



Peace Operations Update

Aktuelle Informationen zu Friedenseinsätzen

02.2019

January 04–10

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

EUROPE

Kosovo

Mogherini, Kosovar delegation discuss normalizing relations with Serbia

EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini on January 8 met with Kosovo's recently appointed negotiators for Pristina's dialogue with Belgrade and urged them to revoke customs tariffs imposed on Serbia and Bosnia-Herzegovina last year.

Read full article: [RFE/RL](#) (01/08)

Macedonia

Macedonia lawmakers in final debate on renaming country

Macedonian lawmakers are in the final stretch of renaming their country North Macedonia as part of a deal with neighboring Greece in return for membership of NATO and potentially the European Union.

Read full article: [VOA News](#) (01/09)

Serbia

Serbs protest against Vucic for fifth week, demand end to attacks on journalists, activists

Thousands of people marched ... through Belgrade to protest against Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic and demand an end to attacks against journalists and opposition figures. ... The antigovernment protest on January 5 was the fifth in as many weeks.

Read full article: [RFE/RL](#) (01/05)

Boko Haram affected areas

UN alarmed at uprooting of civilians in Nigeria's war with militants

The United Nations voiced alarm on Wednesday at the uprooting of more than 30,000 Nigerians forced to flee the protracted war against Islamist insurgents in the country's northeast.

Read full article: [VOA News](#) (01/09) [UN News](#) (01/09)

Nigerian military raids paper after Boko Haram article

Nigerian soldiers raided the offices of the country's Daily Trust newspaper and arrested two of its journalists following an article about the military's fight against Islamist militants in the northeast, the newspaper said on Sunday. ... An uptick in attacks by Islamist militants in recent months has made security a key campaign issue ahead of the Feb. 16 presidential election in which Muhammadu Buhari will seek a second term.

Read full article: [Reuters Africa](#) (01/07)

Democratic Republic of the Congo

DR Congo candidate Fayulu denounces 'electoral coup'

The runner-up in the Democratic Republic of Congo's long-awaited presidential poll Martin Fayulu on Thursday denounced the results as an "electoral coup".

Read full article: [The Fast African](#) (01/10)

Felix Tshisekedi: Opposition leader named winner in DRC poll

Opposition candidate Felix Tshisekedi has won the Democratic Republic of Congo's tightly contested presidential vote, the electoral commission says. The provisional result puts him ahead of rival opposition candidate Martin Fayulu who has denounced it as a fraud. [France has also questioned the outcome.](#)

Read full article: [BBC](#) (01/10) [New York Times](#) (01/09)

Restore internet services as 'a matter of urgency', urges UN expert

More than a week after voters went to the polls to choose a new President in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), results have yet to be announced and all primary telecommunications remain shut down – prompting a UN expert on Monday to urge the **authorities to restore internet services as “a matter of urgency”**. **“A general network shutdown is in clear violation of international law and cannot be justified by any means,”** said David Kaye, the UN Special Rapporteur on freedom of expression, commenting on the information blackout in place since 30 December.

Read full article: [UN News](#) (01/07)

Libya

West 'risks helping political hijack of Libya's peace talks'

Libya risks losing its last chance to find a peaceful solution to four years of deadlock because political parties backed by the west are plotting to hijack crucial talks, a former Libyan diplomat has told the UN. The warning from the country's former ambassador to the UN, Ibrahim Dabbashi, comes in an open letter to Ghassan Salame, the UN special envoy for Libya.

Read full article: [The Guardian](#) (01/10)

Report of the Secretary-General on UNSMIL

Read full report: [S/2019/19](#) (01/07)

Mali

El Salvador sends more MD 500s to Mali

El Salvador has sent a second aviation unit with three MD 500E helicopters to Mali, where they have taken over from the German Tiger attack helicopters operated on behalf of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilisation Mission in Mali (MINUSMA).

Read full article: [defenceWeb](#) (01/04)

Senegal

More attacks, 'persisting security challenges' threaten progress in West Africa, Sahel

A rising number of attacks by extremist groups, using more sophisticated tactics, risk undermining progress in West Africa and the Sahel, the region's UN envoy told the Security Council on Thursday. "Military solutions, while necessary, are not sufficient," Mohamed Ibn Chambas, the Special Representative for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS), pushing for holistic responses, "grounded in the respect of human rights, and the socioeconomic needs of the population in the affected areas."

Read full article: [UN News](#) (01/10)

Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the UN Office for West Africa / the Sahel

Read full report: [S/2018/1175](#) (18/12/28)

Somalia

Somali region once riddled with pirates sees peaceful power transfer

A region of war-ravaged Somalia elected a new president on Tuesday, a peaceful transfer of power in a part of the country notorious for piracy and Islamist militias. Said Abdullahi Deni, who is likely to continue Puntland's close cooperation with the United States, defeated his closest rival, Asad Osman Abdullahi.

Read full article: [Reuters Africa](#) (01/08)

2019 'a critical year' for Somali politics and development says Security Council

In the wake of the Somali Government's decision last week to expel the head of the UN's assistance mission, UNSOM, the Security Council on Saturday cautioned that 2019 would be "a critical year" for the east African nation that is reconstituting itself after decades of conflict.

Read full article: [UN News](#) (01/06)

UN chief expresses 'full confidence' in top Somalia official following Government expulsion

The UN Secretary-General said on Friday he "deeply regrets" the Somali Government's decision to expel his Special Representative in the country, adding that he had "full confidence" in Nicholas Haysom's abilities and track record as an international civil servant. According to news reports, Mr. Haysom was accused of violating diplomatic rules and overstepping his authority by the Government, in questioning the legal basis for the arrest of a former al-Shabab deputy leader early last month, who was standing for election in South West state.

Read full article: [UN News](#) (01/04) [UN Press Release](#) (01/04)

Report of the Secretary-General on Somalia

Read full report: [S/2018/1149](#) (18/12/21)

South Sudan

In South Sudan, girls forced into war face gender double standards in peace

Women and girls bear an additional burden in any war, as the threat of sexual violence or abuse combines with the standard risks of conflict. The conflict in South Sudan is no different. Since it began in December 2013, both sides have been accused of using rape and sexual assault as a "weapon of war". UN envoy Pramila Patten told the Security Council last month that the practice "escalated dramatically" in 2018.

Read full article: [Irinnews](#) (01/07)

African Union's PSC backs IGAD force for South Sudan despite UN reluctance

The African Union Peace and Security Council (PSC) backed the deployment of an IGAD force within the UN Mission in South Sudan despite the growing UN reservations over the force and its role in the peace process.

Read full article: [Sudan Tribune](#) (01/01)

CENTRAL ASIA

Afghanistan

U.S. spent \$8 billion on Afghanistan's air force. It's still struggling.

[...] Eleven years after the United States began building an air force for Afghanistan at a cost now nearing \$8 billion, it remains a frustrating work in progress, with no end in sight. Some aviation experts say the Afghans will rely on American maintenance and other support for years.

Read full article: [New York Times](#) (01/10)

Afghan Taliban cancel peace talks with US citing 'agenda disagreement'

The Afghan Taliban said Tuesday they had called off peace talks with U.S. officials in Qatar this week due to an "agenda disagreement," especially over the involvement of Afghan officials as well as a possible cease-fire and prisoner exchange.

Read full article: [VOA News](#) (01/08)

Related coverage: [U.S. Envoy on Afghanistan starts regional tour after Taliban talks cancelled RFE/RL](#) (01/09)

SOUTH AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

Colombia

Report of the Secretary-General on the UN Verification Mission in Colombia

Read full report: [S/2018/1159](#) (18/12/26)

Haiti

Mission in transition: planning for the end of UN peacekeeping in Haiti

The process of reconfiguring, closing, and handing over responsibilities to a UN country team or host-state institutions is a crucial—and challenging—part of the life cycle of a UN peacekeeping mission. ... This paper focuses on the two most recent peacekeeping transitions in Haiti: one from the UN Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) to the UN Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH), ... and the ongoing transition toward the closure of MINUJUSTH and preparations for the eventual handover to other actors.

Read full article: [IPI](#) (18/12/26)

OTHER PEACEKEEPING RELEVANT NEWS

BIRN publishes report on challenges to transitional justice

The Balkan Investigative Reporting Network published a major report on post-conflict justice in the former Yugoslavia, highlighting regional challenges in dealing with issues like war crimes prosecutions, missing persons and victims' participation in judicial processes.

Read full article: [Balkan Insight](#) (01/08)

Yemen

UN struggling to get boots on ground in Yemen's Hodeidah

The United Nations is struggling to get personnel on the ground to monitor the shaky truce in Yemen's strategic port city of Hodeidah, according to documents seen by Middle East Eye. The latest report from UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, which was circulated on Wednesday, says only 39 UN personnel are "in-country" in Yemen, while 28 more are waiting to have their visas approved by officials in the rebel-held capital, Sanaa.

Read full article: [Middle East Eye](#) (01/09)