

**DRC Domestic Broadcasting, 10 January, 2010 (3 January– 9 January, 2011)**

**by Marie Lamensch, MIGS Reporter for the DRC**

**Government owned media**

**(Radio-Television Nationale Congolaise TV, Kinshasa, 1230 gmt, 4 January, 2011, in French )**

- Lambert Mende Omalanga, the government’s spokesman, held a conference regarding a document signed by the political opposition at the end of December unveiling the unconstitutionality of the constitutional revision proposed by the Presidential Majority Alliance. Mende argued that the revision of the constitution does not violate the Constitution and the laws of the republic.
- Senators at the Senate adopted two draft bills regarding the organization of the FARDC and the ban of landmines in the country

**Privately-owned media**

**(Daily Monitor website, leading privately-owned Ugandan newspaper, Kampala, in English 3 January, 2011, in English)**

**“Uganda preparing for talks on reparations for DR Congo plunder”**

*Text of report by Yasiin Mugerwa entitled "Government wants Shs2.5 billion for talks on Congo plunder"*

- The Ugandan government wants 1 million dollars to facilitate lawyers and other technocrats ahead of a meeting with Congolese officials. The DRC accused Uganda of war crimes and plunder of its resources between 1998 and 2003. The DRC took Uganda to The Hague in 1999, asking for reparations. While supporting the DRC’s claims, the UN gave the two countries the option to settle the matter between themselves. An agreement was signed between President Kabila and President Museveni in 2007 in an attempt to settle the dispute.
- Several Ugandan MPS are questioning the 1mio dollar request and argue that those implicate plunder should pay the bill rather than taxpayers.
- MP Mugume said Uganda could not afford to pay the 10 billion dollars demanded by the DRC and more discussions are therefore needed.
- Meanwhile, the DRC insists that Uganda should pay for committing human rights violations.
- It is believed that a failure to reach consensus will result in the DRC going back to the Hague.

**(Radio Candip, community radio broadcasting funded by Belgian NGO, Bunia, 1530 gmt, 4 January, 2010, in French)**

### **“DR Congo's officials concerned over outcome of South Sudan referendum”**

- The provincial government of Orientale Province is worried about the situation in Sudan ahead of the country's elections set to take place on 9 January 2011. The elections will determine whether South Sudan becomes independent. The government is worried about possible destabilization in case the outcome of the elections is not peaceful. The security situation in northeastern Congo is already fragile following the LRA's presence.
- Orientale Province shares more than 500 km of Congolese border with South Sudan. Many Sudanese refugees have already crossed the border over the past years

**(Radio Candip, community radio broadcasting funded by Belgian NGO, Bunia, 1530 gmt, 4 January, 2010, in French)**

### **“Ugandan LRA rebels attack two DR Congo villages”**

- The LRA attacked two villages in Faradje Territory (Haut Uele District) at New Year. Two civilians and one FARDC soldier were killed and three teenage girls kidnapped during the attack. Residents have fled towards Faradje and Kurukpata. Various LRA fighters are scattered throughout the Garamba National Park

**(Agence France Presse news agency, Paris, 1943 gmt 4 January 11, in French)**

### **“Highest French court upholds Rwandan's transfer to ICC”**

- The Court of Cassation, highest French court of appeal, gave the green light to handing over the Rwandan Hutu Callixte Mbarushimana to the ICC, therefore rejecting two appeals by the executive secretary of the FDLR. Mbarushimana is suspected of six counts of war crimes and five counts crimes against humanity in the eastern DRC in 2009.
- According to the ICC, more than 15,000 cases of sexual assault have been recorded in the DRC in 2009
- Mbarushimana is also being prosecuted by the French judicial authorities for his role in the Rwandan genocide.

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

### **Haut-Uélé : une incursion de la LRA fait deux morts à Faradje**

- The LRA launched two attacks in Udu and Ombalaga over the weekend. Two people were killed, including a FARDC soldier, and three girls were kidnapped. The combatants then fled into the woods. The attacks led populations to flee towards more secure locations.
- The attacks show that the LRA is still present and has not yet been fully disarmed, despite government efforts. More should be done to re-establish authority in the province and across the country.

**(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 6 January, 2011, in French)**

### **“Nord-Kivu: lucratif trafic de drogue vers le Rwanda”**

- Two drugs, khat and cannabis, are being smuggled into Rwanda. The production of both drugs is controlled by the FDLR and revenues allow the militia group to buy arms and ammunitions. Revenues have apparently doubled in the past year and local farmers are benefitting as well. Local residents and particularly women, children and disabled people smuggle drugs across the border.

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

### **“Les FARDC lancent une offensive contre les groupes armés” by Louis-Paul Eyenga Sana**

- The FARDC launched several offensives against Pareco and the FDLR in Lubero and Butembo, North Kivu. According to Colonel Richard Bisambaza, the two groups suffered several casualties.
- In Luofu, rebels attacked populations, stealing animals, food, and material goods. Looting is often accompanied by torture, rape, extortion and kidnapping. Civil Society in Lubero has condemned these attacks.
- Following military offensives, Bukununu, a FDLR-Pareco stronghold, is now under control of the FARDC.

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

### **“L'exploitation illicite des minerais se poursuit à Shabunda” by Louis-Paul Eyenga Sana**

- The temporary suspension of illicit exploitation of mineral resources in North Kivu has not been respected, especially in Shabunda. According to Radio Okapi, National and international armed groups, including FARDC soldiers, are involved.
- Cassiterite is being smuggled across various territories and while national authorities have sometimes put an end to the smuggling, they have also sometimes agreed not to press charges in exchange for money.
- NGOs are therefore calling on the government to take all the necessary measure to put an end to illegal mineral resources exploitation.

**(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 8 January, 2011, in French)**

### **“La Monusco confirme l'exploitation des femmes dans les mines du Nord-Kivu” by Stephane Etinga**

- In North Kivu, thousands of women are being used to exploit the country's natural resources. According to a report prepared by Monusco, the issue is particularly problematic in Walikale and mining areas
- Asseta Ouesdraogo said Monusco's priority is to protect civilians as well as human and women's rights.
- The study should help Monusco, the government and the international community find strategies to protect women's rights. Similar studies are currently being conducted in five other provinces.

- Observers say the main reason leading women to participate in mineral resource exploitation is poverty.