

DRC Domestic Broadcasting, 14 February, 2010 (5 February– 13 February, 2011)

by Marie Lamensch, MIGS Reporter for the DRC

Privately-owned media

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

- Colonel Fall Sikabwe, commander of the military operation of the FARDC in Ituri District, said none of his soldier should be involved in any exploitation of mineral resources. The military police should arrest any soldier found at any mining sites.

(Radio Candip, community radio broadcasting funded by Belgian NGO, Bunia, 1530 gmt, 6 February, 2010, in French)

- The police inspector of Ituri District said more troops are needed in the Congolese police force in his district, especially considering general elections are coming up.

(Radio Candip, community radio broadcasting funded by Belgian NGO, Bunia, 1530 gmt, 6 February, 2010, in French)

Police official calls for more troops in eastern DR Congo to secure upcoming poll

- Col Jean Bideko, police inspector of Ituri District in Orientale Province, is concerned about the security of the electoral process in Orientale Province. He said the number of Congolese police forces is too limited.
- He appealed to MONUSCO and the government to speed up the training of new troops.
- MONUSCO said it would look into the issue considering the importance of the general elections.

(Missionary Service News Agency (Misna), Rome, 7 February, 2011, in English)

“Sources say clashes between Congolese army, rebel LRA claim four lives”

- Clashes between the FARDC and the LRA in Dungu have been reported. Four soldiers and two militiamen were killed. The clashes started after the FARDC attempted to release a kidnapped civilian.
- There have been increased attacks by the LRA in the past few weeks.

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(Radio Candip, community radio broadcasting funded by Belgian NGO, Bunia, 1530 gmt, 7 February, 2010, in French)

- The Catholic Diocese of Bunia has denounced the presence of some soldiers from FARDC on its property near Lita Parish, near Bunia. The Bishop accused the soldiers of harassing local residents. The commander of the operational zone of Ituri District promised to look into this issue.

**(Radio Candip, community radio broadcasting funded by Belgian NGO, Bunia, 1530
gmt, 8 February, 2010, in French)**

- There is strong indication that an important quantity of gold mineral is being smuggled from to Goma. The local police forces called for an investigation

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 7 February, 2011, in French)

« Des rebelles hutu rwandais ont attaqué les villages de Mirangi »

- Rwandan Hutu rebels attacked the villages of Mirangi and Busundule. FDLR and Mai Mai combatants looted several houses in the area. The local police base has also been attacked.
- No casualties have been reported
- The police also stated that residents of Mugogo are leaving the village because they fear rebel attacks once the FARDC leaves for new missions. Residents are going towards the Ugandan border

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 7 February, 2011, in French)

« La situation sécuritaire est sous contrôle des FARDC au Nord-Katanga » by Louis-Paul Eyenga Sana

- The security situation in Kalemie and Moba (North Katanga) is now under control of the FARDC. The Minister of Defense and Veterans confirmed the news after he evaluated the situation on the ground.
- He also told the FARDC to respect the rule of law and called on civilians and the military to live in harmony
- He also talked about the election process and constitutional revision. He explained that the one-round electoral process was not meant to facilitate the elections for the AMP or to cheat.
- The Minister also urged residents to resist succumbing to « intoxication campaigns » led by enemies of the DRC.

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 7 February, 2011, in French)

« Sécuriser avant les élections »

- In the face of upcoming elections, the priority of the government is to restore and ensure the security of the country, especially in the five territories till subject to violence by groups such as the FDLR and the LRA.
- Oxfam stated that the Christmas period and the rice picking periods are always worrying times. As long the LRA is capable of committing violence, people will be too scared to attend to their fields and famine might ensure. The NGO therefore urged the Security Council to maintain security in areas occupied by the LRA.
- In the past few weeks, more attacks have been recorded in Oriental Province, most recently in Dungu, where FARDC soldiers were killed.

- In North Kivu, the FDLR killed and looted houses in Mirangi and Busundule. Residents bare also leaving Mugogo towards Ugandan border as they fear renewed attacks by rebel forces once the FARDC leaves to go on a new mission.
- The FARDC and Monusco must draw up a plan of action capable of eradicating rebel groups. The plan should prevent attack from occurring by reinforcing the presence of troops, promote and ensure better communication infrastructure in order to facilitate communication in case of an attack, and ensure that humanitarian action can quickly access victims.

(Journaliste En Danger, Kinshasa, 7 February, 2011, in English)

“Authorities in DR Congo close local radio station”

- JED condemns the closure of Radio du Peuple Oicha, a community radio station operating in Beni, North Kivu, and demand to re-opening of the station without conditions.
- The station is criticized for its coverage of the current insecurity in Beni. It aired a debate during which callers denounced the safety situation in the region.
- Jose Bashizi, programme director at Radio du Peuple Oicha, said the radio had “no intention of offending the territorial authority”

(Radio Candip, community radio broadcasting funded by Belgian NGO, Bunia, 1530 gmt, 9 February, 2010, in French)

- The director of the Bunia Town central prison in Ituri District urged to the central government and the international community to build of a new prison. The situation at the local prison is alarming following the increasing number of detainees at this prison and lack of basic necessities.

(Radio Candip, community radio broadcasting funded by Belgian NGO, Bunia, 1530 gmt, 10 February, 2010, in French)

- The office of the military operational zone in Dungu Territory announced that its troops will escort all vehicles plying roads of this territory of Haut Uele District. The aim is to protect them against any possible attack from the LRA following increasing attacks on vehicles.
- Two weeks ago, a group LRA combatants ambushed a vehicle on the road between Doruma Location and Dungu Location. A Catholic nun was killed and two boys abducted.
- A vehicle full of passengers was later attacked by LRA in Dungu Territory. Six people were reported killed and more than 10 others abducted.
- Other attacks have been reported and Congolese civilians have been accused of being involved in attacks as well, although civil society in Dungu territory has denied this.

(L’Observateur, privately-owned daily, article dated 11 February, 2010, in French)

« La Tunisie : quelles leçons pour nous ? » Mankenda Voka

- The author believes something can be learned from the situation in Tunisia. The situation of Congolese is worse than for Tunisians.
- Tunisians have shown that human beings have to be given basic rights and freedom of speech.
- The elections in the DRC are already causing a lot of tensions. Only media that have a positive view of the government seem to have a right to speak. This will not help the image of the government or help understand the situation in the country. The government does not need to use such tactics.
- Official media do not give impartial and varied information, which is counter-productive. Tunisia got rid of Ben Ali in order to gain freedom of speech and this is a lesson to be learned.

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 12 February, 2011, in French)

« Haut-Uélé : les commerçants désormais escortés par les FARDC »

- In Haut Uélé, local traders will now have to be protected by the FARDC when they travel. Several traders and vehicles have been attacked recently, allegedly by the LRA. The FARDC says attacks were conducted by bandits not the LRA.
- This is only a temporary measure, until the attackers have been identified

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 12 February, 2011, in French)

« Sud-Kivu : des officiers militaires jugés à Baraka pour viol »

- Eleven FARDC soldiers accused of raping 50 women in Fizi in early January are currently facing justice. The trial has drawn a lot of attention from the national and international community. The eleven soldiers have been charged with crimes against humanity, war crimes and terrorism.
- Monusco facilitated the transport of 60 people who are to attend the trial.