

DRC Domestic Broadcasting, 24 January, 2010 (18 January– 23 January, 2011)

by Marie Lamensch, MIGS Reporter for the DRC

Government owned media

(Radio-Television Nationale Congolaise TV, Kinshasa, 1230 gmt, 19 January, 2011, in French)

- 500 police officers from ex-rebel groups started the third session of police training in North Kivu. Other training projects are currently underway in the DRC.

(The New Times, government-owned Rwandan newspaper, Kigali, 20 January 2011, in English)

“Rwanda, Burundi, DR Congo to boost military ties” by James Karuhanga

- During a ceremony bringing together the defence chiefs of Rwanda, Burundi and the DRC, the chief of defence staff of the Rwanda Defence Force (RDF), Lt-Gen Charles Kayonga, urged member states Economic Community of Great Lakes Countries to strengthen collaboration in the aim of consolidating peace and security. He said the CEPGL provided a good opportunity and forum for various actors to come together.
- Kayonga also reminded those present that the region was still ridden with several armed groups, including former génocidaires. He added that these armed forces wanted to destabilize the region in order to gain access to natural resources
- The DRC land forces' chief, General Gabriel Hamisi, and Burundi's army chief, Major-General Godfrey Niyombare, said cooperation on defence and security matters was critical. Hamisi explained that the DRC should not serve as a “dustbin” for rebel groups and there called on the three neighbours to work together and “repulse them.”
- A mutual defence protocol was proposed and discussed on Wednesday in an attempt to increase cooperation on issues of defence and security

(The New Times, government-owned Rwandan newspaper, Kigali, 22 January 2011, in English)

“Rwandan fugitives said to launch rebel group in DR Congo - Great Lakes meeting”

- Regional security chiefs, representing the Economic Community of Great Lakes Countries said Rwandan fugitives, Kayumba Nyamwasa and Patrick Karegeya, have formed a new armed group based in the DRC. The group, whose number is estimated at about 200, is planning to destabilize the region and recruiting in the region.
- Colonel Kayumba and Karegeya are believed to be leading the rebel group. They have entered into an alliance with several existing militia in eastern DRC, including the FDLR, Ex-FAR and Interahamwe militia. Other armed groups named in the new alliance include FPLC, RUD-Urunana, Lafontaine, Mai Mai Yakatumba, Mai Mai Cheka and the so-called Nsengiyumva group. Colonel Mamba said their global number is estimated to be about 5,000
- This is not the first time Kayumba and Karegeya work together. They have already been sentenced to 24 and 20 years in prison, respectively, after they were found guilty

of forming a rebel group, threatening state security, undermining public order and promoting ethnic tensions.

Privately-owned media

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 20 January, 2011, in French)

« Révision constitutionnelle : la Monusco, une église au milieu du village » by Louis-Paul Eyenga Sana

- Monusco wants to remain neutral on debates regarding the election process. The mission's spokesman said Monusco should be "a church in the middle of the village." The spokesman said Monusco would listen to all the parties involved and added that the main issue now was the security of civilians during the electoral process. Monusco does not have a mandate concerning the protection of political candidates, even though the opposition would like for the mission to do so.
- Concerning the electoral process, Monusco stated that the UN would assist the electoral system and support the CEI and CENI. Monusco will bring logistical support and help coordinate civic education and sensitization campaign.

(L'Observateur, privately-owned daily, article dated 20 January, 2010, in French)

« Processus DDRRR dans l'Est de la RDC » by Dovin Ntelolo Diasonga

- Last year, 1165 former combatants, including 1034 elements of the FDLR were demobilized and repatriated from the DRC to their country of origin. This was part of a DDR process supported by the UN mission. The number of demobilized officers has increased.
- Monusco also reiterated its support for the current electoral process. Along with PNUD (Programme des Nations Unies pour le développement – United Nations Development Programme), Monusco says it supports the CEI (Independent Electoral Commission) and the future CENI (Independent National Electoral Commission).
- Concerning security, the mission's spokesperson said the situation is relatively calm in the western DRC. The situation is also improving in Equateur province where the mission is facilitating assistance to populations in need.
- The spokesperson said Monusco also went in Enyele, a 100km away from Dongo, after communal conflicts erupted between the Lobala and Monzaya clans in South Ubangi district. Another similar initiative will take place soon in Monkoto territory regarding the possible presence of Enyele rebels.

(Daily Nation website, Nairobi, Kenyan privately-owned newspaper, 21 January 2011, in English)

“Rwanda blames non-trial of DR Congo general on legal "complexities"”

- Tharcisse Karugarama, Rwanda's minister of Justice, said the case involving the arrest and detaining of former CNDP leader and warlord Laurent Nkunda has dragged because of its political, legal and diplomatic complexities.
- Rwandan President Paul Kagame wants a speedy trial but does not want the case to cause any diplomatic tensions or conflict of laws between the two countries. The ministry of justice of both nations are working together on the issue.

- Nkunda has appeared in a number of Rwandan civil courts and his case has since then been referred to the military court but he has not yet been charged
- Nkunda is Congolese and therefore has to be dealt with by the Congolese judiciary for the crimes allegedly committed in the DRC. However, he is currently on house arrest in Rwanda territory where it is necessary to apply Rwandan law.
- Both countries think an instituted team of experts from Rwanda and the DRC should work together on legal issues in order to deal with obstacles regarding the extradition of Nkunda, including legal impediments embedded in the Rwandan law regarding extradition and the death penalty.

(Radio Candip, community radio broadcasting funded by Belgian NGO, Bunia, 1530 gmt, 21 January, 2011, in French)

- Five people died and some 55 houses were destroyed by a fire as Djupazungulu and Djupamala communities clashed north of Bunia, Ituri District. Army troops were called in to restore peace.

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 22 January, 2011, in French)

« La révision constitutionnelle ne privilégie pas la cohésion nationale » by Louis-Paul Eyenga Sana

- Human Rights NGO Renadhoc (Réseau national des ONG des droits de l'Homme de la RDC) said revising the constitution will not promote national cohesion, something CENI should be responsible for. According to Renadhoc, the DRC runs the risk of having two constitutions at the same time.