



EurAc Info

Daily Press Review on the Great Lakes region & EurAc network

09 February 2017

Press Review

EU Foreign Policy

DRC/UK - [Human Rights Priority Country update report: July to December 2016](#), UK Foreign & Commonwealth Office, February 8

“The human rights situation in the DRC deteriorated further during the second half of 2016. Armed groups in Eastern DRC remain responsible for the majority of human rights abuses. However, there was also a continued shrinkage of democratic space, particularly in relation to the electoral process as President Kabila’s constitutional mandate drew to a close in December. The majority of incidents reported during this period for which the state was responsible related to arbitrary arrests and detentions; attacks on freedom of speech; and extra-judicial killings by state agents. The trend of state involvement in human rights violations continued, including the disproportionate use of force by the security services of the DRC against supporters of the political opposition. The period saw some limited positive developments with some signs of a reduction in sexual violence against women.”

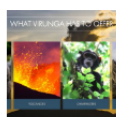
DRC/EU



Bart Ouvry
@BartOuvry

Abonné

#UE fière d'appuyer la protection du Parc de #Virunga et le développement économique et social des populations dans toute la région



Virunga NationalPark @gorillacd
Learn what Virunga has to offer tourists, from bubbling volcanoes to mountain gorilla treks: visitvirunga.org #TravelTuesday

RETWEETS 6
JAIME 7



20:13 - 7 févr. 2017

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

BURUNDI/DRC/RWANDA – [Land urgently needed to avert 'drastic deterioration' in Burundian refugee camps in neighbouring countries](#), UN News Centre, February 7

“Stalled peace talks in Burundi are forcing hundreds to flee every day seeking refuge in neighbouring countries, the United Nations refugee agency warned today, appealing for more support, particularly land to shelter for new arrivals and to ensure protection of children and prevention of sexual and gender-based violence.

According to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), since April 2015, more than 384,000 Burundian refugees have fled to Tanzania (222,271), Rwanda (84,866), Uganda (about 44,000) and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (32,650) and its projections indicate that numbers will cross half-a-million by the end of the year.”

⇒ [L'ONU estime que le nombre de réfugiés burundais dépassera 500 000 en 2017](#), RTBF, 7 février // Audio - [More land needed for Burundian refugee camps in Tanzania, DRC & Rwanda](#), RFI Soundcloud, February 8

DRC/RWANDA - [Congo-Kinshasa: Fate of Former M23 Rebel Fighters Remains Unclear](#), All Africa, February 6

Natural Resources - Conflict minerals

US-DODD FRANK ACT - [Leaked Trump Presidential Memo Would Free U.S. Companies to Buy Conflict Minerals From Central African Warlords](#), The Intercept, February 8 // [White House plans directive targeting 'conflict minerals' rule –sources](#), Reuters, February 8 // Audio - [Donald Trump remet en cause la loi sur les minerais de la guerre en RDC](#), RFI, 9 février

⇒ [Leaked Memorandum](#)

“While the Conflict Mineral Rule has discouraged some American companies from purchasing materials sources in the DRC and adjoining countries, there have been both positive and negative unintended consequences, including some job loss and an increase in the profits of certified conflict-free minerals as a result of the Conflict Mineral Rule. In addition to lost livelihoods associated with the Conflict Mineral Rule, the SEC also estimated in 2014 that American companies would be forced to incur upfront costs of \$3 to \$4 billion, with \$200 million per year thereafter.

To respond to these unintended consequences, a more effective means of addressing the problems of the DRC and adjoining countries would be a targeted approach to the financing of armed groups violating rights abuses in Central Africa. Section 1502(b) of the Dodd-Frank Act permits the President of the United States to order the Commission to temporarily waive the requirements of the Conflict Minerals Rule for a period up to two years upon a reasoned determination that the waiver is in the national security interest of the United States. During this two-year waiver period, the President will immediately direct the Secretaries of State and Treasury to propose an alternative plan utilizing existing and proposed authorities to address such problems in the DRC and adjoining countries. The proposal should take a targeted approach that focuses on breaking the link between commodities and armed groups in the DRC and adjoining countries”.

- ⇒ **Statements from the US Security and Exchange Commission chair:**
<https://www.sec.gov/corpfin/statement-on-sec-commission-conflict-minerals-rule.html> &
<https://www.sec.gov/news/statement/reconsideration-of-conflict-minerals-rule-implementation.html>

DRC

Politics – Elections

HIGHLIGHT - [Maman Sidikou : « La tenue des élections en 2017 demeure une priorité pour l'ONU »](#), Actualité.cd, 8 février



UN Human Rights DRC
@unjhro

Abonné

#actualitédégrispation: 4 prisonniers d'opinion/
société civile libérés, 159 prisonniers
politiques/d'opinion toujours détenus **#RDC**

RETWEETS
30

J'AIME
19



16:44 - 8 févr. 2017

TOP STORY - [RD Congo : avant les obsèques de Tshisekedi, l'opposition exige la reprise du dialogue](#), africanews, 8 février // [A Bruxelles, une procession funéraire tristement politique pour le Congolais Tshisekedi](#), Le Monde, 9 février // [Congo opposition demands new government before repatriating leader's body](#), Reuters, February 8



ACTUALITE.CD
@actualitecd

Following

#HommageTshisekedi : Entre 2000 et 3000
personnes prennent part à ce culte à la
Basilique de Koekelberg. **#RDC #Livetweet**

Translate from French



RETWEETS
42

LIKES
30



12:26 PM - 9 Feb 2017

TOP STORY - [L'opposant Moïse Katumbi annonce son retour à Kinshasa « avec la dépouille » de Tshisekedi](#), la Libre.be, 9 février



Christophe RIGAUD
@afrikarabia

Following

#RDC A la basilique de #Koekelberg de #Bruxelles, @moise_katumbi affirme vouloir rentrer à #Kinshasa avec le corps d'Etienne #Tshisekedi

Translate from French

RETWEET

1



4:30 PM - 9 Feb 2017

[RDC: 9 fédérations du MLC souhaitent la participation du parti au gouvernement](#), Radio Okapi, 8 février

Security

TOP STORY - [Al-Jazeera says two abducted staff freed in DR Congo](#), Yahoo News/AFP, February 8 // [Libération de deux Congolais travaillant pour Al-Jazeera enlevés dans l'Est de la RDC](#), VOA, 8 février

TOP STORY - [RDC: nouvelle flambée de violences dans le Kasai-Central](#), RFI, 7 février // [L'ONU envoie une mission d'évaluation sur les violences au Kasai-central](#), VOA, 8 février

« La Mission de l'ONU en République démocratique du Congo (Monusco) a annoncé mercredi l'envoi d'une mission d'évaluation dans une région reculée en proie à des affrontements violents depuis plusieurs jours entre des miliciens et les forces de l'ordre congolaises.

Selon plusieurs sources locales, ces combats opposent soldats et policiers congolais aux partisans d'un chef coutumier défunt, Kamwina Nsapu depuis vendredi, dans le territoire de Luiza, frontalier de l'Angola dans la province du Kasai-central (Centre de la RDC). »

HIGHLIGHT - [ADF rebels: Kidnapping children and tricking men into establishing caliphate in North Kivu](#), IBT, February 7

"The Ugandan-led Islamist armed group Allied Democratic Forces, known as ADF-Nalu, may be looking to establish a caliphate in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), where it has operated since the late 1990s.

[...]Beyond ideology, the ADF groups are reported to be seeking to "exploit natural resources under the North Kivu's fertile ground", and are enlisting the local population to work in illegal mines in this region rich in coltan, a metallic ore.

Unlike other armed groups in the region, who only conscript fighters by force, Bin Hangi said ADF groups use local Congolese touts who trick local residents into becoming recruits. "Those Congolese men recruit civilians right in the city, in villages by promising jobs such as cultivating land or looking for gold in exchange for money. Those recruiters are ADF 'employees': for instance, a recruiter manages to convince five or six local residents, who he brings to the bush. As soon as they are in the forest, he receives money from the ADF," Bin Hangi explained.

After people are taken to the bush, ADF will deny ever promising them jobs, disorientate them and force them to pledge allegiance to their movement. "Those who refuse to adhere are killed. Those who accept are used as soldiers," he added.

Like many Islamist sub-groups operating in East Africa and across the Sahel, Bin Hangi confirmed ADF also recruit children. "In their ranks we know that there are children. When they can't recruit them using deceit, they kidnap them by force. We have documented how pupils are kidnapped on their way to school or in the schools. That's how children are enrolled in these groups."

[RDC : les Maï Maï «Corps du Christ» privés de leur chef historique](#), RFI, 9 février // [En RDC, des milices inspirées par Jésus-Christ, le foot et la guerre](#), Le Monde, 9 février

Natural resources

[Four dead after armed robbers storm DRC gold mine](#), Mining.com, February 8

[CORRECTED-Congo expected to produce 1.5 million tonnes of copper in 2018](#), Reuters, February 8

[RDC : la production de cuivre confirme sa tendance baissière](#), La Tribune Afrique, 7 février

Others

['I like to look smart': female dandies of DRC delight in extravagance](#), the Guardian, February 8

Burundi

Political & Security crisis

TOP STORY - [Inter-Burundi Dialogue scheduled for next week in Tanzania](#), News Ghana, February 8

“Former Tanzanian President Benjamin William Mkapa, as facilitator of the Inter-Burundi Dialogue, announced the formal dialogue would commence next week after completion of consultative talks.

Burundi According to a statement issued on Wednesday, the session is scheduled for **February 16-18** in the Tanzania’s northern safari capital of Arusha.”

TOP STORY - [Human Rights Defenders Persecuted in Burundi](#), UN experts warn // [«Il faut une enquête sur toutes les disparitions forcées»](#), Iwacu, 7 février

« Face aux accusations des rapporteurs des Nations unies faisant état d’une augmentation des cas de violation des droits humains, le gouvernement parle d’un rapport mensonger.

[...]De son côté, le gouvernement qualifie d’allégations mensongères les accusations de ces rapporteurs des Nations unies, faisant état de violations des droits humains au Burundi.

Thérance Ntahiraja, assistant du ministre de l’Intérieur, balaie du revers de la main les conclusions de ce rapport. Il confie que des rapports biaisés contre le Burundi ont été sortis avant la tenue des élections de 2015.

«Ce n’est pas nouveau. Nous sommes habitués à ce genre de rapports. Ils s’inscrivent dans la suite des images faisant état de graves violations des droits de l’Homme, filmées ailleurs et diffusées par les télévisions France 24 et France 3, pour salir le Burundi. »

Selon lui, les droits humains sont respectés au Burundi. Il parle de plus de 2500 prisonniers qui sont en train d’être libérés en raison de la grâce présidentielle.

Par rapport aux nouvelles lois régissant les ONG locales et internationales, l’assistant du ministre justifie la position gouvernementale : «Elles visent à empêcher la confusion des engagements des uns à ceux des autres. Avec la dernière loi, il y avait des amalgames. Nous voulons que les organisations fonctionnent désormais dans le strict respect de leurs statuts. »

Quant à la mesure enjoignant aux ONG étrangères de respecter les priorités fixées par le gouvernement, il souligne que c'est le gouvernement qui maîtrise à fond les desiderata de son peuple. « Comment quelqu'un établi soit aux Etats-Unis soit en Europe, peut-il connaître ce dont les habitants de telle ou telle autre localité ont besoin plus que le gouvernement ? » »

HIGHLIGHT - [Burundi: UN Experts Say Situation Worsening for NGOs](#), The New York Times, February 6

HIGHLIGHT - [Le CNC : «La limitation du nombre des journalistes est possible»](#), Iwacu, 7 février

« Si une autorité publique organise un évènement digne d'une couverture médiatique, il est dans son droit de limiter le nombre de journalistes », a déclaré Gabriel Bihumugani, vice-président du CNC, ce mardi 7 février.

Il fait une telle déclaration au lendemain de l'interdiction, par la police, des reporters du groupe de presse Iwacu de couvrir les cérémonies de la célébration du 26ème anniversaire de la charte de l'unité nationale, de ce lundi 6 février, en mairie de Bujumbura.

S'en tenant à la liste, les forces de sécurité ont fait savoir que seuls les journalistes de la RTNB, des radios Rema FM et Nderagakura et des journaux Renouveau et Ubumwe ont droit de couvrir les cérémonies au monument de l'unité nationale en mairie de Bujumbura. »

Rwanda

Others

[Rwanda: MPs Approve Law Making Kiswahili Official Language](#), All Africa, February 9

News from EurAc network and from partner organisations

- Press release, EurAc & Commission Justice & Paix Belgique

[Processus électoral en RDC : la CENCO s'interroge](#)

By EurAc & Commission Justice & Paix Belgique

8 February 2017

- Weekly Briefing, International Peace Information Service (IPIS – EurAc member)

[IPIS Weekly Briefing, January – 29 January – 1 February 2017](#)

By IPIS

2 February 2017

- Event/Tweet, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Sweden & PMU (EurAc member)

 **Annika Ben David**
@annikabendavid Abonné

Looking fwd: tonight screening film
[@DenisMukwege](#) + panel debate w [@AGabelic](#)
[@BardMaria](#) prof Barbro Wijma [@liu_university](#)
[@UF_Linköping](#)

À l'origine en anglais



FILM I LINKÖPING
- SE HELA FILMEN!
(inte den förkortade TV-versionen)

Tid: Torsdag 9 februari
kl 18.00-ca 21.00.
Plats: Cupolen,
Majgatan 4, Linköping
(Insläpp fr 17.15)

Dokumentären om
Dr Mukwege:
"The man who
mends women"

"Mannen som reparerar kvinnor" – är en stark skildring av en mans oförtröttliga kamp mot gränslös ondska. En kamp för att hjälpa tiotusentals våldsutsatta kvinnor i Kongo.

Efter filmen panelsamtal med:
Annika Ben David, ambassadör för mänskliga rättigheter och tidigare

RETWEETS 2 JAIME 3

14:32 - 9 févr. 2017

- Tweet, Filimbi (DRC)

 **Floribert Anzuluni**
@FloribertAnzu Abonné

#FILIMBI Échange avec Président **#CENCO**
Mr.Utembi & sa délégation.La mobilisation
citoyenne doit se poursuivre! **#LaLutteContinue**
[@soniarolley](#)



RETWEETS 25 JAIME 45

00:16 - 9 févr. 2017

Interesting statements, research, analysis & campaigns

- Press release, Enough! Project

[New Analysis Shows Costs for U.S. Companies to Implement Conflict Minerals Law 74-85% Lower than Expected](#)

By Enough Project

8 February 2017

- Press release, Global Witness

[An executive order suspending the US conflict minerals law would be a 'gift to warlords and corrupt businesses', says Global Witness](#)

By Global Witness

8 February 2017

- Article, France Culture

[20 pays recrutent encore des enfants soldats](#)

By France Culture

7 February 2017

- Analysis, African Arguments

[The best way to honour Tshisekedi is to take on the fight for democracy in DR Congo](#)

By Georges Nzongola-Ntalaja

7 February 2017

- Infographic, UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

[West and Central Africa: Weekly Regional Humanitarian Snapshot \(31 January – 6 February 2017\)](#)

By OCHA

7 February 2017

ADVOCACY & FUNDING

CERF ALLOCATES US\$55 MILLION TO THE REGION

On 30 January, the UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) released US\$49 million to assist over 3 million people in Nigeria (\$22 million), Cameroon (\$10 million), Niger (\$10 million) and Mali (\$7 million), as part of the 2017 first underfunded emergencies round. In the Central African Republic, US\$ 6 million were released to support the humanitarian response to new food-related emergencies in the country. This will enable WFP to assist 36,800 people facing food insecurity in the Kaga Bandoro, Bambari and Bria areas following the successive crises that hit the region in recent months.

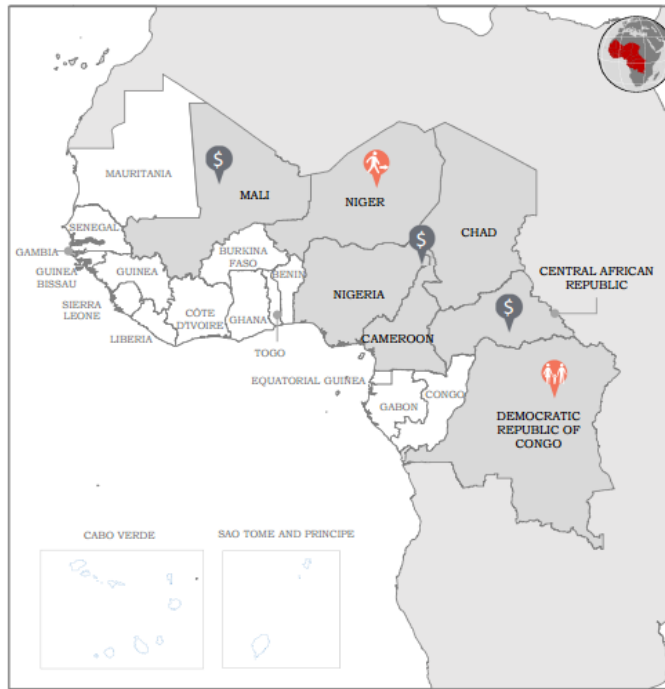
HUMANITARIAN CONFERENCE ON NIGERIA AND THE LAKE CHAD REGION

On 24 February in Oslo, the Government of Norway will host a humanitarian conference on Nigeria and the Lake Chad Region, in partnership with the Governments of Germany and Nigeria. The conference aims to raise political and material support for the humanitarian response in the Lake Chad Basin region. Three thematic segments will focus on education, food security and protection/access. The conference will be preceded by a civil society forum on 23 February.

DR CONGO

53,000 DISPLACED FOUND WITH ACUTE NEEDS

An assessment led by humanitarian partners on 23-28 January in Moba territory in the country's south-eastern Tanganyika region identified over 53,000 displaced persons, some requiring urgent food and WASH assistance. An assessment will take place in the province next week to identify ways to expand the response and prevent the rapid deterioration of the humanitarian situation following a worsening of the inter-communal conflict that has been affecting the region over the past months.



Creation date: 7 Feb 2017 Map data sources: UNCS, DevInfo, OCHA. Feedback: ocharowca@un.org Twitter: [@OCHAROWCA](https://twitter.com/OCHAROWCA)
The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

NIGER

OVER 1,000 REFUGEES RELOCATED FROM TAZALIT

On 31 January, UNHCR completed a ten-day operation to relocate 1,025 out of 3,600 targeted refugees from the Tazalit IDP camp, in the country's western Tahoua region, to the Intikane hosting area further south. The location had been attacked by armed assailants in October 2016, resulting in the deaths of 22 Nigerian military officers. In November, the Government announced the closing of the site, giving the refugees the option to move to Intikane, where over 18,000 refugees are already hosted.

58 CASES OF MENINGITIS

According to local health authorities, 58 suspected cases of meningitis, resulting in two deaths, were registered in Niger in January, sparing the regions of Diffa and Agadez. With a lethality rate estimated at 3.4 per cent, the alert or epidemic thresholds have not yet been reached. During the same reporting period last year, some 155 cases and 15 deaths had been reported.

- Natural disaster
- Epidemic
- Conflict
- Other

- Feature/Photodocumentary, CNN

[A fighting chance. Former child soldiers start a boxing school for Congo's youth](#)

By William Dupuy/Picturetank/CNN

- Article, Banque Mondiale

À la découverte des femmes entrepreneurs de RDC : entre nécessité et ambition

By Banque Mondiale

10 January 2017

Upcoming events

- Infopoint Lunchtime Conference, European Commission

[Leadership and security- Women advance peace and security in Africa's Great Lakes region](#)

Tue, February 14, 2017

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

External Cooperation InfoPoint - Rue de la Loi 43-45

1049 Brussels