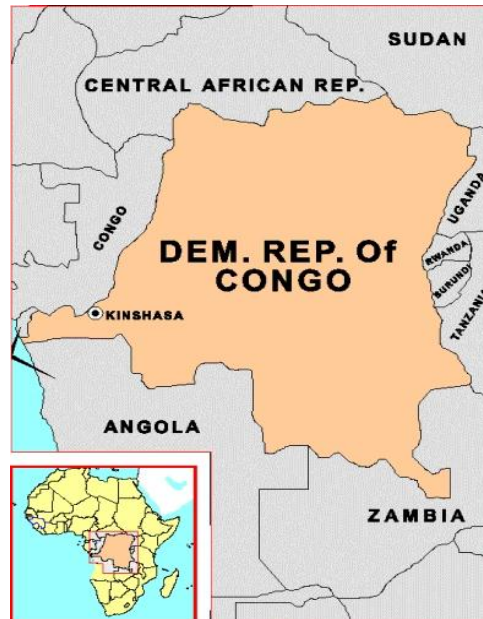


Democratic Republic of Congo: Domestic Media
Monitoring Report

*Montreal Institute for
Genocide and Human Rights Studies*

Marie Lamensch – MIGS Media Monitor for the DRC



19th -25th September

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1. FARDC soldiers kills Ugandan trader

Privately-owned media

(Radio Candip, community radio broadcasting funded by Belgian NGO, Bunia, 1530 gmt, 20 September, 2011, in French)

- Administrative leaders in Ituri said an FARDC soldier shot a Ugandan trader after he refused to pay illegal taxes imposed by the Congolese soldier at a roadblock

(Radio Candip, community radio broadcasting funded by Belgian NGO, Bunia, 1530 gmt, 21 September, 2011, in French)

- The commander of the FARDC in Ituri District announced the arrest of a soldier who killed a Ugandan trader in Kanjoka, near Bunia Town. He is to be judged in a military court soon.

2. Election update: a new phase as candidates are announced; CENI meets with political parties

Government-owned media

(Radio-Télévision Nationale Congolaise TV, government-owned, Kinshasa, 1230 gmt, 20 September, 2011, in French)

- CENI held a consultation meeting with political parties that did not sign in the code of conduct. Daniel Ngoy Mulunda, told the body had responded to the demands requested by the opposition parties. An audit of the voters' list has been organized and they will be allowed to get involved in the management of the electoral database. CENI therefore asked the parties to choose five delegates who will be asked to check the list.
- However, opposition moderator Jean Pierre Lisanga Bonganga said the Presidential Majority had violated the code of conduct: they posted banners and posters of Joseph Kabila in Kinshasa. CENI asked Kinshasa's governor to look into the issue since campaigning has not officially begun.

Privately-owned media

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 20 September, 2011, in French)

“Campagne électorale déguisée. La CENI rappelle le PPRD à l'ordre. UDPS d'accord pour la signature du Code de bonne conduite”

- The PPRD's and other parties' secretive and premature electoral campaign is worrying CENI and the commission did not hesitate to let the party know. The PPRD has already put posters up but CENI met Opposition parties in Kinshasa on Monday to discuss these issues. The Commission asked the Minister of the Interior and governors of all provinces to take down posters, banners and placards. Different parties had raised concerns about premature campaigning and one opposition party urged CENI to remind the Majority of its responsibilities and to respect the Code of Conduct. The meeting between CENI and opposition was apparently “fruitful” as Daniel Ngoy Mulunda tried to reassure parties by

reminding them all that all politicians must wait for CENI's official date before they can start their electoral campaign.

- FONUS, a group fighting for democracy, praised CENI for its politics of openness but tensions exist between leaders of opposition parties in several provinces, including concerning the caution paid by deputy candidates in Kinshasa.
- The UPDS has finally decided to sign the Code of Good Conduct.
- CENI urged the opposition and the majority to select two other technicians who will be responsible for checking the central server and electoral lists. The opposition refuses to accept that the audit cannot take place without the majority but proposed that two CENI be allowed to use international experts in case the Majority does not provide its own technicians. Concerning the central server, CENI said the question is not important as votes will be counted manually.

(L'Observateur, privately-owned daily, article dated 21 September, 2011, in French)

“Elections transparentes et apaisées. La Société civile propose une voie de sortie” by Philippe Mbayi Wete

- The Congolese civil society met in Lingwala (15-17th September) to discuss recent violence and intolerance reported in Kinshasa between political actors. Civil society wants to organize a social dialogue for transparent and peaceful elections. The talks will involve all delegations which participate in the current electoral process and should conclude with a national agenda for transparent elections. In order to organize this dialogue, civil society will set up a calendar and choose specific dates on which the different participants should meet to discuss issues which they consider important and contentious.
- Le Potentiel holds that the electoral calendar is already difficult to follow. Another calendar will not be easy to set up but the newspaper believes this is an important initiative.

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 22 September, 2011, in French)

“Paysage politique avant la campagne” by Freddy Monsa Iyaka Duku

- According to provisional lists, CENI has registered 11 presidential candidates and 14.000 legislative candidates for 500 posts. Two or three candidatures have been rejected yet the decision has been appealed.
- CENI reported 119,000 doublets, some criminal. CENI promised to bring these men to justice.
- The commission has also received electoral material from China.
- Concerning the presidential elections, four candidates stand out: Joseph Kabila Kabange for the majority, Etienne Tshisekedi, Vital Kamerhe and Kengo wa Dondo for the opposition, with Kabila and Tshisekedi being particularly strong.
- Kabila is the Majority's main candidate yet matters remain unsure within the opposition and negotiations are still talking place between the individual parties in order to find a common candidate.

- The one-round ballot has led to a real interest and passion in these elections.
- The political landscape is also rather fragile as tensed political debates and violent incidents have taken place. The headquarters of the PPRD and the UPDS were set of fire, along with the offices of RTLTV television channel. Several parties have also conducted premature campaigning. Patronage and opportunism have also been noted. Only a minority of politicians seems to understand the importance of these elections, the being to consolidate the rule of law and the country's independence, sovereignty, control of territory and national resources.

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 23 September, 2011, in French)

“Elections 2011. Serveur central: une polémique dangereuse”

- Tensions between CENI and political parties, particularly the opposition are not yet over as the audit of the central server remains an issue. CENI wants the Majority to participate although the party never raised the issue. Access to the central server will only be allowed if the Majority accepts to participate. The Opposition sees this as a hidden refusal by CENI to give anyone access to the lists.
- The Opposition has chosen three “engineers” to conduct the audit, not yet five as asked by CENI. The individuals chosen have surprised the commission since the opposition has chosen politicians instead of experts.
- According to Lambert Mende, the opposition is not ready for the elections and hides itself behind these quarrels.
- *Le Potentiel* believes that such polemics could block the electoral process or lead to a greater crisis of trust between CENI and the Opposition. Moreover several parties still have not signed the Code of Good Conduct.

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 24 September, 2011, in French)

“Culture électorale”

- Donors and partners are said to be happy about the way the elections are being handled. The chief of the European delegation on a visit in Kinshasa spoke to journalist and told them the situation was positive. He added that Congolese people are developing an “electoral culture” by getting involved in the elections.
- The EU is therefore rethinking its help: focus is now on providing logistical help, training the PNC to ensure the smooth running of the elections and, finally, sending European monitors in order to reassure all participants and to contribute to the credibility of the elections.
- *Le Potentiel* nonetheless notes that incidents have been noted here and there. Efforts have been made to bring back order. Several political parties still refuse to sign the Code of Good Conduct.
- *Le Potentiel* nevertheless sees the presence and words of EU observers as a good sign for Congolese people, who now have to continue along this road. Developing an electoral cultural will allow the Congo to have a real economy where all sectors benefit the development, consolidate basic social life and benefit Congolese people.

3. (In)security Update: Growing insecurity in several provinces; one FARDC official and two soldiers killed; AFRICOM visits Dungen

Privately-owned media

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 19 September, 2011, in French)

“Sud-Kivu: les FDLR toujours actives à Mwenga et Kalehe” by Stephane Etinga

- The FDLR remains active in South Kivu, particularly in Mwenga, Kalehe and Walungu. Two other armed groups named Nyara and Mai Mai Kincho are also active in Kalehe, and the Mai Mai Kapopo group has been recruiting combatants in Mwenga. Monusco says the situation is worrying and should be tackled. The Mai-Mai Yakutumba are also causing increasing instability and influence in Fizi and Lulimba. Monusco has continued operations in the region in order to deter combatants. Several missions have been successful.
- The FDLR attacked an Oxfam vehicle on the Marungu-Mashuba road, then attacked surrounding villages. New Monusco-FARDC operations have therefore been launched.
- In Katanga, the security situation remains fragile after the massive escape of detainees from Kasapa prison.

(Radio Candip, community radio broadcasting funded by Belgian NGO, Bunia, 1530 gmt, 19 September, 2011, in French)

- Military sources in Ituri announced the murder of one of its top officers and two of his guards during a clash with the Popular Front in Ituri.

(L’Observateur, privately-owned daily, article dated 22 September, 2011, in French)

“Dungen/Province Orientale: La sécurité au Coeur de la visite d’une mission d’AFRICOM” by Dovin Ntelolo Diasonga

- AFRICOM visited Dungen in mid-September in order to look into the security situation in the area. The delegation met with the DDRRR operation chief, with OCHA as well several NGOs on the ground.
- Dungen remains a fragile area as armed group regularly attacks residents. Monusco has nonetheless reported a decrease in activities in the past few weeks, especially the LRA.
- Monusco and the FARDC launched a new operation in September under the name of Dog Bite. The operation seeks to deter all armed groups in the area. Patrols have also been increased in other areas of the province.
- The FDLR and ADF remain active in North Kivu, along with several Mai Mai groups. Pareco attacked an FARDC base in Buniyatenge.
- The commander of the Monusco operation in Kirumba has refused to meet with an official of the CRC armed group who wanted to discuss the liberation of 6 kidnapped

NGO workers (Agro Action Allemagne). The commander argued that Monusco never negotiates with rebel groups and demanded the immediate liberation of the hostages.

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 22 September, 2011, in French)

“L’insécurité au top!”

- Insecurity is on the rise both in North and South Kivu, as well as Oriental Province. People have been kidnapped, women raped and goods looted, leading to widespread displacement as people flee into forested areas. In the west of Bukavu, attacks committed mostly by the FDLR have increased. Other smaller groups have been involved as well. The situation does not benefit the electoral process and threats are being taken seriously as many wonder how the elections should take place in such an atmosphere. According to OCHA, 500 000 people are currently displaced as a result of insecurity.

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 23 September, 2011, in French)

“En marge de la Journée internationale de la paix. Sud-Kivu : la Société civile invite le gouvernement à pacifier la province” by Albert tshiambi

- On the Day for International Peace, the Provincial Vice President of South Kivu’s Civil Society Coordination Office, Descartes Mponge, called on the government to continue its efforts towards the pacification of the province. Descartes Mponge said the security situation is not reassuring as the FDLR remains active in several areas. He encouraged national and international actors to work together. This would entail the training of responsible military and police forces.
- The UN’s Secretary General, Ban Ki-Moon, declared that democracy and peace are inseparable and benefit all.
- Regarding the elections, the national coordinator of ambassadors for universal peace urged the Congolese population to vote responsibly and in peace.

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 23 September, 2011, in French)

“Mbuji-Mayi: les policiers appelés à redoubler d’efforts contre l’insécurité” by Okapi.net/Lp

- Following continued insecurity in the city of Mbuji-Mayi, the provincial Congolese National Police commissioner called on police forces to bring security to Congolese people. He argued that every policeman has certain duties to uphold, including securitization of people, goods as well as the electoral process currently taking place. This includes protecting candidates, regardless of his or her political orientation.
- Following clashes in Bakwa Tshimuna between elements of the army and the police, it was also added that all mining and hydrocarbon police from Miabu district should now leave. The incident left two people dead, one civilian and a military man.

4. Cholera update: increase and decrease in several provinces

Privately-owned media

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 22 September, 2011, in French)

“Malgré la baisse sensible des cas enregistrés. Choléra : la population de Maluku toujours exposée” by Raymonde Senga Kosi

- Although cholera cases have decreased in Maluku, the population remains vulnerable. The city needs better water infrastructure in order to avoid an increase in cases during the raining season. Cholera was introduced in the area mainly from the outside. The area has many harbors: local residents use imported food, bathe and wash their clothes and other goods in the river.
- Several NGOs are present on the ground but many will leave in a month. Efforts have been made to raise public awareness but mentalities do not change easily and the central government has been urged to get more involved.

(L’Observateur, privately-owned daily, article dated 19 September, 2011, in French)

“En visite à l’Équateur dans la cadre du contrôle d l’épidémie du Cholera. Le ministre de la santé Dr Victor Makwenge invite la population à observer les règles d’hygiène” Blandine Lusimana T.

- The cholera epidemic is starting to get under control in several provinces, including n Oriental Province where the disease started. However, in Equatorial province the number of cases has increased in ore than 25 health zones. In Mbandaka, an average of five cases a day are recorded, according to Dr Benoît Kebela, the director in charge of the fight against cholera at the Ministry of health.
- The minister of health, Dr Victor Makwenge Kaput, visited the city last week, along with Unicef and WHO. He noted that patients are being correctly treated and described it as negligence, which risks aggravating the situation. According to reports, the personnel is demoralized because they have not received a bonus since the withdrawal of Doctors Without Borders.
- The provincial coordination committee is also badly organized and hardly functional, and the population does not see to understand the gravity of the problem either. The Minister therefore urged the central government to get involved in order to avoid an endemic. The population should also be better educated in order to raise public awareness.
- WHO representative, Dr Léodegal Bazira, underlined the importance of a multi-sectorial approach through the formation of personnel, technical assistance, sensitization of the population and improvement of water infrastructure. Unicef’s representative, meanwhile, reiterated her organization’s support.

5. Media environment: JED talks to journalists

Privately-owned media

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 24 September, 2011, in French)

“Sécurité des journalistes : le secrétaire général de JED fustige la dramatization” by FL NL-NS

- Journalistes en danger (JED) Secretary General, Thivis Tshivuadi, spoke about security issues with several journalists and explained the role of his organization. He explained that the general situation was not dramatic since it is not worse or better than usual; journalists in the Congo are used to working in a hostile environment as some people do not accept legitimate criticism. He said the economic and judicial environment were hostile as well and reminded journalists of their rights and duties. He explained that certain laws authorize the arrest, imprisonment of journalists, if not their death in certain circumstances.
- According to the Secretary General the situation is now worse since the Congo is a pre-electoral/electoral period: intolerance is therefore likely to be on the rise and to lead to a decline in press freedom.
- In general, JED seeks to monitor the way media and journalists are being treated, to provide lawyers to journalists currently facing charges, to lobby for better law, to organize workshops which aim at improving media professionalism, and to provide funds to media professionals who are being threatened and persecuted.
- JED told journalists never to minimize any form of threat and made several recommendations aiming at avoiding problems or provocations. He also emphasized the need for dialogue and communication, as well as solidarity between journalists. Finally, he argued that the respect of the Code of Good Conduct will diminish the risk of problems by 70% and therefore called on professionals to abide to it.

6. PNC involved in torture and corruption

Privately-owned media

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 22 September, 2011, in French)

“Province Orientale: les tracasseries policières se portent bien à Faradje” by T.M.

- The PNC is committing crimes in Faradje: residents say they have subject to torture and forced labor, especially in gold mines. Ten cases of torture have been reported since August, including on minors arrested on Ogambi, Mabanga and Bogoro. Detainees are forced to pay high fines and are arrested for benign reasons. One student was beaten up by the police then thrown in jail.
- A demonstration has been organized to protest against these crimes but has not led to any results on the ground. The president of the local civil society accused the commander of Tadu’s sub-commission to defend police elements under his commander
- Le Potentiel calls for investigation and urged the government to ensure security of civilian populations in Oriental Province.