

DRC Domestic Broadcasting, 13 December, 2010 (5 December– 12 December, 2010)

by Marie Lamensch, MIGS Reporter for the DRC

Government-owned media

(The New Times website, Kigali, 5 December, 2010, in English)

“Rwanda to host regional conference on minerals ‘next week’”

Text of report in English by Charles Kwizera entitled "Mineral rights, equity meet due"

- Delegates from 13 African countries will meet in Kigali for a conference on mineral exploration and mining rights. The three-day conference is organized by the UNDP (Regional Project for Capacity Development for Negotiation and Regulation for Investment Contracts) and the Sub-regional Office for Eastern Africa (SRO-EA) of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA).
- Issues to be discussed include fundamentals of mineral licensing, skills for successful negotiation of mineral contracts, training, guidance and auctioning.

(The New Vision, by state-owned Ugandan daily Kampala, 7 December 10, in English)

“DR Congo soldiers attack fishermen in northwest Uganda”

Text of report by Benedict Okethwengu headlined "Congoleses attack Ugandans"

- Congoleses soldiers attacked Ugandan fisherman in northwest Uganda and confiscated their boats, lamps and boat engines. According to local officials, they were planning to kill them. Nobody was injured in the attack but two Congoleses soldiers have been arrested and will be handed out to their government.

(Radio-Télévision Nationale Congolaise TV, government-owned, Kinshasa, 1530 gmt, 7 December, 2010, in French)

- The national commission against corruption has undertaken a sensitization campaign against corruption.
- 5,000 Congoleses citizens have been expelled from Angola and fled to Kasai Occidental. Some women were raped before the expulsion and have not received treatment

Privately owned media

(Radio Candip, community radio broadcasting funded by Belgian NGO, Bunia, 1530 gmt, 5 December, 2010, in French)

- The coordinator of the presidential political party in Ituri District denounced the involvement of the Catholic Church Congoleses politics. He said Cardinal Mosengwo wanted tarnish the image of President Kabila.

Article de l'édition du 07/12/2010

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 7 December, 2010, in French)

“Opérations Amani Leo. Nord-Kivu : controverse autour du bilan des opérations militaires à Walikale” by Pishou Mulumba

- The assessment of “Armani Leo” operation (November) has been controversial. According to the army, the operation has been rather successful. According to the spokesman, major Sylvain Ekenge, 21 FDLR combatants have been killed, 85 arrested and arms and ammunitions recuperated. Thanks to these operations in Walikale, the security situation in the area is calm.
- In South Kivu, FARDC operations in Isangi, Shario, Bujumbura, et Busuringi lead to a reduction of FDLR forces.
- However, civil society has rejected these claims. According to civil society representative Jason Luneno, the results are catastrophic as more attacks and widespread looting have actually been recorded

(L’Observateur, privately-owned daily, article dated 7 December, 2010, in French)

“Insécurité, viols et violences sexuelles, pillages des richesses” by Luc-Roger Mbala Bemba

- Peacekeeping remains a deep concern in the DRC despite Kabila’s wishes. Strengthening the capacity of the FARDC against the Interahamwe, Nalu, Mai Mai and the LRA is one of the policies pursued. The FARDC is supported by Monusco but the situation remains fragile in the east as negative forces continue to spread terror through rape, looting and killings.
- In North and South Kivu, joint operations between the FARDC and the APR (Rwanda) have failed to eradicate the FLDR. The Hutu rebel group continues to rape victims, loot and steal natural resources. Illicit exploitation of mineral resources by negative groups is one of the main reasons of instability.
- M. Jean-Richard Hamisi, a local politician and civil society representative, confirmed that the FDLR regularly attacks local villages, leading to population movements. Walikale has experienced various attacks and numerous rape cases have been recorded
- In Oriental province, the situation remains calm but fragile since the operations conducted by the FARDC against Uganda’s LRA. Several LRA bases have been dismantled and rebels have fled to the Central African Republic.
- In a message addressed to the Congolese population et international community, the new Cardinal, Monseigneur Laurent Monsengwo, called for peace and an end to conflict and sexual violence in Eastern Congo.
- Last September, Kabila announced the suspension of mineral exploitation in North and South Kivu. The goal is to stop armed groups from profiting from the minerals. Yet this has not stopped them. FARDC elements are also believed to be involved in the looting.
- Mineral exploitation in the DRC was at the centre of discussions at the Great Lakes civil society meeting on Thursday. Illegal mineral exploitation is the source of many conflicts in the region. The meeting’s participants got together in an attempt to show their determination at ending illegal exploitation of natural resources. They called for transparency.

- For many observers, peace in the DRC can only occur through the neutralization of negative armed groups. In order to do this, the Congolese government must reinforce the FARDC's capacities. Moreover, the international community and neighboring countries must get involved as well.

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 8 December, 2010, in French)

“Les populations victimes d'exactions à Masisi” by Pitshou Mulumba

- Residents in Kingi, Kabati and Chugi (North Kivu) said they were being forced to work by FARDC elements. Several residents have therefore left the area to find security elsewhere. According to source, FARDC are forcing local leaders to find them labor force. Failure to comply is dangerous, leaders are made to pay fines and beaten, the goal being to deter other potential resisters. Leaders have apparently tried to get in touch with FARDC military leaders in order to put an end to the situation.
- An anonymous source said the soldiers take residents to Kisingati and arrest those who attempt to resist and they are made to pay fines. The situation has been going on for a month and several IDPs have been seen around Rutingita and Kibabi. Seven of them have been subject to physical abuse.
- The “Amani Leo” coordinator said he did not know anything about the issue but promised to look into it

(Radio Okapi website, Kinshasa, 8 December, 2010, in French)

“DR Congo shuts 11 TV stations, 12 radios over unpaid fees”

- Eleven television channels and 12 radio stations broadcasting from Kinshasa were closed through a ministerial decree. According to the Ministry of Communication and Media this is a legal issue. He criticized these media for failing to pay the license fee and other administrative fees, including advertising royalties.

(UN Integrated Regional Information Network, Nairobi, 9 December, 2010, in English)

“Burundi downplays reports on ex-rebel group re-mobilizing in east DR Congo”

Excerpt from unattributed report entitled "Officials downplay FNL rebel activity in eastern Congo"

- Officials in Burundi have downplayed various reports by UN Group of Experts that former rebel groups, such as the Forces Nationales de Liberation (FNL), are remobilizing in the DRC. Burundi government's spokesman and army spokesman said no evidence existed but did not reject the investigation either.

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 9 December, 2010, in French)

“Les FARDC maintiennent la pression sur les groupes armés” by Dovin Ntelolo Diasonga

- The FARDC continues to put pressure on the negative groups operating in Ituri. The goal is to pacify the entire area and several military operations have been launched, apparently to satisfying success. The security situation has apparently improved and peace has returned to several areas.
- MONUC confirmed that no LRA activity had been recorded in the past week.
- New operations will be launched in the next few days, including one named “Ituri Umbrella.” The latter will last 45 days and aims at reducing the mobility of armed groups.
- Operation “Rudia Umbrella” was launched at the end of November with the help of Moroccan and Guatemalan Special Forces. The operation is still going on. The goal of the operation is to reassure local populations and deter the LRA. MONUC is heavily present in schools, churches and hospitals as well.
- The FDLR has been active in North Kivu, especially in Walikale and Rutshuru, where looting has been recorded.

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 9 December, 2010, in French)

“La Monusco en conférence sur son rôle dans le processus électoral en RDC” by Louis-Paul Eyenga Sana

La Monusco s’est engagée à soutenir le processus électoral et à consolider la paix en RDC. La réunion des chefs de bureaux a planché sur ces thèmes pendant deux jours à Kinshasa.

Roger Meece, représentant spécial du secrétaire général des Nations unies en RDC préside depuis hier 8 décembre 2010 à Kinshasa la conférence ordinaire des Chefs de bureaux de la Monusco qui prendra fin aujourd’hui jeudi 9 décembre, a rapporté mercredi M. Madnodje Mounoubai, porte-parole de la Monusco lors de la conférence de presse hebdomadaire.

Cette rencontre d’une importance capitale face aux nombreux défis qui se présentent devant la Monusco, s’articule autour de deux thèmes principaux : les défis et opportunités dans la protection des civils et la consolidation de la paix et le rôle de la Monusco dans les efforts conduisant à la tenue des élections.

Après avoir rappelé la visite de Roger Meece au Centre de formation des élèves-policiers de Kapalata dans la Province Orientale, il a souligné que la « Monusco participe au processus électoral en RDC dans les trois domaines essentiels; à savoir : dans la sensibilisation avec la CEI en entreprenant les campagnes pour expliquer le bien-fondé des élections transparentes, libres et démocratiques ». La Monusco s’est également engagé pour appuyer la CEI ou/et la CENI dans la formation des personnes ressources et à apporter son soutien logistiques. Elle a mis en place un pont aérien pour le transport aérien et par voie fluviale du matériel électoral en vue d’un bon déroulement des élections.

A ce propos, une délégation mixte du Bureau national des opérations de la CEI, de la Division électorale de la Monusco et du Projet d’appui au cycle électoral (PACE) du PNUD, a effectué, du 3 au 6 décembre 2010 au Maniema pour « procéder à l’évaluation et à la supervision des opérations d’enrôlement ainsi qu’à la poursuite de la concertation opérationnelle dans cette province où 68.249 personnes se sont enrégistrées et ont reçu leur nouvelle carte d’électeurs ».

SITUATION SECURITAIRE

Sur le plan sécuritaire, le porte-parole militaire de la Monusco, le lieutenant-colonel Mamadou Gaye qui a dit que « Le chef de la LRA Joseph Kony se trouve en République Centrafricaine tandis que ses deux adjoints, Odjambo et Odek sillonnent respectivement le Sud-Soudan et le Parc de Garamba dans la Province Orientale ». Il a ajouté que l'opération « Rudia Umbrella » conduite dans le district du Haut-Uélé en Province Orientale par le bataillon marocain et les forces spéciales guatémaltèques de la force de la Monusco a été lancée le 30 novembre 2010. Elle va se poursuivre jusqu'au 13 janvier 2011 en quatre phases dans la région de Niangara, Ngilima, Bangadi, Nambia, Duru et Bitima. Le lieutenant-colonel Mamadou Gaye a précisé que « l'objectif de cette opération majeure est de rassurer les populations locales et d'interdire toute velléité d'exaction sur les civils par la LRA durant la période festive de fin d'année pendant laquelle on a pu noter précédemment une recrudescence de la violence dans le Haut Uélé ». Enfin, il a indiqué qu'une opération conjointe Monusco-FARDC, dénommée « Ituri Umbrella » sera bientôt lancée pour neutraliser les miliciens encore actifs dans le sud d'Irumu dans le district de Bunia.