



# Peace Operations Update

Aktuelle Informationen zu Friedenseinsätzen

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

## NEW ZIF PUBLICATIONS

### ZIF Policy Briefing | Quo Vadis Civilian CSDP?

The European Union's Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) follows two separate tracks, military and civilian. While 2017 saw a lot of momentum in the military realm, 2018 could become the year of civilian CSDP, as many initiatives are under way to strengthen its missions and to foster the commitment of member states. In this latest *ZIF Policy Briefing*, Thierry Tardy discusses progress in the past, key developments following the EU Global Strategy in 2016 as well as challenges ahead.

Download the paper [here](#)

### New ZIF kompakt | Blue Helmets: “Weakness kills our people”

In the latest *ZIF kompakt* Andreas Wittkowsky reviews the *Cruz report*, which analyzes casualties due to malicious acts in UN missions. More than 90% of all fatalities are military personnel, i.e. blue helmets. The report urges the UN to overcome defensive posture, to dominate the environment of UN bases and thereby irradiate security. In order to deliver without undue fatalities, the blue helmets need better leadership, better capabilities and better equipment.

Download the paper [here](#) (German only)

## EUROPE

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### Bosnia and Herzegovina

Izetbegovic: Bosnian Croat entity 'impossible without war'

After Bosnian Croats called for the establishment of a third, Croat-led entity in the country, the Bosniak member of the tripartite presidency, Bakir Izetbegovic, warned that this could cause armed conflict.

*Read full article: [Balkan Insight](#) (02/05)*

### Kosovo

Despite differences, potential for trust among political leaders remains, Security Council told  
Even though significant differences persist between political leaders in Kosovo, the potential for trust and more forward-looking decision-making to address the challenges there should not be underestimated, a senior United Nations official told the Security Council today. ... Briefing the Council via a video-link, the senior UN official also informed Council members of new strategy of the European Union (EU) for the Western Balkans, launched on 6 February, and said it is “the most ambitious and far-reaching framework for engagement” since 2003.

*Read full article: [UN News](#) (02/07)*

*Related analysis: [Western Balkans: A new start for Europe](#) [EU Observer](#) (02/06)*

Report of the Secretary-General on UNMIK

*Read full report: [S/2018/76](#) (01/31)*

*Related coverage: [UN chief presenting new report, and Kosovo won't like it](#) [B92](#) (02/07)*

## AFRICA

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### Burundi

Burundi compiles new electoral roll despite protest

The inscription of voters for a constitutional referendum that could allow Burundi's president to prolong his rule began Thursday in Burundi, the independent national electoral commission (CENI) announced. If accepted by the electorate, the constitutional change passed by the government last October would enable President Pierre Nkurunziza, in power since 2005, to stand for two further terms of office from 2020.

*Read full article: [AFP/Yahoo News](#) (02/08)*

## Central African Republic

### Rebel leader urges end to CAR civil war

There is a glimmer of hope in the crisis-torn Central African Republic (CAR) after one of the country's most feared rebel leaders urged his militants to lay down arms. ... Vladimir Monteiro, MINUSCA spokesperson, said the implementation of the RJ declaration was a positive step in efforts to reclaim peace in the Central African country of 4,5 million. ... The envoy urged all armed groups to follow the example of the RJ, lay down their arms and join the national DDR programme the UN piloted in 2016.

*Read full article: [allAfrica](#) (02/05)*

## Democratic Republic of the Congo

### UN expects Congo offensive against eastern rebels to displace 370,000

A military offensive launched last month by Congolese troops against Ugandan militants in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo is likely to force nearly 370,000 people from their homes, the United Nations said on Thursday.

*Read full article: [Reuters/Yahoo News](#) (02/08)*

### Escalating violence in DRC's Ituri Province puts UN on 'high alert'

The UN refugee agency says the recent outbreak of ethnic violence in Ituri province, in northeastern Democratic Republic of Congo, could presage a mass exodus of refugees and internal displacement.

*Read full article: [VOA News](#) (02/07)*

### At least 30 dead in ethnic violence in northeast Congo

At least 30 people have been killed in two days of ethnic clashes between Hema herders and Lendu farmers in the Democratic Republic of Congo's northeastern Ituri province, local authorities said on Monday.

*Read full article: [Reuters Africa](#) (02/06)*

## Guinea-Bissau

### West African bloc sanctions 20 in Guinea-Bissau over political crisis

West African regional bloc ECOWAS hit 20 Guinea-Bissau politicians and businessmen with sanctions, including travel bans and asset freezes, on Tuesday, accusing them of undermining efforts to resolve a prolonged political crisis.

*Read full article: [VOA News](#) (02/06)*

### UN, African Union voice concern over protracted political crisis

The top leaders of the African Union and the United Nations on Saturday expressed concern over the prolonged political crisis in Guinea-Bissau, condemning the recent actions taken by the national authorities to prevent a political party from holding its conference.

*Read full article: [UN News](#) (02/03)*

## Liberia

### UN mission farewell ceremony honours last departing police and military personnel

After 14 years of serving in the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), an official farewell ceremony was held on Tuesday in the capital, Monrovia, to honour the last departing Police and Military personnel serving there.

*Read full article: [UN News](#) (02/06)*

## Libya

### Human smugglers in Libya have links to security services

**Most armed groups involved in human smuggling and trafficking in Libya have links to the country's official security institutions, sanctions experts said in a confidential report to a U.N. Security Council committee seen by Reuters on Wednesday. ...** The experts were reporting on an arms embargo and targeted sanctions that the U.N. Security Council imposed on Libya in 2011 when former leader Muammar Gaddafi's forces cracked down on pro-democracy protesters.

*Read full article: [defenceWeb](#) (02/08)*

### Sharp rise in civilian casualties across Libya in January: UNSMIL report

The United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) said from 1 January to 31 January 2018, it had documented 102 civilian casualties – 39 deaths and 63 injuries – during the conduct of hostilities across Libya. This, it reported, was a sharp rise from previous months.

*Read full article: [Libya Herald](#) (02/02)*

## Mali

### Mali's myriad armed groups prevent stability

Mali is experiencing a rise in violence, and little is happening in the way of peaceful resolutions. The disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration (DDR) process remains vital, especially for those living in the north. There are political and security challenges to conducting DDR in Mali, but it must be a priority for peace to come about.

*Read full article: [ISS](#) (02/06)*

## South Sudan

### More than 300 child soldiers released by armed groups in South Sudan – UN mission

[...] Undertaken in Yambio (south-western South Sudan), it is the first such release in over a year and marks the first phase of the overall programme which will see more than 700 children return back to their communities.

*Read full article: [UN News](#) (02/07)*

### South Sudan government ends peace talks boycott

The South Sudanese government ended a boycott Tuesday after mediators accepted the participation of its entire delegation in the revitalisation forum. The second phase of High-Level Revitalisation Forum began on Monday in neighbouring Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa.

*Read full article: [The East African](#) (02/07)*

## Time for sanctions against South Sudan

The African Union (AU), the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the United Nations (UN) all seem to agree that it is time for the belligerents in South Sudan to be punished. During a consultative meeting on 27 January 2018 on the sidelines of the 30th AU Summit these three crucial organisations said in a statement that the ‘time has come for sanctions on the spoilers of peace in South Sudan’.

*Read full article: [ISS Peace and Security Council Report](#) (02/07)*

## U.S. imposes arms ban on South Sudan as civil war grinds on

[...] The ban has little practical effect, since the United States does not sell weapons to the country. But the announcement on Friday was the first step in a broader effort to cut off weapons to a conflict that has put 1.5 million people on the brink of starvation.

*Read full article: [New York Times](#) (02/02)*

## MIDDLE EAST

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### Israel / Palestine

**Amid ‘difficult reality’ in Middle East, two-state solution more important than ever – UN chief**  
International consensus on a two-State solution to end the Israeli-Palestinian conflict could be eroding “at a time when it is more important than ever,” Secretary-General António Guterres said on Tuesday, calling the ‘question of Palestine’ one of the longest unresolved issues on the agenda of the United Nations.

*Read full article: [UN News](#) (02/05)*

## CENTRAL ASIA

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### Afghanistan

#### Afghan President open to talks with armed groups

Afghan President Ashraf Ghani has said his government is open to peace talks with armed groups who accept peace but said the door was closed to those who cause tragedies like recent attacks in the capital, Kabul.

*Read full article: [Al Jazeera](#) (02/03)*

#### International Criminal Court judges consider Afghanistan war crimes inquiry

Judges at the International Criminal Court (ICC) are deciding whether to authorise an official war crimes inquiry into events in Afghanistan. They are due to begin examining written submissions from victims in Afghanistan about whom and what any potential investigation should focus on.

*Read full article: [BBC](#) (02/02)*

### Colombia

#### Colombia's Catholic Church to mediate talks between ELN and government

Colombia's Catholic Church vowed on Monday to try to mediate a resumption of peace talks between the national government and the ELN, the country's last-standing guerrilla group. ... President Juan Manuel Santos suspended the talks after guerrilla attacks in the north of the country left seven policemen dead and dozens injured.

Read full article: [Colombia Reports](#) (02/06)

### OTHER PEACEKEEPING RELEVANT NEWS

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#### German army to set up new NATO headquarters

Germany is to get a new NATO planning and control center near the former capital Bonn as part of the alliance's upgrade plans in Europe. The new headquarters is designed to accelerate troop and equipment transports around the continent. Unusually, it will not be integrated into the current NATO command structure.

Read full article: [DW](#) (02/08)

#### Hostile forces: Cruz report risks distracting from strategic context

Rarely do reports on United Nations peacekeeping generate as much press and interest as the one released this past month nicknamed the "Cruz report" after the Brazilian general who led the high-level review of peacekeeping fatalities and injuries due to violent acts. This is due in part to the unusual bluntness of the report, which may be part of a new communications strategy the UN is trying out, but the message may not be the right one and presents risks.

Read full article: [IPI Global Observatory](#) (02/05)

Related coverage: *Security of UN peacekeepers: the minefield of politics, people, and principles*  
[IPI Global Observatory](#) (02/07)