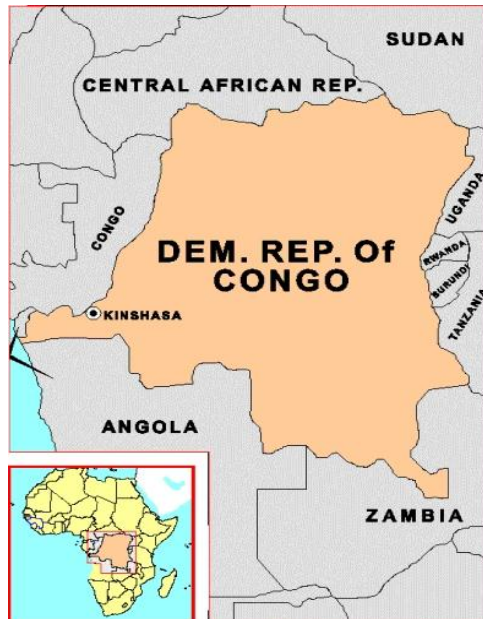


Democratic Republic of Congo: Domestic Media

Monitoring Report

*Montreal Institute for
Genocide and Human Rights Studies*

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13th -19th September

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- 1. Candidate's registration process: closure and disclosure of candidates**

Government-owned media

(Radio-Television Nationale Congolaise TV, government-owned, Kinshasa, 1230 gmt, 12 September, 2011, in French)

- Submission of candidacies for the presidential and legislative elections closed on Sunday: 12 candidates have submitted their candidacies for the presidency, including one woman. In 2006, 33 candidates stood for the presidential elections. CENI chairman, Pastor Daniel Ngoy Mulunda said the registration process will not be extended.

Privately-owned media

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 13 September, 2011, in French)

“Elections 2011. Ngoy Mulunda satisfait du déroulement de l’opération du dépôt de candidatures” by Pitshou Mulumba

- The president of CENI is satisfied with the candidate registration process and the process will not be prolonged. Daniel Ngoy Mulunda said many candidates registered during the last 3 days, but only one woman. The list will be disclosed on the 15th.
- Jean Pierre Bemba, who participated in the last elections and is currently sitting in jailed at the ICC, is not a candidate in 2011 despite his will. The MLC therefore has no presidential candidate for this year’s elections.

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 13 September, 2011, in French)

“Législatives en RDC : des candidats accusent les agents électoraux de lenteur”

- The BRTC (Bureaux de réception et de traitement des candidatures), which is responsible for receiving the applications of candidates, continues to accept applications for the legislative elections, despite the official closure of the process on Sunday. Several members of the opposition have criticized the slowness of the reception and processing of the files. Several potential candidates have had to come back to authenticate their diplomas, according to Union pour la nation congolaise (UNC) leader, Vital Kamerhe. On Sunday night, several candidates were still waiting in front of the BRTC’s offices.
- Electoral agents meanwhile criticize the fact that many candidates waited until the last three days of the process to file their applications. They assure that no distinction is being between the majority and the opposition.

(L’Observateur, privately-owned daily, article dated 12 September, 2011, in French)

“Dépôt des candidatures à la CENI. Partis politiques : quelle désorganisation !” b ROT

- Since the closing of the candidate’s registration process on Sunday, disorganization can be observed within the different political parties and at registration offices. Most parties were not ready on time although the process had already been prolonged by CENI by a week. This shows major challenges within parties in the DRC where competence, experience,

popularity within society are secondary to the patronage system still visible among some actors. Certain people only want access to power or resources.

- Several observers question the capacity of these politicians and of the BRTC to rule the country.
- Considering the situation, L'Observateur fears for the Congo and calls for a new type of politics.

(Misna news agency, Italian-based Missionary Service News Agency, Rome, 16 September, 2010, in English)

“DR Congo electoral body confirms 11 presidential candidates for polls”

Originally entitled "Democratic Republic of Congo Eleven Candidates Approved To Run in Presidential Elections"

- CENI confirmed that 11 candidates have been registered for the presidential elections. The excluded candidates have until 19 September to submit an appeal. There are not women among the candidates, despite one application.

The candidates are:

- President Joseph Kabila (independent), Jean Andeka Djamba (ANCC), Etienne Tshisekedi (Udps), Francois Joseph Mobutu Nzanga (UDEMO), Vital Kamerhe (UNC), Kengo wa Dondo (UFC), Nicephore Kakese (URDC), Oscar Kashala (UREC), Antipas Mbusa Nyamwisi (independent), Adam Bombole (independent), Alex Josue Mukendi Kamama (independent).

(L'Observateur, privately-owned daily, article dated 16 September, 2011, in French)

“La crédibilité de la CENI en jeu” by Rombaut

- On Sunday, CENI officially ended the presidential and legislative elections candidate registration process. The applications will now be reviewed and should verify CENI's credibility and transparency.
- Several observers have criticized the fact that all those vying for presidency and part of a national institution (functionaries, administrative agent, magistrates, members of the armed forces and national police, media, economic and social counselors...) have to resign before they can apply for candidacy. Members of the government meanwhile do not have to do so. This electoral law is flawed since certain candidates benefit from the state's means for their campaign, while others have to fight harder to get the necessary funds. The law should not be selective, according to *L'Observateur*. The future deputies are therefore urged to look at this and demand members of parliament that they resign from their post as well.

2. President Joseph Kabila's speech

Government-owned media

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(Radio-Television Nationale Congolaise TV, government-owned, Kinshasa, 1230 gmt, 15 September, 2011, in French)

- President Joseph Kabila addressed a message to the nation during which he explained his motivations to stand for the presidency. Evoking some of his achievement, he said he had managed to unify the country, to hold the 2006 elections and to start the reconstruction of the DRC. He also called on all political actors to ensure the holding of peaceful, transparent and democratic elections.

Privately-owned media

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 15 September, 2011, in French)

“Candidat à la présidentielle . J. Kabila s’engage à faire du Congo un pays emergent”

- In a speech given to party members and associations, Joseph Kabila said he was determined to win the next elections and continue to develop the DRC.
- The General Secretary of the MP introduced the president as “the father of democracy, founder of peace and modernization of the DRC”
- Kabila said the government managed to develop the Congo and claimed that only pockets of insecurity exist in the eastern part of the country, no major problems. The national debt has been reduced and solid foundations have been built. His goal is to strengthen these advances and make the DRC a strong country, especially in the agricultural sector. He also wants to reduce the urban-rural gap and improve access to water and electricity for people living in villages. The goal of his entire program is the welfare of Congolese civilians. Education will also be a priority and particular attention will be paid to the middle class, youths, informal economies, better access to housing and credit, as well as to the fight against impunity.
- As his past record shows, he said he is not known for making false promises: elections were organized, the country is being reconstructed and the Congo will emerge as a strong developing country. He reiterated his will to hold peaceful, transparent, democratic elections, and called on CENI, politicians and opposition parties to do the same.

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 115 September, 2011, in French)

“Bilan de fin mandat”

- President Kabila gave a speech resembling an end of mandate, a summary of his achievements as president. All subjects were touched upon, including the national debt, development, and the challenging national reconstruction. Kabila believes he has fulfilled promises made throughout his presidency. He nonetheless pointed out that challenges remain but reiterated his will to stay true to Congolese people.
- He reminded the audience that his 2006 electoral program consisted of 5 objectives: the reestablishment of peace; reestablishment of the state and rule of law; improving political, economic and social governance; development and reconstruction of the country. The president believes he has and can respond to the demands and needs of Congolese people.

(L'Observateur, privately-owned daily, article dated 16 September, 2011, in French)

“Mercredi 14 septembre à Kingakati: Joseph Kabila y a prononcé un de ses meilleurs discours”

- On Wednesday, Kabila gave a speech exposing his past achievements and argued that he has given Congolese people what he promised during the last elections. Instead of criticizing other political factions, the president went to the essential and summarized his presidency by saying that he has preferred to act when others were just talking. According to the president, all problems have not been surmounted yet this would have been impossible in one mandate.
- *L'Observateur* describes the speech as one of Kabila's best.

3. Civil Society prepares for national social dialogue for the elections

Privately-owned media

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 16 September, 2011, in French)

“Kinshasa : les candidats aux élections formés sur la stratégie de communication” by Pie Roger Iloko

- The confessional NGO Journées des réflexions chrétiennes internationales (JRCI) has sought to educate politicians on the importance of communication. Various workshops and activities will be organized until 2013. On 13 and 14 September, candidates were formed on subjects such as strategic and efficient communication, ethics and the role, civic rights and duties of elected individuals. Participants included candidates of the opposition and the majority taking part in the legislative, municipal and local elections.
- The role of JRCI is to promote love, equity and justice, and more particularly to promote a new political mentality. Joseph Batubenga recognizes that this process will take up to ten years, especially since a change of attitude always requires time.

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 16 September, 2011, in French)

“Avec l'appui de la Monusco. Elections transparentes et apaisées : coup d'envoi de l'atelier d'appropriation du processus du dialogue national” by Florent N'landu

- The workshops on national social dialogue during the electoral process were launched on 15 September. Supported by Monusco, 70 civil society actors will participate in these workshops which seek to promote transparent and peaceful elections. Several similar workshops already took place in August. Participants have already expressed their worry over recent violent events in Kinshasa, such as attacks of political party headquarters and violent repression of political demonstrations. The organizers, however, say Congolese people are mature enough to settle their differences. After years of conflict, the government and armed groups managed to sit together to negotiate a peace settlement. Civil society groups should therefore promote and support a national dialogue as well. Similarly, they should reflect on their role in this dialogue, what their arguments should be and who will be their main representatives. Political parties as well will have present their suggestions, particularly on how they plan to contribute to peaceful election.
- At the end of the workshops a lot of selected opinion leaders will be published. These will be responsible for meeting political leaders and inform them on the importance of national social dialogue.

(L'Observateur, privately-owned daily, article dated 16 September, 2011, in French)

“Hier à Kabinda Center. La Société civile prépare le dialogue social pour des élections apaisées” by Philippe Mbayi Wete

- Congolese civil society met at Kabinda Centre exactly one month after assembling for a conference on Monusco's mandate and the role of Civil society during the elections. This tie around, the meeting revolved around the importance of national dialogue in order to ensure to a transparent and peaceful electoral process in the DRC.
- Various civil society actors took part in the two-days conference which seeks to discuss the role, agenda and arguments civil society actors should have in times of crisis. The participants will also meet with CENI as well as various political, diplomatic, religious leaders to explain the importance of a social dialogue. The participants will meet members of the Opposition, the Majority, and finally, CENI.
- Civil society believes the exercise will avoid placing the DRC in Côte d'Ivoire's or Kenya's situation by already confronting the difficult question and thereby hopefully avoid violence.

4. Other election news

Government-owned media

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(Agence Congolaise de Presse, République Démocratique du Congo, government-owned news agency, Kinshasa, article dated 13 September 2011, in French)

“Le gouvernement et la Monusco évaluent leur partenariat pour la sécurisation des élections”

- The vice Prime Minister of the Interior, security, decentralization and land and town planning, Adolphe Lumanu Mulenda Bwana N’Sefu, and the UN representative in the DRC, Roger Meece, assessed the difficulty of securing the next elections. The two men examined different situations. Roger Meece praised the performance of PIR (Rapid Response Forces) during the last violent events in Kinshasa. He believes that this performance is the result of the different training policemen have to go through thanks to the help of the UN, France and other actors in the DRC. According to Meece, challenges remain huge, particularly considering the immensity of the country.

(Agence Congolaise de Presse, République Démocratique du Congo, government-owned news agency, Kinshasa, article dated 19 September 2011, in French)

“Les officiers de police de l’IPKIN sensibilisés à la protection de l’enfant en période électorale”

- In collaboration with Monusco, Unicef, Warchild, Save the Children and MDM, the Réseau des éducateurs des enfants et jeunes de la rue (REEJER) participated in a workshop seeking to sensitize police officers of the provincial inspection of Kinshasa (IPKIN) on the subject of child protection before and after the election. The coordinator, Remy Mafu, wants all political-administrative authorities, police forces, religious leaders, schools and parents and children themselves to get involved in order to prevent the use and abuse of children during the electoral and post-electoral period. Similarly, Unicef contends that children are often the first victims of electoral violence.
- IPKIN’s provincial deputy prefect, Roger Nsingi, reiterated the police’s will to prevent abuses.

(Agence Congolaise de Presse, République Démocratique du Congo, government-owned news agency, Kinshasa, article dated 19 September 2011, in French)

“L’électorat national et musulman appelé à un vote sanction en novembre 2011”

- The national coordination of the corporation of Imams, Sheiks and Ulamas of the Congo (CIMSUCO), a confessional NGO, called on all Muslims in particular and Congolese people in general for a “protest vote” in the 2011 November elections. Sheikh Imam Djuma Twaha, the coordinator of the association, Congolese people should not vote for egocentric politicians who do not work for the benefit of their nation. Similarly, politicians who do not repent for their past deeds should not be elected. The Sheikh therefore believes a complete renewal and revitalization of the Congolese political class is now necessary in order to construct a better country. Muslims should put in practice the beliefs of the Prophet against hypocrisy, lies, false promises, corruption and engagements.

Privately-owned media

(Radio Candip, community radio broadcasting funded by Belgian NGO, Bunia, 1530 gmt, 14 September, 2011, in French)

- Bunia, the minister in charge of public works, urged young people to restrain from political intolerance and to avoid divisive speeches which could challenge the security of the region.

(Radio-Television Nationale Congolaise TV, government-owned, Kinshasa, 1230 gmt, 13 September, 2011, in French)

- EU resident representative, Richard Zink, said the EU is committed to support election and urged all politicians to avoid incitement of hatred and to contribute to the holding of peaceful elections.

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 17 September, 2011, in French)

“Le lundi 19 septembre au Memling. La CENI échange avec les non signataires du Code de bonne conduite” by Bienvenu Ipan

- On 19 Monday, CENI is meant to meet with all parties and associations which have not signed the electoral code of good conduct. CENI says it privileges dialogue and seeks to understand why these actors have refused to sign the Code, although it is not a pre-requisite to participation in the elections.

5. Security Situation

Government-owned media

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“1.438 cas de viol enregistrés au Kasai Occidental de janvier à août 2011”

- 1438 cases of rape have been reported between January and August 2011 in Kasai Oriental, according to Chantal Bakambila, director of the Synergy against gender-based violence and for Gender, Family and Children. The victims are aged between 5 and 70 years old, and consist mostly of women and girls. Some of them have been cared for by medical personnel and some have also had access to judicial help, yet many cases have been settled amicably.
- The perpetrators are said to be students, professors, headmasters, parents and men in uniforms.
- Considering the gravity of the situation, Bakabila urges the setting up of special chambers in the territories. A lack of transport capacities within the provincial divisions for Gender, Family and Children also prohibits the good functioning of the different structures responsible for fighting against sexual violence. Finally, she also urges medical personnel to be better trained on the subject of post-violence trauma.

(Agence Congolaise de Presse, République Démocratique du Congo, government-owned news agency, Kinshasa, article dated 16 September 2011, in French)

“9000 déplacés de Shabunda de retour dans leurs localités”

- 9000 displaced people from Shabunda who had to flee clashes between the FDLR and Raia Mutomboki self-defense forces have been able to return. Fifty people have been kidnapped by the FDLR and remain captive today.

Privately-owned media

(Radio Candip, community radio broadcasting funded by Belgian NGO, Bunia, 1530 gmt, 12 September, 2011, in French)

- The commander of the FARDC in Ituri dismissed rumors of mutineer within his troops. He called on residents to remain calm as these allegations are only meant to destabilize the region in this pre-electoral period.

(Radio Candip, community radio broadcasting funded by Belgian NGO, Bunia, 1530 gmt, 13 September, 2011, in French)

- Civil society representatives from Ituri accused an officer of the FARDC of extorting money from civilians in Tchekele.
- Medical sources in Ituri announced that officials from the Health Ministry closed eleven traditional health centers in Bunia. Because these centers fail to adhere to the law of the country in providing health services to patients.

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 14 September, 2011, in French)

“Trois militaires des FARDC poursuivis pour meurtre de six civils à Dungu”

- Three FARDC soldiers have been charged with the murder of 6 civilians in Haut Uélé. Civil Society has denounced these crimes, which occurred on 24 August in Wando. The victims were two boys and two women, one of whom was pregnant. The soldiers also looted them of all their goods.

(Radio Candip, community radio broadcasting funded by Belgian NGO, Bunia, 1530 gmt, 14 September, 2011, in French)

- OCHA said it would suspend humanitarian activities in Lubero and Walikale, where two humanitarians were recently kidnapped.
- More than 1,400 rape cases have been recorded in Kasai Occidental Province from January to August.

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 17 September, 2011, in French)

“Insécurité au Kivu : élections 2011 menacées”

- Civil Society in Ituri is worried about the impact of growing insecurity for the elections. Although the commander of Operation Amani Leo (FARDC) has sought to reassure civilians, many fear the elections might be in danger, including politicians themselves. Moreover, several humanitarian actors have decided to suspend their operation in Lubero and Walikale. Kidnappings are reported every week, forcing populations to leave their homes.
- The commander of Monusco in Bukavu announced a series of security measure aimed at securing civilian populations.
- A large number of voters reside North and South Kivu, and the consequences on electoral results could therefore be important. Important measures should therefore be taken in order to guarantee security; the government is responsible for mobilizing all necessary means. Similarly, relationships with Monusco must be reinforced.

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 17 September, 2011, in French)

“Province Orientale : lancement d’une opération militaire dans les zones vulnérables” by Ludo Cardoso

- The FARDC and Monusco have been leading joint operation “Rebel Hunt” in Mawana, Ozoba, Matafu, Mataratala and Kamatsi where security has remained fragile. The aim is to secure populations and reinforce their protection as well as that of NGOs. Although the LRA has not lead major attacks in the past week, there have been rumors that it is operating in Bangadi.
- In Ituri, the security situation has been fragile as well: one PNC official was killed and the FARDC attacked. The FRPI is also active in various areas. A joint mission between Monusco and humanitarian actors is meant to evaluate the security situation and demands of civilians.

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 17 September, 2011, in French)

“RDC: les crimes du Kivu devant la CPI”

- An important stage in the trial of Calixte Mbarushimana opened yesterday at the ICC. Mbarushimana is responsible for the FDLR and is facing allegations of war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in North Kivu in 2009. Among the crimes committed are murder, rape, persecution, inhumane acts and torture, destruction of goods and attacks against civilians.
- As a result of delays, several NGOs deplore the fact that victims have only been allowed to testify now and urged the prosecutor to speed up his investigation in order to render justice to the victims. 130 testimonies will be heard. NGOs also demand that the prosecutor look into crimes committed in Shabunda, South Kivu. Hundred of victims have asked to participate but have been omitted due to a lack of timing and resources. The demands of 470 victims have not been treated.

6. Sexual violence: the FARDC ends training

Privately-owned media

(L’Observateur, privately-owned daily, article dated 15 September, 2011, in French)

“Lutte contre les violences sexuelles au sein des FARDC. Les modules de formation adoptés en plénière” by Willy Kilapi

- The FARDC’s training in sexual violence and other connected subjects, which opened 7 September, end on 9 Friday in Ngaiema. This collaboration between the Ministry of Defense and Veterans with the UNFPA, saw the adoption of two main recommendations.
- The Ministry of Defense should harmonize the first page of the document and integrate pedagogical tools and training manuals. The last meeting follows two similar modules held in Mai and June: the aim is to harmonize all the modules of the FARDC relating to sexual violence initiated by the ministry.
- The deputy resident representative of the UNFA, Ouedraogo Oudraogo, said the goal of the workshop is to prevent sexual violence within the FARDC, which he believes is essential although insufficient. The modules developed serve to educate soldiers on the need to protect civilians, particularly the most vulnerable ones. Reports on sexual

violence have shown that FARDC soldiers at all levels have committed widespread sexual abuses.

- Monusco, meanwhile, says the process is in perfect keeping with what the UN is waiting for.
- In order to fight sexual violence in the DRC, donor countries are urged to support the new strategy, including by providing the necessary help. Despite the increased attention paid to sexual violence in the country, women remain vulnerable and their lives have yet to be improved. Particular attention is paid to women who have access to main city centers while women living in rural areas have been left aside. More funding is also needed.
- The government passed several laws relating to sexual violence and announced a zero tolerance policy for the army. Yet the application of these laws remains fragile and the government has yet to prove its will to combat impunity, especially within high ranking officers. The government still has to adopt the root causes of the conflict in the eastern DRC without which the problem will not be solved.

7. Kabila informed on UNOCA's role

Government-owned media

(Agence Congolaise de Presse, République Démocratique du Congo, government-owned news agency, Kinshasa, article dated 17 September 2011, in French)

“ONU-RDC-Conflits/ Le Président Joseph Kabila informé de la mission de paix assigné à l'UNOCA en Afrique centrale”

- President Kabila spoke with Abou Moussa, special representative and director of UNOCA's (United National Office of Central Africa) regional office, who informed the president of the role of conflict prevention mission assigned to the body. Set by the Economic Community of the States of Central Africa, UNOCA is working towards the establishment of peace and strong regional institutions in Central African countries

8. Further threats against journalists

Privately-owned media

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 13 September, 2011, in French)

“Mbujimayi : le journaliste Jean-Michel Kabangu de la RTF menacé de mort” by Donatien Ngandu Mupompa

- Freedom for journalists fears for the life of Kabangu Jean-Michel, a journalist of catholic channel Radiotélévision Fraternité Buena Muntu (RTF) operating in Mbujimayi. He has received threats from an anonymous caller who says he is looking for him. The caller criticized him for talking about violent incidents which took place in front of CENI's offices in Kinshasa. The journalist says he was also threatened as a result of his show

“Dietu” which aims at raising awareness and also mentioned pre-electoral violence. Kabangu says he has lodged a complaint for “death threats.”

- The FFJ says journalists in this pro-opposition region have been particularly targeted by anonymous threats. The NGO calls in security authorities to ensure the security of media professionals.