

DRC Domestic Broadcasting, 7 March, 2010 (27 February– 6 March, 2011)

by Marie Lamensch, MIGS Reporter for the DRC

Summary of current situation

Unidentified assailants attacked President Kabila's residence and Kokolo military camp on Sunday. The Presidential guard killed six of them. The government launched an investigation into what it has called "an attempted coup d'état"

In the east, the LRA is still conducting small scale attacks in Dungu in Province Oriental.

Government-owned media

(Radio-Television Nationale Congolaise TV, Kinshasa, 1230 gmt, 28 February, 2011, in French)

- A group of heavily armed men attacked President Joseph Kabila's Palace in Kinshasa. The President is unharmed and safe. The government spokesman, Minister Lambert Mende Omalanga, describes the attack as rough, with deaths on both sides. The FARDC now has the situation under control.

(Radio-Television Nationale Congolaise TV, Kinshasa, 1230 gmt, 1 March, 2011, in French)

- Following the attack on President Kabila's residence on 27 February, Kabila chaired the high defence council in his office. Prime Minister Adolphe Muzito, the minister in charge of interior, minister of defence, minister of foreign affairs, the FARDC chief of defence staff, the PNC Inspector General, Kinshasa Governor and other high officers were present.
- Minister of Defence Charles Mwando Nsimba read a communiqué in which the council informing the Congolese population about the attack. Republican guards fought back the attackers, killing six and capturing some of them. The council also confirmed the government willingness to hold the elections this year and to continue the development program of the country.
- The population of Kisangani, Orientale Province, is said to be appalled by the attack on the President's residence and says it will support Kabila.
- People's Party for the Reconstruction and Development [PPRD]/Sud-Kivu Province condemned the attack and reaffirmed its support to the president.

(Radio-Television Nationale Congolaise TV, Kinshasa, 1230 gmt, 2 March, 2011, in French)

- The Minister of Communications and Media Lambert Mende Omalanga held a news conference during which he discussed the attack on the President's palace. Minister Omalanga said the group of attackers was made up of about 60 people.
- The Presidential Guard who repelled the assailants, killed six combatants and captured a few others. He added that he would "know more about the attack through assailants who will unveil their intent"
- Minister Mende also explained that a second group of armed men attempted to attack the Kokolo barracks before they were repelled
- The Congolese Ecologic Party chaired by Didace Pembe held a support march in Bandundu Province to express its support for President Kabila.

- Katanga provincial MPs also expressed their support, while MPs in Nord-Kivu Province condemn the attack.

(The New Times, government-owned Rwandan newspaper, Kigali, article dated 2 March, 2011, in English)

“DR Congo army renegade colonel said linked to rebels killed”

Text of report in English by James Karuhanga entitled "Top Congolese FDLR ally killed"

- A Congolese army renegade, Col. Emmanuel Nsengiyumva, allegedly linked to the FDLR, was killed on 26 February. Nsengiyumva was part of the FDLR's Suki group targeted by the Amani Leo, an on-going joint operation between the FARDC and Monusco

(The New Times, government-owned Rwandan newspaper, Kigali, article dated 3 March, 2011, in English)

“Region's House Speakers to discuss security in Rwanda 8 March”

- On 8 and 9 February, a meeting between parliamentary Speakers from member states of the Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries (CEPGL) will focus on regional insurgences. Parliamentary heads from Rwanda, Burundi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo will be present to discuss regional security as evidence of new groups operating in the DRC has emerged. All members have expressed their intention to address the problem.
- Other issues to be discussed are gaps in some of the organization's institutions such as the Bank and the Agricultural Research Institute. The CEPGL plans to discuss these problems with its partners.

(Radio-Television Nationale Congolaise TV, Kinshasa, 1230 gmt, 3 March, 2011, in French)

- President Kabila chaired a meeting that tackled minerals exploitations in Maniema, Nord-Kivu and Sud-Kivu Provinces. About 50 actors working on the mining sector attended the meeting, including Mining Minister Martin Kabwelulu and the International and Regional Cooperation Minister Raymond Tshibanda
- The goal of the meeting was to give clear guidance to the various actors working in the sector.
- Joseph Kabila also removed the ban on minerals exploitation, a move welcomed by Governor Julien Paluku from Nord-Kivu Province, Marcelin Chishambo from Sud-Kivu Province and Governor Tutu Pascal Salumu.
- MONUSCO said it was appalled by the attack of the residence of the president of the republic. Military spokesman, Mamadou Gaye, said that MONUSCO is closely monitoring the situation and waiting for the results of the ongoing investigations. He also reaffirmed MONUSCO's commitment to assist the FARDC and to protect civilians.

Private media

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

- Officials in Orientale Province urged residents to remain calm after a panic was observed in various major towns following news of a failed putsch against Kabila. Officials said Congolese should provide support to the existing legal institutions and to the elections. They condemned attempts to disrupt the country's democratisation process.
- Ituri District commissioner refuted reports that South Sudanese have reoccupied part of Congolese territory near Ingbokolo and Kengenzi. He added that South Sudanese and Congolese government are respecting the recent signed bilateral agreement over the border limits.

(L'Observateur, privately-owned daily, article dated 28 February, 2010, in French)

« 2011 : élections sous haute tension ? » by Mankenda Voka

- It is feared that elections will occur under high tensions if the right measures are not put in place. A group of unidentified assailants attacked the presidential residence on Sunday and later Kokolo base camp. Lumbashi airport was also occupied for a few hours on Monday.
- For the majority in power, the most important thing for the moment is the re-election of Kabila, while the opposition is lacking a strong leader and therefore seeking a coalition or a majority in parliament.
- The elections are also crucial for the DRC's neighbour. But it is important to be aware that Congolese relationships with its regional neighbours are not always cordial. These problems have to be rectified and a clear message has to be sent. Neighbouring countries are suspicious of the DRC and this is not always unjustified. Trust must be instilled and Kabila should listen to all the parties, not simply a small group of individuals.
- Tensions and disorder are the result of this feeling of exclusion.

(L'Observateur, privately-owned daily, article dated 2 March, 2010, in French)

« Après l'attaque de la résidence du Chef de l'Etat. Le Conseil supérieur de la défense s'est penché sur cette affaire » by Luc-Roger Mbala Bemba

- Following the attack on the presidential palace on Sunday, a meeting was held on Monday in order to discuss the security situation in the country. The meeting was chaired by Kabila.
- Calm has now returned to Kinshasa although a red zone has been established near Kabila's residence
- Minister of Communication and Media, Lambert Mend confirmed the attacks and said some assailants held been killed or capture. The government cannot yet say what triggered the attack or who combatants are.
- The assailants should face justice since it is clear that the president's enemies want to spread fear and destabilize the election process.

- In May 2004, an attack on the presidential palace had already been launched by Presidential Guard leader Eric Lenge. Although the Prime Minister at the time had called for a trial, it never took place and nobody ever mentioned the case again.

(Daily Nation, Kenyan privately owned newspaper, article date 3 March, 2010, in English)

“DRCongolese president expected in Kenya over ‘gold smuggling syndicate’”

- President Joseph Kabila is expected in Nairobi for talks with Kenyan President Kibaki over a gold smuggling syndicate involving the two countries.
- Investigators believe gold is stolen from DRC and smuggled to overseas markets through Kenya. Interpol has been asked to track smugglers and seize any consignments on transit in Kenya.
- Last month, some 2.5 tonnes of the mineral, with an estimated value of \$107m, was stolen from eastern Congo. It is suspected that the consignment was headed for Dubai.
- A senior Criminal Investigation Department officer has been instructed carry out an investigation.
- The illegal trade is security concerns due to the large amount of money the mineral attracts in the black market. Authorities fear that traders could purchase weapons and fuel the war in the region.
- Congolese Regional and International Cooperation Minister Mr Raymond Tshibanda and his mining counterpart Martin Kabwelulu visited Kenya in order to foster relations and attempt to stop the trade. The Kenyan government, which pledged its support, has enhanced screening of imports at points of entry.

(Radio Station Capital FM, Kenyan privately-owned radio, 13.00 gmt, 3 March, 2011, in English)

“Kenya, DR Congo agree on joint probe into gold smuggling syndicate”

- Kenya and the DRC will carry out a joint investigation on the illegal gold trade between the two countries following the disappearance of \$95m worth of metal. A senior level Kenya Revenue Authority was also killed under mysterious circumstances.

(Radio Candip, community radio broadcasting funded by Belgian NGO, Bunia, 1530 gmt, 1 March, 2010, in French)

- Ituri District commissioner has called for a demonstration on 2 March in protest to an attack on the presidential palace last Sunday. He states that those behind this attack are against the process of democratisation in the country and wants the population to show its support to the President through this demonstration.

(Radio Candip, community radio broadcasting funded by Belgian NGO, Bunia, 1530 gmt, 3 March, 2010, in French)

- Humanitarian workers announced that hundreds of IDPs in Boga, southeast of Bunia Town in Ituri District received food assistance from the WFP. Most of the victims

fled their homes after attacks by the Popular Front for Justice in Congo in Zungulaka and Walendu Bindi, and attacks by Ugandan rebel group Alliance for Democratic Front in Eringeti, Nord Kivu.

Source: Radio Candip, Bunia, in French 1530 gmt 3 Mar 11

(L'Observateur, privately-owned daily, article dated 4 March, 2010, in French)

« Qui en veut à Kabila ? » by Mankenda Voka

- The newspaper wonders how a group of assailants was able to put their lives and those of others at risk in order to kill the president. If their goal was not a coup d'état, why did they not choose to eliminate the president in a different way? Why does his presence constitute a challenge?
- The population wants to know the truth and urges the government to give a maximum of information in order to calm people down. The investigation should benefit the country and it is important to get to the heart of the problem. Who are these people and are they part of the government? What were their motivations? Only despair can lead people to commit to such acts.
- The DRC should also question its relationships with its neighbours.