

**DRC Domestic Broadcasting, 3 January, 2010 (19 December– 2 January, 2011)**

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

**Government-owned media**

**(The New Times, government-owned Rwandan newspaper, Kigali, 2 January 2011, in English)**

**“DR Congo-based rebel returns home to Rwanda with weapons” by Alex Ngarambe**  
*Originally entitled "FDLR member defects with weapons"*

- Philip Musabyimana, a staff sergeant of the FDLR has deserted the group and voluntarily returned to Rwanda with his weapons. He said he had communicated with former combatants and been convinced to return since both the country and the government are peaceful.
- He criticized his former leaders for spreading propaganda among combatants in the forest. He also called on FDLR soldiers to return to Rwanda and seek peace.

**Privately-owned media**

**(Daily Monitor website, privately-owned Ugandan newspaper, Kampala, Uganda, 19 December, 2010, in English)**

**“DR Congolese ‘soldiers kidnap’ 18 Ugandan fishermen”**

- Authorities in northwestern Uganda are investigating reports of abduction of 18 Ugandan fishermen by five FARDC soldiers. Betty Adima, resident district commissioner said that, if confirmed, the act would be a provocation by the Congolese soldiers but that she would seek diplomatic means to resolve the matter. The incident comes just two days after 16 of the fishermen abducted last week were handed over to Ugandan security officials in Mahagi District.
- The DRC soldiers recently accused Ugandan fishermen of encroaching on their waters.
- To deal with this and other related security issues security and administrative officials from the border districts of Nebbi (Uganda) and Mahagi (DRC) agreed to set up a joint mission to avoid tensions, settle issues of identification and promote cooperation in fighting cross border crime.

**(Radio France Internationale, Paris, 0722 gmt, 22 December, 2010, in French)**

**“French envoy stands by criticism of human rights in DR Congo”**

- Francois Zimeray, France's ambassador for human rights, defended his description of the human rights situation in the DRC after DRC Communication Minister and government spokesman Lambert Mende said Zimeray should stop criticizing the country. Zimeray said it was his role as ambassador to denounce human rights violations, particularly concerning wages, sexual violence, prisons and education, but also added that he did not

want to undermine dialogue and said France was not perfect either. He then added noted that the Congolese ministers had recognized the problems, which should be seen as a positive point.

- Mende said the DRC had “enough of this diabolical description” of the country’s human rights situation and urged the ambassador to stop this “flagellation of the Congolese.”

**(Radio Candip, community radio broadcasting funded by Belgian NGO, Bunia, 1530 gmt, 24 December, 2010, in French)**

- Journalists in Ituri District demonstrated against the arrest on of their colleague in Uvira , South Kivu. They called for the release of Robert Chemwanda, a journalist at Radio and Television 'MITUMBA'.
- The administrator of Bafwasende Territory and local leaders of Opienge area plan to go in the forest and meet militia leader Major Luc Yabili in an attempt to seek peaceful settlement.

**(Radio Candip, community radio broadcasting funded by Belgian NGO, Bunia, 1530 gmt, 26 December, 2010, in French)**

**“Militia group in eastern DR Congo said reorganizing”**

- Military sources at the office of the DR Congo Armed Forces operation in Ituri District have reported the Popular Front for Justice in Congo [FPJC] militia group is reorganizing itself around Ahero Forest, Irumu Territory.
- The FPJC militia group is apparently trying to defy efforts made by the Congolese government to dismantle armed groups still active in Ituri District.
- Attacks by the FPJC have led to population movements as thousands of people seek refuge in IDP camps throughout the province.
- Coordinated efforts between the DRC and the Ugandan government have nonetheless led to the arrest of key militia leaders.

**(Radio Candip, community radio broadcasting funded by Belgian NGO, Bunia, 1530 gmt, 26 December, 2010, in French)**

- FARDC Military sources in Ituri District believe the Popular Front for Justice in DR Congo is reorganizing itself around Ahero Forest in Walendu Bindi area.

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

**“Deux attaques de la LRA dans la région de Faradje”**

- Two LRA attacks in Haur Uélé in mid-December led to the displacement of 1.000 people in Alimoke, Djabir and Faradje. According to OCHA, the FARDC asked residents of Lema and Takadje to evacuate their village for security reasons. The FARDC ransomed some of them. All IDPs live with host families and are in need of food.

**(Radio Candip, community radio broadcasting funded by Belgian NGO, Bunia, 1530 gmt, 27 December, 2010, in French)**

**“Eastern DR Congo's internally displaced decry insecurity caused by Ugandan rebels”**

- Hundred of IDPs in Bas Uele District are reluctant to return to their villages. According to IDPs, the LRA is apparently very active in Ango Territory. However, a delegation tried to convince them that the FARDC have secured the area.

**(Radio Candip, community radio broadcasting funded by Belgian NGO, Bunia, 1530 gmt, 27 December, 2010, in French)**

- Hundreds of IDPs from Ango Territory are reluctant to return to their villages as they fear the LRA is currently active in the area.

**(Misna news agency, Italian-based Missionary Service News Agency, Rome, 27 December, 2010, in English)**

**“Rights body urges DR Congo to "urgently" stop forced recruitment by armed groups”**

- According to Human Rights Watch, at least 1.000 young men have been forcibly recruited since last September by the various armed groups active in eastern Congo, including minors. They have been gathered from schools and homes.

**(Radio Candip, community radio broadcasting funded by Belgian NGO, Bunia, 1530 gmt, 28 December, 2010, in French)**

**“Journalist arrested in eastern DR Congo for criticizing president”**

- In Bunia town, journalists led a demonstration to protest against the arrest of their colleague in Uvira, Sud Kivu Province. They said security personnel illegally arrested Robert Chemwanda, a journalist at the privately-owned radio and television station, Radio et Television Mitumba. They called for his release.
- Robert Chemwanda is accused by Congolese security personnel of South Kivu of leading negative criticism towards President Joseph Kabila and his government after he led a political debate during which participants discussed the president's four year term and criticized his failure to improve living conditions in the country.

**(Radio Candip, community radio broadcasting funded by Belgian NGO, Bunia, 1530 gmt, 28 December, 2010, in French)**

- FARDC in Ituri District reported that a key rebel officer of the Popular Front for Justice in Congo was arrested by the Ugandan police.

**(Radio Candip, community radio broadcasting funded by Belgian NGO, Bunia, 1530 gmt, 28 December, 2010, in French)**

**“DR Congo army lauds Uganda for arrest of ‘key’ militia leader”**

- The FARDC in Ituri District reported that another key rebel officer of the FPJC was arrested by the Ugandan police in Arua near the border. Col Fall Sikabwe, the commander of the FARDC in the area, expressed his satisfaction and praised good ties between the two governments on security matters.

**(Radio Candip, community radio broadcasting funded by Belgian NGO, Bunia, 1530 gmt, 29 December, 2010, in French)**

- Governor Medar Autsai Asenga of Orientale Province denounced increased cases of insecurity in Bunia town and the surrounding area. He urged the police to increase patrols and stop criminal activities.

**(Radio Candip, community radio broadcasting funded by Belgian NGO, Bunia, 1530 gmt, 30 December, 2010, in French)**

- In Bunia town, the Orientale Province governor urged residents to collaborate with Monusco to restore peace in the area. He praised good relations between Monusco peacekeepers and the Congolese police force.
- The new minister of the provincial government of Orientale Province met journalists in Kisangani Town and promised to respect the freedom of the press as long as journalists follow the law.

**(L’Observateur, privately-owned daily, article dated 30 December, 2010, in French)**

**“Redoutant les représailles des FARDC au Nord Kivu. La population de Kamandi jetée sur les routes” by Dovin Ntelolo Diasonga**

- Following an operation by the FARDC, residents of Kamandi, North Kivu, have fled the area. OCHA said the soldiers of the national army attacked residents suspected of hiding FDLR and Mai Mai combatants. With time, some of these combatants have become close to local residents, leading to marriages, friendships and business relationships. This makes the situation all the more complex for the FARDC
- Food and health crises have been reported in Walikale and Kasongo (Maniema). A multisectorial investigation has been launched in order to understand the causes of the crises and to investigate reports of exploitation of mineral resources.
- NGOs have been distributing food in several areas.
- The presence of the FARDC is not always reassuring. On the contrary, local populations sometimes fear them. Demands by residents of Yaya to leave their village were met by FARDC refusal. Some residents were even made to pay 500 to 1000 francs to exit the village.

**(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 31 December, 2010, in French)**

**“Nord-Kivu : pillage signalés à Lubero” by Louis-Paul Eyenga Sana**

- The security situation in North Kivu remains fragile as several looting cases have been reported. OCHA said about twenty houses had been looted by armed groups in Lubero. According to Okapi, a man was killed in Butembo.
- Still in North Kivu, the population of Kamandari, Rutshuru, fled to Rwindi and Vitshubi after an operation led by FARDC soldiers who suspect them of hiding FDLR and Mai-Mai elements. Several houses were destroyed during the operation.
- Populations in Haut-Uélé said they wanted to temporarily leave their village (Yaya) as they fear imminent LRA attacks. The FARDC forbid them to flee and, according to sources, residents were forced to pay 500 à 1.000 Francs to leave the village.