



# Peace Operations Update

Aktuelle Informationen zu Friedenseinsätzen

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

## NEW ZIF EXTERNAL PUBLICATION

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### Mali in conflict – new approaches are needed

While the presence of the UN mission MINUSMA has prevented the collapse of the Malian state, long-term stabilization remains elusive. In a recent article in *Internationale Politik*, Tobias von Gienanth argues that the UN and the international community need to re-focus their engagement on protection of civilians and human rights and adapt MINUSMA's mandate and other activities accordingly.

Read full article [here](#) (German only)

## EUROPE

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### Kosovo

#### U.S. envoy calls on Serbia, Kosovo to end 'mutual provocations'

A senior U.S. envoy has urged feuding neighbors Serbia and Kosovo to stop provoking each other and to resume talks aimed at normalizing relations. David Hale, the undersecretary of state for political affairs, on March 8 also called on Kosovo to withdraw its 100 percent tariff on Serbian goods to allow European Union-led talks between the former wartime foes to restart.

Read full article: [RFE/RL](#) (03/08)

Serbia **condemns Kosovo's** new negotiating platform on talks

Belgrade has accused Kosovo of killing off the EU-led dialogue process with its new 11-point platform for negotiations - but has promised a 'moderate' response.

*Read full article: [Balkan Insight](#) (03/08)*

Moldova

Constitutional Court confirms February 24 vote result

**Moldova's Constitutional Court has confirmed the outcome of the country's February 24 parliamentary elections, rejecting an appeal by some opposition parties to invalidate the results in several constituencies.**

*Read full article: [RFE/RL](#) (03/10)*

Montenegro

President blames outside interference for election loss

Montenegrin President Milo Djukanovic has criticized Kosovo and Albanian officials for supporting the ethnic Albanian coalition that won local elections held in the recently reconstituted municipality of Tuzi.

*Read full article: [Balkan Insight](#) (03/14)*

Ukraine

Joint UN, OSCE engagement can address crisis in Ukraine

**What is happening in and around Ukraine is "unacceptable, the Chairperson-in-Office for the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) told the United Nations Security Council on Thursday.**

*Read full article: [UN News](#) (03/07)*

CAUCASUS

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Nagorno-Karabakh

Aliyev rejects Armenian proposal to include Karabakh officials in peace talks

**Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev has rejected an Armenian proposal on a change to the talks format on the settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinian reiterated on March 14 that the inclusion of officials from the disputed region in the settlement process remained a priority to Yerevan.**

*Read full article: [RFE/RL](#) (03/14)*

### Burundi

#### Democratic space in Burundi is shrinking - UN Panel

A UN commission of inquiry on Burundi says the government of President Pierre Nkurunziza is becoming more repressive. The three-member commission says this does not bode well for elections in 2020. ... The commission of inquiry remains the only international mechanism for monitoring Burundi's human rights situation.

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

### Central African Republic

#### Hurdles on the road to peace

The government of the Central African Republic and 14 of the most powerful armed groups operating in the country came together to sign a peace deal last month. If it goes to plan, the signatories will be responsible for leading the country into a new era of peace, allowing its incredible potential to blossom. However, **failure will further solidify CAR's place as one of the world's most fractured states.**

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

### Democratic Republic of the Congo

#### President frees several political prisoners, 700 others

Congo's new president, Felix Tshisekedi, pardoned three prominent political prisoners and 700 regular ones on Wednesday, state TV reported, a good will gesture signalling a break with a predecessor who had scores of his opponents jailed.

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

#### **'New waves of violence' likely, UN warns, unless state acts to prevent intercommunal reprisals**

**New waves of violence**" could erupt "at any time" in western Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), the UN rights office warned on Tuesday, **unless the Government acts to ease "tensions and resentment"** between the two communities involved. Several days of planned and orchestrated killings took place in Mai-Ndombe province, in Yumbi territory at the end of last year, where hundreds of men, women and children were killed. The final assessment of a UN probe into the events of 16-18 December, says the violence may amount to crimes against humanity.

*Read full article: [UN News](#) (03/12)*

#### Ex-Congolese vice president seeks damages from war crimes court

Former Congolese vice president and militia leader Jean-Pierre Bemba, who was acquitted of war crimes by the International Criminal Court (ICC) last year, is seeking nearly 70 million euros (\$75 million dollars) in damages. **Bemba's lawyers on Monday said paperwork had been filed requesting compensation for unlawful detention, legal fees and losses due to the alleged mismanagement of assets seized by the court.**

*Read full article: [Reuters](#) (03/11)*

Report of the Secretary-General on MONUSCO

Read full report: [S/2019/218](#) (03/07)

## Guinea-Bissau

**‘A new chapter’ dawns for democracy in Guinea-Bissau: top UN official**

The UN’s Deputy Special Representative in the West African state of Guinea-Bissau, has congratulated politicians, voters and officials across the country for the peaceful conduct of Sunday’s national assembly elections. ... Last month, the Security Council approved a resolution which will see the closure of the UN Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau, UNIOGBIS, by the end of 2020.

Read full article: [UN News](#) (03/10) [UN News](#) (03/09)

## Libya

Libya among four largest arms importers in Africa

Libya is among the four largest importers of arms in the African continent, along with Algeria, Morocco, and Tunisia, which represent together 75% of the continent's arms imports, according to the think tank Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) annual report released Monday.

Read full article: [The Libya Observer](#) (03/14)

## Mali

In militarised Mali, humanitarian responders say aid is an afterthought

[...] As needs rise, aid groups say their ability to respond is being hamstrung by an increasingly militarised security landscape marked by confusion between military and humanitarian actors, shifting conflict dynamics, and funding gaps that are leaving displaced people like Guindo sick and starving.

Read full article: [Irinnews](#) (03/11)

## South Sudan

**Salvaging South Sudan’s fragile peace deal – ICG report**

The truce in South Sudan is holding but could break down at any time. To stave off renewed civil war, external actors should urge the belligerents to strike new bargains on security and internal boundaries – and accept a third-party protection force for the capital.

Read full article: [International Crisis Group](#) (03/13)

South Sudan violence: UN wants to end culture of impunity

Reports of atrocities in South Sudan despite last year's landmark deal to end the civil war.

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

Peace deal holds, **but humanitarian funding ‘ultimately unsustainable,’ says top UN envoy**

September’s UN-backed South Sudan peace agreement is holding and has led to positive change, but tens of thousands of civilians in the war-weary nation are still reliant of life-saving humanitarian assistance, and time is running out. This was the message that David Shearer, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for South Sudan, relayed to the Security Council on Friday.

Read full article: [UN News](#) (03/08)

## MIDDLE EAST

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### Yemen

#### US Senate votes to end involvement in Yemen war

The bipartisan bill to end US support for the Saudi-led coalition's war in Yemen will now move to the House of Representatives, where it's likely to pass. However, President Trump has vowed to veto the resolution.

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

#### Security Council members urge Yemen parties to implement peace deal

The five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council urged Yemen's warring parties on Tuesday to implement a peace deal in the port city of Hodeidah, a move they hope will lead to an end of the four-year-old conflict. The Chinese, French, Russian, British and U.S. ambassadors to Yemen said in a statement they were "extremely concerned" that the agreement reached in Stockholm in December had not been implemented.

*Read full article: [Reuters AlertNet](#) (03/12)*

## CENTRAL ASIA

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### Afghanistan

#### U.S., Taliban talks end for now with no Afghan peace deal

U.S. and Taliban negotiators wrapped up their longest round of peace talks on Tuesday with progress made but no agreement on when foreign troops might withdraw, officials from both sides said. The 16 days of talks, in which the United States also sought assurances that the Taliban would not allow militant groups to use Afghanistan to stage attacks, are expected to resume in late March.

*Read full article: [Reuters AlertNet](#) (03/13)*

#### Afghanistan facing 'daunting challenges' ahead of presidential vote

The UN Special Representative in Afghanistan, Tadamichi Yamamoto, hailed on-going efforts made towards peace and the engagement of women and youth across the country, but warned the Security Council on Monday that "daunting challenges" remain.

*Read full article: [UN News](#) (03/11)*

#### Taliban wipe out an Afghan army company while talking peace with the U.S.

Taliban fighters killed or captured an entire Afghan National Army company of more than 50 soldiers on Monday, Afghan officials said, the latest in a series of major attacks by the militant group even as it pursues a peace deal with the United States.

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

## Kazakhstan

EU lawmakers call on Kazakhstan to 'stop political repression'

European lawmakers have adopted a resolution urging Kazakhstan to "respect human rights and fundamental freedoms." The text passed in the European Parliament on March 14 calls on the Kazakh authorities to "put an end to human rights abuses and all forms of political repression," noting that the number of political prisoners in the country has increased and the right to freedom of association remains largely restricted.

*Read full article: [RFE/RL](#) (03/14)*

## SOUTH AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

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### Colombia

**Colombia's foreign minister to meet with** Guterres over war crimes tribunal crisis

Colombia's foreign minister will meet with the secretary general of the United Nations after the international organization expressed "regret" over President Ivan Duque's refusal to sign off on the country's war crimes tribunal.

*Read full article: [Colombia Reports](#) (03/12)*