

DRC Domestic Broadcasting, 2 August, 2010 (26 July– 1 August, 2009)

by Marie Lamensch, MIGS Reporter for the DRC

Government-owned media

(Radio-Television Nationale Congolaise TV, government-owned, Kinshasa, 1230GMT, July 26, 2010, in French)

- The security situation in Walikale, North Kivu, is said to be alarming. Residents said they live in fear of FDLR attacks and threats. The combatants are known for raping, abducting and killing people.
- Honorable Sabine Moyima urged the government to send more police forces and soldiers in the territory. She also asked the international community to open a court capable of handling cases of rape, murder and extortion.

(L’Avenir, daily newspaper known to have connections to the government, Kinshasa, July 26, 2010, in French)

“Walikale: Des FDLR attaquent un petit porteur et prennent deux otages et trois blessés”

- The FDLR attacked a small plane on 24 July not far from Walikale, North Kivu. Two people were taken hostage and three were wounded. The combatants also stole money and other goods.

(Radio-Television Nationale Congolaise TV, government-owned, Kinshasa, 1230GMT, July 27, 2010, in French)

- President Joseph Kabila held a two-day meeting with provincial governors where they tackled the evaluation of the implementation of five major government policies. The meeting aimed to coordinate reconstruction.
- The president urged provincial governors to implement development programs and to take more visible action.
- A meeting was held in Wlikale territory in an attempt to tackle the security situation in North Kivu and the actions of the FDLR in the area. FDLR combatants are still holding an Indian pilot hostage.

(L’Avenir, daily newspaper known to have connections to the government, Kinshasa, July 29, 2010, in French)

- Inter-ethnic conflicts in Kasai-Oriental between Bena Tshibuka and Bena Madimba have been reported. Seven wounded have been reported as the two clans are fighting over land. Kasai-Oriental’s interior provincial minister said a series of measures had been taken, including the creation of a neutral zone.

(L’Avenir, daily newspaper known to have connections to the government, Kinshasa, July 29, 2010, in French)

“Promulgation de la loi sur la Commission nationale indépendante (CENI)”

- A Commission Electorale Nationale Indépendante will be responsible for ensuring free and fair elections in the DRC. The Commission will be fully independent and impartial. Financial and administrative autonomy will ensure the Commission’s neutrality.

Privately-owned media

(Radio Candip, community radio broadcasting funded by Belgian NGO, Bunia, 1530GMT, July 26, 2010, in French)

- Ugandan army chief Gen Aronda Nyakairima met his CAR, Southern Sudan and DRC counterparts in order to discuss military operations against rebel groups.
- Ituri District Chief said over one thousand IDPs had arrived in the area. They are fleeing military operations against the Ugandan Allied Democratic Forces rebel group.

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

- Complaints from residents of the Ituri District lead the civil society of the district to call for the dismantling of various military roadblocks, where residents said they are made to pay money to the soldiers of the Armed Forces of the DR Congo

(Radio Candip, community radio broadcasting funded by Belgian NGO, Bunia, 1530 gmt, July 28, 2010, in French)

- Bunia’s police said many inmates, mainly ex-Armed Forces of DR Congo forces, organized a mutiny at the Bunia central prison. Several offices within the building were vandalized, leading police officers and the military police to intervene. The detainees were protesting over their allowances.
- MONUSCO announced that peacekeepers assisted about 450 IDPs to leave the forest in the south of Bunia town.
- Governor Medar Autsai Asenga today met visiting DRC, Uganda and Central African Republic army chiefs in order to possibly organize joint military operations against Uganda’s rebel Lord Resistance Army in the Orientale Province.

(Voice of America DR Congo, independent, Washington, August 1, 2010, in English)

“New Congolese Electoral Body to Organize Next Year’s Election” by Peter Clottey

The Economist Intelligence Unit reports that Kabila is likely to be re-elected since his potential challengers are too disorganized and weak to defeat him. The main opposition parties are in crisis, especially Mouvement de Libération du Congo, whose president, Jean-Pierre Bemba, is on trial at the ICC for war crimes. In-fighting has paralyzed the party. While presidential elections should take place in 2011, they will likely take place in 2012.

- President Joseph Kabila will soon approve the creation of a seven-member Independent National Electoral Commission (CENI) to organize next year's elections. The seven members will be elected by the parliament, four by the majority and three by the opposition, and then approved by the president.
- This new electoral body will replace the commission that organized the previous elections in 2006 and 2007.
- The members of the commission will be independent and politically neutral.