



Peace Operations Update

Aktuelle Informationen zu Friedenseinsätzen

11.2017

March 10–16

Europe | Caucasus | Africa | Middle East | Central Asia | South East Asia | South Asia | South America and Caribbean

EUROPE

Albania

Observers suggest foreign mediation for Albania's crisis

Amid continuing opposition protests for a caretaker government to take the country to elections in June, analysts suggested that international mediation could be necessary to end the crisis.

Read full article: [Balkan Insight](#) (03/15)

Belarus

Belarus criticized for largest crackdown on protesters in years

[...] The crackdown over the weekend came at demonstrations across the country against a government-backed tax on the unemployed. Maja Kocijancic, a spokeswoman for the European Union's foreign policy chief, said on March 13 that "the detention and sentencing of peaceful protesters, including leaders of opposition movements, is in contradiction with Belarus' declared policy of democratization."

Read full article: [RFE/RL](#) (03/13)

Macedonia

Macedonia's political crisis takes ethnic turn

A political crisis that has paralysed Macedonia for two years is sliding into an ethnic dispute, with nationalists taking to the streets over a series of demands by the country's Albanians.

Read full article: [EurActiv](#) (03/13)

Ukraine

Mandate of OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine extended

The OSCE Permanent Council, in a consensus decision taken at its meeting in Vienna today, agreed to renew the mandate of the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine by one year until 31 March 2018.

Read full article: [OSCE](#) (03/16)

UN says at least 9,940 people killed in Eastern Ukraine conflict

At least 9,940 people have been killed in the conflict between government forces and Russia-backed separatists in eastern Ukraine since it erupted mid-April 2014, the Office of UN's High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) said on March 15.

Read full article: [RFE/RL](#) (03/16)

AFRICA

Boko Haram affected areas

Uprooted by war, threatened by Boko Haram and desperate to go home

Nigeria says the war with Boko Haram is over, but new arrivals still pour into camps for displaced people as the terrorists continue their deadly attacks.

Read full article: [New York Times](#) (03/11)

Burundi

Mutilated bodies discovered amid political violence in Burundi, UN inquiry says

Mutilated bodies are being found once again in Burundi where politically-motivated violence will soon enter its third year, according to a U.N. human rights inquiry.

Read full article: [Reuters Africa](#) (03/14)

Burundian authorities 'shut doors' to engagement, cooperation – Security Council told

Nearly two years after the political impasse started in Burundi, national authorities are reducing their cooperation with the United Nations system which risks undermining efforts to find a peaceful resolution to the crisis and cutting assistance to a population in need, the Security Council was told today.

Read full article: [UN News](#) (03/09)

Democratic Republic of the Congo

UN officials among 6 to disappear in Democratic Republic of Congo

[...] The officials, who are in Congo as part of a peacekeeping mission, had traveled to Kasai to investigate possible human rights violations after reports that government soldiers there had killed at least a dozen unarmed civilians, including children.

Read full article: [New York Times](#) (03/15) [VOA News](#) (03/15)

Report of the Secretary-General on MONUSCO

Read full report: [S/2017/206](#) (03/10)

Guinea-Bissau

Political crisis deepens

Hundreds of protesters marched in Guinea Bissau's capital at the weekend to demand the departure of President Jose Mario Vaz, the latest sign of growing anti-government sentiment following an 18-month-long political crisis.

Read full article: [defenceWeb](#) (03/13)

Libya

Libya's armed factions sign ceasefire after Tripoli battle

Armed groups in Tripoli have signed a ceasefire deal ending a four-day battle for control of the Libyan capital, the unity government said Thursday.

Read full article: [Middle East online](#) (03/16)

Libyan official says opposition sought Russian military aid, training

Libya's opposition government in the east, which opposes the UN-backed leadership in Tripoli, has requested military aid from Russia and received promises of support, a key official said.

Read full article: [RFE/RL](#) (03/15) [VOA News](#) (03/15)

Libyan oil wars and the battle for Tripoli

It's flying under the radar, but the Libyan capital is shuddering through its worst violence since fighting first broke out mid-2014, while oil wars rage out east amidst signs of increased Russian involvement.

Read full article: [Irinnews](#) (03/15)

Seeking deeper role in Libya, Russia deploys forces in Egypt

Moscow appears to have deployed special forces to an airbase in western Egypt near the border with Libya in recent days, US, Egyptian and diplomatic sources say, a move that would add to US concerns about Moscow's deepening role in Libya.

Read full article: [EurActiv](#) (03/14)

Khalifa Haftar 'retakes oil ports from Islamist militia'

Forces loyal to Libyan military strongman Khalifa Haftar say they have retaken key oil-rich areas in the country's east. ... Meanwhile, Russia has denied reports that it has deployed special forces to the region in support of Gen Haftar.

Read full article: [BBC](#) (03/14)

UN rights wing urges calm, protection of civilians amid hostilities in eastern Libya

Raising alarm over reports of serious human rights and humanitarian law violations and abuses stemming from recent fighting in eastern Libya's oil crescent area, the United Nations human rights arm has called on all parties to ensure that civilians are protected and that the situation is de-escalated.

Read full article: [UN News](#) (03/14)

Somalia (Gulf of Aden) /Horn of Africa

Somali pirates suspected of first ship hijacking since 2012

An oil tanker has been hijacked by suspected pirates off the coast of Somalia, reports say, the first such hijacking in the region in five years.

Read full article: [BBC](#) (03/14)

South Sudan

AU, South Sudan stalling on human rights court: UN

The African Union and South Sudan are failing in their joint responsibility to set up a court to prosecute atrocities in the central African country and are not co-operating with a United Nations inquiry, a UN investigator said.

Read full article: [defenceWeb](#) (03/15)

South Sudan rebel group demands re-start of peace process

The leader of the National Salvation Front (NAS), a new rebel group, wants South Sudan's peace process to be re-started. Lt. Gen. Thomas Cirillo Swaka, in a letter addressed to the Joint Monitoring and Evaluation claimed the peace process initiated after August 2015 "has clearly failed, resulting in the current tragedy".

Read full article: [Sudan Tribune](#) (03/15)

UN expert urges action to end rights abuses in a country where 'impunity is the norm'

Amid a "massive" increase in gross human rights violations, as well as an escalation in fighting in South Sudan, the head of a United Nations rights probe said today that to prevent further escalation and abuses in a country where "impunity is the norm," the international community must be bold enough to push for establishment of a court and bring prosecutions.

Read full article: [UN News](#) (03/14)

Japan to end 5-year peacekeeping mission in South Sudan

Japan is ending its peacekeeping mission in troubled South Sudan after five years, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe announced Friday. Abe said Japan would not renew the mission after the current rotation returns in May. The 350-person team has focused on road construction. The team, which arrived in South Sudan in November, was Japan's first to have an expanded mandate to use force if necessary to protect civilians and UN staff.

Read full article: [VOA News](#) (03/10)

MIDDLE EAST

Israel / Palestine

In first, UN agency accuses Israel of being an 'apartheid regime'

A UN agency published a report on Wednesday accusing Israel of imposing an "apartheid regime" of racial discrimination on the Palestinian people, and said it was the first time a UN body had clearly made the charge. ... UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric told reporters in New York that the report was published without any prior consultation with the UN secretariat. "The report as it stands does not reflect the views of the secretary-general (Antonio Guterres)," said Dujarric

Read full article: [Haaretz](#) (03/16)

SOUTH AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

Colombia

Colombia congress approves transitional war crimes courts

Colombia's Congress on Monday approved the formation of a transitional justice system should bring justice to approximately 8 million victims of more than half a century of war. The justice system, consisting of a Transitional Justice Tribunal, a Truth Commission and a Missing Persons unit, is a key part of the peace deal with Marxist FARC rebels closed in November last year.

Read full article: [Colombia Reports](#) (03/14)

OTHER PEACEKEEPING RELEVANT NEWS

US funding for the UN - in charts

Media reports, leaks and off-the-record briefings from President Donald Trump's administration suggest the new leadership is looking for savings of 37 percent from line 150, to be redirected to defence. Within that goal, the administration wants to cut spending through the UN by half, although it may be phased over a period of three years, according to *Foreign Policy*. ... In any case, broadly speaking, how much does the US really spend on international relations, aid and multilateral affairs, and where might the axe fall?

Read full article: [Irinnews](#) (03/15)

New AU chief Moussa Faki takes office

New African Union Commission chief Moussa Faki Mahamat officially takes up his post on Tuesday. But who is Faki and what does he stand for?

Read full article: [DW](#) (03/14)