

DRC Domestic Broadcasting, 28 February, 2010 (18 February– 27 February, 2011)

by Marie Lamensch, MIGS Reporter for the DRC

Government owned media

(Radio-Television Nationale Congolaise TV, Kinshasa, 1230 gmt, 21 February, 2011, in French)

- The National Episcopal Commission of Congo held its plenary session on good governance and elections. Cenco bishops invited the Congolese government to inform them on the electoral process and the government's policy on fighting corruption.
- Kinshasa Archbishop, Cardinal Laurent Mosengwo Pasinya held a meeting with Catholic Church priests during which he urged priests not to use the church for the electoral campaign. He said "the church [should] not be used for campaigning."
- The trial of 11 senior officers of the DRC Armed Forces sued for rape of about 50 women in Fizi center, Sud-Kivu Province was completed on 21 February. The military court sentenced five officers to death penalty

Privately-owned media

(Radio Candip, community radio broadcasting funded by Belgian NGO, Bunia, 1530 gmt, 19 February, 2010, in French)

“Inhabitants of eastern DR Congo area call for deployment of more troops, police”

- Text of report by Congolese radio from Bunia on 19 February
- In the face of increasing attacks by the LRA in Kisangani, National MPs from the province urged the government to send more troops to the area, particularly Haut Uele. Attacks occurred in Dungu, Faradje and Niangara territories.
- There is a need to assess the current security situation in Haut Uele and MPs are concerned about the plight of civilians as hundreds have already been killed and houses looted and destroyed

(Radio Candip, community radio broadcasting funded by Belgian NGO, Bunia, 1530 gmt, 20 February, 2010, in French)

- The commander of the 9th Military Region of DR Congo in Orientale Province announced that a LRA combatant surrendered himself to the FARDC in Dungu Territory where he had been living for a while. The combatant confirmed the presence of many Congolese citizens among the LRA

(Radio Candip, community radio broadcasting funded by Belgian NGO, Bunia, 1530 gmt, 20 February, 2010, in French)

“Congolese fighting alongside Ugandan rebels in eastern DR Congo”

- The commander of the 9th Military Region of the FARDC in Orientale Province announced the surrender of an LRA fighter location in Dungu Territory.

- The combatant said many Congolese citizens take part in LRA attacks on villages in north eastern DRC, especially Haut and Bas Uele.
- Members of the civil society throughout Orientale Province believe that the central government is doing little to insecurity caused by LRA and claims that perpetrators are foreign fighters of LR, while Congolese have been forced to join.

Rwandan "fugitives" reportedly form new armed group "to destabilize region"

Text of report entitled "Kayumba plans to re-energize the FDLR - Col Bisengimana" in English by Rwandan newspaper The New Times website on 21 February

- The FDLR is said be suffering at the hand of the FARDC and MONUSCO but Rwandan fugitives Kayumba Nyamwasa and Patrick Karegyeya have vowed to re-energize their fight. Lt-Col Abraham Sam Bisengimana, a former FDLR commander who surrendered last week described "wrangles and nepotism" within the FDLR. Both Kayumba and Karegyeya have strong links with the FDLR.
- Lt-Col Bisengimana also said that Theogene Rudasingwa, Gerald Gahima, Paul Rusesabagina, and representatives of the Victoire Ingabire faction of the divided FDU-Inkingi have been organizing meetings in Europe and North America to enlist support and gain sympathy for the FDLR.
- He also encouraged follow FDLR fighters to surrender and return home.

Source: The New Times website, Kigali, in English 21 Feb 11

L'Observateur

Formé par des instructeurs américains avec l'appui de AFRICOM

Lundi 21 février 2011

- The first Rapid Intervention infantry bataillon has been formed in Orientale Province. Composed of 1200 men, the infantry battalion was trained by the US army and is a symbol of a new era of collaboration between the US and the DRC.
- AFRICOM's commander in charge of military and civilian activities said the aim was to contribute to the formation of an army that respects civil authority and ensures the security of the population.
- The American diplomat said the goal was transform the FARDC into a professional and responsible institution able to respond to people's needs
- Kisangani has been rather secure and peaceful for the past year and the FARDC Rapid Intervention infantry is ready to work as a deterrent. Today, it is ready to play a key role in securing and protecting civilians against LRA attacks. The rebel group has found refuge in the Central African Republic and South Sudan where they continue to launch operations against northern Congo.
- The new infantry battalion is not only involved in military training but also in development. Indeed troops have been growing vegetables and attending to cattle in the camp. The troop leader said the goal was to show that the army is also a development and education structure.

Luc-Roger Mbala Bemba

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

- The office of the military operational zone of the FARDC in Ituri District announced that some of its solders were attacked near Geti Location, south of Bunia Town. The

Popular Front for Justice in Congo is believed to be behind the attack. Three militia fighters and one of FARDC soldiers were killed and several firearms were recovered from the militia group.

- Administrative sources in Haut Uele District have appealed to residents of Faradje and Dungu Territory to remain calm following growing attacks by the LRA. FARDC troops and peacekeepers from MONUSCO have been deployed in the area in order to curb the violence.

(L'Observateur, privately-owned daily, article dated 24 February, 2010, in French)

“Condamnation de neuf militaires FARDC pour viol et exactions commis à Fizi”

- The verdict concerning the nine FARDC soldiers who committed rape and grave human rights violations has received positive responses. The UN Human Rights Bureau said this was a welcomed step and reaffirmed its willingness to contribute to Congolese justice and its fight against impunity.
- The trial has been effective and can serve as a deterrent, especially since officers were found guilty as well.
- Monusco's Roger Meece said he was very satisfied about the trial and the way it has been handled. He praised civilian and military authorities for their attitude during the trial and encouraged them to continue their efforts. Monusco provided logistical help, including the transport of witnesses from Bukavu to Baraka. The UN mission has also provided new mattresses to prisons in Ituri considering the poor state of national and regional prisons.
- Concerning the military and security situation, Monusco said FRPI combatants are experiencing logistical difficulties and morale is low. No attacks have been launched against the FARDC in south Irumu.
- Monusco also contributed to Operation Rudia Umbrella and other special operations against the LRA in Orientale Province. More troops have been deployed to Faradje and Gangala in order to help the FARDC in its fight against the Ugandan rebel forces. Six LRA combatants have been killed and five civilian hostages freed.

(L'Observateur, privately-owned daily, article dated 25 February, 2010, in French)

« Condamnation des officiers des FARDC accusés de viols de masse. Les Etats-Unis saluent le verdict du tribunal militaire » by Didier Munsala B.

- South Kivu's military court in Fizi found nine FARDC soldiers guilty of committing and ordering mass rape in the area.
- The US government welcomed the verdict.
- The verdict is a big step towards ending the widespread culture of impunity. The government seems determined to put an end to sexual violence, particularly during conflict. US representative Philippe J. Crowley said bringing perpetrators of sexual violence to court is a responsibility of all governments and essential for peace and stability in the DRC.
- MONUSCO also praised the rapidity and effectiveness of the trial.
- It is essential for the government and its partners to be involved in the fight against sexual violence. The way in which the military court has handled the situation might

serve as a deterrent for future perpetrators. It is only to be hope that this is not a one case issue and that more perpetrators will be brought to justice