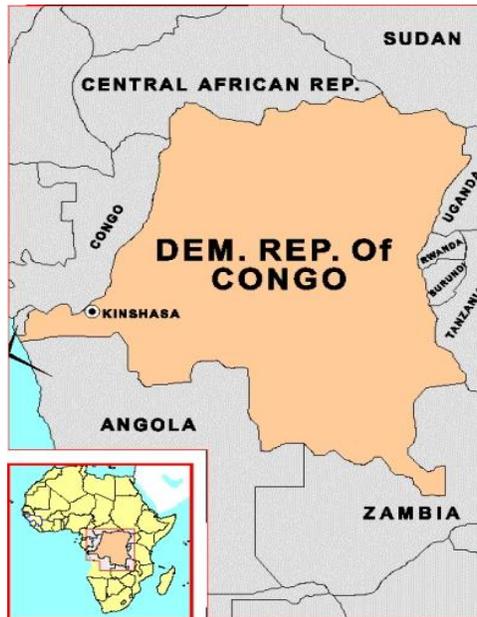


Democratic Republic of Congo: Domestic Media
Monitoring Report

*Montreal Institute for
Genocide and Human Rights Studies*

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22nd August-28th August

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1. Part of the Opposition chooses common candidate

Government-owned media

(Agence Congolaise de Presse, République Démocratique du Congo, government-owned news agency, Kinshasa, article dated 25 August 2011, in French)

“Etienne Tshisekedi désigné candidat commun de l’opposition à la présidentielle”

- The president of the UDPS, Etienne Tshisekedi, has been designated as the Opposition common candidate during an assembly organized in Kinshasa. According to the meeting's spokesperson, the candidate's role is to continue negotiations between the various parties, including the MLC and the UNC, who remained absent from the meeting.

Privately-owned media

(L'Avenir, privately-owned daily, article dated 26 August, 2011, in French)

“Candidat commun de l’opposition: Le MLC, l’UFC et l’UNC favorables à la poursuite des concertations”

- Although Tshisekedi has been chosen a common candidate for the opposition by twenty political parties, the UNC, the MLC and the UFC believe the Opposition still needs to discuss a common programme and have not yet brought their support to Tshisekedi.
- Jean Lucien Busa of the MLC remains open to discussion and the UNC says opposition parties were in constant contact. The UNC wants to find a common programme and designate a common prime minister, National Assembly and Senate presidents, and Central Bank representative. It refuses to let one party rule all others. Kengo wa Dondo of the UFC has uttered similar words, arguing that parties should review their decision in order to discuss matters further.

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 27 August, 2011, in French)

“L’Opposition minée par le partage des responsabilités”

- The Opposition has yet to elect a common candidate for the presidential elections. Several opposition parties have chosen Etienne Tshisekedi as their candidate but others remain sceptical. The UNC, MLC and UFC believes that designation of a common candidate should be preceded by the elaboration of a common programme and therefore set up a technical commission responsible for bringing together the projects of all Opposition parties.
- *Le Potentiel* is sceptical of the Opposition's capacity to find consensus on the distribution of political posts.

- SET (Soutien à Etienne Tshisekedi-Support to Etienne Tshisekedi) met with Monusco on Friday in order to discuss the best way to ensure peaceful, transparent and democratic elections. Tensions between CENI and the Opposition are still rife but the Commission said IT experts from the Majority and the Opposition could get together to discuss and review the functioning of the computers. The body also expressed its will to maintain a climate of trust and avoid further tensions. After the meeting, SET reiterated its demand to go over the registration lists and to ensure the security of opposition politicians. If these two demands are not satisfied, SET warned that it would not participate in the next elections.

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 25 August, 2011, in French)

“Malgré les réserves du MLC, de l’UNC et consorts. E. Tshisekedi candidat de l’Opposition à la présidentielle 2011”

- Opposition parties, members of the Union sacrée pour l’alternance (USA), the Union pour la Nation (UN) and other political groups have chosen a common candidate for the presidential election: Etienne Tshisekedi of the UDPS. The candidate is said to be a man of integrity, a visionary, patriotic, unifying leader capable of restoring peace in the DRC and to be heard by the international community.
- This does not mean other political parties are not allowed to suggest candidates to others posts. Lisa Bongonga (UN) said a victory by Tshisekedi would be a victory for the Opposition as a whole and for the Congolese people.
- The MLC’s, the UNC and UREC have not brought their support to Tshisekedi and boycotted the Opposition’s meeting. The MLC first wants to ensure the credibility of the elections. It contests the chaotic voters’ registration process and wants opposition parties discuss this matter first before deciding on a common candidate.

2. PPRD choose Kabila as candidate

Privately-owned media

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

“Le PPRD investit Joseph Kabila candidat à la présidentielle 2011” by Ludi Cardoso

- Following its second congress in Kinshasa, the PPDR designated and elected Joseph Kabila as its candidate for the 2011 presidential elections. The party wants Kabila to be able to finish his reconstruction and modernisation programme.
- The PPRD also adopted a number of strategies for the elections and expressed their will to ensure transparent, democratic, peaceful and free elections.
- The party also encourages women and young people to present their candidacy for the legislative, provincial and local elections.
- Party members also reviewed the relationship between the PPRD, the Coalition, the presidential Majority and the Opposition. Members have been urged to keep straight in

the face of propagandist speech by the Opposition. The party also called on the reinforcement of the collaboration between national and provincial PPRD politicians.

3. Continued tensions between CENI and opposition

Privately-owned media

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 26 August, 2011, in French)

“L’épreuve de la maturité”

- *Le Potentiel* fears dialogue between CENI, the Opposition and the Majority will soon be broken which would greatly endanger the whole political process. The opposition still question CENI’s integrity and believes the president is incapable of instating the climate of peace necessary for the elections. It has therefore urged all the actors involved in the process, including international partners, to look at the possible consequences CENI’s behaviour could have. The Opposition believes the Commission forceful behaviour endangers the credibility, neutrality and transparency of the elections.
- CENI said it wanted to maintain dialogue between all the parties and civil society groups as often as challenges arise. CENI seeks to avoid further problems and want all actors to come together to examine existing frustrations.
- *Le Potentiel* calls all parties for maturity since nobody would win if the situation got worse. It is their role to give Congolese people peaceful and democratic elections.

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

“Discours responsable”

- Three months before the vote, 32 Congolese people have been registered and CENI has reiterated its will to hold the elections November 28. The climate is tensed and candidates are organizing strategies.
- *Le Potentiel* is worried about possible hate speech, defamation and other forms of political misconduct. Parties have been using the press to insult other parties. The newspaper says such behaviours will not contribute to democracy and gives a bad image of the Congolese political class. The nation’s representatives and officials should work for the Congolese people and towards the establishment of peace and dignity in the DRC. It therefore calls for responsible behaviour.

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 26 August, 2011, in French)

“CENI – Opposition: guerre de communiqués”

- The dialogue between CENI and political parties has been reduced to a number of public statements and press releases. Several members of the opposition still refuses to sign the Code of Good Conduct

- The opposition released a “Political Declaration” (signed by MLC, UNC, UN, MR, UMR, PCB, CRP, UREC, ANADER, RCD, ATD, Forces du Futur and the UFC) now criticizes CENI unilaterally setting the new dates for the registration and processing of candidacies, without consulting the main partners involved in the electoral process. The parties say CENI has reduced the number of days from 32 to 18 and is not taking administrative, technical and logistical challenges into account. Transportation seems to be one of the main problems as several parliamentarians are unable to travel rapidly. The parties demand to maintenance of the 32 days deadline and the release of the registration lists.
- CENI responded that the registration list forms the bases of the entire electoral process and suggested to bring together technicians from the Majority and the Opposition in order to go over the work methodology. Several opposition parties say they are unsatisfied with this response but CENI wants to maintain the dialogue with all parties and deal with all the problems in a peaceful way. Yet it has to follow the electoral calendar and is therefore not ready to come back on its decisions. Candidacies have already been accepted, even though it is currently taking a lot of time.
- CENI has taken a number of steps to facilitate the work of the candidates and hopes these measures will appease the opposition Parties have been given new opportunities for the registration, withdrawal and substitution of candidacy. Registration offices will have longer opening hours.

4. Other election updates

Government-owned media

(Agence Congolaise de Presse, République Démocratique du Congo, government-owned news agency, Kinshasa, article dated 26 August 2011, in French)

“RDC-Elections/ La date limite de dépôt des candidatures à la députation nationale repoussée au 11 septembre 2011”

- The president of the Senate, Leon Kengo wa Dndo, announced on Friday that the deadline for the candidate application process has been pushed back from 4th September to 11th September after the two chambers and CENO held a joint meeting.

(Agence Congolaise de Presse, République Démocratique du Congo, government-owned news agency, Kinshasa, article dated 24 August 2011, in French)

“L’ONGD/CIJK lutte pour la prise de conscience des jeunes face aux enjeux électoraux”

- Sylvain Kusambuki, the president of the Youth section of the Conseil d'appui aux initiatives Joseph Kabila (CIJK), is seeking to raise the awareness of young voters to the importance of the electoral process. He believes the sensitization of young people is essential to the progress and development of the Congo. The CIJK supports the President’s candidacy and his programme of reconstruction for the DRC

(Agence Congolaise de Presse, République Démocratique du Congo, government-owned news agency, Kinshasa, article dated 25 August 2011, in French)

“Quarante-deux observateurs d’élections formés à Matadi”

- About forty election monitors of all political parties and civil society groups of Bas-Congo were trained in Matadi. Organized by NGO VIADH (Vision internationale des activités des droits de l’homme – International Vision on Human Rights) in collaboration with CENI, the training course sought to reinforce the capacity and knowledge of election monitors

Privately-owned media

(L’Observateur, privately-owned daily, article dated 26 August, 2011, in French)

“Elections 2011: La Russie enverra des observateurs neutres en RDC”

- Russia will send monitors during the elections, according to Russian ambassador Dmitry Korepanov. He said his country wanted to contribute to the DRC peaceful and credible elections, and underlined his country’s will to develop better relations with the DRC, especially in terms of business. Russia believes Russian businessmen will come “en masse” but that things needed time and patience.

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

“Elections 2011: les USA opposés à la certification des elections” by Bienvenu Marie Bakumanya

- James Entwi, USA ambassador in Kinshasa, criticized those who urge the international community to certify the electoral results. The ambassador said Congolese people are capable of handling the elections. He welcomes logistical and financial support but although the electoral process has been somewhat chaotic, the diplomat said Congolese people can certify results themselves. The US government has provided funds for the formation of the police forces and for civic education, and insists on the need for transparent, fair and open elections. The candidate will need to accept the results in order to contribute to democracy.

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 25 August, 2011, in French)

“Attendre la campagne”

- The *Potentiel* accuses several “political operators” of not caring about Congolese people and the electoral process. These political manipulators can be found both in the Opposition and the Majority. The way they handle the political landscape since the start of electoral process is highly questionable: although the campaign period has not yet started, most of them are already involved in campaigning.

(L’Avenir, privately-owned daily, article dated 25 August, 2011, in French)

“Elections: Gagner à tout prix !” by Emmanuel Badibanga

- *L’Avenir* warns against irresponsible behaviour by parties and politicians who would like to win the elections at any costs. The newspaper believes these elections are as risky, if not more risky than the 2006 elections. Several future candidates have already resorted to immoral behaviour, such as corruption, defamatory speech and embezzlement. *L’Avenir* therefore urges CENI to be careful in its treatment of candidacies.

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

“Katanga : le dépôt des candidatures se fait au ralenti” by Pitshou Mulumba

- Although CENI has started registering candidates for the 2011 election, the process has been going slowly. In Lumumbashi, Katanga, not candidate has come forward although several application forms have been picked up. According to the electoral calendar, registration should end on September 5.

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

“Insécurité et élections: trancher le nœud gordien” by Marcel Lutete

- Le Potentiel believes insecurity may pose challenges to the elections, especially in North and South Kivu where regional and local armed groups spread fear among the population. The FDLR and the LRA may be strong enough to compromise the organization of the election if they continue to attack, rape and loot civilians. Last May, the FDLR also attacked a government official, Minister of High Education, Mr. Mashako, killing his driver and bodyguard.
- The aim should therefore be to ensure security and peace, especially during the electoral period. The Congolese government is collaborating with several international and regional partners in order to find a sustainable solution the matter. UN Security Council Resolution 1935 seeks to reduce and neutralize the threat posed by armed groups through international and regional cooperation. While the capacity of armed groups may have been reduced, ministers nonetheless say that the main challenge remains the consolidation of peace, democracy, rule of law and good governance.

5. Security update

Government-owned media

(Agence Congolaise de Presse, République Démocratique du Congo, government-owned news agency, Kinshasa, article dated 25 August 2011, in French)

“Un conseiller du gouverneur de province du Kasai Oriental échappe à la mort”

- José Mpanda, the Kasai Oriental governor's advisor and president of King Sanga Balende's sport committee, escaped death on the night of Sunday to Monday after he was attacked by a superior officer of the FARDC. The soldier pointed a weapon at him but the Mpanda remained calm and the soldier was handed in by judicial military authorities.

(Agence Congolaise de Presse, République Démocratique du Congo, government-owned news agency, Kinshasa, article dated 23 August 2011, in French)

“RDC-Parlement/ Le projet de loi portant protection des activités des droits de l’homme sera réexaminé jeudi au Sénat”

- The government bill on the protection of human rights and the prevention of corruption and embezzlement will be re-examined by the Senate next week. The text was already debated when the report was presented to the Socio-cultural Commission. Yet according to the senators, the bill does not bring any change to the existing legal arsenal. The socio-cultural and political, administrative and judicial commissions were therefore asked to re-examine the bill.

(Agence Congolaise de Presse, République Démocratique du Congo, government-owned news agency, Kinshasa, article dated 25 August 2011, in French)

“Affrontement sanglant à Tshishilu (Dibaya) entre les Bakwa Muanga et les Bena Kamponde”

- An unidentified man was killed during a dispute over landownership between the Bena Kamponde and the Bakwa Muanga in Tshishilu, Kasai Occidental. According to the province's governor, François Kakatombe, the two communities have long been fighting over land scarcity and land rights issues, leading to regular attacks and conflicts. Calm has returned thanks to the involvement of the Rapid Intervention Police (PIR)

Privately-owned media

(Radio Candip, community radio broadcasting funded by Belgian NGO, Bunia, 1530 gmt, 24 August, 2011, in French)

- A gold trader was killed by armed bandits near River Talolo, south of Bunia Town after stealing money from the victim.

(Radio Candip, community radio broadcasting funded by Belgian NGO, Bunia, 1530 gmt, 23 August, 2011, in French)

- Two traders were abducted by LRA rebels near Gbagbele in Ituri and taken into Garamba National Park.

(Radio Candip, community radio broadcasting funded by Belgian NGO, Bunia, 1530 gmt, 22 August, 2011, in French)

- Armed bandits stole 1 kg of gold worth \$80,000 from two traders at Mambasa, Ituri.

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

- Local administrative leaders urged to humanitarian agencies to assist about 128,000 IDPs in Opienge, 400 km south of Bunia. They arrived several weeks ago after being attacked by a Mai-Mai militia group led by warlord Luc Yabili.

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 25 August, 2011, in French)

“Mbuji-Mayi dans l’insécurité totale depuis une semaine” by Stephane Etinga

- At least five counts of rape have been reported in less than a week in Mbuji-Mayi, au Kasai Oriental. Armed groups have also attempted to rob several houses before being stopped by the police and Monusco. NGO Reprodhoc has condemned the attacks. Residents say they are worried about further insecurity.
- The PNC has arrested fifteen robbers and is determined to put an end to the attacks despite logistical shortages. Reprodhoc has urged the government to provide security. According to local representatives, the role of the police should not be restricted to arrests but should also involve prevention and arms control.

(L’Observateur, privately-owned daily, article dated 24 August, 2011, in French)

“Pour neutraliser les rebelles de la LRA” by Luc-Roger Mbala Bemba

- South Sudan wants to collaborate with the DRC in order to neutralize the LRA and reinforce security at the border. President Salva Kiir said peace in the region would facilitate commerce between its neighbours and allow South Sudan to realize its potential and economic development. The president says the DRC is a vital commercial and security partner for development of South Sudan and would like to establish a strong bi-lateral relation.
- South Sudan also considers Sudan as a crucial partner. The country remains poor and fragile, and needs to avoid the same mistake as other African nations that acquired independence fifty years ago. Oil is one of South Sudan’s main resources.

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

“L’OMRU lance la campagne de sensibilisation au processus de réconciliation en RDC et dans les Grands Lacs” by Willy Kabue

- Protracted civil wars and post-electoral conflicts are widespread in the Great Lakes region and challenge the region’s development. OMRU (l’Organisation mondiale des nations et

religions réunies – International organization for united nations and religions) has therefore decided to launch an awareness campaign among the Congolese population on the subject of reconciliation. The president of the organization, Mgr Sylvanos Ngoie Kabwe, urged those present at the opening ceremony to promote a message of peace and national reconciliation. OMRU seeks to contribute to peaceful coexistence in post-conflict societies, promotes retribution and healing.

- Political parties, civil society and religious groups, the media, cultural and socio-professional organizations are among those targeted by OMRU.
- OMRU seeks to develop several regional and national programmes related to retributive justice, truth and reconciliation. Considering the current atmosphere of contestation and intolerance, OMRU urges genuine dialogue and establishment of mutual relationships. OMRU wants to set up a Commission of Discussion, Truth and Reconciliation in the DRC. A look at the DRC's past and relations with its neighbours will be necessary.
- Congolese people must also learn to settle their own problems. The region has known colonization, massive human rights violations, assassination of political leaders, genocide, ethnic and political intolerance, and bad governance. The aim of the Commission, based on African tradition, is to establish a truthful record of the past. The Commission will be headed by a group of Wise Men who will show impartiality, moderation and flexibility, have the capacity to listen, establish confidence and trust, and the ability to find creation solutions to regional, local and international problems.

(L'Avenir, privately-owned daily, article dated 25 August, 2011, in French)

“Sécurisation de Fizi : Le colonel Delphin Kahimbi exige une collaboration population – FARDC” by Lepetit Baende

- The FARDC has been deployed to Fizi, Mwenga and Shabunda after the population complained about the lack of troops and security on the ground. The commander of Amani Leo operation visited Fizi territory last week to analyze the situation and called on local residents to collaborate with the FARDC in order to contribute to the securization of the area.
- The region has long been prone to attacks by armed groups, particularly as a result of its large number of mines and fertile soil. Lake Tanganyika is also well stocked with fish. The presence of armed groups has led to under-development and profound insecurity among the population. The Mai Mai Yautumba and FRF are particularly dangerous. They refuse to integrate the FARDC although they signed the Goma Accords. Besides these groups, petty criminals are also committing acts of vandalism and looting. Even several FARDC elements have committed abuses. Consequently, residents survive thanks to the help of NGOs which provide the area with schools, health centres, water resources and socio-economic help, and contribute to the reconstruction of roads, distribution of cattle, and agricultural and fishing material.

(L'Avenir, privately-owned daily, article dated 23 August, 2011, in French)

“Lutte contre les violences sexuelles au Sud-Kivu : La F.F.D déterminée à promouvoir la vie socio-économique et culturelle de la femme” by Franck Ambangito

- The Fédération des Femmes pour le Développement (Federation of WOMen for Development) is determined to fight sexual violence and promote women's socio-economic and cultural development in the DRC, particularly in Fizi. Armed groups have committed widespread sexual violence in the area and the FFD has been providing help to victims of violence who have been ostracized by their husbands and now have to provide for themselves.
- The FFD has therefore called for financial support. The organization also says Fizi could become an important tourist destination, which could further contribute to the socio-economic development of women

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 25 August, 2011, in French)

“Province Orientale: des affrontements entre UPDF et LRA signalés à Napopo” by Ludi Cardoso

- Oriental Province has been the scene of clashes between the UPDF and the LRA. Monusco has been trying to ensure the protection of civilians and of the DDRRR process, the mission's two priorities. Monusco and the FARDC have led joint operations in the province, particularly in the south of Irumu. Several FARDC soldiers were wounded during clashes. Troops have been deployed in several areas.

(L'Avenir, privately-owned daily, article dated 25 August, 2011, in French)

“Uvira: FARDC et Mai-Mai s'affrontent dans les moyens plateaux de Kiliba”

- The FARDC and Mai Mai militia clashed in Kiliba, in Uvira territory (South Kivu). Little is known about the clashes. The Mai Mai said they killed seven FARDC soldiers and stole six AK-47s yet the information has not yet been confirmed.
- The commander of the FARDC 104th Company, Lieutenant-colonel Héritier Byamungu, rejected these allegations and said the FARDC had actually attacked the Mai Mai, taken some of their weapons and dismantled their base. This Mai Mai group is apparently made up of FARDC deserters, former FDLR combatants and former FNL soldiers (Burundi). This latter information has been confirmed by Kaliba's local chief who also added that no one had died in the clashes.

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

“Nord-Kivu: l'insécurité se porte bien sur l'axe routier Goma-Masisi” by T.M.

- According to Okapi, the Goma-Masisi route (Lushebere) has been blocked for three days by colonel Zabulonie's men. Only humanitarian workers have been allowed to use the road while traders can no longer work. The provincial minister in charge of internal affairs urged the population to remain calm and said everything was being done to settle the matter peacefully.

- Colonel Zabulonie was recently nominated to the post of commander of the PNC in Masisi but the nomination is contested by the population who accuses of corruption and abuse of power towards civilians. The population demonstrated against Zabulonie's appointment and the provincial minister therefore decided to relocate him to Goma. Yet his men are apparently now trying to challenge the authorities' decision.
- Le Potentiel urged the government to intervene swiftly in order to protect civilians who should be allowed to resume their daily occupations.

6. Cholera on the rise

Government-owned media

(Agence Congolaise de Presse, République Démocratique du Congo, government-owned news agency, Kinshasa, article dated 25 August 2011, in French)

“L'épidémie de choléra : des statistiques toujours en hausse en RDC, selon OCHA”

Kinshasa, 25/08(ACP)

- The cholera statistics in the DRC continue to increase. According to OCHA, 5412 cases have been recorded in Bandundu, Equatorial Province. Kinshasa and Oriental Province are particularly. Particularly worrying is the situation in Equatorial province and Kinshasa.
- WHO is providing technical and financial help to the UTC (Cholera Treatment Unity) in Bolobo.

Privately-owned media

(L'Observateur, privately-owned daily, article dated 25 August, 2011, in French)

“Choléra : pas de cordon sanitaire rassurant pour Kinshasa” by Syfia Grands Lacs/L'OBS

- Cholera cases have increased in several provinces, including in Kinshasa where a dozen victims have been reported. Yet Congolese people continue to travel without having themselves checked, therefore contributing to the spread of the epidemic. One of the problems is that the government does not allow medical personnel to disinfect boats which travel from province to province. The epidemic has been spreading along the river. An emergency programme was set up in June in order to protect the capital and sought to control population movements. Awareness campaigns were also planned and people have not changed their behaviours. Water sanitation remains one of the main problems.
- Medical personnel say they lack medical material as less than 15% of the funds have been released.
- According to OCHA, 3 7773 cases and 257 deaths have been reported in four of the country's province. The epidemic continues to spread and new cases emerge regularly.

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 27 August, 2011, in French)

“Choléra en RDC: situation sous contrôle sauf à Kinshasa et à Equateur”

- The cholera epidemic is still present in the DRC, especially in Equatorial province and in Kinshasa. According to OCHA, although situation seems to be under control in other province, an increase in cases has been recorded. In Bandundu, Equator, Kinshasa and oriental province, 5.412 cases and 316 deaths have been reported.
- WHO is providing financial and technical help to the Cholera Treatment Unit (UTC/CUT) in Bolobo. It also plans to provide help to Kinshasa units.

7. Monusco representative caught smuggling minerals**Privately-owned media**

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

“Exportation illégale des minerais de la RDC. La Monusco prise la main dans le sac”

- A Monusco driver, Julien Mukala, was intercepted as he tried to cross the Rwandan-Congolese border with 1200 kg worth of tin mineral. The incident is likely to discredit the UN mission and to support those who argue that the UN should leave. The provincial government has called for an investigation in order to determine to source of the product and owner in order to dismantle the illicit network.
- Monusco’s spokesman has confirmed the incident and said the mission would cooperate with provincial authorities. He said Monusco does not encourage such practices and would open an investigation as well. The UN is opposed and fights against the illicit exploitation of natural resources.
- This is not the first incident of the kind. Members of Monuc, the former UN mission in the Congo, had been implicated in similar traffic of minerals with local and regional armed groups, therefore contributing to fuelling the war in the Kivus. Several members had also been charged with rape.
- The new incident will only give credence to those who demand to withdrawal of UN peacekeepers from Congolese soil.

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 27 August, 2011, in French)

“La Monusco prise la main dans le sac. La face visible de l’iceberg” by J.-P. Mbelu

- The arrest of a Monusco driver involved in illicit mineral trafficking is yet another example of the instrumentalisation of the UN by several members of the Security Council. For the population this does not come as a surprise and several residents have already reported other incidents but without sufficient proofs. One resident from Bukavu says Monuc planes travel between mine zones.
- According to *Le Potentiel* illicit minerals have been going through Rwanda. The newspaper criticizes France for President Kagame’s future visit to the country where important business deals will probably be signed. Yet France also trains Congolese soldiers and provides logistical helps for the elections. This kind of behaviour sends contradictory messages.

- The new Monusco incident proves that predation and instrumentalisation is widespread within the UN mission as it contributes to poverty and under-development in the DRC. *Le Potentiel* believes that the mission is not contributing to the stabilisation of the Congo. On the contrary, a government working for the people would destabilize those involved in trafficking within the UN. The author calls for the balance of power to be reversed.

8. Bemba's trial resumes

Privately-owned media

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 26 August, 2011, in French)

“Procès J.P. Bemba : poursuite de l’audition des témoins”
Okapi.net/Lp

- The ICC has resumed the hearing of witnesses in Jean-Pierre Bemba's trial. The latter has been charged with crimes against humanity and crimes of war for human rights violations committed by the MLC. The prosecutor had heard 26 witnesses the opening of the trial in 2010. Former soldiers and traders say MLC combatants looted civilians and raped women in Central Africa. One witness said the MLC used CAR as military base.

9. Media professionals plan demonstration

Privately-owned media

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 25 August, 2011, in French)

“Professionnels des médias : la grande marche de colère confirmée” by Donatien Ngandu Mupompa

- The l'Union nationale de la presse du Congo (UNPC – National Union for the Congolese Press), Journaliste en danger (JED – Journalists in Danger), l'Observatoire des médias du Congo (OMEC – the Congolese media monitor), the Association nationale des éditeurs de la presse du Congo (ANECO – the national association for Congolese media editors) stated their intention to organize a demonstration for professional media. They have called on all journalists and media representatives to join them in this march against the lack of respect for journalists in the DRC. National deputy recently insulted and threatened journalists. Media professionals are regularly being attacked by authorities and political militia groups

10. Popular Justice on the rise

Privately-owned media

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 25 August, 2011, in French)

“La justice populaire prend des allures inquiétantes à Butembo” by Donatien Ngandu Mupompa

- Cases of popular justice are multiplying in the DRC but are not being sanctioned by the authorities. NGOs have denounced the practice. Thirty cases have been recorded in Butembo in July alone. Most cases concern land issues and insecurity. Okapi says people tend to resort to popular justice as a result of the culture of impunity and lack of fair justice system. But popular justice usually results in the lynching of alleged criminals, including people accused of witchery.
- NGOs have therefore called on the application of equitable justice and reestablishment of security in the town.
- The phenomenon is not restricted to the eastern DRC. Cases have also been reported in Kasai Oriental where thirty individuals accused of setting houses on fire were heavily beaten by the local population before being handed in to the police
- NGO Racid (v) denounced the widespread impunity in Rutshuru and Lubero, Nord-Kivu. Local residents lynch assumed criminals without resorting to justice first. The NGOs reported 91 killings, assassination, cases of looting and rape. The lack of proper justice system leads people to resort to popular justice instead. The NGO has called on the government and the population to find a sustainable solution to the problem. The main authors of crimes are FDLR combatants, some FARDC soldiers and other armed groups. But the population itself has killed nine individuals.
- Civil society groups and judicial representatives have denounced cases of popular justice in Uvira and South Kivu in a report published last May. The report states that government authorities are incapable of providing sufficient security and protection. Individuals suspected of witchery were killed.

11. Reform and status of the armed forces

Government-owned media

(Agence Congolaise de Presse, République Démocratique du Congo, government-owned news agency, Kinshasa, article dated 27 August 2011, in French)

**“Les félicitations et les encouragements du Conseil supérieur de la défense aux forces armées et à la police”
Kinshasa, 27/8**

- At a meeting organized by President Kabila, the Superior Council for the Defense encouraged and praised the FARDC, the police and security services for the work. According to a communiqué published after the meeting, the Council also said it was satisfied with the evolution of operations against armed groups who loot, kidnap and rape civilians in the area of Lake Tanganyika.
- Concerning the securitization of the elections, the Council praised CENI as well as the training and equipping of the PNC
- On the general security situation the Congo, the Council said the country was stable except for a few hotbeds of insecurity. It nonetheless recommended the finalization of

biometric access control of the armed forces and the PNC in order to improve the social conditions of the authorities.

(Agence Congolaise de Presse, République Démocratique du Congo, government-owned news agency, Kinshasa, article dated 25 August 2011, in French)

“Le rapport de la commission mixte paritaire Assemblée nationale-Sénat sur le statut du militaire des FARDC déclaré recevable”

- The National Assembly declared the law on the status of the FARDC admissible, after the Assembly and the Senate could not agree on the government bill.
- The national deputies also asked for the candidate application process to be extended to 15 September considering the late approval and promulgation of annex to electoral law had led to delays. The deputies also asked the Commission to open registration offices in several provinces since several candidates cannot easily travel to central offices in order to pick up or give their application forms.

Privately-owned media

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 26 August, 2011, in French)

“L’Assemblée nationale vote la loi sur le statut du militaire”

- The bill on the harmonisation and status of the FARDC was unanimously voted on Thursday at the National Assembly. It now needs to be promulgated by the President.
- The law recognizes the rights and duties of the Congolese military. This is the first time since independence that the FARDC is officially recognized and reviewed by the Congolese Parliament. The passing of the bill shows that everybody is determined to reform the DRC system of defence and to define the FARDC’s role in the sub-region
- The bill recognizes the army’s republican and apolitical character; professionalism; morality; hierarchy between the different posts. It also acknowledges the need for better discipline; eradication of the culture of impunity; respect for human rights and gender rights; improvement of the relationship between the nation, the military and republican institutions through the introduction of oath. The rights and duties of the different military positions, including salary matters, are now clearly defined.

International media

(Journaliste En Danger, Kinshasa, article dated 24 August 2011, in English)

“Congo-Kinshasa: Journalist Violently Attacked During Ruling Party Congress”

- JED condemns an attack committed against Serge Kembila, a cameraman at independent Radio Télévision Groupe l’Avenir. He was attacked by Evariste Boshab’s bodyguards (Secretary General of the ruling People’s Party for Reconstruction and Democracy (PPRD)) at the Martyrs of the Pentecost Stadium, where the party’s second congress was

being held. He was accused of filming an empty stadium during the Secretary General's speech. The videotape was confiscated.

(Committee to Protect Journalists, New York, article dated 25 August 2011, in English)

“Congo-Kinshasa: Politician Taped Threatening Journalist”

- The Committee to Protect Journalists urged the central government to investigate allegations of threats made against a Radio Télévision Satellitaire 1 (RTVS1) journalist by a Congolese MP. Editor-in-Chief Eugénie Ntumba called the MP to get his comments on an open letter written by the opposition calling for transparent presidential elections but allegedly did not reveal her name. The conversation was recorded and the MP, Yves Kisombe, accused the journalist of disrespecting him and called her a whore. He requested the name of the journalist and threatened the attack to radio station. Kisombe later went to the studios and threatened to rape the journalist.
- CPJ condemns the threats. Eugénie Ntumba, who filed a complaint against Kisombe, said she had revealed her identity and the purpose of her call. She later received two anonymous phones threatening to kill her for recording the MP's words. Someone also called her father, asking him to convince his daughter to go on public television to admit her acts and admit that she works for the opposition.
- Kisombe described the recording a “grotesque montage” and the Minister of Communication, Lambert Mende, said the case will be referred to the High Council for Audiovisual Media and Communication for further investigation,

Lubanga Trial: Special Report

(Radio Netherlands Worldwide, article dated 23 August 2011, in English)

“Congo-Kinshasa: Militiaman's Trial Milestone for ICC”

- The ICC will end its first case when the trial of Congolese militia leader Thomas Lubanga, which began in January 2009, closes this week. The prosecution's spokeswoman said this was “a historic milestone.” Although the trial took longer than expected, the ICC spokesman Fadi El-Abdallah said this first trial was crucial since it set the court's rules and of procedure and evidence.
- Although he pleads not guilty, Lubanga is accused of recruiting child soldiers as part of his Patriotic Forces for the Liberation of Congo (FPLC) militia. If convicted, he will be sentenced to jail and will be ordered to pay compensation to victims.
- Germain Katanga and Mathieu Ngudjolo, two militia leaders who fought against Lubanga's FPLC also face war crimes and crimes against humanity charges. Bemba is also among those facing trial.

(Lubanga Trial Website, The Hague, article posted 23 August 2011)

**“Congo-Kinshasa: Long Proceedings in Trial of Thomas Lubanga Finally Reach End” by Alpha Sesay
26 August 2011**

- On Friday August 26 2011, the Lubanga’s trial, presided over by Judge Adrian Fulford, officially closed after all parties to the proceedings made their closing statements. The judges will now deliberate.
- Lubanga’s defense told the judges the prosecution has not been able to prove his case against the military leader accused of recruiting child soldiers. Lead Defense Attorney Catherine Mabilie said the long trial had been characterized by "serious dysfunction" by the prosecution and evidence does not match the charges. She argues that eight child soldiers lied about their membership in the FPLC, while another one lied about his age. She believes they were by intermediaries asked to lie in exchange of financial assistance, education or other forms of compensation. The defense therefore questions the fair nature of the trial and accused the prosecution of incompetence.
- Co-defense counsel, Jean-Marie Biju-Duval, said Lubanga was opposed to the recruitment of child soldiers and is not responsible for the crimes. He argued that Lubanga was only a political leader with a representative role but was not technically in charge of the UPC (the FPLC’s military section) and therefore unable to impose his orders. Lubanga actually attempted to demobilize child soldiers once he heard about their recruitment but failed to impose his wishes.
- Biju-Duval said "no word, no document" can prove Lubanga is guilty.
- Lubanga, meanwhile, declaring that it had been "impossible (...) to recognize himself in the characterization submitted by the prosecution." He claimed he only became commander "with a view to protecting what is dearest to every man, namely life" and refused to see himself as a war criminal.
- Presiding Judge Fulford thanked the staff and other contributors, and said the court’s decision would be given "within a reasonable period of time."

Jean Pierre Bemba’s Trial: Special

(Hirondelle news agency, Lausanne, article dated 23 August 2011, in English)

Central Africa: CAR Was MLCs Support Base in 2003, Witness Says

- Jean-Pierre Bemba's trial at the ICC resumed on Tuesday with the hearing of the 26th Prosecution's witness, who is friends with various MLC officials. He said the rebel group went to the Central African Republic in 2002 in order to help President Patassé’s troops. CAR was used as a support base and the two MLC battalions received fuel and ammunitions from Patassé’s government.

(Bemba Trial Website, article posted 23 August 2011, in English)

“Africa: Witness Says Bemba's Troops 'Had to Fend for Themselves'” by Wakabi Wairagala

- The 26th prosecution witness testified at the ICC and recounted the crimes committed by the rebel group. He argued that Bemba did not pay troops and MLC fighters therefore had to find ways to provide for themselves. Widespread looting was committed but Muslims of Chadian origin were particularly targeted.
- He also heard rumors of rape but said officers were not interested in dealing with the matter and no disciplinary actions were taken against perpetrators.
- The witness added that CAR's former president, Ange-Félix Patassé, did not have control of the MLC's actions as these were under Bemba's direct orders. Bemba's defense meanwhile claims the former vice-president had no control of the troops once they crossed into CAR but were under the command of Patassé