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# Summary

## 1. Politics

### **Burundi: Investigate Those Accused of Torturing Opposition Politicians**

Burundian authorities must investigate allegations that state security officials tortured 12 opposition politicians during the country's recent elections, Amnesty International said. Amnesty International calls on the Burundian government to ensure future compliance of the SNR and other officials with international human rights law and Burundian law.

## 2. Security matters/ Peace Keeping / Conflict Resolution

### **Congo-Kinshasa: DRC Plane Crash Kills 19**

A plane which crashed whilst trying to land in western Democratic Republic of Congo on Wednesday has left at least 19 passengers dead.

### **Gabon Will Work with International Community to Resolve Africa's Conflicts**

Gabon's President Ali Ben Bongo Ondimba says he will continue working closely with the African Union as well as the United Nations Security Council to resolve conflicts on the African continent. Gabonese President Ali Ben Bongo Ondimba attributes his country's peace and stability to open dialogue among Gabonese in resolving problems affecting the central African country. President Bongo Ondimba said many Gabonese have witnessed the devastation that conflicts have had on neighboring countries and have tried not to take for granted the prevailing peace their country has enjoyed over the years. Earlier this year, the African Union declared 2010 the African Year of Peace, reiterating the continental body's commitment to further push the peace process in Africa, where millions of people are estimated to have been killed and many more displaced due to conflict. President Bongo Ondimba said his country is willing to work with the African Union, as well as the U.N. Security Council, to help resolve conflicts on the African continent. However, critics say despite the peace that Gabon has enjoyed over the years, the country's leadership tightly controls the political space, thus severely restricting the opposition from actively participating in the democratic process.

### **Congo-Kinshasa: Mass Rapes Underline Urgency of Consolidating Peace in East - Ban**

The recent savage rape and assault of scores of civilians in the remote and troubled far east of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is a "brutal reminder" of the

obstacles faced in keeping the peace in conflict zones, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said today. At least 154 civilians were raped in 13 villages along a 21-kilometre stretch of road in North Kivu province's Banamukira territory between 30 July and 2 August, with the attackers blocking the road and preventing the villagers from reaching outside communications. Many homes were also looted. The string of assaults is another grave example of the levels of sexual violence and insecurity that continue to plague eastern DRC. The Secretary-General said today that he has issued calls to the Congolese authorities to investigate the incident and bring those behind the attacks to justice and to the Government to step up efforts to enhance security and stability in eastern DRC. According to the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), more than 9,000 cases of rape were reported last year in North and South Kivu provinces alone. Many more cases are estimated to go unreported. The head of the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) said yesterday that the recent mass rape underlines the urgent need to bring an end to the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war.

### **UN Secretary-General Seeks New Measures to Protect Congo Civilians**

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon on Wednesday urged the U.N. Security Council to consider new measures to protect civilians in Congo, where more than 150 villagers were raped by rebel groups in late July.

### **Rwanda Arrests Brother of Former Army Chief**

The Rwandan army says it has arrested the brother of the former army chief of staff on charges of "destabilization."

### **Congo-Kinshasa: Bridge-Building Bishop Works for Peace in Africa**

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Bishop Nicolas Djomo is a bridge builder. In a country in which infrastructure has been given short shrift amid internal and regional conflict, these efforts address a need that governmental leaders have proven unable to satisfy. As a diocesan bishop, as well as president of the national bishops' conference, he has actively promoted peace in a country still reeling from the second Congo war. Bishop Djomo, while visiting the diocese of San Diego and other California dioceses in May, urged support for U.S. legislation requiring companies to disclose the source of their minerals. The goal is to discourage the purchase of minerals from mines that are tied to human rights abuses and armed conflict. Current peace building efforts in the Congo include plans for a peace studies institute at the Catholic university in Kinshasa, as well as cultural exchanges between Catholic youth from the Congo, Rwanda and Burundi.

## **3. Elections & Process of democratization**

### **Rwanda: EC Congratulates Kagame**

Almost three weeks after the Presidential Elections, congratulatory messages for President Paul Kagame's landslide victory continue to pour in, the latest being from the President of the European Commission, Jose Manuel Barroso.

#### **4. Social issues / Human Rights**

##### **UN Short on Funds to Feed 600,000 in CAR**

The United Nations World Food Program says tens of thousands of people in Central African Republic face malnutrition if the WFP cannot secure urgent funding. In Central African Republic, the United Nations World Food Program says it needs an additional \$15 million in funding over the next eight months to continue feeding 600,000 people there.

##### **Dozens of Women Gang-Raped in North Kivu Province**

The United Nations confirms dozens of women were gang raped over a four-day period earlier this month in eastern North Kivu Province of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. It says insecurity is spreading across the region, with armed groups looting and terrorizing local villages. The United Nations says insecurity in the DRC's eastern North Kivu Province is spreading, especially in the Walikale Territory. It says armed groups, including the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda and Mai-Mai groups have been attacking villages, causing many civilians to flee.

##### **African Bishops to Re-Examine the Issue Homosexuality**

THE All African Bishops International Conference kicked off yesterday in Entebbe, Uganda with the clerics promising to strengthen their position on intolerance of homosexuality in the Anglican Church. The one-week conference being held under the theme; "Securing our future; Unlocking our potential," is jointly organized by the by Church of Uganda and the Council of Anglican Provinces of Africa (CAPA).

##### **Rwanda: Human Rights Watch Manipulations against the Government**

THE constant accusations against the Government of Rwanda over allegations of human rights abuse, lack of political space and press freedom have been part of campaigns to discredit the credibility of recent presidential elections. These accusations show how the international community is manipulated by some organizations that are eager to assume state powers in this era of globalization.

#### **5. Economy and Energy**

##### **Rwanda: U.S. 200 Million Project Launched in Kigali**

The long awaited mega commercial centre project in the country slated to cost 200m dollars (approximately Rwf 117.6bn) was launched yesterday in Kigali city.

### **Rwanda: Ministers Tour Nyabarongo Hydro Power Project**

The government has commended the progress made in the construction of the US \$ 97million Nyabarongo hydro power project which is set to generate 28 megawatts of power. Minister of Finance, John Rwangombwa, and Colette Ruhamy, State Minister in charge of energy and water, were on Wednesday inspecting the Nyabarongo project in Mushishiro Sector.

### **Special Economic Zone to Make Gabon Competitive, Provide Jobs**

A special adviser to Gabon's leader told VOA the construction of the Special Economic Zone (SEZ) forms part of President Ali Ben Bongo Ondimba's plan to make the country competitive and provide jobs to thousands of Gabonese. Soleman Liban said the government signed a strategic agreement with Singapore-based OLAM International, to jointly develop a special economic zone (SEZ) at Nkok for timber processing.

### **Rwanda: Kagame Urges Investors to Add Value to Products**

President Paul Kagame, yesterday, called on investors to add value to what they produce prior to exporting, since it will not only improve on the quality of the country's exports, but will bring in higher revenues for investors and the country. The plant will be processing the minerals up to 60% purity before export. The plant has a capacity of producing 12 tons a day, but management says plans are underway to upgrade it to 24.

### **Rwanda: Transport, Electricity Still a Challenge - Survey**

TRANSPORT and Electricity are among the four major constraints to doing business in Rwanda, as identified by the Investment Climate Assessment Survey. The ICA Survey report was officially released yesterday by World Bank Group and Ministry of trade and industry. Other two challenges include taxes and access to finance. The study focused on competitiveness drivers including governance, tax, infrastructure, finance, regulation, and access to land, skills shortage and macro-economic stability. According to the survey, 73 percent of large firms have access to formal sector credit compared to 31percent of small firms (SME's). Working with its Development Partners, including the Netherlands and the United Kingdom's Department for International Development, the World Bank Group provides support to the Rwandan government to help improve its business environment, build institutions and reduce the cost of doing business.

### **São Tomé and Príncipe: Oil Deals And the New Government - A Chance to Improve Life for Its People By Managing Resources Well**

The tiny country of São Tomé and Príncipe is at a crossroads with a chance to benefit from its potential oil wealth, Human Rights Watch said in a report released. São Tomé is one of the world's smallest and most neglected countries. Revenues from oil could dramatically improve life for São Tomé's impoverished population, Human Rights Watch

said. But if managed poorly they could send its government into a crippling spiral of corruption, as has happened in Equatorial Guinea and Angola. Human Rights Watch also urged the new São Tomé government and the next Nigerian government - after the 2011 Nigeria elections - to review the arrangements for their Joint Development Zone for oil exploration.

### **Central African Republic: Lack of Funds May Force UN Agency to Cut Food Aid**

The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) warned today that it may have to cut its feeding programme in the Central African Republic (CAR), where tens of thousands risk becoming malnourished unless new funding is secured. The agency is facing a \$15 million shortfall over the next eight months to provide food assistance to some 600,000 people mainly in the conflict-affected northern part of the country.

### **Rwanda: Nation Receives World Bank Award**

The World Bank Group has awarded Rwanda for being the top global reformer in Doing Business. The trophy was, yesterday, handed to the Minister of Commerce, Monique Nsanzabaganwa, on behalf of the Rwandan government by Jean Phillippe Prosper, the IFC Director, Eastern and Southern Africa. Rwanda is the first ever Sub-Saharan African country, ranked 67th in the 2009 Doing Business report, up from 150th the previous year. The massive improvement that is based on the number and impact of reforms implemented between June 2008 and May 2009 made her the world's top reformer.

## **6. U.S-Africa Relations**

### **Congo-Kinshasa: U.S. And UN Plan Response to DR Congo Mass Rapes**

The US said it was "deeply concerned" about reports of mass rape in the Democratic Republic of Congo and would work with the local government and the UN to bring the perpetrators to justice.

## **7. Rebel groups/ Refugees/ Militancy/ War against Terrorism**

### **Rwanda: FDLR Abuses in DRC Intensify**

New reports indicate that abuses, especially rape and raids, perpetrated by the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR) militia in the east of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), are on the rise. Maj. Vianney Kazalama, the Congolese army (FARDC) spokesperson in DRC's North Kivu Province, acknowledged the alarming developments and noted that the army was trying to increase its presence in the vast region.

## Details

### 1. Politics

#### **Burundi: Investigate Those Accused of Torturing Opposition Politicians**

Catholic Information Service for Africa (Nairobi)

Burundian authorities must investigate allegations that state security officials tortured 12 opposition politicians during the country's recent elections, Amnesty International said today.

A Step Backwards details how the individuals were slapped, kicked and hit, at times with batons, all over their bodies. Some reported being threatened with death and, in one case, part of a detainee's ear was cut off while being held by Burundi's National Intelligence Service (SNR) at their headquarters in Bujumbura between June 23 and July 5.

"Reports of torture in Burundi have decreased in recent years, and its re-emergence is a very troubling step backwards," said Erwin van der Borcht, Africa Program Director at Amnesty International.

"It is unacceptable if members of the state security services get away with such heinous acts and if the investigation confirms individuals have committed crimes they should be prosecuted"

The 12 were arrested and most were charged with security related offences in connection with a series of pre-election grenade attacks, many of which appeared to target the ruling party.

Those tortured were opposition party members, some in leadership positions, within their parties. During SNR interrogations, suspects were asked about their party structures, colleagues and alleged plans to destabilize national security.

The SNR has denied the allegations of torture. The SNR's Legal Advisor told Amnesty International that any marks on the bodies of those concerned were the result of resisting arrest. The SNR's explanation is inconsistent with the facts documented in A Step Backwards.

The Burundian authorities are yet to open a criminal investigation violating their obligations under national and international law. Torture was criminalized in Burundi's 2009 Penal Code.

"Pierre Nkurunziza's inauguration on 26 August offers an opportunity for the Burundian government to commit to ending impunity" said Erwin van der Borcht. "The President must publically condemn torture and declare that any official, including SNR agents committing, ordering or consenting to torture will be prosecuted regardless of their rank."

Amnesty International calls on the Burundian government to ensure future compliance of the SNR and other officials with international human rights law and Burundian law.

President Pierre Nkurunziza won re-election in the June 28 Presidential poll. All other candidates boycotted the presidential election alleging mass fraud.

International and national election observers noted "irregularities," but found the elections to be broadly free and fair. Some election observers also noted pre-electoral intimidation.

Nkurunziza will be inaugurated in Bujumbura on 26 August. Burundi acceded to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment in 1993.

Burundi is also a signatory to the 1981 African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights which prohibits torture.

## **2. Security matters/ Peace Keeping / Conflict Resolution**

### **Congo-Kinshasa: DRC Plane Crash Kills 19**

#### **IRF**

A plane which crashed whilst trying to land in western Democratic Republic of Congo on Wednesday has left at least 19 passengers dead.

An official of Kinshasa's small city-centre Ndolo airport, from which the flight took off, confirmed the crash, but did not provide any additional information.

The Filair Let-410 twin turboprop crashed after failing to land at Bandundu after a flight from the capital Kinshasa, and apparently running out of fuel.

The owner of the private airline Filair, Belgian Daniel Philemotte, was at the controls and was among those killed, along with the co-pilot and stewardess.

After an abortive attempt to land, the aircraft turned away and crashed towards the edge of Bandundu city, hitting a house whose residents had managed to flee in time.

DR Congo's aviation sector, which is littered with ageing Soviet-era planes, is generally viewed as being in a chronic state of disrepair and crashes are frequent.

All of the country's registered airlines have been placed on a European Union blacklist, banning them from flying into European airspace.

### **Gabon Will Work with International Community to Resolve Africa's Conflicts**

#### **VOA**

Gabon's President Ali Ben Bongo Ondimba says he will continue working closely with the African Union as well as the United Nations Security Council to resolve conflicts on the African continent.

Gabonese President Ali Ben Bongo Ondimba attributes his country's peace and stability to open dialogue among Gabonese in resolving problems affecting the central African country.

Gabon, which gained its independence from former colonial power France in 1960, has enjoyed peace and stability despite a failed attempted coup d'état in the early years of independence.

The former French colony seems not to have been affected by the frequent instability and conflicts that have destabilized its neighbors in the Central African region. At a recent news conference at the presidential palace in the capital, Libreville, President Bongo Ondimba said the Gabonese jealously guard their peace through open dialogue.

"It is true that we have enjoyed stability and peace (for the) last four decades. We've had also our problems in the 60's. There was an attempt of coup that failed, thanks God. But, I think after that, we were able to learn some lessons. And, it was mainly also due to President (Omar) Bongo's (Ondimba) policy of engaging. (Late) President Bongo Ondimba was someone who talked to anyone. One reason of our success is we talk to one another even if we do not get along as it happens everywhere. We do have our problems. We quarrel, but we talk. And, it's important to do that."

President Bongo Ondimba said many Gabonese have witnessed the devastation that conflicts have had on neighboring countries and have tried not to take for granted the prevailing peace their country has enjoyed over the years.

"We also, as a people, were sensitive enough to realize that based on what we were seeing happening in the developing world, and also in Africa, we wanted something different. So, all Gabonese know that peace is the most important treasure that we have. Without it, (there) would be chaos. So, we then put ourselves through some limits, and now others say that Gabonese political leaders are being wise enough to respect those limits."

Earlier this year, the African Union declared 2010 the African Year of Peace, reiterating the continental body's commitment to further push the peace process in Africa, where millions of people are estimated to have been killed and many more displaced due to conflict. President Bongo Ondimba said his country is willing to work with the African Union, as well as the U.N. Security Council, to help resolve conflicts on the African continent.

"We are a peace-loving country and we will always try to help others to enjoy what we've had all these years through (the) African Union, of course, but also the United Nations, but, first, with the African Union. So, we are talking to other leaders to make sure that this message of peace (goes on). Talking about peace might not be exciting...some say you don't eat peace, but without peace you don't eat at all."

However, critics say despite the peace that Gabon has enjoyed over the years, the country's leadership tightly controls the political space, thus severely restricting the opposition from actively participating in the democratic process.

They also questioned the election of President Bongo Ondimba who is the son of the late long-time President Omar Bongo, who ruled Gabon for nearly three decades until his death in 2009.

Opponents say the country was treated like a family property accusing the late Mr. Bongo of "bequeathing" Gabon to his son. But, supporters say President Ali Ben Bongo Ondimba won a legitimate election described by poll observers as free and transparent, despite reported isolated cases of intimidation.

### **Congo-Kinshasa: Mass Rapes Underline Urgency of Consolidating Peace in East - Ban**

The UN News service

The recent savage rape and assault of scores of civilians in the remote and troubled far east of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is a "brutal reminder" of the obstacles faced in keeping the peace in conflict zones, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said today.

At least 154 civilians were raped in 13 villages along a 21-kilometre stretch of road in North Kivu province's Banamukira territory between 30 July and 2 August, with the attackers blocking the road and preventing the villagers from reaching outside communications. Many homes were also looted. The string of assaults "is another grave example of the levels of sexual violence and insecurity that continue to plague eastern DRC," Mr. Ban told the Security Council this morning.

The Secretary-General said today that he has issued calls to the Congolese authorities to investigate the incident and bring those behind the attacks to justice and to the Government to step up efforts to enhance security and stability in eastern DRC. According to the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), more than 9,000 cases of rape were reported last year in North and South Kivu provinces alone. Many more cases are estimated to go unreported. "Yet, I am compelled to ask: what more can we do to protect civilians from such wanton violations of international human rights and humanitarian law?" said Mr. Ban, who met with survivors of sexual violence in eastern DRC last year.

The UN mission in the DRC, known as MONUSCO, he noted, is doing its utmost to protect civilians, albeit with limited resources and in a very difficult environment. "But, at such times, we should always ask if we could have done more." The Secretary-General has announced that he is immediately dispatching Assistant Secretary-General Atul Khare from the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) to the DRC to work with Roger Meece, his Special Representative in the country.

In a statement issued yesterday, he also said that he has asked his Special Representative for Sexual Violence in Conflict, Margot Wallström, to lead the UN response. "Women and children should not have to live in fear of rape," Mr. Ban emphasized. "Communities should not suffer the indignity of knowing that human rights abusers and war criminals

can continue to behave with impunity." Mr. Meece acknowledged today that while MONUSCO has been endeavouring to boost its regular contact with civilians and hold weekly meetings with local authorities regarding the safety of villagers, "none of these actions were enough" to prevent the recent tragedy. The mission is considering having daily contact with villages in the area, and if no communication has been received, patrols will be dispatched. But the envoy, addressing reporters in New York via video conference, noted that distances, even if they seem short by Western standards, "can be quite daunting" in eastern DRC, making it difficult for local leaders to travel to hold regular talks with MONUSCO.

The head of the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) said yesterday that the recent mass rape underlines the urgent need to bring an end to the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war. Anthony Lake, the agency's Executive Director, said in a statement yesterday that "egregious violations of human rights, including rape and sexual violence, have become endemic in the DRC." According to UNICEF, some 18,000 survivors of sexual violence in the country sought assistance last year alone, including nearly 12,000 who were in need of urgent medical help. "It is highly likely that many more attacks have gone unreported," Mr. Lake stressed. Many victims of sexual violence are physically and psychologically wounded for the rest of their lives and such assaults have profound impacts on families, communities and society, he added. "Sexual violence is an international crime and all perpetrators must be held fully accountable," the UNICEF head underscored. "Impunity from prosecution and punishment must end."

### **UN Secretary-General Seeks New Measures to Protect Congo Civilians**

VOA

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon on Wednesday urged the U.N. Security Council to consider new measures to protect civilians in Congo, where more than 150 villagers were raped by rebel groups in late July.

Mr. Ban called the rape and assault of at least 154 Congolese civilians another grave example of the levels of sexual violence and insecurity that continue to plague eastern Democratic Republic of Congo. He told the Security Council he is compelled to ask what more can be done to protect civilians.

"Last year, I met some of the victims of these appalling crimes of sexual violence in eastern DRC. Women and children should not have to live in fear of rape. Communities should not suffer the indignity of knowing that human rights abusers and war criminals can continue to behave with impunity. We must speak out and we must act," he said.

The United Nations says U.N. peacekeepers based near the villages where the attacks against civilians took place were not aware of the assaults until two weeks later, on August 12, when they were informed by a medical worker.

Speaking to reporters from Goma in eastern DRC, Roger Meece - the Secretary-General's special representative in the DRC - said a patrol of U.N. peacekeepers stopped in one of the villages on August 2 to arrest a Mai-Mai rebel, but were not told about the attacks.

"They stopped there in part because there was an incident witnessed of apparent Mai-Mai attempted robbing of a person on a motorcycle. They stopped that from happening, arrested the Mai-Mai, took him into custody and did have contact with the people of the village at that time. But the village people did not make any reports of what had happened in the preceding days," he said.

Meece said the attacks in the villages are particularly horrific because of their scale and brutality. But he said the many victims of violence and predatory behavior by armed groups in the area for many years should not be forgotten.

### **Rwanda Arrests Brother of Former Army Chief**

VOA

The Rwandan army says it has arrested the brother of the former army chief of staff on charges of "destabilization."

Lieutenant Colonel Rugigana Ngabo is the brother of General Faustin Kayumba Nyamwasa, who was chief of staff until 2001 and went into exile in South Africa in February.

The army said Ngabo was arrested Friday arrest had nothing to do with his relationship to Nyamwasa. Military officials said they are still investigating Ngabo's activities.

Nyamwasa is a leading critic of Rwandan President Paul Kagame.

The country's chief prosecutor accused Nyamwasa and the other officer of being involved in three grenade attacks in the capital, Kigali, in February. Two people were killed and 30 others were wounded. He denies any involvement.

Some information for this report provided by AFP.

### **Congo-Kinshasa: Bridge-Building Bishop Works for Peace in Africa**

Catholic Information Service for Africa (Nairobi)

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Bishop Nicolas Djomo is a bridge builder.

Whenever funds are available, he calls for the construction of a new bridge in the diocese of Tshumbe, which he has shepherded since late 1997.

In a country in which infrastructure has been given short shrift amid internal and regional conflict, these efforts address a need that governmental leaders have proven unable to satisfy.

But more significantly, Bishop Djomo is also a bridge builder in a figurative sense.

As a diocesan bishop, as well as president of the national bishops' conference, he has actively promoted peace in a country still reeling from the second Congo war.

The war, which began early in Djomo's second year as bishop of Tshumbe, raged on from 1998-2003 with the Congo being one of eight African nations embroiled in the conflict.

"The first five years as bishop, it was very, very tough because the diocese is isolated; it's remote," Bishop Djomo said.

Early in the war, he said, the Tshumbe region was cut off from the capital city of Kinshasa, requiring the Church to serve as the primary provider of education, health care and other essential services, as well as a safe haven for women.

During the war, while hostilities between Congo, Rwanda and Burundi were still ongoing, the bishops' conferences of those three countries met and delivered messages of peace to each country's president.

According to the best estimates, Bishop Djomo said, at least five million people died during the war, which also produced two million refugees and resulted in one million internally displaced.

The after-effects of the conflict are still being felt today.

"Because of the war, the poverty is huge," Bishop Djomo said, "so most of the population is living with less than one dollar a day."

He said there is also a large number of orphans and street children, for whom the local Church is working to provide shelter and schooling.

Even today, seven years after the War officially ended, violence and atrocities continue in the eastern part of the country, where armed groups profit from the sale of gold, coltan, wolframite and cassiterite mined by locals under inhumane conditions. Such "conflict minerals" are often used in the manufacturing of cell phones, computers and other products.

Bishop Djomo, while visiting the diocese of San Diego and other California dioceses in May, urged support for U.S. legislation requiring companies to disclose the source of their minerals. The goal is to discourage the purchase of minerals from mines that are tied to human rights abuses and armed conflict.

Closer to home, Bishop Djomo has launched several peace building initiatives within the Congo.

He was among the participants in the Synod of Bishops for Africa, which met in October 2009 at the Vatican.

Bishop Djomo said the synod concluded with a call for all African Catholics to sow the seeds of peace in their daily interactions with others, for Catholic schools to educate toward "a culture of peace," for each diocesan bishop to make peace building a pastoral priority and for Catholic political leaders to govern according to the dictates of their faith.

Current peace building efforts in the Congo include plans for a peace studies institute at the Catholic university in Kinshasa, as well as cultural exchanges between Catholic youth from the Congo, Rwanda and Burundi.

### **3. Elections & Process of democratization**

#### **Rwanda: EC Congratulates Kagame**

The New Times

Kigali — Almost three weeks after the Presidential Elections, congratulatory messages for President Paul Kagame's landslide victory continue to pour in, the latest being from the President of the European Commission, Jose Manuel Barroso.

In his message, Barroso commended Rwanda for the peaceful organisation and calmness that characterised the August 9 polls as well as the huge turnout and pledged to continue working with Kagame for the next 7 years.

"Mr. President, on behalf of the European Commission, I would like to congratulate you for the successful organisation of the elections, and the Rwandan people for the calm atmosphere and very high turnout,"

"I look forward to working with you following your re-election, for a second term, and your government, in the consolidating stages of Rwanda's reconstruction, development and democracy, and the continuation of our regular and frank dialogue with the Rwandan authorities," Barroso's statement reads in part.

He added that the European Commission which remains one of the biggest partners of development in Rwanda will remain committed to supporting Rwanda to overcome its challenges in regard to development and democracy.

## **4. Social issues / Human Rights**

### **UN Short on Funds to Feed 600,000 in CAR**

VOA

The United Nations World Food Program says tens of thousands of people in Central African Republic face malnutrition if the WFP cannot secure urgent funding.

In Central African Republic, the United Nations World Food Program says it needs an additional \$15 million in funding over the next eight months to continue feeding 600,000 people there.

The World Food Program said an influx of refugees from Democratic Republic of Congo late last year strained its resources in CAR. Without additional funding, the WFP says it could run out of food in November.

WFP Country Director Sitta Kai-Kai says this drop in food aid will endanger some of the most vulnerable populations.

"We feed up to 600,000 people in different categories from people living with HIV/AIDS to refugees to displaced persons to pregnant and lactating women and also children under the age of five," said Sitta Kai-Kai. "We also have a school feeding program. It is the only program where children of school-going age in primary schools have one meal a day, sometimes two, depending on our funding."

Kai Kai said without additional funding by October, when schools reopen, school attendance will decline and rations will be reduced for the 150,000 students receiving school meals.

She said the impact will be felt at nutrition centers as well, as rations will have to be cut for some 17,000 already acutely malnourished children and 15,000 pregnant and nursing women.

It can take up to five months for food to reach the landlocked country, and Kai Kai said the WFP needs \$6.6 million by September to make it to the end of this year in CAR.

"Six-point-six million will help us a great deal," she said. "That will permit us to borrow food immediately from other countries in the subregion and also buy food locally."

If additional funding is not received within the next two months, Kai Kai said the World Food Program would have to reduce assistance for 100,000 internally displaced people and refugees, primarily from Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo. She said food assistance for others would have to be suspended entirely.

## **UN Secretary-General 'Outraged' by Congo Rapes, Launches Investigation**

VOA

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said Tuesday he is outraged by the rape and assault of more than 150 women by armed militants in eastern North Kivu Province in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Mr. Ban is sending a top U.N. official to investigate the attacks.

Secretary-General Ban said the rapes of Congolese villagers were carried out by armed elements of two rebel groups and cited the attacks as another grave example of the level of sexual violence and the insecurity that plague the Democratic Republic of Congo, or DRC.

U.N. spokesman Martin Nesirky read Mr. Ban's statement: "The secretary-general reiterates his call on all armed groups in the DRC to lay down their weapons and join the peace process. The secretary-general further calls on the authorities of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to investigate this incident and bring to justice the perpetrators of these crimes and renew efforts to bring an end to insecurity in the eastern part of the country."

Mr. Ban is sending the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping, Atul Khare, to the DRC to investigate the attacks. The U.N.'s Special Representative for Sexual Violence in Conflict, Margot Wallstrom, has been put in charge of the U.N. response. She said the attacks in North Kivu confirm her findings during a recent visit to the DRC of widespread and systematic rape, and other human rights violations in the country.

According to news reports, the rebel attacks took place between July 30 and August 3. The United Nations said it has a small peacekeeping base about 30 kilometers from the village. But according to spokesman Martin Nesirky, rebels blocked access of villagers to a nearby road and they could not report the attacks to outsiders. Nesirky said the peacekeepers learned of the rapes from a medical worker on August 12, two weeks after they began.

"It's a matter for the government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to investigate urgently and to bring those responsible to justice," said Nesirky. "That's clearly a hugely important factor. I think it's a sign of the gravity of the situation that Assistant Secretary-General Khare will be going immediately to the Democratic Republic of the Congo."

The United Nations is providing medical help to the victims of the attacks.

## **Dozens of Women Gang-Raped in North Kivu Province**

VOA

The United Nations confirms dozens of women were gang raped over a four-day period earlier this month in eastern North Kivu Province of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. It says insecurity is spreading across the region, with armed groups looting and terrorizing local villages.

The United Nations says insecurity in the DRC's eastern North Kivu Province is spreading, especially in the Walikale Territory. It says armed groups, including the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda and Mai-Mai groups, have been attacking villages, causing many civilians to flee.

U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs spokeswoman Elizabeth Byrs tells VOA that between July 30 and August 3 the armed groups took control of the town of Luvungi.

During that time, she says they looted peoples' houses and went on a rampage, raping dozens of women in Luvungi and surrounding areas.

"A total of 179 cases of sexual violence were reported by the NGO [non-governmental organization], which now are taking these people in charge medically and also psychologically in the city of Lubonga," said Byrs. "Rape has always been used in the DRC as a weapon of war. This is unbearable."

Byrs says there has been an increase in rape and insecurity incidents during the past two months. She says about 50,000 people have fled their homes during this period, bringing the total of displaced in the region to 100,000.

Byrs says armed gangs also are targeting humanitarian workers and this is seriously hampering relief operations for the civilian population. She says attacks against humanitarian workers have increased by 50 percent during the past year.

"It is a situation, which is really of concern to humanitarian workers and to the civilian population as well because if we cannot deliver humanitarian assistance, if we cannot treat those people who have been victims of rape and traumatized. If they cannot get the well needed assistance, in fact they are left by themselves," she said.

Much of the fighting in North Kivu is precipitated by the gold and tin mines in the area. Byrs says the armed gangs are fighting to gain control of the mines and their valuable resources.

## **African Bishops to Re-Examine the Issue Homosexuality**

The New Times

Kigali — THE All African Bishops International Conference kicked off yesterday in Entebbe, Uganda with the clerics promising to strengthen their position on intolerance of homosexuality in the Anglican Church.

The one-week conference being held under the theme; "Securing our future; Unlocking our potential," is jointly organized by the Church of Uganda and the Council of Anglican Provinces of Africa (CAPA).

The Bishop of Butare Anglican Diocese, Nathan Gasatura, who is among the twelve Bishops representing Rwanda at the conference, said that the meeting would also reinforce the need for a common voice among African bishops.

"We shall consolidate our position to really stand against homosexuality now with one voice," he told The New Times in an interview yesterday.

"Sometimes we have been speaking with dissenting voices because this is one of the planned topics that is going to be consolidated."

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams, was the lead preacher at the opening of the Conference which was characterised by sermons and prayers to address development challenges that Africa faces.

Many African Bishops are unhappy about Williams' perceived tolerance of homosexual behaviour in the Anglican community.

Gasatura said that the African clerics derive their position on homosexuality from the biblical mandate that preaches against any vice that hinders man from producing a fellow man.

He said that through a more revamped CAPA programme, African countries would now be able to help each other in dire situations like hunger and drought.

The Bishop of Zululand, Dino Gabriel, said that although homosexuality is not on the conference's programme, it remains one of the thorny issues that are engaging the Anglican Communion.

"But we need to be good listeners and not just have prejudices against people. We should simply know what the bible tells us about our lifestyles," he said.

In his remarks to the Bishops, Uganda's Prime Minister Apollo Nsubambi said that Africa's challenges like homosexuality need prayers and guidance from religious leaders.

## **Rwanda: Human Rights Watch Manipulations against the Government**

The New times

Kigali — THE constant accusations against the Government of Rwanda over allegations of human rights abuse, lack of political space and press freedom have been part of campaigns to discredit the credibility of recent presidential elections.

These accusations show how the international community is manipulated by some organizations that are eager to assume state powers in this era of globalization.

In every media report or statement, one thing is repeated; that the Government of Rwanda expelled Ms. Carina Tertsakian a researcher for Human Right Watch (HRW). Without showing the reasons behind the problem, it is left to be interpreted by readers, viewers or listeners as an act of suppressing fundamental freedoms.

The issue of Carina Tertsakian was discussed extensively and reasons behind the cancellation of her work permit are true facts. It seems the facts presented were ignored, being the reason this issue is a constant factor in every statement. It is for that matter that I would like to shade more light on the issue.

1. Ms Carina arrived in Rwanda on 25th January 2010, she claimed she had come for a short visit but that later in March she would come for a long stay as a resident HRW researcher,
2. On the same day, Carina submitted application for work permit. One may wonder the reason behind such a hurry, especially on a British citizen who had up to 90 days of stay.
3. The employment contract in the application documents was dated 27 October 2009 signed on 29th October 2010 and submitted on 25th January 2010. It could have been an error if it was the other way around. However, it is highly unusual for a person to sign a document on 29th October 2009 and put 29th October 2010. The logical explanation is that the document was signed in 2010 although it was meant to be signed in 2009.
4. One of signatures on the contract was totally different from the signature signed by the same person (Maria Pignataro Nielsen) in 2007! The explanation given by HRW officials was simply that the two signatures although different were authentic. HRW officials could not explain why a senior Human Right Watch official has two different signatures on official documents.
5. The original application letter dated on the time of her arrival (25 January 2010) had a signature of another senior Human Right Watch official called Georgette Gagnon which is different from another signature of the same person signed on the employment contract. The explanation given was that the signature was the same despite the fact that forensic experts had proved otherwise. Regarding the dates it was explained that the letter

was forward dated to coincide with her arrival in Rwanda! Again no substantive reasons were given.

All the facts were presented to the applicant, and Human Right Watch officials could not refute them except only to explain that the documents presented were authentic without giving any reason for the discrepancies.

These explanations provided by HRW officials were not sufficient enough to make the documents acceptable. Can such flawed documents be accepted by any immigration service anywhere in the world especially in developed countries? Are we supposed to turn a blind eye on such glaring faults simply because the suspected defaulter is a researcher in Human Right Watch?

Interestingly, in all the media reports or statements not even a single one mentions the reasons shown by Immigration on the case. Instead the statement made by Human Right Watch was swallowed wholly, while facts presented by Immigration were completely disregarded.

In another angle, Human Right Watch officials deliberately did not reveal that another Human Right Watch researcher who had been in the country since 2007 was given a work permit to carry out her duties.

This researcher called Ms Leslie Haskell was in the country some days before Ms Carina left. Her work permit application documents were accepted, but Human Right Watch prefers to present a picture of their person being expelled in Rwanda deceiving the world to believe that there is no other employee in the country to do their work.

In addition to Ms Haskell, there has been another HRW researcher called Ms Eugenia Zorbas claiming to be visiting but working for HRW. If the world was honest, this deliberate omissions and manipulations would have been called "intellectual dishonest".

## **5. Economy and Energy**

### **Rwanda: U.S. 200 Million Project Launched in Kigali**

The New Times

Kigali — the long awaited mega commercial centre project in the country slated to cost 200m dollars (approximately Rwf 117.6bn) was launched yesterday in Kigali city.

The ground breaking ceremony of the project dubbed 'Downtown Ltd', to be situated at the former Kigali Central Police Station in Muhima, was graced by Kigali City Mayor, Aisa Kirabo Kacyira.

The project, on a seven hectare land, will include shopping malls, plaza, apartments, hospitality facilities such as hotels, hospitals and restaurants and a commuter terminal of international standards.

Sekoko Hatari, one of the proprietors of the project, said that the terminal, which is in the first of the four-phase project, will be complete in three months. Other areas to be complete in the first phase are drainage systems and roads that will also include flyovers connecting to the upper city centre.

The terminal scheduled to be operational effective next year, will accommodate 507 cars; with 169 minibuses and 145 buses. Currently, there are about 1,180 commuter vehicles operating in Kigali city.

The Muhima terminal will also act as a parking yard for private cars and all special hire taxis.

By March this year, both private and public cars in the city had risen to 60,000 from 22,000 in 1994, increasing vehicle volumes and causing traffic problems.

"We have gone a long way to make this day come to true, and the private sector must be the backbone of the development of the country. We have all the opportunities around us," Hatari who is also one of the proprietors of Kigali City Tower said.

Kirabo thanked the shareholders of the project, who include Ugandan tycoons, Sudhir and Joshnna Ruparelle for making 'Doing Business' a reality.

"It's one thing looking at figures and realizing that we made a stride but it's another seeing the reality of development on the field," Kirabo said, commending the proprietors for their commitment in the implementation of the city Master Plan.

The mayor thanked the President Paul Kagame and stakeholders in the process for handing over the land as part of enhancing Doing Business in Kigali and pledged further support in seeing the project come to reality.

The mega project will be developed by China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation (CCECC), the developers of Kigali City Tower, RAMA headquarters and ZIGAMA CSS. They also built Amahoro National Stadium in Remera.

### **Rwanda: Ministers Tour Nyabarongo Hydro Power Project**

The New Times

Muhanga — The government has commended the progress made in the construction of the US \$ 97million Nyabarongo hydro power project which is set to generate 28 megawatts of power.

Minister of Finance, John Rwangombwa, and Colette Ruhamyia, State Minister in charge of energy and water, were on Wednesday inspecting the Nyabarongo project in Mushishiro Sector.

They toured activities of the project contractor-Angelique International- which has started diverting the Nyabarongo River so as to build the dam, and the ground is also being prepared for the power station.

"The project is moving at a good pace and we would like to see that the construction is completed on time. What we have observed is that there are few problems of- lack of communication and coordination in the process of compensating residents," Rwangombwa said.

He asked the project managers to liaise with district officials to resolve cases of uncompensated property owners where the construction works are being carried out.

On her part, Ruhamyia observed that the project had provided many jobs to residents and reaffirmed the government's resolve to increase the number of people using power.

The project is set to be complete in December 2012 and will cost over US \$ 97million.

The project has attracted many casual labourers from Ngororero and Muhanga districts who earn at least Rwf1000 per day. The labourers revealed that the project has increased their earnings, especially among women groups and the community in general.

Some employees however, complained of delays in signing of work contracts and insurance coverage.

In response, Muhanga district officials disclosed that they had received the workers' concerns and contacted the company over the issue. The company promised to resolve the matter by the end of this month, according to the officials.

### **Special Economic Zone to Make Gabon Competitive, Provide Jobs**

VOA

A special adviser to Gabon's leader told VOA the construction of the Special Economic Zone (SEZ) forms part of President Ali Ben Bongo Ondimba's plan to make the country competitive and provide jobs to thousands of Gabonese.

Soleman Liban said the government signed a strategic agreement with Singapore-based OLAM International, to jointly develop a special economic zone (SEZ) at Nkok for timber processing.

"The purpose of this project is to create a Special Economic Zone that will allow (us) to gain (a) competitive advantage for the Gabonese wood processing industry for second,

third-level transformation. The objective was to create a platform that will allow all the industries worldwide to come to Gabon, (and) be able to reach economy of scale,” he said.

Liban also said that the government has an objective to industrialize Gabon and to create a pool that will stimulate all the peripheral activities for the Special Economic Zone.

This comes after President Bongo Ondimba recently banned all forms of commercial “raw” logging in that Central African country.

Under the agreement, OLAM, an agricultural products processor, will invest \$12 million in the SEZ development project for a 60 percent stake in a joint venture, while the Gabonese government holds the other 40 percent.

According to OLAM, the company owns 400,000 hectares of forestry concessions for tropical hardwoods in Gabon. The joint venture with Gabon to develop a SEZ for timber processing supports OLAM’s interest to expand its forestry concessions and timber processing activities in the west central African country.

Liban said the Gabon’s Special Economic Zone offers developed infrastructure and fiscal incentives for the timber industry to invest in timber processing activities.

“There is an estimated 7000 direct employment. If you consider indirect employment, meaning small enterprises, the Gabonese people that will be able to supply the Special Economic Zone, they will be able to supply the industrial hub. It will generate profit. And obviously, if you look at it, there is a secondary economy created around the Special Economic Zone like this and we will be able to create the stimulus that is needed to optimize and drop costs,” Liban said.

### **Rwanda: Kagame Urges Investors to Add Value to Products**

The New Times

Kigali — President Paul Kagame, yesterday, called on investors to add value to what they produce prior to exporting, since it will not only improve on the quality of the country's exports, but will bring in higher revenues for investors and the country.

Kagame made the call while commissioning a factory which will be adding value to cassiterite, one of Rwanda's leading minerals exports, before it is sold on the international market.

The factory, Bashyamba Processing Plant, which is located in Kigali Sector, Nyarugenge district, is part of a US\$15 million consortium known as Roka Rwanda which specialises in mining, processing and exporting cassiterite, wolfram and coltan.

"First of all, this is inline with the country's thinking and policy of trying to add as much value to what we produce. It has been a tradition for many years that minerals or other things are exported in raw form,"

"What that means is that it benefits others more than us who actually produce such things. The more value we can add the more benefits for the country and for others. I think this is a pacesetter," Kagame said.

The President emphasised that the factory should set an example for many other investors, even outside the mining sector.

"I am sure many other Rwandans or investors will learn a thing or two from this kind of investment and the philosophy behind it. The country is set to benefit more," he noted.

The factory has modern processing equipment which is expected to reduce on minerals wasted as a result of traditional methods of extraction.

Kagame commended the proprietors of the plant and said that it was in line with the wider government policy of promoting value addition, not only in mining, but other sectors as well. He added that value addition will be one of his areas of concentration in the next seven years.

"We have been promising people that we will do more than what we have done in the past, so this helps me to build on and say yes, after all, some of these things we say are possible," Kagame said.

Kari Gahiga, the chairman of Roka Rwanda, which has three mining concessions and 24 mines around the country, said that the group was encouraged to invest in the factory as a result of the good investment climate the government has put in place.

"I am so impressed by the way things are done here. The Government is helping many investors in so many ways and so efficiently. That's very impressive for investors," Gahiga said.

According to Emery Rubagenga, the CEO of the firm, other than the mining concessions, Roka Rwanda will be buying minerals from individual miners and cooperatives.

"We believe Rwandans will be earning good revenues from what we will be buying," Rubagenga said, adding that Rwanda's cast cassiterite elite and coltan are of high quality and highly sought after on the international market.

The plant will be processing the minerals up to 60% purity before export. The plant has a capacity of producing 12 tons a day, but management says plans are underway to upgrade it to 24.

## **Rwanda: Transport, Electricity Still a Challenge - Survey**

The New Times

Kigali — TRANSPORT and Electricity are among the four major constraints to doing business in Rwanda, as identified by the Investment Climate Assessment Survey.

The ICA Survey report was officially released yesterday by World Bank Group and Ministry of trade and industry. Other two challenges include taxes and access to finance.

The study focused on competitiveness drivers including governance, tax, infrastructure, finance, regulation, and access to land, skills shortage and macro-economic stability.

It was conducted in 340 firms in Kigali and Butare, more than 70 percent of firms in the manufacturing sector reported electricity to be a major constraint followed by tax rates with 50 percent and access to finance with 40 percent.

According to the survey, 73 percent of large firms have access to formal sector credit compared to 31 percent of small firms (SME's).

The report indicated that the recent regulatory and governance reforms lowered costs for business. The report predicts further lifting of cost burdens when ongoing reforms are completed leading to better access to electricity, transport and finance.

In his presentation, Moses Kibirige from World Bank Group, said that Rwanda is doing extremely well in terms of governance and informal payments to officials.

"Rwanda has demonstrated enormous success in improving its investment climate due to a high level of government commitment, clear agenda and involvement of varied stakeholders that have contributed to the achievement," said Jean Phillippe Prosper IFC Director for Eastern and Southern Africa.

ICA encourages policies to strengthen Rwanda's participation in regional infrastructure investment and service initiatives. The initiatives include efforts to improve the functioning of cross-boarder transit systems, power pools and regional skills development programs.

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Monique Nsazabaganwa Minister of Trade and Industry who was present at the launch of the findings said Rwanda is good at evidence based and it will build on the past reforms.

"We are sparing no effort to strengthen our institutions and endeavor to make right choices," she said.

According to a press statement from World Bank, ICA analyses the conditions for private investment and enterprise growth to pinpoint the areas where reforms is most needed to improve the private sector's productivity and competitiveness.

Working with its Development Partners, including the Netherlands and the United Kingdom's Department for International Development, the World Bank Group provides support to the Rwandan government to help improve its business environment, build institutions and reduce the cost of doing business.

### **São Tomé and Príncipe: Oil Deals And the New Government - A Chance to Improve Life for Its People By Managing Resources Well**

Human Rights Watch (Washington, DC)

Washington, DC — the tiny country of São Tomé and Príncipe is at a crossroads with a chance to benefit from its potential oil wealth, Human Rights Watch said in a report released today.

A new government is expected to form after the elections this month, and by the end of the year São Tomé is expected to announce the companies selected as the winners of an important round of bidding for the right to drill for oil in its offshore Exclusive Economic Zone.

The 23-page report, "An Uncertain Future: Oil Contracts and Stalled Reform in São Tomé e Príncipe," documents how São Tomé's government remains ill-equipped to manage the revenues from any hydrocarbon endowment, despite domestic and international efforts to improve financial transparency and accountability in anticipation of major oil discoveries.

The international community and domestic policy-makers invested in efforts to improve the management of the country's potential oil wealth to avoid the problems that have plagued its neighbors, such as Angola or Equatorial Guinea. But the current government has not demonstrated the political will or institutional capacity to follow through on reform.

"The new government needs to learn from past mistakes," said Arvind Ganesan, business and human rights director at Human Rights Watch. "It has a window of opportunity and should use it to make sure São Tomé's citizens benefit from oil revenues when and if they start to flow."

São Tomé is believed to possess offshore oil reserves valuable enough to transform life for the tiny island nation's impoverished people. To date no oil has started to flow, and exploration continues. This has disappointed many São Toméans, but there should have been a silver lining to the delay in drilling successful wells - it gave the country more time to prepare itself to manage responsibly the vast new revenues that would come with oil. But until now, São Tomé's government has failed to make the most of that opportunity.

The failure of efforts to improve the country's management of its oil resources culminated in São Tomé's effective expulsion from the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) in April 2010, along with Equatorial Guinea. The initiative aims to strengthen governance by improving transparency and accountability through the verification and full publication of company payments and government revenues from oil, gas, and mining.

São Tomé is one of the world's smallest and most neglected countries. Revenues from oil could dramatically improve life for São Tomé's impoverished population, Human Rights Watch said. But if managed poorly they could send its government into a crippling spiral of corruption, as has happened in Equatorial Guinea and Angola.

The new São Tomé government should make all financial transactions related to oil licensing public, including signature bonus payments made by the companies for the right to obtain oil exploration concessions in its territory, Human Rights Watch said. It should also review all oil contracts and renegotiate those that are deemed to fall short of international best practice and reopen its contacts with the EITI Secretariat.

Human Rights Watch also urged the new São Tomé government and the next Nigerian government - after the 2011 Nigeria elections - to review the arrangements for their Joint Development Zone for oil exploration.

"São Tomé is at a crossroads, with an opportunity to serve its people and to become a model for the management of its resources," Ganesan said. "The new government should reach out for the advice and assistance that can make this happen."

### **Central African Republic: Lack of Funds May Force UN Agency to Cut Food Aid**

UN News Service

The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) warned today that it may have to cut its feeding programme in the Central African Republic (CAR), where tens of thousands risk becoming malnourished unless new funding is secured.

The agency is facing a \$15 million shortfall over the next eight months to provide food assistance to some 600,000 people mainly in the conflict-affected northern part of the country.

WFP provides assistance in the eastern regions to 9,100 refugees from Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and 14,000 people forced to flee from their homes due to attacks by the Ugandan rebel Lord's Resistance Army (LRA). In addition, there has been an influx of 17,500 Congolese refugees into the southern Lobaye region since 2009.

"The additional needs stretched our resources to the limit," said WFP Country Director Sitta Kai-Kai.

"If funds are not available in the next two months, we will have to reduce rations for some of the 100,000 refugees and displaced and even entirely suspend food assistance for others."

Ms. Kai-Kai warned that this would escalate tensions with the host population as pressure grows on local resources.

If new funds are not found by the time schools re-open in October, rations would be reduced for some 150,000 children receiving school meals, 17,000 acutely malnourished children and 15,000 pregnant and nursing mothers being assisted at nutrition centres, WFP noted in a news release.

The agency, which could run out of food in November, stressed it is crucial that new contributions are made soon since it takes four to five months for food to arrive in landlocked CAR.

WFP needs cash in particular so it could buy food locally as well as from neighbouring Cameroon. It needs \$6.6 million by September to maintain all its programmes in CAR through the end of the year.

Over the past five years, insecurity in northern CAR has displaced nearly 200,000 people within the country, and sent an additional 200,000 fleeing into neighbouring countries. Humanitarian agencies have appealed for a total of \$113.6 million to assist those in need.

### **Rwanda: Nation Receives World Bank Award**

The New Times

Kigali — The World Bank Group has awarded Rwanda for being the top global reformer in Doing Business.

The trophy was, yesterday, handed to the Minister of Commerce, Monique Nsanzabaganwa, on behalf of the Rwandan government by Jean Phillipe Prosper, the IFC Director, Eastern and Southern Africa.

Rwanda is the first ever Sub-Saharan African country, ranked 67th in the 2009 Doing Business report, up from 150th the previous year. The massive improvement that is based on the number and impact of reforms implemented between June 2008 and May 2009 made her the world's top reformer.

The ceremony coincided with the launch of the Investment Climate Assessment Report at the World Bank offices in Kigali.

Clare Akamanzi, the COO of Rwanda Development Board (RDB) highlighted the journey to being the top reformer, mentioning the five laws that enabled a favourable environment for doing business in the country.

The reforms that were prioritized include property registration that moved to 27th, up from 171th the previous year, starting a business moved from 64th position to 11th with only two procedures and three days to start a business.

Other reforms that contributed to the big leap is the consolidation of procedures to have a company registered with only one step and access to finance improved from 147th in 2008 to 61th position last year.

"It's not about Doing Business but its impact on the economy and also the response from the private sector," Akamanzi said.

After the reforms, it is said that projects implemented in one year were as many as those implemented in the last five years and revenue increased from \$800m to \$1.1 billion.

Akamanzi said that a platform, the National Public Private Dialogue (NPPD), had been created to discuss and use the feedback to identify challenges and accelerate reforms.

"The reforms and achievement is beyond ranking, but an inspiration to other countries and for broader investment," Prosper said.

He added that the achievement is attributed to the government's commitment and clear objectives, adding that continued cooperation is essential to accelerate the reforms.

He acknowledged that many countries where, the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA), IFC and WB operate were inspired by Rwanda's achievement.

Nsanzabaganwa promised to ensure that reforms bear fruits and increase Foreign Direct Investments as well as local investments.

"The award is attributed to the President Paul Kagame who knew the importance of doing business and quickly challenged the entire government," Nsanzabaganwa said.

## **6. U.S-Africa Relations**

### **Congo-Kinshasa: U.S. And UN Plan Response to DR Congo Mass Rapes**

IRF

The US said Wednesday it was "deeply concerned" about reports of mass rape in the Democratic Republic of Congo and would work with the local government and the UN to bring the perpetrators to justice.

"The United States is deeply concerned by reports of the mass rape of women and children ... by the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda ... and elements of the Mai Mai, community-based militia groups in eastern Congo," US Secretary of State Hilary Clinton said in a statement.

Clinton's remarks follow UN chief Ban Ki-moon's comments Tuesday in which he expressed outrage over the rapes by the Hutu rebels, and sent a top envoy to investigate.

A UN joint human rights team confirmed allegations of the rape of at least 154 women by fighters from the Rwandan FDLR militia and Congolese Mai-Mai rebels in the village of Bunangiri.

Despite the attacks happening only miles from its base of Kibua, the UN only found out about the atrocities 10 days later, after being informed by an aid agency.

While local people had reported roadblocks by the militiamen to UN patrols, they said nothing about the sexual violence, according to Roger Meece, a UN official in eastern DR Congo.

The UN has called an emergency session of the Security Council to discuss a response to the violence.

## **7. Rebel groups/ Refugees/ Militancy/ War against Terrorism**

### **Rwanda: FDLR Abuses in DRC Intensify**

The New Times

Kigali — New reports indicate that abuses, especially rape and raids, perpetrated by the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR) militia in the east of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), are on the rise.

Speaking to The New Times yesterday, Maj. Vianney Kazalama, the Congolese army (FARDC) spokesperson in DRC's North Kivu Province, acknowledged the alarming developments and noted that the army was trying to increase its presence in the vast region.

"The FDLR raped 50 women in Walikale at a place called Mumbi in the past weeks. They also raped 70 other women in a separate incident, according to the reports that we have," said Maj. Kazalama.

The FDLR are remnants of masterminds of the 1994 Genocide against Tutsi in Rwanda which claimed over one million people.

Other recent reports note that the rebels looted villages and gang-raped nearly 180 women in a series of attacks between July 30 and August 3, in Walikale region of North Kivu.

"Walikale is such a huge area, even bigger than Rwanda. We normally protect towns and some villages but now we have deployed two more brigades in the whole region," Maj. Kazalama added, noting that a single FARDC brigade comprises 1,000 to 1,500 troops.

U.N. forces are deployed in the region as well.

Stefania Trassari, a spokesperson for the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) told VOA radio that the FDLR was joined in the attacks by Mai-Mai fighters, a Congolese group.

Maj. Kazalama also acknowledged this FDLR-Mai Mai alliance, noting that the Mai-Mai faction involved in the attacks is headed by Lt. Col. Emmanuel Nsengiyumva, an ex-CNDP officer who has refused to be integrated in the Congolese army.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said Tuesday he was sending Atul Khare, the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping, to the DRC to investigate the attacks.

In a statement read by U.N. Spokesperson, Martin Nesirky, Ban reiterated his "call on all armed groups in the DRC to lay down their weapons and join the peace process."