

DRC Domestic Broadcasting, 23 August, 2010 (12 July– 22 August, 2009)

by Marie Lamensch, MIGS Reporter for the DRC

Government-owned media

(Radio-Television Nationale Congolaise TV, government-owned, Kinshasa, 1230 GMT, August 18, 2010, in French)

- During a meeting with National Assembly Speaker Evariste Boshab, UN Mission Organization for the Stabilization of Congo chairman, Roger Meece, confirmed Monusco's commitment to support the DRC's next elections.
- Honorable Sabina Muyima expressed his concern over the security situation in Walikale territory and denounced the attacks of some localities in the area. She denounced Democratic Forces of the Liberation of Rwanda and Mai Mai Cheka combatants who looted villages and burned several houses.

Privately-owned media

(L'Observateur, privately-owned daily, article dated August 12, 2010, in French)

**“Le colonel Olin Saunders: ‘Les Fardc font un travail positif dans la securisation du pays’”
by Luc-Roger Mbala Bemba**

- Since 2006, the American army has participated in the reinforcement of the FARDC's capacities. Cooperation between the two countries led to the training of 1450 FARDC forces who now participate in various peace and security operation across the country.
- During a press conference, US Army col. Olin Saunders praised the FARDC's work and courage. He denounced the media's negative publicity and criticism of the FARDC.
- The goal of the programme was to train officers in areas of human rights, intelligence, criminology and basic medical help in order to ensure that officers and military leaders respect human rights and participate to the country's development.
- Col. Saunders emphasized the programme's success and a change of mentality and behavior had taken place within those who benefitted from this training course.
- Muene-Ditu mayor said that before the FARDC's arrival, soldiers did not respect human rights, leading local populations to mistrust soldiers. Yet the FARDC's has now contributed to the pacification and development of the region.

(Radio Candip, community radio broadcasting funded by Belgian NGO, Bunia, 1530 gmt, August 16, 2010, in French)

- Police announced the arrest of six people in Malabo, Ituri district. They are accused of complicity with armed militia fighters who attacked Malabo, killing and wounding several people.
- Walendu Bindi's chief (Irumu Territory) announced that many militia fighters are ready to abandon armed groups in the area. Three Popular Front of Resistance and two Popular

Front for Justice combattants surrendered themselves to troops of the armed forces of DR Congo.

(Radio Candip, community radio broadcasting funded by Belgian NGO, Bunia, 1530 gmt, August 17, 2010, in French)

- A group of Ugandan rebels of the Lord's Resistance Army looted the village of Lalido, Faradje territory. Local villagers are said to be traumatized by the attacks.
Source: Radio Candip, Bunia, in French 1530 gmt 17 Aug 10

(Radio Candip, community radio broadcasting funded by Belgian NGO, Bunia, 1530 gmt, August 18, 2010, in French)

- The administrative leaders of Irumu Territory in Ituri District said a group of PFJC militia fighters had attacked Kaguma, a town an hour away from Bunia. Three people were killed, including two civilians, and several were wounded.

(Radio Okapi website, MONUC/UN-sponsored radio, Kinshasa, 19 August, 2010, in French)

“DR Congo launches inquiry in murder of three UN peacekeepers”

- After the death of three peacekeepers, the head of the Monusco office, Hiroute Gebre Sellasie, said the incident would not weaken the body's demobilization, pacification and development mission in the region.
- The governor of the Nord-Kivu province, Julien Paluku, said a commission of inquiry had already begun. He said he did not understand the motivation behind the killings and added that justice would be made.

(Rwandan news agency RNA, government owned, article dated 19 August, 2010, in English)
“Rwandan rebels said take over DR Congo mine”

- In Walikale, FDLR rebels and Mai Mai Cheka fighters have taken over a mine in an area controlled by DRC forces and UN troops, killing and wounding soldiers.
- Villages in the area were looted, causing local people to flee their homes.

(Radio Okapi website, MONUC/UN-sponsored radio, Kinshasa, 19 August, 2010, in French)

“UN calls for inquiry into murder of three UN peacekeepers in eastern DR Congo”

- During its weekly press conference, Monusco discussed the DRC's current security situation, including the murder of three UN peacekeepers in North Kivu.
- The new special representative of the UN secretary General in DR Congo, Roger Meece, said armed groups continue to be a threat to the population and emphasized the need to eliminate the instability caused by armed groups.
- He also reaffirmed the organization's support for free and transparent elections in the country.

- Regarding Monusco’s vision, he said all UN agencies were ready to coordinate their efforts and work together in order to maximize the impact of the mission.

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 20 August, 2010, in French)

“Bunia: des affrontements entre FARDC et miliciens signalés à Mukatongazi” by Albert tshiambi

- Intense fighting between the FPJC and DR Congo Forces has been reported in Kanana and Mukatongaz, two villages South of Bunia, Ituri. At least two people died as FPJC militiamen attacked DR Congo forces, leading villagers to flee their homes.
- The newspaper urges the government to do everything in its power to re-establish security

(Radio Candip, community radio broadcasting funded by Belgian NGO, Bunia, 1530 gmt, August 20, 2010, in French)

- The office of the DR Congo army military operational zone in Ituri District presented a report on the military operation against militia groups May 2010. 89 militia fighters and two DRC army soldiers have been killed while more than 150 combatants surrendered to the DRC Armed Forces.

(Radio France Internationale, French state-funded public broadcaster, dated 20 August, 2010, in French)

“DR Congo: Opposition leader's bid for candidacy arouses debate”

- Etienne Tshisekedi of the Union for Social Development and Progress Party (UDPS) announced that he would run in the 2012 elections. His decision led to a flow of reactions. The MLC, the main opposition party, is satisfied with the decision but within the UDPS party itself divisions exist between those who manage the UDPS and those managing the future candidate’s political base. Several months ago, Tshisekedi refused to recognize the legitimacy of the UDPS’s first party congress.

(Radio France Internationale, French state-funded public broadcaster, dated 20 August, 2010, in French)

“DR Congo army arrest two suspects in murder of peacekeepers”

- Armed forces of DR Congo announced the arrest of two individuals suspected of taking part in the attack on a UN camp in North Kivu. One of the suspects, a Mai Mai militiaman, has confessed. The reason given for the attack was that the UN forces did not want to facilitate the fighters’ integration within armed forces.
- Two peacekeepers were killed during the attack.

(L’Avenir, daily newspaper known to have connections to the government, Kinshasa, August 20, 2010, in French)

“Nord-Kivu: attaque d’une coalition FDLR Mai-Mai à Butua dans le territoire de Walikale”

- A FDLR Mai-Mai coalition attacked Butua, a village in Walikale, North Kivu. According to sources, the combatants, armed with machetes and guns, looted and abducted several people. Women were taken by force and led to the forest.
- Other villages in the area were also attacked during the week.

(Radio Okapi website, MONUC/UN-sponsored radio, Kinshasa, 20 August, 2010, in French)

“DRCongo army destroys militia strongholds in country's east”

- Col Fall Sikabwe, the commander of the operational zone of the FARDC in Ituri, released a report of a military operation named “Safisha” (“clean up”) launched last May. The reports states that 98 FPJC militiamen and two loyalist soldiers were killed. 109 militiamen surrendered during the operations.
- Sikabwe added that the enemy stronghold and combat zone no longer existed as combatants are now scattered in the bush. Sikabwe wants local villagers to return home

(The New Times website, Rwandan government-owned newspaper, Kigali, article dated 21 August, 2010, in English)

“Rwandan paper says rebel groups’ “evil cause” no longer acceptable”

- Fifty-eight former FDLR fighters and their families arrived in Rwanda after deciding to lay down arms. Some of the fighters were forcefully recruited but improved relations between Rwanda and the DRC led them to disarm. FDLR senior commanders and leaders spread fear and panic among combatants.
- The fighters will undergo a rehabilitation programme. It is hoped that more soldiers will give up fighting as well.

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 22 August, 2010, in French)

“Walikale: des hommes armés attaquent Butua” by Albert tshiambi

- According to Radio Okapi, a coalition of FDLR and Mai Mai fighters attacked the village of Butua in the night of Saturday.
- Walikale’s administrator confirmed the attack and civil society deplores the reduction of regular troops in the area. Civil society groups demand the deployment of loyalist troops in order to deter “barbaric” acts. This is also the point of view of many observers who believe that the deployment of a large number of soldiers will reestablish the state’s authority in the area.

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 22 August, 2010, in French)

“Deux ans après sa mise en chantier le programme Starec «serait» un fiasco” by Louis-Paul Eyenga Sana

- According to some observers, Starec is a fiasco. The death of three peacekeepers and frequent attacks in Beni and Walikale are weakening the programme's credibility. Starec's goal was to establish stability to Ituri, North Katange, North and South Kivu, as well reconstruct and restore authority. The programme was launched in 2009 after a peace accord with the CDNP and armed groups in North and South Kivu.
- The programme's goal was also to establish security by facilitating demobilization, reintegration of soldiers, reintegration of IDPs and refugees, and promoting economic recovery by monitoring the local mining sector in order to avoid illegal exploitation by armed groups.
- However, a year later, Starec still has to deliver as armed groups continue to cause mayhem in the east. Moreover, the government has failed to deploy more police force and judges.

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 20 August, 2010, in French)

“Le Parti national pour la réforme note l’incapacité du gouvernement à assurer la sécurité de la population” by St. Augustin Kinienzi

- In a statement dated 2 August, the PNR declared the incapacity of the government to establish peace in the east. Since the 1998, eastern Congo has been attacked by various predators, leading to desolation, destruction and death. The government is criticized for failing to bring the culprits to court while citizens, journalists, and human rights activists are being killed.
- The PNR believes that only the Congolese people can bring about change. They can do so by refusing to vote for the current government in the forthcoming elections. The army and security system must be reformed in order to bring about peace and maintain security.
- Delphin Kyubwa, head of the NPR, welcomed the President and government's decision to organize elections yet said an environment of peace had to be created in the east for elections to take place.
- He called on the international community to urge the Congolese government to seek justice and launch criminal investigations against perpetrators of violence.