



Peace Operations Update

Aktuelle Informationen zu Friedenseinsätzen

28.2019

July 05–11

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

NEW ZIF PUBLICATION

External publication: Danger Area Western Balkans

In an article for the journal „Internationale Politik“, Andreas Wittkowsky recalls the iron law of the Balkans: When things are not finally settled, all peace is deceiving. Over the last months, the territorial debate between Serbia and Kosovo has caused a lot of damage. Tensions in the region are rising. Hence, there is a dire need for additional international efforts to prevent further escalations. The EU in particular has to refrain from contradictory messages and employ a new incentives policy.

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

EUROPE

Albania

EU scrutinises controversial Albanian media legislation

The EU ambassador to Tirana said the European Commission is examining legislation backed by Albania's government that would make it possible to impose large fines on online media, which critics describe as an attack on freedom of speech.

Read full article: [Balkan Insight](#) (07/11)

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Dutch UN soldiers sue Dutch government over Srebrenica; "sent to impossible mission"
Group of veterans from the Dutch UN unit which was part of UN Peacekeeping mission in Srebrenica region in 1995 files lawsuit against the Netherlands Government.

Read full article: [B92](#) (07/11)

Cyprus

EU, Cyprus protest as second Turkish ship plans to drill off Island

A Turkish ship planning to drill for oil and gas close to Cyprus dropped anchor off the island on Monday, triggering a strong protest from Nicosia and a rebuke from the European Union. Last month, EU leaders warned Turkey to end its gas drilling in waters around the island or face action from the bloc, after Greece and Cyprus pressed other EU states to speak out.

Read full article: [VOA News](#) (07/08)

Kosovo

H.E. Kyle Scott: USA recognizes EU "leadership" in the Belgrade-Prishtina dialogue

U.S. Ambassador to Serbia, Kyle Scott, says that Prishtina should lift the imposed import tariffs on the goods from Central Serbia, for the sake of negotiations

Read full article: [B92](#) (07/08)

Kosovo government denies ban on Serbian officials, deepening confusion

Kosovo's government has denied there was a ban on Serbian officials entering the country, contradicting the Foreign Ministry and deepening confusion in Pristina. The comment by spokeswoman Donjeta Gashi came one day after an adviser to Foreign Minister Behgjet Pacolli announced that no officials from Serbia would be allowed to enter Kosovo.

Read full article: [RFE/RL](#) (07/05)

AFRICA

Burundi

HRW releases stinging report on abuses, calls for holding government to account

Burundi is facing at further global isolation after Human Rights Watch released a stinging report on rights abuses there. The report by the HRW tells of how ruling party youths have carried out dozens of beatings, arbitrary arrests, disappearances, and killings against real and suspected political opposition members, and called on the UN Security Council to increase scrutiny and impose targeted sanctions.

Read full article: [allAfrica](#) (07/07)

Central African Republic

CAR refugees reluctant to return home

Cameroon says only a tiny fraction of the 285,000 Central African Republic refugees in the country have agreed to return to the CAR. Despite a February peace deal and months of negotiations with Cameroon and the United Nations refugee agency, refugees say they do not feel safe enough to return home.

Read full article: [allAfrica](#) (07/09)

Democratic Republic of the Congo

UN sees a path to peace in Kasai region

A team of UN experts reports a decrease in violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo's Kasai region and they say a change in governing authorities may present an opening for peace and reconciliation in the troubled region. The team has presented a report Wednesday on the current situation in Kasai to the UN Human Rights Council.

Read full article: [VOA News](#) (07/10)

'Beyond reasonable doubt', international court convicts notorious rebel leader of war crimes

The International Criminal Court (ICC) on Monday, found former Congolese rebel leader Bosco Ntaganda guilty "beyond reasonable doubt", of 18 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity, in the volatile Ituri district of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), between 2002 and 2003.

Read full article: [UN News](#) (07/08)

Libya

WHO: More than 1,000 killed in battle for Libya's Tripoli

Total of 1,048, including civilians, dead and 5,558 wounded in three months of clashes for the capital, UN agency says.

Read full article: [Al Jazeera](#) (07/09)

UN tells other countries to stay out of Libya

The United Nations Security Council condemned a deadly air strike on a migrant detention centre in Libya, called for warring parties to commit to a ceasefire and urged other countries not to intervene or exacerbate the conflict.

Read full article: [defenceWeb](#) (07/08)

UN Security Council calls for Libya ceasefire

The United Nations Security Council has called on Libya's warring parties to commit to a ceasefire after a deadly air raid on a detention centre for migrants and refugees near the capital, Tripoli.

Read full article: [Al Jazeera](#) (07/06)

Mali

EU pledges €138m more to G5 Sahel Force

The EU's high representative Federica Mogherini pledged €138m extra to the G5 Sahel Force in order to be better equipped to fight insurgency and terrorism in the Sahel region.

Read full article: [EU Observer](#) (07/11)

Mali crisis worsens as hundreds of thousands flee militia attacks

Hundreds of thousands of people are fleeing their homes in Mali, where deadly attacks on villages are destabilising an already critical situation in the country's centre. More than 200,000 people have fled since the start of the year, almost six times the number that were displaced in the same period last year, according to the Rapid Response Mechanism, a tracking and alert system that helps humanitarian organisations respond to vulnerable people.

Read full article: [The Guardian](#) (07/11)

Greater response needed to worsening West African violence - UN head

Islamist attacks are spreading so fast in West Africa that the region should consider bolstering its response beyond current military efforts, and donors should back such a move, the head of the United Nations said on Wednesday. Groups with links to al Qaeda and Islamic State have strengthened their foothold across the arid Sahel this year, making large swathes of territory ungovernable and stoking local ethnic violence, especially in Mali and Burkina Faso.

Read full article: [Reuters AlertNet](#) (07/10) [UN News](#) (07/10)

UK to extend Mali Chinook mission

The United Kingdom will keep its three Chinook transport helicopters in Mali for another six months, where they will continue to support the French-led Operation Barkhane counterterrorism operation. ... The British helicopters bring to the Barkhane force the capability to carry, in a single rotation, up to 5 tonnes of cargo, or forty soldiers, from Gao to isolated sites.

Read full article: [defenceWeb](#) (07/10)

South Sudan

AU taskforce renews bid for direct Kiir, Machar talks

An Africa Union taskforce on restoring peace in South Sudan says broad political engagement with President Salva Kiir and his former vice president Riek Machar is urgently needed to kick-start direct talks between the two leaders which is crucial in implementation of the revitalised agreement.

Read full article: [The East African](#) (07/10)

South Sudan's independent media under pressure

Eight years after independence, South Sudan still struggles to address media challenges. Independent journalists continue to fear for their freedom. Many choose to abandon either the country or their profession.

Read full article: [DW](#) (07/09)

Violence in South Sudan claims more than 100 lives

South Sudan's army and several armed groups killed more than 100 civilians in a surge in violence in a southern region of the country after a peace deal was signed last year, a UN report said. The armed forces committed sexual violence including rape against around 100 women and girls in the same region, Central Equatoria, between September 2018 and April 2019, the report by the UN peacekeeping mission in the country found.

Read full article: [defenceWeb](#) (07/04)

MIDDLE EAST

Iraq

Iraqi forces begin operation against IS along Syrian border

Iraq's security and paramilitary forces began Sunday a military operation along the border with Syria aimed at clearing the area of Islamic State group militants, the military said in a statement.

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

Israel / Palestine

UN official devises blueprint for Israeli accountability

A UN investigator says the world should consider cutting ties with Israel in support of Palestinian quest for statehood.

Read full article: [Al Jazeera](#) (07/11)

CENTRAL ASIA

Afghanistan

Were Afghan peace talks in Qatar a success?

Representatives of the Afghan government and the Taliban reached an agreement on a roadmap to end nearly 18 years of war. But much more difficult work lies ahead to achieve permanent peace, experts say.

Read full article: [DW](#) (07/09)

Kazakhstan

Dozens detained in anti-government protests in major Kazakh cities

Authorities detained dozens of people in Kazakhstan's two largest cities, as protesters staged the latest in a series of rallies against newly elected President Qasym-Zhomart Toqaev.

Read full article: [RFE/RL](#) (07/06)

Turkmenistan

EU foreign policy chief holds talks with Turkmen officials amid rights concerns
[...] Federica Mogherini's trip to Ashgabat on July 6 came as part of the EU's opening of an upgraded representative office in the Turkmen capital, the last of the five ex-Soviet Central Asian nations without a full EU office.

Read full article: [RFE/RL](#) (07/06)

SOUTH AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

Colombia

EU grants aid to prosecution unit dedicated to dismantling paramilitary structures
The European Union will contribute more than \$2.2 million (€2 million euro) to a prosecution unit that seeks to dismantle paramilitary groups, the EU's special envoy to Colombia's peace process said Tuesday. ... The special investigation unit to dismantle paramilitary group was part of a 2016 peace deal with the FARC. Its mandate has become increasingly urgent following the homicides of hundreds of human rights defenders, community leaders and demobilized FARC since the peace process began.

Read full article: [Colombia Reports](#) (07/10)

Former FARC leader's arrest sought in blow to Colombia's peace deal

Colombia's Supreme Court ordered the capture of a former FARC rebel commander-turned lawmaker on Tuesday after he failed to appear for questioning about U.S. drug-trafficking charges, in a fresh blow to the country's landmark peace deal.

Read full article: [Reuters](#) (07/09)

OTHER PEACEKEEPING RELEVANT NEWS

Peace operations benefit from improved cooperation between the UN and troop-providing countries, says peacekeeping chief

Cooperation between the UN Secretariat, Security Council and countries contributing troops and police to peacekeeping operations is "a crucial factor" to enhancing those operations, the UN peacekeeping chief told the Security Council on Wednesday. ... The MINUSMA chief said that the UN must support countries supplying troops "from the beginning", particularly in high-risk missions such as in Mali. Countries which pay "a higher price" in casualties must be prioritized for training, equipment and financial support. He added that "mechanisms for evaluation and accountability" must be "increased and revised".

Read full article: [UN News](#) (07/10)