

It's Good That AU Has A Plan

THE on-going civil wars in some countries disturb peace and stability on the continent.

The conflicts hamper the process of transformation and democratisation of Africa. It is easy to blame the current crisis in Africa on either the incompetence of phased-out OAU or the lack of good governance in some countries but if we look at countries that have been ravaged by civil wars, it is nothing but power hunger, lack of good governance and disrespect for human rights and dignity which are the root causes.

At the centre of the conflicts are the masses of innocent civilians that have to suffer. Civil wars in Liberia and Burundi are disastrous for example, and many innocent civilians are being killed or displaced and some are facing starvation, water shortages and diseases.

Despite numerous efforts, some governments or rebel factions still ignore the peace accord. Politicians should engage in dialogue and not war to avoid humanitarian crises. We don't need war or coups like in Sao Tome but more developed initiatives, peace and security on our continent. We also need good governance, democracy, economic empowerment, respect for the rule of law and human rights in Africa.

The implementation of peace deals in the DRC should be seen as a good move and promotion of a culture of peace in that country. There is no freedom of expression and respect for the rule of law, for instance in Zimbabwe. This is my own observation because I have been to that country on numerous occasions.

We Africans, must learn how to settle our crippling disputes and manage our own African affairs. We should promote peace by diplomatic means. Our brothers and sisters shed blood for the total independence of Africa.

It is good that the African Union has a plan of setting up a Peace and Security Council, a Pan African Parliament, a common court of justice and common African currency. But AU will not realise its aims and objectives if those who committed atrocities don't face trials. The restoration of peace and security should be the body's first priority. Let us unite and fight against neo-colonialism. Africa needs a definite change.

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