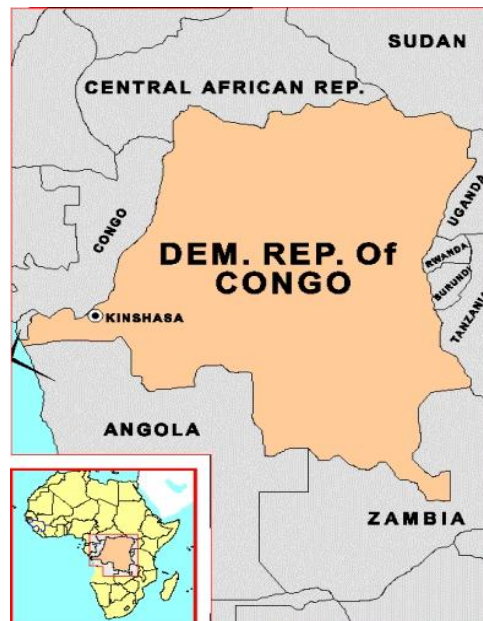


Democratic Republic of Congo: Domestic Media
Monitoring Report

*Montreal Institute for
Genocide and Human Rights Studies*

Marie Lamensch – MIGS Media Monitor for the DRC



26th August-4th September

Main Report Content

1. Continued tensions between CENI and the Opposition: clashes
2. Tshisekedi officially inaugurated as candidate
3. CENI: Registration process investigated in Bas Congo; first candidate registered
4. Further election updates: New Opposition Platform; MLC, UNC, UFC work on common programme; calls for mature elections
5. Security update
6. Sexual Violence: NGOs calls for better justice system
7. Media protest against verbal insults and hate speech
9. ICC reassures victims on future of Lubanga
10. Monusco driver sentenced to three years in prison

1. Continued tensions between CENI and the Opposition: clashes

Government-owned media

(Agence Congolaise de Presse, République Démocratique du Congo, government-owned news agency, Kinshasa, article dated 2 September 2011, in French)

“Une marche de l’UDPS dispersée à Kinshasa”

- The demonstration organized by the UDPS was dispersed by the authorities before it could reach CENI’s main office in Kinshasa where the party had planned a sit-in. The authorities used tear gas, leading demonstrators to throw stones at them.
- Shabani, the UDPS’ spokesman and general secretary, has announced the sit-in on Monday. The demonstration was supposed to be peaceful and sought to denounce CENI’s lack of transparency and weaknesses experienced during the voters’ registration process. The party wants electoral lists to be published.

Privately-owned media

(L’Avenir, privately-owned daily, article dated 30 August, 2011, in French)

“Ce jeudi 1er Septembre 2011 : L’UDPS en marche de protestation au siège de la Ceni” by Papy Maluku

- Tensions between the UDPS and CENI continue. After unsuccessful sit-ins, the party’s Secretary General Jacquemain Shabani announced a demonstration would be held on Thursday to protest against CENI’s lack of transparency. The march will be peaceful and should take place in the capital, the different province and even abroad. According to the UDPS the lack of openness constitutes a grave challenge to the electoral process and also risks causing conflict in the DRC. The UDPS therefore urges Congolese people to save the nation.

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 3 September, 2011, in French)

“Processus électoral : Etienne Tshisekedi appelle à la vigilance” by Pitshou Mulumba

- Through his spokesman, the leader of the UDPS and presidential candidate E. Tshisekedi has warned Congolese people and has recognized his own past errors, which he seeks to rectify. He wants to defend justice and political honesty, and believes the main goal for the DRC is to re-establish the state’s authority and integrity on the entire territory, to break with vices and to reinforce economic development, international cooperation and security.
- Etienne Tshisekedi says his party supports non-violence, reconciliation and openness, even though political opponents have often pretended the contrary. He nonetheless denounced the lack of transparency showed by the current government, especially concerning the financing of the Five Pillars. Tshisekedi called for national reconciliation and reconstruction, which relies on justice and truth.

- Concerning his political programme, the candidate said his party and other members of the common political platform have drafted a document called “Propositions pour changer le Congo” (Propositions to change the Congo)

(L’Avenir, privately-owned daily, article dated 2 September, 2011, in French)

“Marche de l’UDPS hier jeudi 1er septembre: Boulevard du 30 juin, véritable champ de bataille” by Papy Maluku

- As announced by the UDPS’ General Secretary, the party’s members demonstrated in the streets on Thursday. According to Jacquemain Shabani, the goal was to protest against the lack of transparency showed by CENI concerning the electoral process. The march was supposed to be peaceful yet fighting broke out between demonstrators and Congolese authorities.
- The PNC was well armed and used tear gas against, while the demonstrators used stones and Molotov cocktails. Security measures were reinforced and the PNC managed to neutralise UDPS supporters.
- Three months before the elections, *Avenir* worries about the violent nature of such marches. The UDPS is sceptic about CENI’s will to show real transparency concerning the voters’ registration process and the geographical distribution of registration and voting centres. According to Shabani, the party holds that transparency is the Commission’s main way to guarantee the credibility of the whole electoral process and should therefore respond to the UDPS’ demands.
- *Avenir* urges the parties to establish consensus

(Radio Candip, community radio broadcasting funded by Belgian NGO, Bunia, 1530 gmt, 1 September, 2011, in French)

- The PNC dispersed a group of Union for Democracy and Social Progress supporters who were about to demonstrate in Bunia. They were demonstrating against CENI’s lack of transparency.

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 3 September, 2011, in French)

“Eliminons la suspicion”

- Suspicion is growing between the opposition and CENI. The UDPS’ latest demonstration is revealing of the degree of distrust between the two sides. Fear is growing about possible post-electoral violence and CENI should intervene and come clean in order to reassure the Majority and the Opposition about the efficiency and credibility of the registration process and CENI’s technology.
- The Opposition’s demand to review the registration list should be taken seriously and it is CENI’s role to remain transparent. It also promised to open its doors to both sides. Some members of the Majority have secretly expressed some doubts about the registration process as well and should come forward. Denouncing CENI’s weaknesses should not be regarded by party members endangering the Majority or as a sign of hypocrisy.

- CENI should cooperate with all political actors and not give the impression of siding with only one party.

2. Tshisekedi officially inaugurated as candidate

Privately-owned media

(L’Avenir, privately-owned daily, article dated 1 September, 2011, in French)

“Présidentielles 2011 : L’Opposition investit Tshisekedi” by Papy Maluku

- Opposition parties inducted Etienne Tshisekedi (UDPS) as their common candidate for the presidential elections. Tshisekedi thanked all the partners for their trust and would like this union to consolidate itself and symbolise the nation.
- Some opposition parties, the UNC, the MLC and UFC, do not agree with the choice of the candidate but the door remains open for them to join the movement.
- The national president of the Démocratie Chrétienne (D.C.), Eugène Diomi Ndongala, said all partners believe Tshisekedi represents the future of the nation and will therefore organize themselves to give him the absolute majority in the forthcoming elections.

3. CENI: Registration process investigated in Bas Congo; first candidate registered

Privately-owned media

(L’Avenir, privately-owned daily, article dated 31 August, 2011, in French)

“Processus électoral : Mamy Enongo est rentrée d’une mission d’évaluation de l’opération d’inscription des candidates” by Yassa

- CENI’s second deputy rapporteur evaluated the candidate registration process in Bas-Congo where 184 political parties and 39 independent candidates collected registration forms. However, as of August 27, only one candidate has given the form back. CENI has therefore called on other parties to do the same in order for CENI to go over the candidacies and respect the electoral agenda. More offices have been opened in the provinces, the deposit has been made easier to pay and the whole operation has been extended by six days. Mamy Enongo has sought to increase the political parties’ awareness of the process’s deadlines and told them CENI was ready to accept candidacies. She also urged women to run as candidates
- She added CENI remains determined to organize free, democratic, transparent, peaceful and inclusive elections. Enongo therefore also invited media to play a positive role during the elections in order guarantee a credible and peaceful climate

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 3 September, 2011, in French)

“La CENI plaide pour la sensibilisation des jeunes aux élections apaisées” by L.C.

- In order to organize peaceful elections, CENI wants to raise public awareness on the electoral process. Enongo Eloke Mamy, CENI second rapporteur, is particularly adamant about implicating young people and visited a children's tribunal in Bas Congo. She has sought to warn against the manipulation of children for political ends. The tribunal's director, Eshimata Albert, promised to do his best to ensure peaceful elections and added his work and that of the court depends on the attention paid to it by governmental authorities.

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 3 September, 2011, in French)

“Présidentielle 2011 : la CENI a enfin enregistré la première candidature” by Dioso Olivier

- Eight days before the end of the candidacy registration process, only one candidate, Jean Andeka Djamba from the l'Alliance des nationalistes croyants congolais (ANCC) has handed in his form. He says the DRC needs a new leader capable of reassuring Congolese people and bring about a new political era. He believes God has been widely ignored and wants to put him in the forefront again. Although the ANCC belong to the presidential Majority, Djamba believes the Opposition-Majority/Power division is too simplistic and has not helped the Congo. He therefore refuses to side with one of the other and insists on remaining independent. He supports of religious form of nationalism.

4. Further election updates: New Opposition Platform; MLC, UNC, UFC work on common programme; calls for mature elections

Privately-owned media

(L'Observateur, privately-owned daily, article dated 29 August, 2011, in French)

“Une nouvelle plate-forme de l'opposition est née. Les centristes de l'ICN favorables au rapprochement autour d'un candidat commun” by Freddy Longangu

- The idea of a common candidate for the Opposition is increasingly being questioned as a third block has been formed, the Initiative pour un Congo nouveau (ICN/Initiative for a new Congo), Within this groups, one can find José Makila, (ATD), Florentin Mokonda Bonza (CDC), Gilbert Kiakwama (CDC), Léon Engulu (UNADEC), Bo-Boliko Lokonga (PDSC), The group wants to be a Christian democratic movement with centrist tendencies. One of the members added that the movement remains open to other political ideas. The group also wants to establish a dialogue with the rest of the Opposition in order to find a common candidate and programme.
- Concerning tensions between the two other blocks, the ICN said it would do its best to find common ground between them. Like other opposition parties, the ICN believes that Pasteur Daniel Ngoy is determined to the Majorité Présidentielle's candidate elected and therefore urges the international community to bring its financial support to the audit of the electoral record.

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 30 August, 2011, in French)

“Elections 2011: épreuve de maturité politique” by Freddy Monsa Iyaka Duku

- The elections constitute a turning point for the DRC and have been paced under the sign of hope and political maturity. Rule of law and democratization must be reinforced, and a former UNCTAD general director therefore insisted on the role Africa can play in the future. The continent remains exploited and humiliated, and elections should therefore be used as geopolitical and geo-economic opportunity. One of the main challenges remains the continent’s natural resources, particularly coltan in the DRC. Congolese people should be the first to benefit from its revenues. The elections are not simple routine work but an opportunity to reverse current negative trends concerning the country’s national resources and politics.

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 2 September, 2011, in French)

“Après concertation. L’Opposition aile MLC, UNC, UFC... signe un programme commun de gouvernement” by Ludi Cardoso

- The MLC/UNC/UFC wing of the opposition has signed a common programme for the presidential and legislative elections.
- The MLC’s spokesman, Germain Kambinga, reiterated the need to form a unified front within the opposition in order to ensure its victory. A commission has been set up in order to elaborate a common programme for this wing of the Opposition. The parties have reiterated the need to exert pressure on CENI to force the body to open dialogue and recognize its errors and weaknesses concerning the registration process. The parties have established a series of recommendations, including the publication of the electoral lists, the harmonization of the electoral calendar and reshuffling of CENI’s staff, including the publication of each members’ background.
- The wing’s common programme is said to be ambitious but realistic. It seeks to end poverty and follow China’s footsteps in terms of development by reinforcing development and strengthening the justice sector.
- The three parties said they would meet again to find a common candidate for the presidential elections. Several politicians also added talks would be held with SET (Soutien à Etienne Tshisekedi/Support to Etienne Tshisekedi) in order to harmonize political discrepancies between the two sides.

5. Security Update

Government-owned media

(Agence Congolaise de Presse, République Démocratique du Congo, government-owned news agency, Kinshasa, article dated 2 September 2011, in French)

“La vie dans le territoire d’Opala après l’affrontement sanglant de juillet entre les FARDC et les hommes de Moïse de libérateur” by Fidèle Innocent N’Gunu Ka-Mete and Alfred Ngwanza

- Calm has returned to Opala after violent clashes between the FARDC and members of the “Apôtre Olombe”, a religious sect also known as Moïse le libérateur. Residents continue to fear clashes and lack numerous material resources and means of communication. They are also fearful of using the main roads leading to Kisangani, especially as a result of poor infrastructure. This has led to an increase in food prices as commercial activity since commercial activity has decreased.
- Poor infrastructure also led to difficulties during CENI voters’ registration process as those living in retreated areas could not reach registration centres.

(Agence Congolaise de Presse, République Démocratique du Congo, government-owned news agency, Kinshasa, article dated 2 September 2011, in French)

“Plus des 60 détenus évadés de la prison de Kanagbaya au Nord-Kivu”

- In the past 6 months, more than sixty prisoners managed to escape from Kanagbaya prison in Beni (North Kivu). They constitute a menace to the local population, who fears reprisal attacks. FARDC deserters and demobilized prisoners are among the fugitives. Civil society urges the government to deploy FARDC soldiers and PNC to the area.

(The New Vision website, by state-owned Ugandan daily Kampala, 2 September 2011, in English)

“Ugandan defence minister says ADF rebels recruiting in eastern DR Congo” by Mary Karugaba entitled “ADF recruiting in Congo, says Minister”

- Ugandan Defence Minister Dr Crispus Kiyonga told parliament that the ADF has been recruiting young Ugandans to train in the DRC. Although the group has been officially defeated, remnants still operate in the Congo where the ADF has been rebuilding its troops. The weak Congolese government has failed intervene and the Defence minister believes the ADF is preparing an attack on Uganda.

Privately-owned media

(Radio Candip, community radio broadcasting funded by Belgian NGO, Bunia, 1530 gmt, 26 August, 2011, in French)

- An Ituri FARDC representative announced that a civilian was arrested in possession of a gun and ammunitions in Marabo, south of Bunia. He is suspected of being a member of a militia group active in Irumu.

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 30 August, 2011, in French)

**“Nord-Kivu : le colonel Baenda déserte de nouveau des rangs les FARDC à Walikale”
Stephane Etinga**

- An FARDC officer and former leader of the Mai Mai Kifuafua has again deserted the army in Walikale after lacking to obtain the military post he was asking for. Délphin Baenda had recently been integrated within the national army. Ten other men have allegedly joined him as well and the population is worried about the consequences.
- Residents in Samboko have also expressed worry about the evasion of several prisoners from Kangbaya jail in Beni. According to local, the evaded criminals have led reprisal attacks residents who had the jailed. Demobilized FARDC soldiers and deserters are said to be among the prisoners. Several had been jailed for committing sexual violence and populations are worried since they do not benefit for the presence of the army or the police.

(L’Avenir, privately-owned daily, article dated 30 August, 2011, in French)

‘Sud-Kivu : des attaques attribuées aux FDLR et FARDC dans 5 territoires’

- Attacks committed by the FDLR, FARDC elements and several unidentified combatants have been reported in South Kivu, particularly in Uvira, Kabare, Walunga, Mwenga and Fizi. Two people were killed in Uvira and two FARDC soldiers wounded in Nindja during fighting between the FDLR and the Congolese army.
- In Kaniola, residents killed a FARDC soldiers who was trying to enter private property in order to steal goods.
- On the Bakavu-Kasongo road, several cases of looting and torture have been reported. The perpetrators remain unidentified.

(Radio Candip, community radio broadcasting funded by Belgian NGO, Bunia, 1530 gmt, 31 August, 2011, in French)

- Orientale Province Governor Medar Autsai Asenga urged authorities to arrest criminals coming from North Kivu Province who currently preparing to commit crimes in Bunia and its surroundings.

(Misna news agency, Italian-based Missionary Service News Agency, Rome, 1 September, 2010, in English)

‘DRCongolese army reportedly kills 40 rebels in east’

- Forty rebels were killed in military operation near Lake Tanganyka, according to the FARDC. The army told civilians they could return their villages, which had previously been occupied by militia men. The men were members of the Mai Mai (the Alleluia and Yakutumba factions), Rwanda’s FDLR and Burundi’s rebels group, the National Liberation Forces (FNL). These forces are fighting over the control of commercial activities on Tanganyika Lake. The FARDC added that local residents have not been able to register for the elections as a result of rebel presence.

(Radio Candip, community radio broadcasting funded by Belgian NGO, Bunia, 1530 gmt, 1 September, 2011, in French)

- Civil society group in Ituri urged the FARDC to secure the road between Bunia and Kisangani where more and more civilians are being attacked by armed men.

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 2 September, 2011, in French)

“Insécurité à Bunia. La Société civile appelle à la sécurisation du tronçon Komanda-Mambasa” by A.T.

- Civil society in Ituri urged the FARDC to bring back security on the Komanda-Mambasa road after a driver was murdered. The president of Ituri’s civil society, Me Jean-Bosco, says the man attacked not far away from a FARDC basis. Colonel Fall Sikabwe admits insecurity has been growing in this area but argued that logistical shortcomings limit maneuvers. The army lacks vehicles for efficient intervention

6. Sexual Violence: NGOs calls for better justice system

Privately-owned media

(L’Avenir, privately-owned daily, article dated 30 August, 2011, in French)

“Violences sexuelles en Rdc : Lizadeel réclame des sanctions contre des magistrats corrompus” by Lepetit Baende

- Several organizations for the defense of human rights said several laws promulgated by the president are not being respected by magistrates. The most notable failure remains the law against sexual violence. The Ligue de la zone Afrique pour la défense des droits des enfants et élèves, Lizadeel, started a campaign against corruption within the justice sector concerning sexual violence against women and children. The aim was to help authorities improve the justice system where impunity remains widespread. A letter was sent to the president of the Supreme Court, the President of the Republic, the Minister of Gender, Family and Children, the Minister of Justice and Human Rights, and the General Prosecutor of the Republic. Lizadeel wants sanctions to be taken against corrupt magistrates.

7. Media protest against verbal insults and hate speech

Privately-owned media

(L’Observateur, privately-owned daily, article dated 29 August, 2011, in French)

“Marche de protestation des professionnels des medias. Les journalistes pour la déchéance d’Yves Kisombe” by Kléber Kungu

- Journalists in Kinshasa demonstrated against verbal attacks and hate speech uttered by Yves Kisombe (Presidential Majority) against Eugénie Ntumba, a journalist from RTVS1.

The march was organized by the UNPC, OMEC, JED and Arco. They gave a memo along with the audio recordings of the conversation between Ntumba and Kisombe to Evariste Boshab, the president of the National Assembly.

- Journalists said the demonstration seeks to raise public awareness and encourage them to vote for credible candidates. They described Kisombe's attitude as medieval
- Evariste Boshab asked to be allowed some time before giving his opinion on the case. He said it was the Supreme Court of Justice's role to start a procedure concerning Kisombe. Boshab lost his calm and reprimanded journalists when they started protesting. He told them to remain professional and play their role, that is inform the population. He accused them of acting like politicians. L'Observateur criticizes Evariste Boshab's lack of diplomacy
- L'Observateur also regrets that the UNPC has used the demonstrated to deliver a persona message by calling on Kisombe to be suspended.

(L'Observateur, privately-owned daily, article dated 31 August, 2011, in French)

“Face à la montée de l'intolérance des militants des partis politiques. Le Rodhécic dénonce les propos perniciose des acteurs politiques” by Kléber Kungu

- The Réseau d'organisations des droits humains et d'éducation civique d'inspiration chrétienne en République démocratique du Congo (Rodhécic) criticized verbal violence uttered by several politicians, propagandists and political parties. The group says this is a clear violation of the electoral law and believes such attitudes could lead to violence and challenge democraticization, rule of law and peace.
- Nonetheless Rodhécic praised the electoral process and efforts made by the government and the international community to organize efficient elections. Rodhécic therefore urged political actors to contribute to the culture of democracy, consolidation of peace and the rule of law. All parties should sign the Code of Good Conduct, to respect the electoral law, educate militants about their need to remain nonviolent and tolerant. Rodhécic urged all parties to hold a constructive and honest dialogue in order to give priority to the present and future of Congolese people.

8. ICC reassures victims on future of Lubanga

Privately-owned media

(Radio Candip, community radio broadcasting funded by Belgian NGO, Bunia, 1530 gmt, 30 August, 2011, in French)

- The outreach office of the ICC met the press in Bunia to announce that the verdict in the trial Thomas Lubanga will be announced before 15 December this year. He assured the victims and supporters that the verdict would be fair and to support the ICC

10. Monusco driver sentenced to three years in prison

(Agence Congolaise de Presse, République Démocratique du Congo, government-owned news agency, Kinshasa, article dated 29 August 2011, in French)

“Trois ans de servitude pénale retenus contre l’agent de la Monusco impliqué dans le trafic illicite des minerais à Goma”

- Monusco’s driver, Julien Mukala and his accomplice Dodo Makuza, have both been sentenced to three years in jail and a fine of 25.000 USD. The two men were accused of illicit trafficking after attesting to smuggle minerals across the border.