



Peace Operations Update

Aktuelle Informationen zu Friedenseinsätzen

07.2020

February 07–13

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

NEW ZIF PUBLICATION

ZIF kompakt UNAMID and UNMISS

Two ZIF kompakt published this week offer a quick overview of the backgrounds, mandates, and current developments of the UN operations in Darfur (UNAMID, in cooperation with the African Union) and South Sudan (UNMISS).

Read the ZIF kompakt: [UNAMID](#) and [UNMISS](#) (German only)

EUROPE

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Bosnian Serbs condemned over blockade of state institutions

Since almost no decision in Bosnia can be made without the consent of all of its three constituent peoples, Bosniaks, Serbs and Croats, the Bosnian Serb strike effectively blocks much of the work of government.

Read full article: [Balkan Insight](#) (02/12)

Kosovo

New Kosovo PM says ties with Serbia should be based on 'symmetry'

Kosovo's new prime minister (Albin Kurti) says he intends to abolish punitive tariffs on Serbian goods, as the two countries struggle amid an international push for them to establish diplomatic relations.

Read full article: [RFE/RL](#) (02/07)

North Macedonia

North Macedonia minister faces sack for "name" provocation

North Macedonia's Prime Minister, Oliver Spasovski, on Wednesday moved to axe Labour Minister Rashela Mizrahi from the caretaker government for her refusal to use the country's new official name in a press conference.

Read full article: [Balkan Insight](#) (02/12)

Ukraine

Senior appointments in Moscow and Kyiv point to tentative thaw

In Kyiv, President Volodymyr Zelenskiy elevated aide Andriy Yermak, who had acted as an envoy in prisoner exchanges with Russia in recent months, to the post of chief of staff. In Moscow, the Kremlin said that the relationship with Ukraine would now be handled by the Ukrainian-born deputy head of the Russian presidential administration, Dmitry Kozak, sidelining a noted hardliner, Vladislav Surkov.

Read full article: [EurActive](#) (02/12)

CAUCASUS

Georgia

Opposition leader Gigi Ugulava slams his sentence for graft

Georgia's top court has slapped a prison term of over three years on one of the country's leading opposition figures, Gigi Ugulava. The ex-mayor of Tbilisi claims the ruling is the work of oligarch Bidzina Ivanishvili.

Read full article: [Deutsche Welle](#) (02/10)

AFRICA

Boko Haram affected areas

Nigerian military under scrutiny after latest attacks

Widespread failings in Nigeria's security sector are causing frustrations to boil over in the conflict-ridden north. While reform may be on the horizon, implementation will likely prove to be a major challenge.

Read full article: [Deutsche Welle](#) (02/10)

Central African Republic

28 militiamen sentenced in CAR for murder of civilians, UN peacekeepers

The UN Mission in CAR (MINUSCA) welcomed the verdict of the Bangui Court of Appeal in the trial of 32 fighters from the mostly-Christian Anti-Balaka militia, accused of crimes committed in May, 2017, in Bangassou and other communities in the country's southeast.

Read full article: [UN News](#) (02/11)

Libya

Security Council votes for 'lasting ceasefire' in Libya as Haftar bans UN flights to Tripoli

The text of the UN Security Council resolution, which reaffirmed the conclusions of last month's Berlin Conference on Libya, was drafted by Britain and approved by 14 votes out of 15 with Russia abstaining.

Read full article: [France24](#) (02/12)

Mali

French operations in Mali put 30 militants 'out of action,' as Barkhane builds Sahel Coalition coordination

The operations come as the France-led Operation Barkhane builds command coordination with local partner forces in sub-Saharan Africa's Sahel region, setting up dedicated coordination mechanisms for the new Sahel Coalition in Niger's capital Niamey and Chad's capital N'Djamena.

Read full article: [The Defense Post](#) (02/08)

Mali president acknowledges contacts with jihadists

"The number of deaths in the Sahel is becoming exponential and it's time that certain paths be explored," he said in an interview ... But dialogue with jihadist leaders such as Amadou Koufa and Iyad Ag Ghali has long been considered beyond the pale for the government in Bamako.

Read full article: [VOA News](#) (02/10)

Niger

US military downgrades efforts against extremists in Sahel

The U.S. military has switched from trying to degrade Islamic extremist groups in West Africa's sprawling Sahel region to merely trying to contain them as their deadly threat increases, a new U.S. government report says.

Read full article: [VOA News](#) (02/12)

Somalia

Leaders of Somalia, Somaliland meet for first time

The current leaders of Somalia and the breakaway territory of Somaliland have met for the first time in the latest diplomatic effort by Ethiopia's Nobel Peace Prize-winning prime minister.

Read full article: [Middle East Online](#) (02/12)

Sudan (Darfur)

Sudan, USS Cole victims reach settlement paving way for removal from terror list

The transitional government reached an agreement with the families of U.S. sailors killed in the al Qaeda bombing of the destroyer USS Cole, within the framework of the ongoing process to remove Sudan from the list of State Sponsors of Terrorism (SST)

Read full article: [Sudan Tribune](#) (02/13)

Sudan signals it may send former dictator Omar al-Bashir to ICC

The exact details of how and when the ex-president might be handed over are unclear, and apparently depend on a comprehensive peace deal between authorities and rebels. There are also doubts about the support of Sudan's powerful military for such a move.

Read full article: [The Guardian](#) (02/11)

MIDDLE EAST

Iraq

NATO agrees to expand anti-IS training mission in Iraq

NATO has agreed "in principle" to take over some of the training activities carried out by the U.S.-led coalition against the Islamic State terror group in Iraq, according to NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg.

Read full article: [VOA News](#) (02/12)

Yemen

Saudi-led coalition starts courts martial against Yemen strikes air crews

The Saudi-led coalition fighting Houthi rebels in Yemen has commenced court martial proceedings against air crew in relation to breaches of international humanitarian law, in the first such case of its kind.

Read full article: [The Guardian](#) (02/12)

CENTRAL ASIA

Afghanistan

High death toll in Afghanistan reconstruction efforts

A report titled "The human cost of reconstruction" by the US Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR) – a US government watchdog created to monitor how funds are used in the country – showed that 5,135 people were killed or injured in a period lasting from 2002 to 2018.

Read full article: [Deutsche Welle](#) (02/11)

Read the report: [SIGAR](#)

The return of pro-Iranian militia fighters to Afghanistan fuels fears in Kabul, Washington

With the Syrian war ebbing, several thousand Fatemiyoun fighters (comprised mainly of Afghans from the country's Shi'ite Hazara minority) have returned to their homeland, prompting fears that Iran could mobilize the proxy group to target U.S. interests in neighboring Afghanistan.

Read full article: [RFE/RL](#) (02/07)

Kazakhstan

Death toll rises to 10 from ethnically fueled Kazakh clashes

The clashes were some of the worst ethnic violence in years in the Zhambyl region, located about 130 kilometers west of Kazakhstan's commercial capital, Almaty ... It was unclear what sparked the incidents, which mostly appeared to pit ethnic Kazakhs against Dungans, a Muslim group of Chinese origin.

Read full article: [RFE/RL](#) (02/09)

OTHER PEACEKEEPING RELEVANT NEWS

Eight priorities for the African Union in 2020

African leaders meet in Addis Ababa this week for the annual African Union (AU) summit. This year's theme is "Silencing the Guns", reflecting the continental body's earlier aspirations to end conflicts and prevent genocide in Africa.

Read full report: [International Crisis Group](#) (02/08)

Elections

Early vote results give Azerbaijani president majority needed for power shift

In a preliminary report monitors from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the Council of Europe said "the restrictive legislation and political environment prevented genuine competition" in the elections, while "significant procedural violations during counting and the tabulation" were reported on voting day.

Read full article: [RFE/RL](#) (02/10)

Read the report: [OSCE](#)

Cameroon elections: Polls overshadowed by boycott, separatist violence

Polls closed in Cameroon on Sunday in an election overshadowed by a partial opposition boycott and separatist violence that displaced hundreds of thousands in the region. The elections were the first in seven years after two postponements. An opposition boycott means that the rule of President Paul Biya is unlikely to be brought to an end.

Read full article: [Deutsche Welle](#) (02/09)