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U.N. Extends Peace Mission in Congo

By THE NEW YORK TIMES

UNITED NATIONS, June 26 — The United Nations Security Council passed a resolution today extending its peacekeeping mission in Congo for 30 days while member states consider strengthening the mission or broadening its mandate.

The current mission, which calls for 8,700 troops, is authorized to use force only in self-defense or to protect United Nations property. An emergency, French-led force of 1,400 troops, recently dispatched to quell tribal violence in the northeastern city of Bunia, has been allowed far more latitude but must disband by Sept. 1.

Many on the Council have supported a recent report by Secretary General Kofi Annan that recommends raising troop strength to 10,800, including a brigade-size force of around 3,800 to be deployed in Bunia and the Ituri region. The United States, however, has been reluctant to expand the force, citing the need for a long-term political solution to Congo's conflicts.

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