



Peace Operations Update

Aktuelle Informationen zu Friedenseinsätzen

18.2014

April 25–30

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

EUROPE

Kosovo

Kosovo opposition rejects guaranteed MP seats for minorities

Opposition parties don't want to extend the practice of reserving parliamentary seats for ethnic minorities, but Serb MPs vowed to block a crucial vote if future seats are not guaranteed.

Read full article: [Balkan Insight](#) (04/28)

Macedonia

OSCE says Macedonia elections 'efficient, orderly'

But the OSCE observers noted shortcomings during campaigning including the blurring of state and party activities, biased media coverage in favor of the ruling party, and reports of voter intimidation.

Read full article: [RFE/RL](#) (04/28)

Macedonia's conservatives re-elected; opposition condemns vote

Macedonia's conservative ruling party has secured a third term in office, winning both parliamentary and presidential elections on Sunday, based on preliminary results of the ballot that the opposition said it would not recognise.

Read full article: [Reuters AlertNet](#) (04/28)

Moldova

Moldovans start visa-free travel to EU

As of April 28, Moldovans with a biometric passport can travel to the Schengen zone without visas, becoming the first of the six Eastern Partnership countries to do so.

Read full article: [RFE/RL](#) (04/28)

Ukraine

Leader of OSCE National Dialogue Project presents recommendations to Permanent Council

The project was implemented over a four-week period from late March at the request of the Ukrainian authorities. Experts were deployed to Odesa-Kherson, Kharkiv-Luhansk, Dnipropetrovsk, Donetsk, and Lviv.

Read full article: [OSCE](#) (04/30)

OSCE says recruiting more Ukraine monitors despite detentions

The OSCE said on Tuesday it was pressing ahead with plans to recruit hundreds of more monitors for a civilian mission in Ukraine, despite the detention of seven military observers from a separate team captured by pro-Moscow rebels.

Read full article: [Reuters AlertNet](#) (04/29)

Ukraine's pro-Russian candidate quits presidential race

Oleh Tsaryov, a lawmaker from the Party of Regions, said on April 29 that it was "dangerous" for him to continue his presidential campaign and meet with voters in Kyiv.

Read full article: [RFE/RL](#) (04/29)

UN chief demands release of OSCE military monitors, staff in Ukraine

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon today strongly condemned the detention of international military monitors and staff in Ukraine, and demanded that they be released "immediately, unconditionally and unharmed."

Read full article: [UN News](#) (04/28)

AFRICA

Burundi

New election law a step forward for Burundi

In a move likely to ease political tensions, parliamentarians in Burundi on 25 April adopted by consensus a new electoral code to guide the conduct of presidential, legislative and local elections due next year.

Read full article: [Irinnews](#) (04/28)

Central African Republic

Fears grow of religious divide in Central African Republic

As violence continues in Central African Republic, observers warn the country risks becoming divided into a Muslim north and a Christian south.

Read full article: [Deutsche Welle](#) (04/29)

After deadly attack, UN agency urges safety for displaced in Central African Republic

At least two people were killed and six others injured in the Central African Republic (CAR) after an attack on an 18-truck humanitarian convoy relocating 1,300 Muslims to safety in the country's north, a spokesperson for the United Nations refugee agency today confirmed.

Read full article: [UN News](#) (04/29)

Cote d'Ivoire

Security Council lifts Côte d'Ivoire's rough diamond ban, tweaks arms embargo

The changes are the result of a review of the embargo in light of progress made in the disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration (DDR) of combatants as well as security sector reform (SSR), national reconciliation and the fight against impunity.

Read full article: [UN News](#) (04/29)

Democratic Republic of the Congo

Uganda says to begin repatriating 184,000 Congolese refugees

Uganda will begin repatriating as many as 184,000 Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) refugees after a large number of them asked to go home.

Read full article: [Reuters AlertNet](#) (04/29)

Libya

Gunmen storm Libyan parliament

Gunmen have stormed Libya's parliament, forcing MPs to abandon a vote on a new prime minister.

Read full article: [BBC](#) (04/29)

Mali

Mali PM, northern armed groups prepare for peace talks

Mali's new prime minister pledged on Tuesday to revive long-delayed peace talks on the troubled north while armed groups from the region said they would hold a preparatory meeting with Algeria.

Read full article: [Yahoo News](#) (04/29)

Somalia

Somalia's long-term stability depends on professional, well-resourced security forces

Somali Prime Minister Abdiweli Sheikh Ahmed appealed to the international community to help strengthen the security agencies of his government.

Read full article: [Reliefweb](#) (04/25)

South Sudan

South Sudan peace talks resume as fighting rages

Peace talks for South Sudan resumed in Addis Ababa Monday as fresh fighting was reported around the country, including in once-peaceful Western Bahr el Ghazal state.

Read full article: [VOA News](#) (04/28)

South Sudan court sets free four senior politicians accused of treason

Former security minister Oyay Deng Ajak, former secretary-general of South Sudan's ruling party (SPLM) Pagan Amum Okiech, former defence minister Majak D'Agoot and former US envoy Ezekiel Lol Gatkouth have been in detention for the past four months after being accused of masterminding the alleged coup plot with a number of other senior officials, including former vice-president turned rebel leader Riek Machar.

Read full article: [Sudan Tribune](#) (04/25)

Western Sahara

Security Council extends UN Western Sahara mission through April 2015

In today's resolution, the 15-member Council extended the UN Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) until 30 April 2015.

Read full article: [UN News](#) (04/29)

MIDDLE EAST

Iraq

Iraq election: First poll since US withdrawal

Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki is hoping to win a third term in office amid a growing insurgency in the west of the country. Iraq is experiencing its worst unrest since 2008, with 160 people killed in the past week alone.

Read full article: [BBC](#) (04/30)

Iraqis vote amid looming threat of violence

Iraqis have begun voting in parliamentary elections that are expected to result in a period of difficult coalition-building, as violence across the country soars close to its worst levels.

Read full article: [Al-Jazeera](#) (04/30)

View info-graphic on Iraq's electoral system: [Al-Jazeera](#) (04/29)

Unrest in Iraq narrows odds for Maliki win

A strategy of showing toughness may win votes among Mr. Maliki's Shiite constituency, but as Iraqis prepare to vote on Wednesday in the first national elections since the withdrawal of American forces, it is far from certain that he will be able to win over enough others to lock down another term.

Read full article: [New York Times](#) (04/29)

Israel / Palestine

Israel, Palestinians at UN accuse each other of sabotaging peace

Israeli and Palestinian envoys on Tuesday took advantage of a U.N. Security Council meeting on the Middle East to publicly blame each other for the latest breakdown in the fragile peace negotiations as the deadline for a deal expired.

Read full article: [Reuters AlertNet](#) (04/29)

Syria

Chemical watchdog announces probe into alleged chlorine gas attacks in Syria

The head of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) said today it will seek to "establish the facts" surrounding allegations of the use of chlorine in Syria, where it is already working jointly with the United Nations to rid the country of its chemical weapons.

Read full article: [UN News](#) (04/29)

"There is no legal barrier to UN cross-border operations" in Syria

The UN and other humanitarian agencies have long argued that many hundreds of thousands can only be reached effectively from neighbouring countries such as Turkey and Jordan. But the Syrian government continues to refuse consent for "cross-border" operations of this kind.

Read full article: [The Guardian](#) (04/28)

CENTRAL ASIA

Afghanistan

Afghan election front-runners allege fraud

Former Foreign Minister Abdullah Abdullah and former Finance Minister Ashraf Ghani are expected to compete in a runoff after preliminary results from the April 5 election showed neither gained the 50 percent needed for a first-round victory.

Read full article: [RFE/RL](#) (04/27)

Abdullah wins first round of Afghan elections

He has 44.5 percent of the vote in the Afghan presidential election ... The runoff will see Abdullah go up against Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai, who has received 31.5 percent of votes, according to preliminary results.

Read full article: [Deutsche Welle](#) (04/26)

SOUTH EAST ASIA

Philippines / Mindanao

Military, Islamists clash in Philippines, 15 dead

(Abu Sayyaf) is one of many small Islamist groups in the southern Philippines opposed to a peace deal between Manila and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

Read full article: [VOA News](#) (04/30)

OTHER PEACEKEEPING RELEVANT NEWS

Security Council highlights critical role of professional police, military in peace efforts

The United Nations Security Council today called on countries emerging from conflict and all those assisting them to prioritize the development of domestic police and national defence forces that maintain rule of law and respect human rights, in its first-ever stand-alone resolution on security sector reform.

Read full article: [UN News](#) (04/28)