

**DRC Domestic Broadcasting, 30 August, 2010 (22 August– 29 August, 2009)**

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

**Government-owned media**

**(Radio-Television Nationale Congolaise TV, government-owned, Kinshasa, 1230 gmt, August 23, 2010, in French)**

- All participants at the first university of the 50th anniversary of the DRC Independence Day for the People's Party for the Reconstruction and Development agreed that Joseph Kabila is the only candidate for presidential election for PPRD
- A British NGO reports that the DRC is among the three African countries along with Zimbabwe and Chad to be exposed to food shortages in the near future.

**Privately-owned media**

**(Radio France Internationale, French state-funded public radio, Paris, 0530 gmt, 23 August, 2010, in French)**

**“DRCongo civil society accuses Ugandan rebels of summary executions in east”**

- Civil society in North Kivu has expressed its concern over increased abductions and summary executions in North Kivu. Ugandan rebels are said to be responsible. About 10 people were allegedly executed in mid-July, while 50 others were abducted.
- The NGOs also accused the DRC’s armed forces of looting villages.

**(Radio Okapi website, MONUC/UN-sponsored radio, Kinshasa, 24 August, 2010, in French)**

**“Analysts explain re-emergence of armed groups in eastern DRCongo”**

- Recent attacks on villages in the Walikale territory have led observers to conclude that armed groups have re-emerged in the region. Many believed that these groups had disappeared after the signing of the 23 March 2009 agreements.
- Analysts think these armed groups are connected to ethnic communities, even though the peace agreements should have brought an end to the existence of armed groups, the failure of the integration process led to their continued existence. The Congolese government is criticized for failing to pay enough attention to the matter and taking everyone’s ambitions into consideration.

**(The New Times, government-owned Rwandan newspaper, article dated 24 August, 2010, in English)**

**“Rwanda minister, UN envoy discuss regional security” by Edmund Kagire**  
*Originally entitled "Kabarebe, UN envoy discuss regional security"*

- Rwandan Minister of Defense, James Kabarebe met the Monusco's Roger Meece, to discuss regional security and stability, especially in the Eastern DRC. Meece said good bilateral relations between the two countries are crucial in ensuring that peace is established in the region.
- Meece explained that both nations had made progress towards restoring peace but nonetheless added that FDLR rebels still posed a threat to civilians in the area.

**(Radio Candip, community radio broadcasting funded by Belgian NGO, Bunia, 1530 gmt, August 23, 2010, in French)**

- A demobilization programme was started among various communities in Bunia town, Ituri District. The programme is run in partnership with the UNDP and aims to remove small weapons still owned by 75% of the population. Each person or household will be compensated in return of the weapons.

**(RNA news agency, Kigali, article dated 25 August, 2010, 1405 gmt, in English)**

**“Rwandan rebels call for independent probe into eastern DR Congo rape claims”**

*Originally "FDLR wants 'independent international commission' on rapes"*

*The UN confirmed that members of two armed groups in eastern DRC raped more than 150 women during attacks in North Kivu. The attack occurred 30 July and perpetrators are said be FDLR combatants. Soldiers of the national army have also been implicated in sexual abuses in the east.*

- The FDLR denied having anything to do with allegedly gang-raping 179 women and small boys in the DRC. The FDLR also called for an “independent international commission” to investigate the crimes. The group said they were "in no way involved in these odious actions and takes umbrage at the baseless accusations launched against them by the secretary-general of the United Nations.”
- UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon dispatched two of his top staff but the UN peacekeepers have been criticized for failing to act even though they knew about the abuses.

**(Radio Candip, community radio broadcasting funded by Belgian NGO, Bunia, 1530 gmt, August 25, 2010, in French)**

- The police inspector of Orientale Province has urged Ituri District police officers to carry out serious work ethics, particularly ahead of the elections
- The commander of the military operational zone of the DR Congo Armed Forces in Ituri District expressed his satisfaction over the surrender of several militia fighters in the region.

**(Radio France Internationale, French state-funded public radio, Paris, 0530 gmt, 25 August, 2010, in French)**

**“UN sends official to examine mass rape allegations in eastern DR Congo”**

- UN secretary-general Ban Ki-Moon has expressed outrage at alleged mass rapes perpetrated in eastern DRC by the FDLR. 179 women are reported to have been raped in the past few weeks. Top officials have been sent to North Kivu to investigate.

**(Radio Okapi website, MONUC/UN-sponsored radio, Kinshasa, 25 August, 2010, in French)**

**“UN to increase patrols following rapes in eastern DR Congo”**

- Monusco military spokesperson, Lt Col. Gay spoke out regarding mass rapes committed by the FDLR and Mayi Mayi militia men in North Kivu. He said the UN would increase patrols by peacekeepers.
- Some 15 villages were attacked by armed militia between 30 July and 2 August.
- Medical personnel and counselors have been dispatched to the region.

**(RNA news agency, Kigali, article dated 25 August, 2010, in English)**

**“Belgium urges DR Congo, UN to probe rape cases”**

- The Belgian government urged the DRC and Monusco to investigate how some 179 women and baby boys were gang raped close to government and UN military bases. A Monusco spokesperson said peacekeepers did not know about mass rape and rebel attacks until a week after the events took place.
- Development Cooperation Minister Charles Michel said this was another proof that rape is still being used as a weapon of war.
- Residents of Walikale have been particularly affected.
- Recent attacks also led to the death of three Monusco peacekeepers

**(L’Observateur, privately owned daily, article dated 25 August, 2010, in French)**

**“Des Groupes armés refont surface au Nord-Kivu: Suite au retard constaté dans l'application des accords d'intégration” by Philippe Mbayi**

- According to analysts, armed groups have re-emerged in North Kivu. After the signing of the peace agreement in Goma in 2009, everybody saw the slow disappearance of armed groups. Yet today several Mayi Mayi groups have allied to the FDLR in order to control the Walikale region.
- According to analysts, these armed groups want to make themselves heard and are disappointed with the slowness of the Goma resolutions.
- The situation is also due to a failure to politically and militarily integrate former combatants. The government seems to have forgotten some of the signatories.
- Yet those responsible for the attacks and for the death of three Monusco peacekeepers have committed a grave error as both the central government and the international community have strongly condemned the acts and have said that abuses would not go unpunished.
- While the reason for their “fight” can be understood, the means must be condemned.

**(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 25 August, 2010, in French)**

**“Bunia: coup d’envoi du projet de désarmement communautaire” by Rich Ngapi**

- A new disarmament project has started in Bunia, Ituri on Monday. The project was started by the Congolese government and is financed by the UN Development Programme. The aim of the programme is to give material goods in exchange of weapons in order to put an end to insecurity in this part of the country. Four communities are currently targeted: Bunia, Fataki, Libi and Mahagi.
- Unlike PAREC who exchanged small arms in return for money, individuals and households will benefit from diverse goods, including agricultural tools, household appliances, bicycles etc.
- A similar programme took place in other provinces, including Kinshasa, in North and South Kivu. Insecurity has however continued in the east.

**(L’Observateur, privately owned daily, article dated 25 August, 2010, in French)**

**“Droits de l’homme en RDC: Gouvernement-activistes décidés à émettre sur la même longueur d’ondes” by Willy K.**

- The government met human rights groups on Tuesday in order to assess the human rights situation in the country and to establish plans for the future. Justice minister Bambi Lessa said he wanted a strong and positive partnership between the government, the UN and civil society.
- He added that human rights could not exist without justice and called experts to work hard at this task. They must monitor human rights, particularly sexual violence and illegal detainment.

**(L’Observateur, privately owned daily, article dated 26 August, 2010, in French)**

**“J.C Vuemba: ‘Les élections risquent d’y être perturbées’” by Philippe Mbayi Wete**

- The re-emergence and increasing violence of armed groups in North and South Kivu have led Kasangulu deputy J. Claude Vuemba to state that the elections would be violent in the region if nothing is done about the matter. He explained that armed groups are using their weapons to make their voices heard and therefore urged the government to deploy new troops and staff to the region, including scientific police. He added that police officers and military men sent to the area should not be from the east as he believes that the presence of those sent originally are partly responsible for the continuation of the conflict. He argued that those responsible for abuses, including rape, are known to the authorities but that nothing is done about them.

**(L’Observateur, privately owned daily, article dated 27 August, 2010, in French)**

**“Au pays des violeurs, l’immunité est assurée: Recrudescence des viols en RDC” by Kléber Kungu**

- The Congo is described as the “rape capital of the world,” a quote by UN envoy Margot Wallstrom. At least 179 women and young boys were raped recently in the region of Walikale. The FDLR and Mayi Mayi combatants are said to be responsible for the crimes.
- In 2010’s first trimester alone, 1200 women have been raped, that is 14 people a day and 60% of those rapes were committed by armed groups, particularly FDLR combatants.
- Rape is used both as a weapon and a method of reward. Rape is meant not only to destroy the victim, but also the victim's community by breaking social ties.
- Despite international interest in the issue, the phenomenon has continued and perpetrators continue to enjoy impunity. Visits and condemnations by powerful personalities cannot end the acts. In 2008, the UN officially described rape as a weapon of war.
- Civil society in the region demands clear changes and urges the international community and Congolese authorities to act. But the UN’s peace and security department cannot be everywhere and it is first and foremost the Congolese state’s role to arrest the perpetrators.
- General Secretary Ban Ki Moon said he was horrified by the cases of rape, especially since they were committed not far away from UN bases. This has led many to question the peacekeepers’ role since they are supposed to protect the populations.
- Both Monusco and Congolese authorities have begun investigating the abuses.
- The International Medical Corps is on the ground to take care of the victims but the IMC’s head said the situation is unbearable as many victims were raped in front of their families. These women were then abandoned by their families and the NGO is now trying to reconcile both parties

**(Radio France Internationale, French state-funded public radio, Paris, 0530 gmt, 27 August, 2010, in French)**

**“DR Congo to cooperate in probe into claims of crimes by Rwandan forces”**

- Information Minister Lambert Mende said his government would cooperate in investigating alleged crimes against humanity, war and genocide committed by the Rwandan army in the DRC against Hutu refugees between 1993 and 2003.
- Mende said that the president wants to end impunity not only in the DRC but on the entire continent. He explained that the government wanted the truth to be out and also condemned indifference and lack of solidarity regarding the tragedy.
- The use of the term 'genocide' caused controversy in Rwanda with the government trying to keep the report quiet and threatening to withdraw troops from peacekeeping operations worldwide. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon warned against the use of the word genocide.

**(The New Times, government-owned Rwandan newspaper, article dated 27 August, 2010, in English)**

**“World urged to aid in fight against Rwandan rebels in DR Congo”**  
*Originally "Dealing with FDLR will require International intervention"*

- The New Times reports that abuses perpetrated by the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR), “remnants of masterminds of the 1994 genocide against Tutsi,” are on the rise in the DRC.
- 120 are said to have been raped by the FDLR and various rebel groups. The region of Walikale in North Kivu has been particularly affected.
- Considering continued killings and abuses, the New Times questions the capacity and effectiveness of the DRC’s forces. The newspaper calls for “active international involvement” in order to deal with the FDLR.

**(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 27 August, 2010, in French)**

**“Crimes de guerre en RDC : Kagame dos au mur”**

- A new report by the UN High Commission for Human Rights states that Rwanda’s government could face the international court concerning acts committed by its troops in the DRC between 1996 and 2003. The UN described the abuses as war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide.
- Kinshasa has rejected some of the allegations present in the new report.
- The report has the advantage of changing the general point of view: Tutsis have long been victimized yet the UN concludes that genocide against the Hutus has also been committed.
- The report refers to the systematic and premeditated nature of the attacks against the Hutu survivors, particularly in refugee camps.
- Analysts say President Paul Kagame must now answer for crimes committed by his army. The president has tried to silence the report and threatened to withdraw his troops from various peacekeeping operations in the world.
- If an international trial is to take place, new judicial mechanisms will have to be created since most crimes were committed before the creation of the ICC.
- Le Potentiel hopes for the end of the reign of war criminals in the Great Lakes region and wishes to see the promotion of human rights and democracy in the region.

**(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 28 August, 2010, in French)**

**“Viols à l’Est : la crédibilité de la Monusco entamée”**

- Monusco is criticized for failing to act when women were being raped not far away from their base. The UN expressed its anger over the attitude of the peacekeepers, especially as it questions the presence of Monusco in the DRC.
- The combatants responsible for the attacks and abuses are said have prevented villagers from calling for help. Several houses were looted. The newspaper finds Monusco’s passivity disconcerting.
- Monusco's new head, Roger Meece, expressed his shock and sadness over the tragedy yet said Monusco did not foresee the attacks even though the presence of the FDLR had been noted in late July. In early August a village had been looted and rapes committed yet since then no incidents had been reported to Monusco.

- Le Potentiel questions the presence of Monusco. Like the UN's previous mission, Monuc, Monusco shows signs of inefficacy. The current situation brings new arguments for those against Monusco's presence in the DRC.

**(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 28 August, 2010, in French)**

**“A quand un Tribunal pénal international pour la RDC?”**

- After years of work, the UN High Commission for Human Rights has finally come out with a list of crimes committed in the DRC between 1993 and 2003.
- The international community, that includes NATO, NGOs, and big powers, are criticized for benefitting from the DRC's rich mineral resources.
- While most crimes committed during the period have been well documented certain acts may now be qualified as acts of genocide.
- Conflict resolution and peace cannot occur without justice. Sierra Leone, ex-Yugoslavia and Cambodia have all benefitted from the setting up of special tribunals. Le Potential therefore calls for the setting up of a tribunal.
- The UN's new report should be used as a basis for a tribunal.