



Press Release

In the Context of the efforts of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) to consolidate peace and promote stability in the Great Lakes Region the Expanded Joint Verification Mechanism (EJVM) of ICGLR organized a meeting for military Intelligence Chiefs of Rwanda and Burundi on 26th August 2020 at the border area between the two countries.

The meeting was organized at the background of recent regrettable border violence incidents; the aim of the meeting was to exchange information with the view of ensuring peace and security in the border area and to establish common ground of exchanging views to defuse tensions that have affected security, trade and movement along the border.

Delegations of army intelligence officers from both countries met at the Nemba border town, facilitated by Col Leon Mahoungou commander of (EJVM). The Burundian delegation was led by Colonel MUSABA Ernest, Chief of Burundi's military intelligence, while Brigadier General Vincent NYAKARUNDI, Head of Defense Intelligence at the Rwanda Defense Force (RDF) headed the Rwandan delegation. The general atmosphere in the meeting was amicable. Participants in the meeting discussed the security situation along the common border and the causes of the cross-border incidents, as well as the best approaches to effectively share information between the two countries to address security issues and to find lasting solution to them so as to resolve the differences and normalize relations between the two countries Members of ICGLR. The two sides agreed that sharing intelligence information is essential in addressing cross-border security issues.

It's worth mentioning that the meeting of Military Intelligence Chiefs of Rwanda and Burundi on 26th August marks the first high-level meeting in a long time between the two countries to discuss border issues. Moreover, the meeting is a great step towards normalizing relation between the two neighborly countries.

In this occasion Ambassador Zachary Muburi-Muita Executive Secretary of ICGLR encouraged both Rwanda and Burundi to convene more meetings to normalize relations and promote cooperation between the two sides for the benefit of the two countries and the whole region of the Great Lakes.

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