

DRC Domestic Broadcasting, 30 January, 2010 (23 January– 29 January, 2011)
by Marie Lamensch, MIGS Reporter for the DRC

Government owned media

Radio France Internationale, French state-funded public broadcaster, Paris, 0530 gmt 24 January 2011, in French)

“Rwandan leader's former allies deny forming rebel group in eastern DR Congo”

- Two former allies of Rwandan President Paul Kagame in exile in South Africa denied having formed a rebel group in eastern DRC. Kayumba Nyamwasa and Patrick Karegyeya were handed heavy prison terms in absentia by a Kigali court two weeks ago.

(The New Times, government-owned Rwandan newspaper, Kigali, 25 January 2011, in English)

“Rwandan paper's editorial against regional tolerance of terrorist groups”

Editorial entitled "Regional states must not tolerate terrorist groups"

- The CEPGL said a new armed group had been created in North Kivu. The group, was created by Rwandan fugitives Kayumba Nyamwasa and Patrick Karegeya, who have been sentenced for forming a terrorist group, threatening state security, undermining public order and promoting ethnic divisions.
- The issue is not new. Last year, a UN Security Council Group of Experts' report revealed that both Kayumba and Karegeya had established strong links with the FDLR
- *The New Times* denounces the violence and attempts to destabilize the region. The newspaper calls for concerted efforts from the governments and peoples of the Great lakes region, arguing that regional states have a moral and mutual obligation to put an end to such activities

(Radio-Television Nationale Congolaise TV, Kinshasa, 1230 gmt, 25 January, 2011, in French)

- In Bukavu, Sud-Kivu Province, the UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs launched a humanitarian assistance program devoted to civilians' protection and improving living conditions of returnees.

(Radio-Television Nationale Congolaise TV, Kinshasa, 1230 gmt, 26 January, 2011, in French)

- Former Belgian Minister of Defense Andre Flahaut said the DRC needs a well-trained and well-paid professional army in order to be efficient

(Radio-Television Nationale Congolaise TV, Kinshasa, 1230 gmt, 27 January, 2011, in French)

- State Owned Companies Minister Jeannine Mabunda Lioko expressed her dismay the mismanagement of some state-owned companies, where nepotism and tribalism is said to be widespread. Managers apparently report to their political parties more than to the government.

(The New Times, government-owned Rwandan newspaper, Kigali, 27 January 2011, in English)

“Rwandan opposition party said to split over newly formed coalition with rebels”

Unattributed report entitled: "DU-Inkingi splits over Kayumba- Gahima-FDLR alliance"

- FDU-Inkingi (United Democratic Forces) has split after the formation of an alliance bringing it together with the Kayumba-Gahima-FDLR and the Rwanda National Congress (RNC). The alliance was formed in December in an attempt to coordinate anti-Rwanda government activities but tensions quickly arose.
- According to its chairman, the FDU "no longer had powers to represent the support committee or FDU-Inkingi in whatever capacity" and said FDU signatories had acted out of self-interest
- A UN group of experts, the Economic Community of Great Lakes Countries (CEPGL) and former commanders of the FDLR announced that the RNC has formed a new terrorist group entered into alliances with other militia groups operating in the DRC.

Privately-owned media

(Radio Candip, community radio broadcasting funded by Belgian NGO, Bunia, 1530 gmt, 23 January, 2011, in French)

- The LRA has conducted a series of attacks over the past week at various locations. One soldier was killed. Several Congolese civilians apparently helped the rebels

(Radio Candip, community radio broadcasting funded by Belgian NGO, Bunia, 1530 gmt, 23 January, 2011, in French)

“US under-secretary urges DR Congo to improve soldiers' conditions of service”

- The US Under Secretary of political and military affairs met with Minister Adolph Muzito, Honourable Charles Mwandosimba in charge of Defence Ministry and the special advisor of the president in charge of security. The US Under Secretary urged the government to respect human rights. He also called on the government to pay the salaries of Congolese troops and provide enough food. Furthermore, he said human rights abusers within the army should be dismissed and tried. Finally he urged the government to discourage the enrolment of children into armed groups and said the Obama administration was ready to assist the Congolese armed forces if human rights are respected.

(Radio Okapi, Kinshasa, in French 24 January, 2011, in French)

“DR Congo urged not to promote army officers violating human rights - US official”

Unattributed report entitled "Andrew Shapiro: 'It is important that DR Congo pays and feeds its soldiers'"

- The US assistant secretary of state for political and military affairs, Andrew Shapiro, told Congolese Prime Minister Adolphe Muzito the DRC should not promote army officers who have committed human rights violations. He also urged the army not to recruit children.

(Radio Candip, community radio broadcasting funded by Belgian NGO, Bunia, 1530 gmt, 24 January, 2011, in French)

“DR Congo denounces civilians collaborating with Ugandan rebels during attacks”

Text of report by Congolese radio from Bunia on 24 January

- Military sources in Haut Uele District have reported that LRA led a series of attacks in Dungu Territory. A soldier was killed and food crops looted. Four women were abducted as well and a naked man found attached to a tree. The latter said he was attacked by LRA fighters.
- The Justice and Peace Commission of Dungu Catholic Diocese confirmed these reports.
- High officers from the ninth military region of FARDC in Orientale Province have denounced the collaboration of several Congolese civilians with LRA rebels. Local administrative leaders and residents have been instructed to denounce any Congolese found collaborating with the rebel forces and they will be dealt with accordingly.

(Radio Candip, community radio broadcasting funded by Belgian NGO, Bunia, 1530 gmt, 25 January, 2011, in French)

- ICC outreach office in Ituri District announced the transfer of Callixte Mbarushimana FDLR's secretary general from France to The Hague. He is accused of crimes committed in DRC by his Rwandan rebels of FDLR.
- Journalists said Congolese people hope the ICC will pressure Germany to follow the lead and transfer two leaders of FDLR, Ignace Murwanashaka, Stratone Mushoni, to the Hague

(L'Observateur, privately-owned daily, article dated 26 January, 2010, in French)

« La localité de Sukadi sous le contrôle de la LRA » by Dovin Ntelolo Diasonga

- Since October 2010, the Sukadi area, Ango Territory, has been under the control of LRA elements. Monusco does not have exact numbers but rebels are allegedly involved in various activities, including agriculture and poaching.
- The Buta FARDC commander, Colonel Eugène Wango, said troops had been deployed to the region to dislocate the rebels. A large number of the population has fled the area towards the Central African Republic
- In December, the LRA also clashed with Mbororo Sudanese herders in Sudaki. Ten Mbororo died during the conflict. This happened after the LRA attempted to stop the Mbororo herders from settling in the area.

- Ugandan rebels have also been seen in Faradje. Four young girls have been abducted. Three people died during clashes between the FARDC and the LRA, including one militia man, one civilian and a FARDC soldier.

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

« Lutte contre l'exploitation et le trafic illicite des minerais congolais » by Luc-Roger Mbala Bemba

- The US government declared it would support the DRC's efforts in putting an end to illegal exploitation and trafficking of natural resources. During a conference, the US ambassador to the DRC said 11 million dollars will be spent on new programmes.
- Funds will go towards building new roads, training police authorities, security, certification in the mining sector, and towards improving the capacity of the Congolese government to regulate the mining sector.
- These funds will complement new efforts and programmes launched by the Congolese government, local and foreign industries, and regional and international organizations. The ambassador said these new programmes, including "Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI)", along with Kimberley Process should make a difference. He praised the DRC for its KP presidency.
- The ambassador added that the US government understands the importance of the mining sector for the DRC. He explained that the last time he went to Katanga, he realized the contribution made by mining companies to the region and communities.
- Nonetheless, he stated he was still worried about the role of natural resources in fuelling conflict in the east. The US is ready to work with all actors involved, including the government, civil society and the private sector to make sure revenues would go towards development and towards the local population. This means that commercial practices must be improved, particularly in terms of transparency, regulation. Issues of demilitarization and security will also be tackled.
- Finally, the ambassador reintegrated his country's will to establish various partnerships with the DRC in areas of health, education, security cooperation and economic development.