



# Peace Operations Update Aktuelle Informationen zu Friedenseinsätzen



February 15-21

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

#### **NEW ZIF PUBLICATIONS**

Three new ZIF kompakt: UNMISS, UNAMID and Resolute Support

Today, the German Parliament will discuss a cabinet decision to extend Germany's contribution to the UN missions in South Sudan (UNMISS) and Darfur (UNAMID) as well as the NATO-led Resolute Support Mission (RSM) in Afghanistan. To contribute to an informed debate, ZIF had prepared a ZIF kompakt for each mission, briefly describing its background, mandate, development and current internal and external challenges.

You can download the papers here: <u>UNMISS | UNAMID | Resolute Support Mission</u> Please note that they are available in German only.

#### **EUROPE**

#### Albania

Albanian opposition holds anti-government rally

Sixty-five opposition lawmakers resigned from parliament ahead of protests calling for the government to step down. The EU warned against a repeat of weekend violence and called the resignations damaging to democracy.

Read full article: <u>DW</u> (02/21)

# Bosnia and Herzegovina

# Bosnia's Federation entity finally forms new parliament

The larger of Bosnia's two entities, the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, has formed a new parliament almost four months after the general elections – which could mean the country finally getting a new state government.

Read full article: Balkan Insight (02/20)

#### Ukraine

Poroshenko wants UN to move ahead with peacekeeping mission in Eastern Ukraine

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko has called on the UN secretary-general to draw up options for a peacekeeping mission in eastern Ukraine, saying such a mission could be a "decisive factor" in ending the conflict there.

Read full article: RFE/RL (02/20)

EUAM brings together police, civil society and state authorities ahead of elections

Last week, the European Union Advisory Mission (EUAM) organised a round-table in the south Ukrainian city of Odesa in order to assist police to detect and react to violations taking place during the ongoing presidential election campaign in the country.

Read full article: <u>EU Neighbours east</u> (02/20)

#### **AFRICA**

## Burundi

Inclusive dialogue 'only viable option' for resolving country's political crisis says, UN envoy An inter-Burundian, inclusive dialogue remains the only viable option for lasting settlement of the political crisis and the holding of elections in 2020 in a peaceful environment, the United Nations Special Envoy for the country, Michel Kafando, told the Security Council on Tuesday.

Read full article: <u>UN News</u> (02/19)

Burundi: Government to go ahead with 2020 polls

Burundi government has said it would go ahead with preparations of next year's general elections as the country's security situation has tremendously improved.

Read full article: <u>allAfrica</u> (02/15)

## Central African Republic

Report of the Secretary-General on MINUSCA

Read full report: <u>S/2019/147</u> (02/15)

#### Cote d'Ivoire

UN Security Council visits Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea-Bissau

Members of the United Nations Security Council are on a mission to West Africa where they are reviewing strides made in peacebuilding by both Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea-Bissau.

Read full article: <u>UN News</u> (02/16)

# Democratic Republic of the Congo

Police in DR Congo accused of extrajudicial killings

Human Rights Watch says police killed at least 27 people, some of whom were mutilated, during 2018 crackdown on gangs.

Read full article: Al Jazeera (01/21)

Congo leaders pledge allegiance to former president

The former president of the Democratic Republic of Congo Joseph Kabila has made all the leaders of his political coalition pledge their allegiance to him. ... The coalition was created ahead of the election and won most parliamentary seats. ... The party leaders have now agreed to turn the coalition into a government. This raises questions about how much power the new president, Felix Tshisekedi, actually wields.

Read full article: <u>BBC</u> (02/21)

#### Guinea-Bissau

Report of the Secretary-General on the UN Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau *Read full report:* <u>S/2019/115</u> (02/07)

## Libya

World Bank launches new strategy of support for Libya

The World Bank Group announced yesterday a new strategy of support for Libya focused on restoring key services to citizens and promoting economic recovery as a critical contribution to the ongoing peace process.

Read full article: Libya Herald (02/20)

#### Mali

Sahel: EU takes further steps to better support the security of the region

[...] Today, the Council decided to make more effective, at regional level, the work of the EU Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) missions in the Sahel: EUCAP Sahel Mali, EUCAP Sahel Niger and EUTM Mali. It approved a joint civil-military concept of operations on regionalisation of CSDP action in the Sahel. This means that the process of regionalisation will now enter its second phase.

Read full article: <u>EU Press Release</u> (02/18)

# German army convoy comes under fire in Mali

A German convoy was attacked on Saturday as it was returning from a mission to recover a UN transport vehicle 50 kilometers (31 miles) from their base in Gao in western Mali, the German military said in a statement Sunday.

Read full article: <u>allAfrica</u> (02/17)

# Sahel instability spreading to coastal West Africa - Burkina Faso

Islamist militants are increasing their activity in West Africa despite the establishment of a regional force to combat them in the Sahel region, and they are now threatening coastal countries, Burkina Faso's foreign minister said on Saturday. Speaking at the Munich Security Conference, Minister Alpha Barry gave a bleak outlook of the situation more than six years after French troops intervened in Mali to stop Islamist militants advancing on the capital Bamako.

Read full article: <u>Reuters AlertNet</u> (02/16)

#### Somalia

## Burundi, Somalia call for summit to discuss AMISOM troop withdrawal

Burundi and Somalia have called for an emergency summit to discuss the contested withdrawal of 1,000 Burundian troops from the Horn of Africa nation before the end of the month. The African Union is gradually scaling back its Amisom force in troubled Somalia, and announced late last year that the Burundian soldiers must leave by the end of February. Burundi has strongly opposed the drawdown of its troops, ....

Read full article: <u>africanews</u> (02/21)

# South Sudan

'Outraged' UN experts say ongoing widespread human rights violations may amount to war

[...] in a 216-page report it will submit to the Human Rights Council next month, the commission [United Nations Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan] detailed continuing war crimes and crimes against humanity, and intensifying repression by the country's security services.

Read full article: <u>UN News</u> (02/20)

## Oil companies may be complicit in atrocities in South Sudan, UN panel says

Despite a peace agreement, mass atrocities continue in South Sudan, driven partly by fights over control of oil, and foreign oil companies may be complicit in war crimes, a United Nations panel said on Wednesday. *Read full article:* New York Times (02/20)

## US, allies demand stop to new fighting in South Sudan

The United States and European allies say a new flare-up of fighting in South Sudan violates that country's peace agreement, and are demanding the clashes end immediately. A joint statement Wednesday from the U.S., Britain and Norway, known as the Troika, says the fighting around the town of Yei represents a "flagrant breach" of a December 2017 cease-fire and the revitalized peace deal signed by South Sudan's government and several rebel groups last September.

Read full article: <u>VOA News</u> (02/20)

Sexual violence on the rise in South Sudan, UN says

[...] The United Nations said most of the attacks were conducted by youth militias and by elements of forces aligned with Mr. Kiir. A smaller number of attacks were linked to opposition fighters supporting Mr. Machar.

Read full article: New York Times (02/15) Reuters AlertNet (02/15)

## MIDDLE EAST

#### Israel / Palestine

Prospect of lasting peace 'fading by the day' in Gaza and West Bank, senior UN envoy warns
The spectres of violence and radicalism in the Occupied Palestinian Territory are growing, and the prospect
of sustainable peace is fading by the day, a senior UN envoy in the region told the Security Council on
Wednesday.

Read full article: <u>UN News</u> (02/20)

Two States 'side-by-side' is the 'peaceful and just solution' for Israel-Palestine conflict: Guterres

A "peaceful and just solution" to the Israel-Palestine conflict can "only be achieved" through two States "living side-by-side in peace and security", United Nations Secretary-General António Guterresreiterated on Friday.

Read full article: <u>UN News</u> (02/15)

#### Yemen

Moving from a promise made in Sweden towards hope for peace in Yemen

"Significant progress" is being made in implementing the deal reached in Stockholm last December between Government and Houthi leaders in Yemen, according to United Nations Special Envoy Martin Griffiths.

Read full article: <u>UN News</u> (02/19)

# **CENTRAL ASIA**

## Afghanistan

Afghan Loya Jirga to convene next month to discuss peace talks

Afghan politicians and tribal, ethnic, and religious leaders are set to meet for at least four days next month to discuss negotiations with the Taliban, President Ashraf Ghani's special peace envoy has said. Read full article: RFE/RL (02/20) Powerful Afghan political leader warns against squandering peace

A prominent Afghan political leader who once had the support of some officials to lead Afghanistan's negotiating team with the Taliban, warned the president Wednesday against squandering the best opportunity at peace in more than 17 years of war.

Read full article: <u>VOA News</u> (02/20)

US may trim more than 1,000 troops from Afghanistan

Even before any peace push-related drawdowns, the US military is expected to trim troop levels in Afghanistan as part of an efficiency drive by the new commander, a US general said, estimating the cuts may exceed 1,000 forces.

Read full article: <u>Al Jazeera</u> (02/15)

#### SOUTH ASIA

#### India / Pakistan

India-Pakistan tensions escalate after deadly Kashmir attack

India says Pakistan should "stop misleading the international community" and take action against the perpetrators of a deadly militant attack in Indian Kashmir, while Islamabad warns it will swiftly retaliate if New Delhi launches any military action. Tensions between the two nuclear-armed rivals have escalated since a suicide bombing last week against Indian military forces in disputed Kashmir killed 40 paramilitary personnel.

Read full article: <u>VOA News</u> (02/19)

Related coverage:

UN chief urges India and Pakistan to dial down tensions in wake of Kashmir attack

**UN News** (02/20)

#### SOUTH AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

#### Colombia

#### **Duque defunds Colombia's Truth Commission**

Colombia's President Ivan Duque has defunded the Truth Commission, a key element of the country's peace process, according to one of the commission members. The defunding is the latest in a long series of actions that are feared to undermine the peace process that was begun by Duque's predecessor, Nobel Peace Prize laureate Juan Manuel Santos.

Read full article: Colombia Reports (02/20)

Colombia's former government and FARC negotiators reunite to "defend peace"

As President Ivan Duque appears to do everything in his power to undermine Colombia's peace process, the negotiators that bartered the historic 2016 peace deal met again on Wednesday.

Read full article: <u>Colombia Reports</u> (02/20)

## OTHER PEACEKEEPING RELEVANT NEWS

UN moves to help combat sexual abuse in its ranks

The United Nations on Tuesday took steps to tackle sexual exploitation and abuse within its ranks, naming an array of experts to a panel aimed at ending incidents of harassment that have plagued the global agency for years. The panel will advise the UN Secretary-General on ways to address gender-based harassment and abuse by UN staff and U.N.-related forces, according to a statement issued by the Office of Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.

Read full article: Reuters (02/20)