

Congo-DRC: Escalating violence in the northeast

Violence has increased in the east of the Democratic Republic of Congo. More than 120 armed groups are fighting in the region, most for land and control of mines with valuable minerals, while some groups are trying to protect their communities. CODECO, a loose confederation of ethnic Lendu militias, has been fighting with Zaire, a mainly ethnic Hema self-defence group, since 2017. According to the United Nations, the militia has grown in recent months. In June, CODECO fighters killed 45 civilians in Ituri province in the DRC. CODECO and other groups have killed more than 100 people in North Kivu and Ituri provinces in the last month. 30.08.2023

Kenya: Women excluded from KDF recruitment

The Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) has excluded female recruits in an ongoing recruitment drive in Lamu. KDF officials explained that there were already a sufficient number of female dependents in the area. Hundreds of women were disappointed as they had come from far away and spent money on accommodation and transport. For many it was their last chance as the age limit is 26. This is not the first-time women have been excluded from the process. There were similar incidents already in 2017 and 2018. 30.08.2023

Gabon: First declared election winner then disempowerment

Army officers, members of the Republican Guard, the Presidential Guard and police officers have declared on national television that they have taken power and will annul the results of Saturday's election. The electoral commission had said Bongo had won just under two-thirds of the vote, an election the opposition said was rigged. The military said, "We have decided to defend peace by putting an end to the current regime... irresponsible and unpredictable governance has led to a continued deterioration of social cohesion and plunged the country into chaos." Ali Bongo Ondimba's fall would end his family's 53-year hold on power in Gabon. 30.08.

Angola: Head of State strengthens the role of women

President João Lourenço reiterated his government's strategy to further empower Angolan women, including their promotion in high-level state bodies. He was speaking at the inauguration of the Deputy Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, Efigénia Mariquinha dos Santos Lima Clemente. "We will continue to focus on this part of society because we are sure that this is the only way we will be able to build a great country where men and women hold all offices side by side, without discrimination (...)," the President said. 29.08.2023

Algeria: Free ride for students

The National Office for University Works (ONOU) announced on Monday that it has signed an agreement with the SETRAM company to provide students with free access to metro and tram services from the start of the next academic year. 29.08.2023

73rd session of the WHO Committee for Africa

Around 800 participants are attending the meeting, which is taking place in Gaborone, Botswana, from 28 August to 1 September. The meeting will discuss and agree on key actions to address health challenges in the region and promote health and well-being. Botswana's President Mokgweetsi Masisi says: "We are faced with a

multitude of problems, increasing poverty, humanitarian crises, food insecurity... which negatively affect our health and well-being. More than ever, we need to strengthen international cooperation and global solidarity, building on the experience of the COVID 19 pandemic." 29.08.2023

Part of the power struggle? Najla Mangoush out of the country?

Libyan Prime Minister Abdulhamid al-Dbeibah has dismissed Foreign Minister Najla Mangoush after she met with Israeli Foreign Minister Eli Cohen in Rome. They had discussed humanitarian aid from Israel, joint projects in water supply and agriculture, and possible cooperation between the two states to protect Jewish sites in Libya. The meeting is controversial because Libya does not recognise Israel and supports an independent Palestinian state. The dispute has exacerbated the domestic crisis in Libya and boosted Prime Minister Abdulhamid al-Dbeibah's internal critics at a time when the future of his interim government is already in doubt. Libya has not had a stable central government since the fall of Muammar Gaddafi (2011). Dbeibah's interim government, in office since 2021, is not recognised by some major factions.

Zimbabwe: Reactions to the disputed presidential election

China declared its willingness to continue cooperation with the Zimbabwean government and congratulated President Emmerson Mnangagwa. Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko, an ally of Russian President Vladimir Putin, and Mnangagwa also praised Mnangagwa for a job "well done". Tanzania under President Samia Suluhu Hassan of Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM), South Africa under the ANC and the South West Africa People's Organisation (Swapo) in Namibia under President Hage Geingob have congratulated Zanu-PF on the election. The United States has announced that it will discuss the disputed parliamentary elections in Zimbabwe and the impact on the country's international standing with regional leaders. The Zimbabwean government on Monday summoned European Union (EU) ambassadors accredited to the country and read them the riot act over a damning report by the EU's election observation mission on the just-concluded elections in Zimbabwe.

New Negotiations on Nile Dam

Negotiations on further filling of the controversial Blue Nile mega-dam have resumed in the Egyptian capital Cairo. The \$5 billion dam has been at the centre of a diplomatic dispute between Ethiopia and the two downstream countries, Egypt and Sudan, for more than a decade. Egypt and Sudan fear that their vital water supplies are threatened by the dam. Ethiopia says the dam is part of its efforts to electrify millions of households, especially in rural areas.

More Info: <https://netzwerkafrika.de/>

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