told the state-owned SSTV.

He said the presence of the Sudanese delegation was necessary to allow both sides complete their presentation, enabling the experts to issue a non-binding proposal on the status of disputed areas.

“Because of this, I call on the African union, the IGAD and the international community with the United Nations to put a pressure on Sudan to respond so that we move forward”, appealed the minister.

South Sudan broke away from Sudan in July 2011 taking with it nearly 75% of the oil reserves two countries previously shared. A number of unresolved post-secession issues such as the north-south border demarcation, oil, Abyei have seen a rocky relation between Juba and Khartoum.

The stronger ties, which initially existed between the two countries, were growing weak and far below the level of current relations between Juba and Kampala, analysts say.

Military officers from the two Sudans have often traded accusations over territorial disputes, sparking tensions along the undemarcated borders in recent weeks with Juba accusing Khartoum of allegedly training and hosting within its territory rebel fighters loyal to former vice-president, Riek Machar.

However, Sudanese government and military officials have dismissed Juba’s claims.

It is also noted that the government sponsored SMC website resumed publishing regular reports about Juba support to Sudanese rebel groups and statements from South Sudanese rebels hostile to Salva Kiir government.