



## EurAc Info

*Daily Press Review on the Great Lakes region & EurAc network*

*5 January 2018*

### Press Review

#### *EU Foreign Policy*

##### **BURUNDI/UK**



**William Gelling**   
@WilliamGelling

Abonné

Dernière départ de Bujumbura en tant qu'Ambassadeur. Attristé. Merci à tous mes collaborateurs et en particulier notre équipe excellent à Old East. Le Royaume-Uni restera un partenaire du Burundi à long terme.



08:52 - 5 janv. 2018

## Central Africa – Great Lakes – African Union & other regional institutions

DRC/AU

[Statement by the Chairperson of the African Union Commission on the Democratic Republic of the Congo// Déclaration du Président de la Commission de l'Union africaine sur la République démocratique du Congo](#), African Union, 3 January



**Moussa Faki Mahamat**  
@AUC\_MoussaFaki

Abonné

(1) Je note avec une profonde préoccupation les incidents survenus à Kinshasa et ailleurs en #RDC, le 31 déc & déplore les pertes en vies humaines.

J'appelle à faire la lumière sur tout excès commis par les forces de l'ordre, afin que les auteurs de ces actes en rendent compte

17:24 - 3 janv. 2018



**Moussa Faki Mahamat**  
@AUC\_MoussaFaki

Abonné

2) J'appelle les acteurs congolais à œuvrer à la tenue, dans les délais annoncés par la CENI et dans le respect de la Constitution, des élections prévues en décembre 2018 #RDC

17:29 - 3 janv. 2018



**Moussa Faki Mahamat**  
@AUC\_MoussaFaki

Abonné

3) J'appelle à des mesures de décrispation, conformément à l'Accord politique de la Saint Sylvestre, et au respect des libertés et droits fondamentaux garantis par la Constitution. #RDC

17:29 - 3 janv. 2018

## DRC

### Politics – Elections

[RDC – Mokonda Bonza : « Beaucoup d’opposants, peu de vision politique »](#), Jeune Afrique, 5 janvier

[RDC : “Même après le 31 décembre, Kabila reste président et il a la signature » \(Mende\)](#), Actualite.cd, 3 janvier

### Security

**TOP STORY** [RDC : l’Église dénonce de nouveau la répression sanglante de la marche des catholiques](#), Jeune Afrique, 5 janvier

→ [Kinshasa félicite les forces de sécurité après les marches anti-Kabila](#), TV5 Monde, 3 janvier

**HIGHLIGHT** [\[Reportage\] RDC: les familles des présumées victimes dénoncent des «entraves»](#), RFI, 4 janvier

[RDC: Répression des chrétiens: la société civile s’en prend à la France](#), La Libre, 3 janvier

[Sud-Kivu: plaintes après la répression du 31 décembre](#), Deutsche Welle, 4 janvier

### Others

**TOP STORY** [RDC : au moins 37 morts après les pluies torrentielles à Kinshasa](#), Jeune Afrique, 4 janvier

**HIGHLIGHT** [Life on the Congo River: boosting survival rates for mothers and babies – in pictures](#), The Guardian, 3 January

## Burundi

### Political & Security crisis

**TOP STORY** [Les déplacements des membres du gouvernement sous contrôle](#), Iwacu, 5 janvier

[Burundi: les raisons du regain de tension entre le pouvoir et Agathon Rwasa](#), RFI, 3 janvier

[Désormais, un Conseil pour réconcilier les Burundais](#), Iwacu, 5 janvier

# Rwanda

## Politics & Security

**TOP STORY** [Au Rwanda, le parti d'opposition FDU demande la libération de ses militants](#), RFI, 3 janvier

## Others

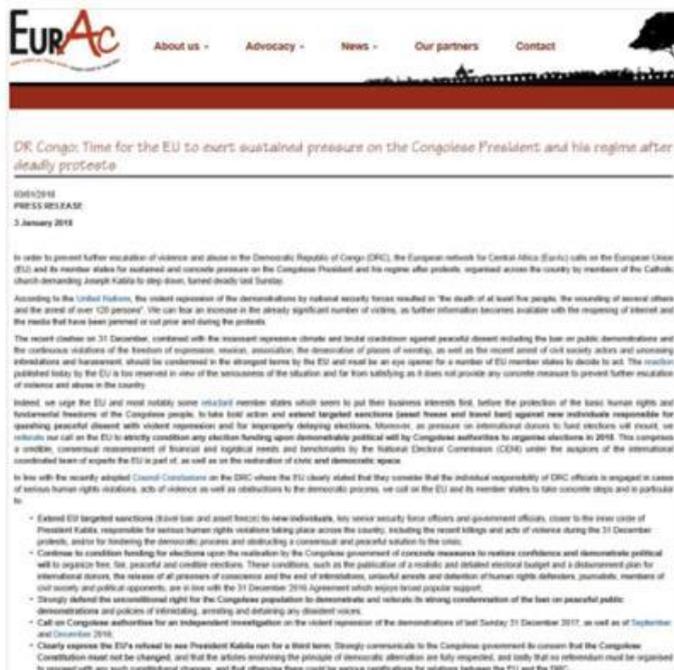
[Israel Offers African Migrants a Choice: Ticket Out or Jail](#), NY Times, 4 January

## News from EurAc network and from partner organisations



**EurAc** @EurAc\_Net

[COMMUNIQUÉ] #RDC: Après les manifestations meurtrières du 31 déc, #EU doit prendre des mesures plus fortes: étendre les sanctions ciblées à des nouveaux responsables de violations des droits humains & continuer de conditionner le financement des élections [eurac-network.org/en/press-relea ...](http://eurac-network.org/en/press-relea...)



**EURAc** About us - Advocacy - News - Our partners - Contact

### DR Congo: Time for the EU to exert sustained pressure on the Congolese President and his regime after deadly protests

10th-20th  
PRESS RELEASE  
3 January 2018

In order to prevent further escalation of violence and abuse in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), the European-network for Central Africa (EurAc) calls on the European Union (EU) and its member states for sustained and concrete pressure on the Congolese President and his regime after protests, organised across the country by members of the Catholic church demanding Joseph Kabila to step down, turned deadly last Sunday.

According to the United Nations, the violent repression of the demonstrations by national security forces resulted in "the death of at least five people, the wounding of several others and the arrest of over 100 persons". You can find an infographic on the already significant number of victims, as further information becomes available with the reopening of internet and the media that have been banned in and during the protests.

The recent election on 31 December, combined with the recurrent repressive climate and local coalition against peaceful dissent including the ban on public demonstrations and the continuous violation of the freedom of expression, religion, association, the dissolution of places of worship, as well as the recent arrest of civil society actors and worsening intimidations and harassment, should be condemned in the strongest terms by the EU and must be an eye opener for a number of EU member states to decide to act. The reaction published today by the EU is far removed in view of the seriousness of the situation and far from satisfying as it does not provide any concrete measure to prevent further escalation of violence and abuse in the country.

Indeed, we urge the EU and most notably some reluctant member states which seem to put their business interests first, before the protection of the basic human rights and fundamental freedoms of the Congolese people, to take bold action and extend targeted sanctions (asset freeze and travel ban) against new individuals responsible for sparking peaceful dissent with violent repression and for improperly delaying elections. Moreover, as pressure on international donors to fund elections will result, we reiterate our call on the EU to strictly condition any election funding upon demonstrable political will by Congolese authorities to organise elections in 2018. This congress is credible, consensual measurement of financial and logistical needs and benchmarks by the National Electoral Commission (CEN) under the auspices of the international coordinated team of experts the EU is part of, as well as on the restoration of civic and democratic space.

In line with the recently adopted Council Conclusions on the DRC where the EU clearly stated that they consider that the individual responsibility of DRC officials is engaged in cases of serious human rights violations, acts of violence as well as obstructions to the democratic process, we call on the EU and its member states to take concrete steps and in particular to:

- Extend EU targeted sanctions (asset ban and travel ban) to new individuals, key senior security force officers and government officials, closer to the inner circle of President Kabila, responsible for serious human rights violations taking place across the country, including the recent killings and acts of violence during the 31 December protests, and for hindering the democratic process and obstructing a consensual and peaceful solution to the crisis;
- Continue to condition funding for elections upon the realisation by the Congolese government of concrete measures to restore confidence and democratic political will to organize free, fair, peaceful and credible elections. These conditions, such as the publication of a credible and detailed electoral budget and a disarmament plan for observational donors, the release of all prisoners of conscience and the end of intimidations, unlawful arrests and detention of human rights defenders, journalists, members of civil society and political opponents, are in line with the 31 December 2016 Agreement which enjoys broad popular support;
- Strongly defend the unconditional right for the Congolese population to demonstrate and reiterate its strong condemnation of the ban on peaceful public demonstrations and policies of retaliating, arresting and detaining any dissident voices;
- Call on Congolese authorities for an independent investigation on the violent repression of the demonstrations of last Sunday 31 December 2017, as well as of September and December 2016;
- Clearly express the EU's refusal to see President Kabila run for a third term. Strongly communicate to the Congolese government its concern that the Congolese Constitution must not be changed, and that the articles concerning the principle of democratic alternation are fully respected, and verify that no referendum must be organised in parallel with any such constitutional changes, and that otherwise there could be serious ramifications for the relations between the EU and the DRC.

17:43 - 3 janv. 2018

[DR Congo: Time for the EU to exert sustained pressure on the Congolese President and his regime after deadly protests](#), EurAc, 3 January

## Interesting statements, research, analysis & campaigns

[A widening budget gap is forcing the U.N. to slash food aid to refugees](#), Washington Post, 1 January

[10 Conflicts to Watch in 2018](#), International Crisis Group, 2 January

## Upcoming events



**Conférence-débat/lunch**  
**Pour la dignité paysanne.**

**Expériences et témoignages d'Afrique, réflexions, pistes méthodologiques**

**Vendredi 12/01/18 de 9h à 14h**

**à Bruxelles - WBI**

Inscription obligatoire

- Quoi :** Conférence-débat/lunch sur le thème « Pour la dignité paysanne », avec une présentation de Deogratias Niyonkuru.
- Qui :** Organisée par le GRIP, la Fondation Roi Baudouin, APNU et WBI
- Quand :** Vendredi le 12 janvier, de 9h00 à 14h00 (lunch inclus)
- Où :** Wallonie Bruxelles International, (Place Saintelette, 2 à 1080 Bruxelles)

Inscription [ici](#), ou via l'adresse : [publications@grip.org](mailto:publications@grip.org).

If you wish to subscribe to the EurAc Info Press Review, please fill in the online form [here](#).  
If you have any questions and/or you wish to unsubscribe to this mailing, contact us at [info@eurac-network.org](mailto:info@eurac-network.org).  
To read past and today's EurAc Info(s) in full, please visit our website [here](#).

Best wishes,

\*\*\*\*\*

European network for Central Africa / Réseau européen pour l'Afrique Centrale - EurAc  
115, rue Stevin – 1000 Brussels (Belgium)  
Tel : +32 2 725 47 70

[www.eurac-network.org](http://www.eurac-network.org)  
Follow us on Twitter [@Eurac\\_Net](https://twitter.com/Eurac_Net)