

**DRC Domestic Broadcasting, 25 April, 2011 (16 April– 24 April, 2011)**

**by Marie Lamensch, MIGS Reporter for the DRC**

**Privately-owned radio**

**(Radio Candip, community radio broadcasting funded by Belgian NGO, Bunia, 1530 gmt, 16 April, 2011, in French)**

- FARDC military sources from Ituri District announced that a fighting took place between their troops and the militia fighters of the Popular Front for Justice in Congo near Katadishi, south of Bunia Town. Two militiamen were killed and four taken hostages.

**(L'Observateur, privately-owned daily, article dated 18 April, 2010, in French)**

**« Insécurité dans l'Est de la RDC : Des acteurs humanitaires cibles des hommes armés »**

- Insecurity remains an important challenge for humanitarian actors in South Kivu as they are being increasingly targeted by armed groups. In less than a week, three attacks on humanitarian vehicles have been reported in Orientale Province and South Kivu.
- Two humanitarian workers were wounded during one of the attacks.
- In these situations, those most in need suffer the consequences as NGOs decide to stop working in dangerous areas. A few days ago, an MSF vehicle was ambushed on the road to Bukavu, South Kivu, and another one in Marungu. Following the attacks, MSF decided to suspend its mobile clinics activities, restricting its work to hospitals.
- Since the beginning of the year, 20 attacks on humanitarians have been reported in South Kivu. This situation is detrimental to those who are supposed to receive basic assistance and services.
- In 2010, 200 attacks took place, most of them in North and South Kivu. Ambushes are more and more violent as humanitarians are now being physically attacked.
- *L'Observateur* criticizes the FARDC lack of capacity.

**(L'Observateur, privately-owned daily, article dated 18 April, 2010, in French)**

**« Crimes les plus graves en RDC commis depuis 1990 »**

- FIDH and its Congolese partners Asadho, Lotus and the Ligue des Electeurs called on Congolese authorities to take into account recommendations made for the establishment of a specialized mixed court in the DRC. The court will investigate and prosecute those responsible for war crimes, crimes against humanity and other human rights violations committed against Congolese people since 1990.
- The vice president of the FIDH and president of Lotus said they supported the establishment of a specialized court, which will contribute to the fight against impunity and will be in accordance with the ICC and the recommendations made by the UN in the Mapping Report. However, they would like some amendments to be made in order to guarantee the independence of the court.

- Indeed the court should not limit itself to cases of violence committed before 2003 but also include current crimes. Moreover, the project should include the participation of international personnel with expertise in investigation and prosecution of individuals for international crimes. The law should also guarantee the respect of the rights of the accused and provide for the participation as well as the protection of the rights and integrity of the witnesses.
- Despite denunciation by international NGOs, the culture of impunity has continued and victims do not know who to turn to in order to. The birth of this law should act as a deterrent.

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

- In Haut Uele District, the FARDC reported that heavy fighting took place between troops and LRA fighters in Doruma, north of Dungu Town. Humanitarian workers and populations are leaving the location for security reasons.
- Mambasa Territory administrator called on timber traders to get legal exploitation documents after it was estimated that about 30 of them do not possess them.

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

- Heavy fighting took place between the FARDC and a group of the Popular Front for Justice in Congo militia east of Bunia Town. The FARDC recovered about 400 cows, which had been looted by the rebel group.

**(L'Observateur, privately-owned daily, article dated 22 April, 2010, in French)**

**« Rapatriement des Congolais de la RDC vivant au Congo/Brazza »**

- Congolese refugees living in the Republic of the Congo and Central African Republic are still waiting for their repatriation to Equatorial Province, even though the process should have started by April. The High Commission for Human Rights said the HCHR and its partners, including Congolese authorities and the humanitarian community, were working actively to ensure the start of operation and voluntary repatriation of refugees.
- Part of the operation includes the promotion of a process of reconciliation between different communities who fought each other during inter-ethnic fighting in 2009 (Enyele, Lobala, Bobala...).
- The international NGOS Search for Common Ground organized a tutorial on peace, reconciliation and mediation. The programme led to a renewal of the non-aggression pact signed between the two communities.
- Of the 115,000 refugees living in the Republic of the Congo, 80 expressed the desire to return to their region of origin once security had returned. According to the HCHR, several refugees are still hesitant to return, while some are ready to do so with the support of NGOs and agencies. Security remains one of the main concerns.
- The HCHR said repatriation comprises a large number of logistical and financial challenges. As a forested area, access to the Equatorial Province is limited. Certain areas are accessible only by water, while certain roads remain poor. These logistical

difficulties seriously affect the activities of the HCHR and its partners, especially in terms of humanitarian aid. Operations have proven very costly.

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

**«Les FARDC dotées d'un manuel de formation contre les violences sexuelles»**

- The FARDC now has a set of rules concerning sexual violence. General José Mulubi bin Muhemed, commandant of the Civic and patriotic education of the FARDC, said an intense three day meeting led to the birth of this manual, which seeks to respect human rights and dignity. He expressed his desire for rhetoric to become reality.
- Dr Koudaogo Ouedraogo (FNUAP-RDC) said he was satisfied with the initiative and hope sexual violence will finally decline. He called on all partners to help the FARDC in this task

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

**«Les rebelles de la LRA attaquent Doruma» by Louis-Paul Eyenga Sana**

- Despite claims that the activities of the LRA have diminished, the rebel group continues to be active in Haut Uélé. While Monusco is planning new operations in the area, news has come out that the LRA attacked Doruma on Wednesday. The group was quickly pushed back by the FARDC but took three individuals hostage in Nambili. Some of the residents took refuge in the hospital in Dungu, while others are hiding in the forest and near an FARDC base.
- Residents are now starting to go back to their homes. According to civil society, local authorities are worried about the situation and are facing difficulties delivering material for CENI.
- Lieutenant-colonel Mamadou Gaye said on Wednesday that the FARDC and UPF are conducting joint operations of Naparka and Bamangana. The goal is to track the movement of the LRA. Further FARDC operations are also taking place in Semliki, Bukiringi and Luna.