



Peace Operations Update

Aktuelle Informationen zu Friedenseinsätzen

20.2017

May 12–18

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

EUROPE

Albania

Albania resolves political crisis with election deal

Acting under diplomatic pressure, both Prime Minister Edi Rama and opposition leader Lulzim Basha have reached a deal on holding elections in which all parties will now take part.

Read full article: [Balkan Insight](#) (05/18)

Cyprus

UN envoy: Cyprus peace talks at risk from possible ‘crisis’

Talks aimed at reunifying ethnically divided Cyprus are at risk of collapse because of a possible “international crisis,” a United Nations envoy said Thursday, amid tensions over oil and gas exploration off the east Mediterranean island.

Read full article: [Washington Post](#) (05/11)

Kosovo

UN envoy warns against Kosovo and Serbia trading ‘ethno-nationalist’ barbs

A flurry of recent intolerant and provocative rhetoric has further damaged the trust between Kosovo and Serbia – a development that must be closely watched – though the situation remains generally stable, the head of the United Nations peacekeeping mission in Kosovo told the Security Council today.

Read full article: [UN News](#) (05/16)

Macedonia

Macedonia's parliament likely to delay local elections

[...] Local elections should have been concluded already. However, because of the political crisis over the former ruling VMRO DPMNE party's refusal to allow a transition of power to the new majority after the December elections, parliament has been unable to convene and set the date for local elections, or delay them.

Read full article: [Balkan Insight](#) (05/16)

Moldova

European parliament postpones aid to Moldova

European lawmakers have delayed the disbursement of financial assistance to Moldova after several political groups in the chamber voiced concerns about the political situation in the country.

Read full article: [RFE/RL](#) (05/16)

Serbia

Serbia failing to prosecute war crimes, HLC says

New report by leading NGO says if Serbia maintains its current slow pace in prosecuting war crimes, less than 10 per cent of alleged culprits will face due process in the next 10 years.

Read full article: [Balkan Insight](#) (05/18)

CAUCASUS

Armenia

OSCE Secretary General, on forthcoming closure of Yerevan Office, commends work of staff

OSCE Secretary General Lamberto Zannier said today that the Organization had to start the process of closure of the Office in Yerevan, since no consensus could be reached on the future mandate of the Office. The closure of the OSCE Office in Yerevan follows months of negotiations and extensive efforts by the 2016 German OSCE Chairmanship and the 2017 Austrian OSCE Chairmanship to resolve the deadlock on the extension of the Office's mandate.

Read full article: [OSCE](#) (05/18)

Observers call for 'further democratic consolidation' after elections

International observers have welcomed what they called an improved electoral framework in Armenia and new technologies to prevent fraud, but warned that "more needs to be done to address the root cause of apathy and frustration about politics" in the South Caucasus country.

Read full article: [RFE/RL](#) (05/17)

Nagorno-Karabakh

Azerbaijan hits Armenian missile system in Nagorno-Karabakh

[...] According to the AP news agency, Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry said its forces on May 15 "destroyed an Osa air defense system along with its crew." The ministry added that the system's deployment near the line of control was a "provocation" and a threat to Azerbaijani aircraft.

Read full article: [RFE/RL](#) (05/15)

AFRICA

Boko Haram affected areas

Military graft undermines Nigeria's fight against Boko Haram: Transparency Int'l

Military corruption is weakening Nigeria's efforts to battle the Islamist insurgency of Boko Haram, the watchdog Transparency International said on Thursday.

Read full article: [Reuters Africa](#) (05/18)

Central African Republic

Red Cross: 115 bodies found in Bangassou

Red Cross on Wednesday said its workers had found 115 bodies in the Central African Republic's (CAR) border town of Bangassou after several days of militia attacks, raising by more than four times a previously reported death toll.

Read full article: [Al Jazeera](#) (05/17)

Spreading violence in CAR sets off 'loud alarm bells' – UN human rights chief

The United Nations human rights chief today expressed grave alarm over the spread of violence by armed groups against the civilian population in several parts of the Central African Republic in recent months, as well as attacks against UN peacekeepers in the country's southeast.

Read full article: [UN News](#) (05/16)

Christian militias renew attack on UN base

Militia fighters from Central African Republic's (CAR) Christian minority attacked a U.N. base for the second consecutive night, a U.N. official said on Sunday, after a week of violence that has killed six peacekeepers at the southeastern border.

Read full article: [Reuters Africa](#) (05/15)

Cote d'Ivoire

UN chief welcomes country's return to calm after unrest

United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres has commended the Government of Côte d'Ivoire for restoring security following a mutiny over pay, his spokesperson said.

Read full article: [UN News](#) (05/17) [BBC](#) (05/15)

Democratic Republic of the Congo

DRC election risks delay due to militia violence

Democratic Republic of Congo's presidential election, slated for late this year to choose a successor to President Joseph Kabila, could be delayed because of persistent militia violence in central Congo, the election commission president said.

Read full article: [defenceWeb](#) (05/15)

DRC unrest killed 390 fighters, 124 troops since end March

Spiralling violence in DR Congo's central Kasai region has killed 390 tribal militia fighters and 124 government troops since the end of March, the army said Monday.

Read full article: [Daily Mail](#) (05/15)

Guinea-Bissau

Security Council 'ready to act' if political crisis worsens

Expressing deep concern over the protracted political and institutional crisis in Guinea Bissau, the United Nations Security Council has said it is ready to take necessary measures if the situation further deteriorates.

Read full article: [UN News](#) (05/12)

Libya

Libyan commander stages show of force on Benghazi campaign anniversary

[...] Haftar's self-styled Libyan National Army (LNA) has become the dominant force in eastern Libya over the past three years, though it continues to face armed resistance in Benghazi and other regions, and to take heavy losses.

Read full article: [Reuters Africa](#) (05/17)

De Maizière fordert EU-Grenzschutzmission in Libyen

Die Bundesregierung hat die Europäische Union (EU) aufgefordert, ihre Anstrengungen im Kampf gegen die Flüchtlingskrise deutlich zu verstärken. Konkret schlägt der zuständige Bundesinnenminister Thomas de Maizière die Entsendung einer EU-Grenzschutzmission an die Südgrenze Libyens vor.

Read full article: [Die Welt](#) (05/14)

Mali

Bundestag verlängert Mali-Einsatz der Bundeswehr

Der Bundeswehreinsatz im Rahmen der EU-geführten Ausbildungsmission EUTM Mali (*European Union Training Mission Mali*) wird fortgesetzt. Das hat der Bundestag am Donnerstag, 18. Mai 2017, beschlossen, als er einen Antrag der Bundesregierung ([18/11628](#)) mit 500 Stimmen bei 64 Gegenstimmen und einer Enthaltung annahm. ... Wie die Bundesregierung in ihrem Antrag schreibt, liegt die Obergrenze erneut bei 300 Soldaten

Read full article: [Bundestag](#) (05/18)

UN to deploy 'rapid intervention force' in central Mali

A rapid intervention force of Senegalese troops will soon be deployed in central Mali, which has seen an increase in jihadist attacks and communal violence since 2015, the new UN peacekeeping chief said. ... "In light of the security situation," the UN's Mali mission (MINUSMA) had a "robust mandate but, despite its efforts, there was a lack of capacity," Lacroix said Wednesday.

Read full article: [AFP/Yahoo News](#) (05/18)

Mali's Keita vows to keep fighting 'terrorist groups'

Mali will keep fighting "terrorist groups" in the country until they engage in serious peace talks, the country's President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita has said.

Read full article: [Al Jazeera](#) (05/17)

Mali organizes to stop terrorist cells

Reducing violent extremism in Mali seems technically and tactically uncertain, owing to the complexity of regional politics. This is marked by an increasing number of players and stakeholders whose interests compete more often than they align.

Read full article: [defenceWeb](#) (05/17)

Somalia

Report of the Secretary-General on Somalia

Read full report: [S/2017/408](#) (05/09)

South Sudan

South Sudan president says peace agreement entering critical stage

South Sudanese President Salva Kiir on Wednesday called for international support to the government efforts to implement the peace deal signed in August 2015 saying that the process is entering a critical stage.

Read full article: [Sudan Tribune](#) (05/17)

Norway to host reconciliation conference on S. Sudan

Norway has invited South Sudan government and members of the country's opposition parties for a reconciliation conference due next month, its special envoy to South Sudan, Erling Skojonsberg said. ... Norway played a key role in the negotiations for the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement between North and South Sudan to end the second Sudanese civil war.

Read full article: [Sudan Tribune](#) (05/14)

South Sudan / Sudan (Abyei)

Security Council reduces Abyei force

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Monday has decided to reduce Abyei force and warned it may withdraw its support to the Sudan-South Sudan border monitoring force if they continue to impede the activation of the operation. The 15-member body unanimously adopted the resolution 2352 (2017) which provides extending until 15 November 2017 the mandate of the United Nations Interim Force for Abyei

(UNISFA). Also, the Council decided to reduce UNISFA's troops from 5,326 to 4,791, marking the first change in the Force's troop levels since 2013.

Read full article: [Sudan Tribune](#) (05/16)

Western Sahara

Lacroix reiterates UN SG's willingness to reopen negotiations

The Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations Jean-Pierre Lacroix on Sunday reiterated the willingness of the new United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres to reopen negotiations between the Polisario Front and Morocco to settle the conflict the occupied Western Sahara.

Read full article: [Sahara Press Service](#) (05/15)

MIDDLE EAST

Iraq

UN says 200,000 more people could flee Mosul fighting

[...] Nearly 700,000 people have already been displaced from Mosul since Iraq's military launched a major operation to retake the city from the extremist group Islamic State (IS) in October.

Read full article: [RFE/RL](#) (05/18)

Top NATO commanders recommend joining anti-IS coalition

Top NATO commanders have recommended that the military alliance join the international coalition fighting the Islamic State extremist group. The chairman of the NATO military committee, General Petr Pavel, said ... the alliance's military leaders agreed "that NATO can and should do more" to increase the capacity of Iraq and other countries fighting IS to better defend themselves.

Read full article: [RFE/RL](#) (05/17)

CENTRAL ASIA

Afghanistan

Afghan conflict-related child deaths spike to record levels

The United Nations says conflict-related incidents in Afghanistan killed more than 280 children in the first four months of this year, a 21 percent increase compared to the same period in 2016.

Read full article: [VOA News](#) (05/15) [UN News](#) (05/16)

Colombia

Colombia law gives former FARC rebels role in politics

Colombia's congress has approved a law ratifying provisions of a peace agreement that permits the country's largest leftist guerrilla group, FARC, to participate in politics. The senate voted 52-2 on Wednesday in favour of the law that provides for the "political reintegration" of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC).

Read full article: [Al Jazeera](#) (05/11)

Security Council welcomes commitment of Government and FARC-EP to peace process

The opposition in Colombia has begun to lay down arms, a move welcomed today by the United Nations Security Council which recently visited the country to see the peace efforts first-hand. ... Observers from the UN Mission in Colombia, are actively involved in the process of laying down arms by registering and identifying all the weapons present in FARC-EP camps within all 26 war zones, storing and then neutralizing and extracting the arms.

Read full article: [UN News](#) (05/11)

OTHER PEACEKEEPING RELEVANT NEWS

"EU remains committed to strengthen security and defence": Council adopts Conclusions

On 18 May the Council adopted conclusions on security and defence in the context of the EU Global Strategy. The conclusions take note of progress in strengthening cooperation in the area of security and defence, and provide guidance for further work.

Read full article: [EU Press Release](#) (05/18)

Guterres says EU is 'fundamental pillar' of UN

The European Union is a "fundamental pillar" of the United Nations and should lead the way in solving conflicts and promoting human rights around the world, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres told the European Parliament on May 17.

Read full article: [RFE/RL](#) (05/17)

UK blocks EU military unit in wording spat

The U.K. is standing in the way of the creation of an EU military unit because it objects to use of the words "operational HQ," according to EU diplomats. The EU wants to set up a Military Planning and Conduct Capabilities (MPCC) unit, which would be responsible for EU training missions in Somalia, Mali and Central African Republic.

Read full article: [Politico](#) (05/12)