

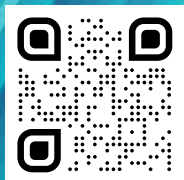
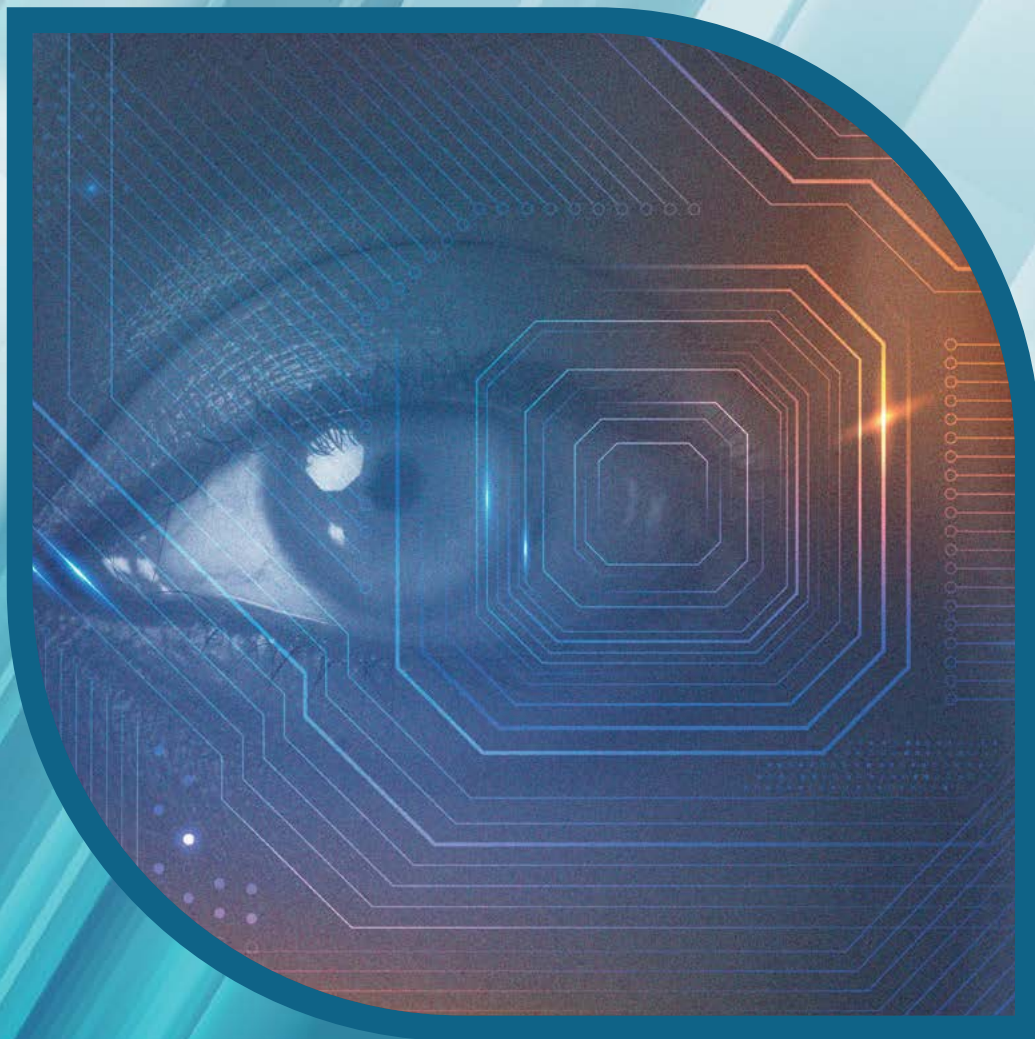


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DECEMBER 2022

SOUTH SUDAN

27TH DECEMBER 2022

South Sudan's President Salva Kiir and the Deputy Chairman of Sudan's Sovereign Council, Gen. Mohamed Hamdan Daglo held talks, vowing to reinforce security ties between the two nations. The meeting of leaders from the two nations took place in Juba on Tuesday. Daglo was accompanied by Lt. Gen. Ahmed Ibrahim Mufaddal, Director of the General Intelligence Service, Major Gen. Muhammad Ali Saber, Director of Military Intelligence Authority, and Major Gen. Al Khair Abdullah, head of the Intelligence Department of the Rapid Support Forces (RSF). South Sudan's adviser on security affairs, Tut Gatluak said the closed-door meeting took place within the framework of cooperation between the two countries on several issues including, security, economy, peace process and updates on the current political security in Sudan and South Sudan. "You know Sudan and South Sudan are people bonded not only by history, and geography, but culture and civilization. This was one reason for the visit. The second reason is for the leaders to update themselves on the current security, political and economic situation in the two countries. We are going into the dry season and people expect a lot of cross-border movement. This needs to be arranged before this movement takes place," he explained. Gatluak affirmed that the meeting was fruitful and looked into common files concerning opening of border crossings, reactivating the joint committees and facilitating trade movements between the two countries. He further said Daglo briefed Kiir on the latest developments pertaining the implementation of the peace accord in Sudan. The meeting was also attended by top South Sudanese security officials. The borders between Sudan and South Sudan were officially erected when South Sudan took independence in 2011. A year later, Sudan and South Sudan descended into war over the disputed oil-rich area, Panthou/Heglig, which lies on their border.

SOURCE:

<https://sudantribune.com/article268752/>

29TH DECEMBER 2022

KIIR FORGIVES MACHAR, WARNS OVER POWER STRUGGLES

South Sudan's President Salva Kiir said he has forgiven First Vice President Riek Machar, whom he accused of causing power struggles in the young nation. He was speaking during a church occasion at St. Theresa Catholic church in Kator, Juba on December 25.

"It will be up to him to apologize to the nation, or he doesn't, but I have forgiven him. We are supposed to concentrate on the development of our country instead of a power struggle," said Kiir. In September 2018, Kiir and Machar signed a revitalized peace agreement and

formed a transitional coalition government in February 2020. However, in August 2022, the parties to the peace agreement signed a two-year extension of the unity government, postponing elections until late 2024. “We are supposed to concentrate on how to serve people. It is not supposed to be a fight for leadership. The power struggle will not take us anywhere. We have to look to our people,” said Kiir. The former rebel commander turned politician and became the president of the young nation said he decided to stop going to the church in Juba because some people were hostile towards him. “There were elements in this cathedral whenever I come, they talk in a way that would not allow me to be here but I have forgiven them. You all know that I am the leader of the SPLM and SPLA. We fought the war of liberation with all our hearts and with our commitments until we liberated the country and raised our own flags,” stressed Kiir. He added, “Something that increased our suffering and we have been condemned by the whole world because there was reason to liberate the country and then turn the same guns against ourselves”.

SOURCE:

<https://sudantribune.com/article268862/>

28TH DECEMBER 2022

SOUTH SUDAN, SUDAN TO STRENGTHEN BORDER CROSSING MOVEMENT

South Sudan and Sudan have agreed to strengthen border crossing movement between the two countries to facilitate trade and movement of people. If implemented, it would not only help the two sides to implement the 2012 cooperation agreement but represent key priorities for Africa as two complementary aspects of continental integration, as recognized by the African Union’s Agenda 2063 which advocates continental integration through removing barriers to trade. The AU’s agreement establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) has focused on the importance of eliminating barriers to foster regional trade to create a single continental market for goods and services for some 1.3 billion people in 55 countries.

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) in partnership with the government of South Sudan says it is working with the state authorities to help in the implementation of the vision of “Secure cross border social, economic, and commercial activities” as part of the efforts to facilitate trade and human mobility in view of fostering regional prosperity through the establishment of legally recognized and security-controlled cross Border Posts. As a key milestone in the governance of the project, IOM in partnership with the state and local authorities seeks to support the bilateral meeting of the joint political security mechanism Committee between Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan, with the participation of representatives from the European Union, United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei, United Nations Mission in South Sudan and the United Nations Integrated Transition

Assistance Mission for Sudan (UNITAMS), an integrated political and peacebuilding mission and other parties supporting security and the peace process in the two countries.

The inspector general of police in South Sudan Gen Majak Akech hailed the visit and meeting between the heads of security organs, saying the meeting was meant to provide strategic guidance and lead to a full-fledged operationalization of the Cross-Border Posts to facilitate trade and movement of the people. Such a visit, he emphasized, is aimed at strengthening the economic integration and social cohesion among cross-border communities in south Sudan and Sudan, through the implementation of an Integrated Border Management (IBM) approach, facilitated by improved infrastructure, including the construction of relevant border facilities comprising cross Border Post at the Point of Entry (PoE), as well as support to the establishment of common border management mechanisms and procedures.

The executive director in the office of south Sudan's president Salva Kiir Deng Wal Achien also explained that the meeting had discussed the bilateral agreement that will govern the Cross-Border Point operationalization and provided guidance on the future common procedures. After the meeting, Joint Committee members are expected to visit the border areas, where the authorities of South Sudan and Sudan had established infrastructures.

Achien said the effort would secure Cross-Border Social, Economic and Commercial activities between the two countries in fulfilment of the African Union Agenda 2063. "The Government of South Sudan encourages this initiative to build border posts. Once operational, this infrastructure will allow the implementation of a bilateral approach to integrated management and will make trade operations more fluid," explained Achien. The presidential aide said well-managed borders would, through increased trade and strengthened bonds, bring prosperity to countries, populations and entire regions. "The initiative would, also, promote seamless trade and human mobility between South Sudan and Sudan and has enormous potential for the development of the region," stressed Achien. "This initiative will consolidate the socio-economic relationships of border communities in the areas on the one hand and enhance bilateral cooperation between the two countries within the framework of the 2012 Cooperation Agreement," he added,

The 2012 Cooperation Agreement identified eight cross-border points as critical geographical locations at which border crossing points could be set up due to their importance as a trade and transport corridor and the daily movement of the cross-border communities, who cross the border between South Sudan and Sudan in search of employment, business opportunities, and health care.

SOURCE:

<https://sudantribune.com/article268781/>

ERITREA

21ST DECEMBER 2022

FIRST BATCH OF SOMALI TROOPS TRAINED IN ERITREA ARRIVES HOME

The first batch of several thousand Somali troops that were sent to Eritrea for training in 2019 and 2020 have arrived back in Mogadishu. Parents of the soldiers, who feared their sons would be used in Ethiopia's Tigray war, in which Eritrea was involved, had pressured the Somali government to bring the troops home.

The arrival of this contingent in Mogadishu comes a day after Somalia's president, Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, said soldiers trained in Eritrea would return to their country during the month of December. At a news conference Wednesday, Minister of Defense Abdulkadir Mohamed Nur said the return of the troops is good news for Somalis because these troops will be deployed in the fight against militant group al-Shabab. He said, "Our first batch of troops who were in Eritrea for training arrived today, and the remaining soldiers will arrive in the coming days to join the fight against the militant group known as Khawaarij." He said, the federal republic president has traveled twice to Eritrea in his efforts to speed the process of bringing these troops back to their homelands. The Somali government recently began referring to al-Shabab as Khawaarij, an Arabic term for one who deviates from true Islam. VOA's Somali service reports that after their arrival, the troops were escorted to a secure section of the airport, where they camp until they are sent to an undisclosed base. It was in 2019 that the first of these troops, numbering 5,000 in all, were secretly taken to Eritrea to receive training. Many Somalis objected to the training, fearing that some of the soldiers would be used in Ethiopia's Tigray war and parents of the troops pressured the president to bring them home. VOA Somali was not able to find any evidence that Somali soldiers were ever deployed to Tigray.

SOURCE:

<https://www.voanews.com/a/first-batch-of-somali-troops-trained-in-eritrea-arrives-home-/6885944.html>

29TH DECEMBER 2022

ERITREAN CATHOLIC BISHOP FIKREMARIAM HAGOS FREED FROM DETENTION

A leading Catholic bishop in Eritrea has been freed from detention after being held without trial since October, reliable sources have told the BBC. Bishop Fikremariam Hagos was released along with a parish priest, Abba Mihretab Stefanos. No reasons were given by the authorities for their detention.

The Catholic Church has repeatedly called for an end to one-party rule in Eritrea, and for democracy to be embraced. The Catholic Archbishop of Asmara and a small congregation gathered to welcome the clerics after their release. Eritrea has not held a national election since it gained independence from Ethiopia in 1991. It has been ruled since then by President Isaias Afwerki. His regime has been accused of human rights abuses - including violating religious rights. The bishop had been detained since 15 October after he returned to the capital, Asmara, from a trip to Europe. The authorities shut Catholic-run schools and hospitals, saying that religious bodies could not run such institutions. Catholics make up about 4% of Eritrea's population. The church is one of only four religious groups allowed to operate in Eritrea, along with the Eritrean Orthodox, Evangelical Lutheran, and Sunni Muslim groups

SOURCE:

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-64110849>

26TH DECEMBER 2022

ERITREA: MAGNITUDE-5.5 EARTHQUAKE OCCURS IN NORTHERN RED SEA REGION, DEC. 26

A magnitude-5.5 earthquake occurred in Northern Red Sea Region, Eritrea, at 15:21 Dec. 26. The epicentre was about 150 km (94 miles) southwest of Asmara, Eritrea. The tremor occurred at a depth of about 10 km (6 miles), and moderate shaking was probably felt near the epicentre, as well as light shaking across parts of central Eritrea and far northern Ethiopia. There have been no initial reports of damage or casualties as a result of the earthquake, and, significant damage is unlikely. Some damage to rudimentary infrastructure is possible near the epicentre. It could take several hours until authorities can conduct comprehensive damage assessments, especially in remote areas. Light aftershocks are likely over the coming days. Officials may temporarily shut down transportation infrastructure in the tremor zone to check for damage. Minor disruptions could occur during shutdowns, but service will likely resume quickly if no damage is found. Utility outages are possible, particularly near the earthquake's epicentre. Plan accordingly for aftershocks. Consider vacating multistore buildings if operating in affected areas

until authorities confirm their structural integrity. Allow additional time for air and road travel, as aftershocks may prompt brief disruptions. Seek updated information on road conditions before driving in hilly areas in the affected region due to potential landslides.

SOURCE:

<https://crisis24.garda.com/alerts/2022/12/eritrea-magnitude-55-earthquake-occurs-in-northern-red-sea-region-dec-26>

SUDAN

13TH DECEMBER 2022

SUDAN, UAE'S CONSORTIUM SIGNS \$6-BLN DEAL TO BUILD NEW PORT ON RED SEA

The Sudanese government and a consortium of Emirati companies signed, on Tuesday, a preliminary agreement to develop and operate the Abu Amama port on the Red Sea, with investments amounting to \$6 billion.

The Heads of Terms agreement, which provides the UAE consortium with the right to develop, manage, and operate Abu Amama Port and economic zone assets, was signed by the Government of the Republic of Sudan and the UAE's consortium of Abu Dhabi Ports Group and Invictus Investment Company PLC. The deal was signed by Ibrahim Gibril Sudanese Minister of Finance and Osama Daoud Abdullatif, Invictus Chairman. The signing ceremony which took place at the Republican Palace was attended by Lt Gen Ibrahim Jabir a member of the Transitional Sovereignty Council. "Under the terms of the agreement, the consortium will have the sole right to directly develop, manage, and operate specified port and economic zones assets and to create joint ventures, partnerships, or other business agreements to support the financing, development, construction, management, and operation of the projects," reads a statement issued by the consortium. The new port and the economic zone are located 200 km north of Port Sudan.

The deal includes an agricultural zone of 400,000 feddans (415,000 acres) in the Abu Hamad area of River Nile State. Also, a 450 km long road will link the zone with the new port on the Red Sea. The Sudanese minister said that the port will be equipped with the latest modern technology, pointing out that the \$6 billion project includes an industrial area, a tourist area, an international airport, a residential complex, internal roads and a power station, He added that the project would contribute to solving the drought issue in Port Sudan and mining areas by delivering water from the Nile River. The agreement includes the construction of a water pipeline that pumps about 2,000,000 cubic meters per day from the Nile River to the Red Sea State. The military government, which reversed the civilian government in October 2021, is facing international pressure to hand over power to a civilian government. The international community paused economic support and development projects. The UAE is part of a QUAD group led by the United States supporting the efforts of the tripartite facilitation mechanism to end the political crisis in Sudan triggered by the military coup.

SOURCE:

<https://sudantribune.com/article268175/>

25TH DECEMBER 2022

South Darfur said on Sunday they arrested gunmen involved in bloody attacks on several villages outside the state capital and confirmed the death of 11 people, including two security soldiers. Earlier this week, armed men attacked several villages outside Belail locality east of the capital, Nyala, to revenge an ambush on herders last week. The attacks which resulted in the death of nine civilians were largely condemned. On Saturday, the state government declared a state of emergency in the state and a curfew in the locality fearing the extension of the conflict to other areas. Following a meeting of the state security committee on Sunday, South Darfur Police Director Maj Gen Mohamed Ahmed Wad al Zein announced the arrest of several people presumably involved in the attack. “Two motorcycles carrying a number of gunmen and armed men riding in two vehicles have been arrested and transferred to the Belail police station, and we firmly believe that they are involved in the attacks,” stated Wad al-Zein. The security official added that the death toll from the attacks reached 11 dead, including a policeman and an element of the Rapid Support Forces (RSF). The latter was killed with stones by angry civilians on the Nyala El-Fasher road. Also, he said that seven villages were vandalized and homes were burned and looted. The villagers who fled the survived the attacks accuse the RSF, led by the deputy head of the Transitional Sovereignty Council, Mohamed Hamdan Daglo “Hemetti”, of participating in the attacks on their villages outside Belail. Videos circulating on social media showed heavily armed men riding 4WD vehicles attacking the villages. For his part, the Governor of South Darfur, Hamid Tijani Hannoun, stated that they deployed about 58 military vehicles and 400 members of the police, army, intelligence service and RSF to restore security in the area. He stressed that the State Security Committee is able to protect civilians, and directed the Humanitarian Aid Commission and all organizations to provide urgent aid to those affected by these attacks.

20,000 DISPLACED

South Sudan officials told Sudan Tribune that the initial estimates of those displaced by the bloody events exceed 20,000 people. “The displaced people who took refuge outside Belail municipality buildings and the Driej camp in Nyala, are in need of urgent humanitarian assistance,” said the officials who preferred not to be identified. IDPs Coordination Spokesman, Adam Rajal told Sudan Tribune that three missing people were found, including a child. Rajal further denied the police officer’s account of the number of burned villages, saying they were 12, and not seven, accusing the state government of failing to provide safe passages for villagers fleeing to Nyala and Belail.

SOURCE:

<https://sudantribune.com/article268660/>

KENYA

12TH DECEMBER 2022

GERMANY TO HELP KENYA HIT 100% RENEWABLES, EXPORT HYDROGEN

The German government says it will provide Kenya with 112 million euros (\$118 million) to help the East African nation close the gap to 100% renewable energy and produce hydrogen. Kenya already gets about 90% of its electricity from renewable sources including hydropower, geothermal and wind. It aims to phase out entirely the use of fossil fuels for electricity generation by 2030.

Germany's Development Ministry said Monday that 51 million will be earmarked for the new energy infrastructure and hydrogen production, while about 30 million euros will be used for training programs. Efforts to make Kenya's agriculture more resilient to drought will get further 30 million euros and 1.5 million euros will be spent on anti-corruption programs.

The funds-76 million euros of which will be in form of loans-are part of an agreement that German Chancellor Olaf Scholz and Kenya's president Willian Ruto reached at the UN climate conference last month. Hydrogen produced with renewable energy can be exported or used to make much needed fertilizer for Kenya's domestic agriculture industry.

SOURCE:

<https://apnews.com/article/business-agriculture-kenya-germany-government-climate-and-environment-c6ca27f-b298775caa3ec100dfc92a1d9>

24TH DECEMBER 2022

KENYA SHIPS FOOD DONATION TO SOUTH SUDAN AMID FIGHTING

Kenya's president Willian Ruto has expressed concern over the fighting in neighboring South Sudan and airlifted a donation of food stuffs to those affected. South Sudan's northern Upper Nile and Jonglei states are experiencing renewed fighting between rival armed militias. The fighting has threatened the implementation of the 2018 peace agreement between president Salva Kiir and his former rival Riek Machar. Ruto said he spoke to Kiir on Saturday and urged him to facilitate dialogue for all involved parties to stop the fighting.

Kenya has also asked the international community to intervene and help in the growing instability in South Sudan. As a neighbor and grantor of the South Sudan Peace process, I, on behalf of Kenya, bring these concerning developments to the attention of the wider international community and call for a focus and immediate intervention geared towards de-escalation, peaceful resolution and coexistence among the parties involved, Ruto said.

The fighting has displaced thousands of people and left many in dire need of water, food, shelter and medical aid. This is the second time Kenya is sending food and medical aid to South Sudan following a similar donation on November 25.

SOURCE:

<https://apnews.com/article/kenya-south-sudan-riek-machar-william-ruto-d537d7a7f15de902c3333fc88859fb73>

26TH DECEMBER 2022

2 SHOT DEAD BY AL-SHABAB MILITANTS IN COASTAL KENYA

Two people were shot dead by al-Shabab militants and several houses torched in a rural area in coastal Kenya, police said Monday. The Christmas night attack happened in the Pandaguo area in Lamu county that neighbors Boni forest, where security agencies have been conducting an operation since 2015 to flush out militants in hiding. The forest near the Kenya-Somalia border and the area around it has been attacked by al-Shabab militants in the past. Police said the attackers invaded Taa village, some miles away from the popular tourist destination of Lamu town, and targeted homes in a coordinated manner.

Many villagers ran and hid in bushes as the gang descended on their homes, survivors said. Coast regional commissioner John Elungata said assailants attacked the village at night but were repulsed by Kenya Police Reservists after a heavy gunfight. Elungata urged locals to cooperate with security officers on the ground. The situation is calm, we have officers patrolling the area and we would like to ask members of the public to tell us what they know to help us in our investigations as we continue hunting them he said. The attack comes barely a week after the suspected al-Shabab militants attacked a police in northern Kenya, killing two officers and a civilian.

SOURCE:

<https://apnews.com/article/forests-kenya-somalia-al-shabab-d870c3eb5229afe5e6eb4e79d84bda75>

UGANDA

2ND DECEMBER 2022

UGANDA DISCHARGES LAST KNOWN EBOLA PATIENT, HEALTH MINISTRY SAYS.

Uganda has discharged its last known Ebola patient from hospital, a senior health official has said, raising hopes that an outbreak that has killed at least 56 people would end soon. Officials first confirmed the outbreak in September and said it was the Sudan strain of the virus, which kills 40 to 60 percent of those it infects and for which there is no proven vaccine. Happy to announce that we discharged the past Ebola patient,” Diana Atwine, a top official at the health ministry, posted on Twitter on Friday. “God has seen us through this epidemic.” She said medics would continue to monitor people who had come into contact with infected patients until they have been clear for 21 days. She did not say when the last case was confirmed. In October, the government had imposed travel restrictions, an overnight curfew and shut places of worship and entertainment to try to contain the outbreak in central Uganda, but several cases later appeared in the capital and east of the country. In late November, President Yoweri Museveni [extended a quarantine](#) by 21 days that had been placed on two districts at the epicentre of the outbreak. The decision was made days after Health Minister Jane Ruth Aceng said there was a downward trend in the number of recorded cases. Ebola causes vomiting, bleeding and diarrhoea and spreads through contact with infected people’s bodily fluids. The virus can sometimes linger in the eyes, central nervous system and bodily fluids of survivors and flare up years later. Uganda has recorded 142 infections from the latest outbreak. The World Health Organization says a country needs to go 42 days – twice the maximum incubation period – after its last confirmed case to be declared Ebola-free.

SOURCE:

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/12/2/uganda-discharges-last-known-ebola-patient-raising-hopes-ministry>

21ST DECEMBER 2022

IN UGANDA, INJECTABLE HIV TREATMENT OFFERS HOPE TO PATIENTS

Since Gerald Muwonge tested positive for HIV eight years ago, keeping his viral load in check has meant carrying around vials of pills for his daily treatment regimen while dodging the stigma this could mean for a gay man in Uganda. But he hoped that could soon change thanks to an injectable treatment that only needs to be taken once every two months.

Last October, about 200 patients in the East African country began a trial of a World Health Organization-approved injection containing the drugs cabotegravir, or CAB-LA, and rilpivirine. Results are due in 2024.

The treatment, developed by British drugmaker GlaxoSmithKline, is the first non-pill option against HIV, and studies have shown it even outperforms the efficacy of oral pills. “These drugs, you have to take them every day, and if you are taking them at exactly 9am, it should be that way until you die,” said Muwonge, a 27-year-old activist for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) rights.

He said the strict regimen of taking the pills messed with his head. Muwonge, who is not among the patients in the trial, said the new injectable treatment option could help to reduce the stigma HIV patients suffer, particularly gay men like himself. Homosexuality is illegal in Uganda, and gay people often face arrest, ostracisation and violence at the hands of law enforcement or local vigilantes.

Many who have HIV have not come out to friends, family members and co-workers, and prefer to hide that they have an illness that disproportionately affects the LGBTI community. The GSK treatment secured approval in the United States late last year and was endorsed this year by the WHO.

SOURCE:

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/12/21/injectable-hiv-treatment-offers-hope-to-ugandan-patients>

15TH DECEMBER 2022

ICC UPHOLDS SENTENCE OF UGANDA CHILD SOLDIER TURNED LRA COMMANDER

The International Criminal Court on Thursday confirmed the convictions of Dominic Ongwen, a former Ugandan child soldier who rose to be a commander in the notorious Lord's Resistance Army, and upheld his 25-year sentence for rape, murder and child abduction.

"The appeals chamber rejects all the defence grounds of appeal and unanimously confirms the convictions," presiding judge Luz del Carmen Ibanez Carranza said. The defendant who was taken into ICC custody in 2015, was convicted and sentenced in 2021 but his lawyers had appealed both decisions.

Later, the judges also rejected all the grounds of appeal related to the sentencing. Led by fugitive strongman Joseph Kony, the LRA terrorised Ugandans for nearly 20 years as it fought the government of President Yoweri Museveni from bases in northern Uganda and neighbouring countries. The militia has now largely been wiped out.

Ongwen, now in his mid-40s, was abducted as a nine-year-old and forced into a life of violence after the group killed his parents. The defence had argued that his horrific experiences in the LRA meant he could not be held responsible for his later actions.

Judges, however, ruled that Ongwen was not under duress and acted independently at the time when he had committed the crimes he was charged with. During the appeal hearing, the defence said the ICC was using Ongwen as a scapegoat for the crimes of LRA leader Kony, who is still at large despite being the subject of an arrest warrant from the court since 2005. "Everything that has happened is being blamed on me," Ongwen had said during a hearing earlier this year.

SOURCE:

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/12/15/icc-upholds-sentence-of-uganda-child-soldier-turned-lra-commander>

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

8TH DECEMBER 2022

EU RENEWS RESTRICTIVE MEASURES AND ADDS EIGHT ADDITIONAL INDIVIDUALS

The Council today decided to add eight people to the list of those subject to restrictive measures in view of the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). The existing restrictive measures were renewed for one year.

The eight listed individuals include five members of various armed groups (M23, ADF, CODECO, FDLR and Mai-Mai Yakatumba), as well a member of the Congolese army, a Congolese politician and a Belgian businessman. Most of them are responsible for serious human rights violations and abuses and for sustaining the armed conflict in the DRC. Others have been listed for inciting violence and exploiting the conflict through the illicit exploitation or trade of natural resources.

In total, 17 individuals are now subject to EU restrictive measures, which were renewed until 12 December 2023 and consist of a travel ban and an asset freeze. In addition, EU citizens and companies are forbidden from making funds available to those listed.

Today's decision was taken in the context of the EU's integrated approach in support of the efforts by the DRC authorities to build a lasting peace and stabilise the Eastern part of the country. It signals the EU's active engagement towards the Great Lakes region, with a view to contributing to addressing the root causes of insecurity and transforming them into opportunities for the countries.

SOURCE:

<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2022/12/08/democratic-republic-of-the-congo-eu-imposes-restrictive-measures-on-eight-additional-individuals/>

15TH DECEMBER 2022

NOBEL PRIZE WINNER CRITICISES WESTERN 'NEGLECT' AND URGES ACTION OVER DRC VIOLENCE

Denis Mukwege has demanded sanctions be imposed on Rwanda to ease the crisis in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo. In a stinging criticism of the international community's

“negligence”, Mukwege urged Britain and its allies to impose sanctions on neighbouring [Rwanda](#) to help ease the growing crisis in the east of the country.

Kigali has been accused by the UN of supporting the M23 rebel militia, which returned to the fray in November 2021 after years of lying dormant and has since seized a swathe of territory in eastern DRC. Rwanda denies the claim.

A failure by the west to target the country with sanctions risked not only perpetuating the violence in North Kivu province but also the perception that it is indifferent to the suffering of Africans, said Mukwege.

“We can see very clearly that this politics of double standards is undermining the credibility of the international, multilateral system. I’m sorry to say that this sort of flexible humanism is frustrating young Africans,” said Mukwege, comparing the huge international response to the war in Ukraine with the muted references to the “totally forgotten” DRC.

In fact, he warned, western diplomatic inertia was already boosting support among many young Africans for the old foe of western imperialism. “At protests now they are flying the Russian flag,” he said. “Now, I do not think that Russia is a solution ... but there really is a lack of trust among Africans at the moment in the policies pursued by many European countries.”

Moscow has [upped its presence](#) on the African continent in recent years, often focusing on the most unstable areas where resentment against former colonial powers is most easily fanned.

In North Kivu province, renewed fighting between M23 – the March 23 Movement, a Tutsi rebel group – and national armed forces has pushed at least 390,000 people from their homes, according to the UN.

Last week, the UN accused the rebels of arbitrarily killing at least 131 people – men, women and children – in the Rutshuru villages of Kishishe and Bambo at the end of November. The militia has denied responsibility, while the government estimated the number of dead at [closer to 300](#).

Mukwege – a gynaecologist who [won the Nobel](#) peace prize jointly with Yazidi activist Nadia Murad for their efforts working against sexual violence as a weapon of war – said colleagues in North Kivu hospitals were seeing the number of patients, including rape victims, “increasing significantly”.

SOURCE:

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2022/dec/16/nobel-prize-winner-criticises-western-neglect-and-urges-action-over-drc-violence>

13TH DECEMBER 2022

FLOODS AND LANDSLIDES KILL SCORES OF PEOPLE IN KINSHASA

Dozens of people injured after heavy rain destroys houses and ruins roads in DRC's capital

At least 100 people have been killed and dozens injured in widespread floods and landslides caused by heavy rain in the capital of the [Democratic Republic of the Congo](#) (DRC), Kinshasa. The prime minister, Jean-Michel Sama Lukonde, said officials were still searching for more bodies. "We came to assess the damage and the primary damage we see is human," Lukonde said on state television on Tuesday. About 12 million people live in the 24 neighbourhoods of Kinshasa that were hit by the floods, according to three local officials who told the Associated Press that people were killed, houses submerged and roads ruined. In the Ngaliema area, more than three dozen people were known to have died so far, said the area's mayor, Alid'or Tshibanda.

In another area, five members of one family died, some by electrocution. "It is a just calamity," said Pierrot Mantuela, 30, whose mother, nine-year-old daughter and three brothers were killed. "It's sad to lose all the members of my family." He said he was spared because he was working on Monday night when the rain began. Officials said much of the destruction happened in houses built on plots without official permission. "They have no documents. They are chased away but they always come back," Dieumerici Mayibazilwanga, the mayor of Mont-Ngafula, said of people building unauthorised houses. In 2019, flooding and landslides killed at least 32 in and around Kinshasa.

SOURCE:

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/dec/13/floods-and-landslides-kill-people-kinshasa-heavy-rain-congo>

SOMALIA

16TH DECEMBER 2022

LOOMING FAMINE IN SOMALIA: KEY MESSAGES DECEMBER 2022

Somalia is facing the longest drought in four decades which has surpassed the duration and severity of the 2010-2011 and 2016–2017 droughts and continues to drive high levels of humanitarian needs. A historic sixth below-average rainy season is forecasted in March to April 2023 which will keep needs high and worsen food security as well as water scarcity.

According to the latest [food and nutrition analysis report](#), an estimated 8.3 million people - over half of the population - are expected to face severe to acute food insecurity in June 2023 if assistance is not improved and sustained beyond March next year. Between April and June 2023, famine is projected in some rural areas of Baidoa and Burhakaba of Bay Region, and internally displaced communities in IDP settlements in Baidoa and Mogadishu. In addition, most of south and central Somalia regions will face the risk of severe acute malnutrition.

The UN Children Fund reported that some [730 children died](#) in food and nutrition centers across the country between January and July 2022, but the numbers could be more as many deaths go unreported. More than half of [1.8 million](#) under the age of five are likely to be severely malnourished through July 2023 and are at the risk of dying.

Women and children, minorities and other marginalized groups continue to bear the brunt of the current humanitarian crisis as they face heightened protection risk and barriers, inhibiting their ability to cope. Cases of violence against women and girls are also on the rise. According to UNHCR, there has been a [200 per cent increase](#) in gender-based violence being reported this year among the displaced populations. Although the country has experienced climate-induced crises for a decade, the current drought has been exacerbated by the unprecedented impacts of multiple failed rainy seasons, impact of desert locust infestations from previous years, the COVID-19 pandemic, concurrent conflict/insecurity and surging food prices as a result of the Ukraine war, making it severe and putting Somalia on the brink of another famine.

To respond to the growing number of people in need of urgent assistance, humanitarian partners revised the 2022 Somalia Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) funding appeal from US\$1.46 billion to US\$2.27 billion, which is [currently 55% funded](#). The Somali NGO Consortium warns that the current situation is likely to escalate to a catastrophe mid next year and appeals to countries, institutional donors, corporates, the Somali diaspora, philanthropic individuals to put forward additional funding to fully fund the 2022 Drought Response and Famine Prevention Plan.

SOURCE:

<https://reliefweb.int/report/somalia/looming-famine-somalia-key-messages-december-2022>

23TH DECEMBER 2022

JOURNALISTS IN SOMALIA SLAM GOVERNMENT RESTRICTIONS, ARRESTS

Journalists in Somalia say the government is further restricting their work amid a significant military offensive against the al-Shabab extremist group, with a new directive to submit content for approval before publication. In the latest incident, police in the central state of Hirshabelle detained four media personnel in Beledweyne for reporting that al-Shabab attacked rural areas after local militias fighting them withdrew over pay issues, media groups said. Chief editor Mustaf Ali Adow of the independent Radio Hiiraanweyn and three colleagues were detained Thursday and the station was taken off the air.

A joint statement by the Somali Journalists Syndicate, the Somali Media Association and Somalia Mechanism for Safety of the Journalists condemned the raid and demanded the journalists' immediate release. "State security personnel shouldn't use the continuing security operations as a justification to impose restrictions on press freedom," Mohamed Ibrahim, president of the Somali Journalists Syndicate, told The Associated Press. "State security personnel shouldn't use the continuing security operations as a justification to impose restrictions on press freedom," Mohamed Ibrahim, president of the Somali Journalists Syndicate, told The Associated Press. Many journalists have denounced the order and said that submitting content for government approval would obstruct editorial independence and the public's right to know. "The president's communication office issued a new order to local news outlets on Saturday demanding they submit their content for permission before any broadcast. We all refused," the secretary-general of the Somali Media Association, Mohamed Osman Makaran, told the AP. Authorities haven't publicly acknowledged the directive. Since the government declared an all-out war against al-Shabab earlier this year, there has been growing pressure on local journalists. The government has said journalists reporting on al-Shabab's activities should either go to the scene or abide by authorities' restrictions

SOURCE:

<https://apnews.com/article/somalia-372833c75be75461176be61681c0dfd7>

RWANDA

23TH DECEMBER 2022

UN EXPERTS: ‘SUBSTANTIAL EVIDENCE’ OF RWANDA FORCES IN CONGO

U.N. experts say they found “substantial evidence” of Rwandan government forces crossing into neighboring eastern Congo, either to reinforce M23 rebels or to conduct military operations against another rebel group that includes fighters accused of taking part in the 1994 Rwanda genocide. According to excerpts from the latest report from the panel of experts obtained Friday by The Associated Press, weapons, ammunition and uniforms were also provided to the M23 rebels. The group resurfaced more than a year ago and has been accused of killing civilians and seizing land in eastern Congo’s Rutshuru territory. The panel said it also found “substantial evidence” of support given to several Congolese armed groups by members of Congo’s military, known as the FARDC, in Rutshuru. It said there is “cooperation between FARDC units and Congolese armed groups in Rutshuru territory.” At the root of the current crisis between Rwanda and Congo is the 1994 genocide. The carnage began when a plane carrying Rwandan President Juvénal Habyarimana was shot down, killing the leader, who like most Rwandans was an ethnic Hutu. The country’s minority Tutsis were blamed, and although they denied it, bands of Hutu extremists began killing them, including children, with support from Rwanda’s army, police and militias.

SOURCE:

<https://apnews.com/article/rwanda-united-nations-genocide-2bafa78733edc678d53fdb3b9dc52403>

21ST DECEMBER 2022

GROWING PRESSURE ON RWANDA FROM FRANCE, GERMANY OVER CONGO

International pressure is growing on Rwanda as France and Germany are the latest parties to openly accuse the country of supporting armed rebels in neighboring eastern Congo — with possible repercussions for foreign aid that Kigali has long enjoyed. For months, [renewed attacks](#) by the M23 rebels have angered Congo’s government and led to [talk of war](#) in eastern Congo, a volatile region rich in minerals critical to much of the world’s technology. A report by [United Nations experts](#) earlier this year said they had “solid evidence” that Rwanda’s armed forces were backing the rebels, and the United States has openly asked Rwanda to stop it. Now other major donors have joined the criticism of Rwanda. On Tuesday, France’s foreign affairs ministry in a statement condemned “Rwanda’s support for M23,” and its junior minister

in charge of development during a visit to Congo warned that the M23 “must stop the fighting” and withdraw. The junior minister, Chrysoula Zacharopoulou, is in charge of implementing aid policies. France’s official development assistance to Rwanda leapt from under \$4 million in 2019 to more than \$68 million in 2021, according to Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development data, as relations improved. Also on Tuesday, the German foreign ministry’s director for sub-Saharan Africa, Christoph Retzlaff, tweeted that Rwanda should “immediately cease” its support for the M23 and quickly contribute to a solution to the “disastrous” crisis. Germany’s official development assistance to Rwanda was more than \$94 million in 2021.

Rwanda’s government in an emailed statement Wednesday evening said accusing it of supporting the M23 is “wrong” and that “attempting to manage complex situations by simply repeating and amplifying false allegations of the (Congolese) government cannot lead to solutions.” It accused the international community of being unwilling to face up to the root causes of conflict in eastern Congo, where dozens of armed groups are active. Long-time President Paul Kagame last week on the sidelines of the U.S.-Africa summit denied that Rwanda had created the trouble in eastern Congo and called it “Congo’s problem.” But concerns are growing that international partners could back their warnings with cuts in aid to Rwanda, which has long benefited from outside support in health, defence and other areas. Belgium, a former colonizer of Rwanda, also asked the country to stop supporting the M23 rebels earlier this month.

SOURCE:

<https://apnews.com/article/politics-rwanda-violence-united-nations-foreign-aid-6951260f3c7c287a3a0916bafc4f25de>

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