

Update Note for the Secretary-General  
22 September 2009

1. Afghanistan

Japanese media reports<sup>1</sup> that Japan intends to host a high-level working-level meeting in late November in Tokyo of countries involved in building peace in Afghanistan. Participants, likely to include Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran, the US, and the EU are expected to discuss security measures, economic support and humanitarian reconstruction support aimed at stabilizing Afghanistan.

2. Democratic Republic of the Congo

On 20 September, MONUC witnessed the handover to the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) by the GoDRC of suspected *génocidaire* Gregoire Ndahimana and the suspect's transfer to Arusha<sup>2</sup>. Ndahimana was charged by the ICTR in 2001 of being implicated in the killing of Rwandan Tutsis in Kivumu commune during the 1994 genocide. Ndahimana was arrested in North Kivu on 11 August due to the joint efforts of the FARDC, ICTR and MONUC. It is the first time that the GoDRC is involved in the arrest and transfer of an ICTR indicted *génocidaire*. An SG statement was issued today welcoming the transfer.

3. Guinea

Djinnit reports<sup>3</sup> that the AU Peace and Security Council met on 17 September in Addis Ababa to review the situation in Guinea. It expressed deep concern regarding the deteriorating situation and its ensuing consequences for the process of return to constitutional order in the country. At the meeting, a decision was made to impose "appropriate sanctions" against the President of the national Council for Democracy and Development (CNDD), Captain Camara, as well as other individuals (both civilian and military), if within one month they do not formally confirm previous commitments undertaken regarding their neutrality and non-participation in the upcoming presidential elections.

<sup>1</sup> (Daily sitrep of 17-21 September 2009)

<sup>2</sup> (CCX 535 of 22/09/09)

<sup>3</sup> (CDX 119 of 18/09/09)

#### 4. Niger

Djinnit informs<sup>4</sup> that according to 16 September reports, Niger opposition parties have unanimously rejected calls for negotiations with President Tandja to resolve the continuing political crisis.

Djinnit comments that with legislative elections scheduled for 20 October approaching, members of the opposition, journalists and human rights activists who opposed the extension of President Tandja's tenure are being arrested and detained. This situation is not conducive to renewing dialogue between the president and his opponents.

#### 5. Nigeria

The two-month ceasefire declared in Mid-July by the main militant umbrella group, Movement for the Emancipation of Niger Delta (MEND), was due to expire on 15 September but MEND announced that same day that it would extend the ceasefire by 30 days<sup>5</sup>. At the same time, it stated that it would continue to reject the amnesty offer launched in August, so long as its political demands were not met and the Government did not address its grievances.

This extension of ceasefire might indicate that MEND is in a weak position after many of its militants have joined the amnesty programme, but it also offers a renewed opportunity for negotiations. Although the militants are holding off on attacks on oil installations and kidnappings, they are pressing the Government to increase federal oil revenues to the Niger Delta region and for the withdrawal of Government troops, and assistance to displaced people seeking to return to their homes.

#### 6. Senegal

In an interview broadcast on 17 September, President Wade stated that he would seek a third consecutive term in 2012, claiming that he had the right to be President<sup>6</sup>. He also gave assurances that the presidential race would remain open and be held without cheating. This is the first time he has publicly announced his intention to seek another turn.

Djinnit comments that President Wade is 83 years old. The president assumed the presidency in 2000 after spending decades in opposition and

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<sup>4</sup> (CDX 119 of 18/09/09)

<sup>5</sup> (CDX 119 of 18/09/09)

<sup>6</sup> (CDX 119 of 18/09/09)



was re-elected in 2007. Legislators amended the country's constitution in 2006, reducing presidential terms from seven to five years and removing term limits for heads of state. There had been speculations that his 40-year-old son, Karim, a Minister, would be the ruling party's presidential candidate in 2012. This seems to be yet another tactical move of President Wade in his endeavor to disorient the opposition and ensure a victory of his party at the next Presidential elections. In putting himself at the core of the Presidential campaign, he also diverts attention that was too much focused on his son.

## 7. Myanmar

The NGO, Independent Diplomat, visited Haysom last week to share the "Proposal on National Reconciliation towards Democracy and Development in Burma", drafted in consultation with a number of democracy and ethnic groups working inside Myanmar or in exile, including the National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma and the National Council of the Union of Burma. The proposal was formally adopted by them at a convention in Indonesia on 12 August.

According to Independent Diplomat, the proposal is unprecedented and is the first detailed elaboration on a transition to democracy on which the opposition groups have agreed. It presents a concrete transitional plan towards democracy based on the rule of law, a professional security sector, human rights, and coherent and timely economic reform. Notably, it also extends an offer of dialogue and partnership to the SPDC and acknowledges its role in a transition, while recognizing that the 2010 elections would not be free and fair without the release of political prisoners, including ASSK, and the participation of the opposition and ethnic groups. The opposition groups are seeking a response from the Myanmar authorities to this proposal, which the Independent Diplomat stresses is on the table only for a limited time, a few months at most. The proposal has been also shared with members of the SC, Group of Friends on Myanmar, ASEAN, and EU, as well as other interested countries.

Independent Diplomat requested that the SG refers to this proposal in his engagements with the Myanmar leadership as well as with the Group of Friends. Mr. Gambari's office, however, advised against this, arguing that the Myanmar leadership would see this as interference in their internal affairs and could complicate the SG's relationship with them. Instead, Mr. Gambari informed that he would convey the proposal to the Myanmar delegation when he meets with them.

**8. Security Council Summit Meeting on Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament**

Following the Update of 17 September, the US-proposed resolution was put in blue text and ready for adoption at the Security Council Summit meeting on Thursday. The blue text has few changes from the previous one. In its preambular part, it recognizes the initiative to convene an international conference on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. In the operative section, security assurances-related paragraph, which had been placed in preambular part, was relocated. Since this resolution includes comprehensive and robust elements to strengthen the global nuclear non-proliferation regime, it will breathe a fresh impetus to the non-proliferation agenda in general, and the upcoming NPT Review Conference in particular.



Political Unit  
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cc: DSG, VN, KWS