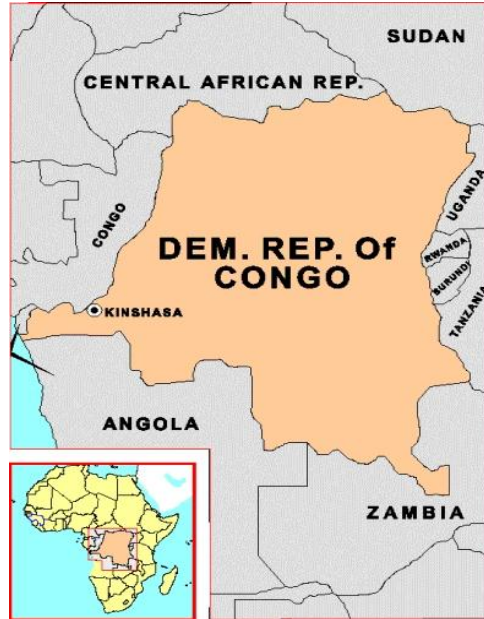


Democratic Republic of Congo: Domestic Media

Monitoring Report

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Genocide and Human Rights Studies*

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1. Integration of former combatants

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 3 August, 2011, in French)

“Processus d’intégration des ex-groupes armés. Nord-Kivu : le CNDP se taille la part du lion”

- Security Sector Reform and integration of former armed groups with the FARDC, the PNC and public administration is following its course. In North Kivu, the CDNP has largely benefitted from the process. As part of SSR, many CDNP officers have been integrated within the federal and provincial government and public administration.
- The CDNP should therefore be fully implicated in the process and collaborate sincerely, especially in the pre-electoral period. In Goma, the integration of the CDNP has always been a problem as the group has often made a lot of demands or refused to be sent to other provinces. Officers often have hidden agendas, as in the case of General Nkunda.
- A large part of the population believes all former combatants should submit to the authority of the FARDC hierarchy in order to create a real national and republican army.
- In South Kivu, tensions have been reported in several provincial bases, particularly in Kamituga, Burhale and Kananda. Many soldiers have not been paid, leading them to fired shots in the air and wounding one individual. In Kananda and Fizi, former FRF combatants have not been paid since their integration. The military hierarchy has taken all the possible measures to verify these allegations and restore calm.

2. The Angolan Army in the DRC

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 4 August, 2011, in French)

“Atteinte de la souveraineté d’un Etat. Bas-Congo : l’armée angolaise et le FLEC s’affrontent sur le sol congolais”

- Clashes occurred between Angola’s forces, the FAA, and FLEC rebels in Cabinda, Matadi and Tshela, Bas-Congo. The causes have not yet been established. According to civil society groups, the local population has fled to neighboring villages and the FAA has settled in a protected forested area. The territory’s administrator has not been able to confirm these allegations but an investigation has been launched. Okapi had already reported the presence of the FAA and FLEC.
- FAA troops have also been seen in Mbata-Yela, leading to displacement.
- This is not the first time Angolan troops lead incursion in Bas-Congo in order to look for FLEC elements. In October and November 2010, residents from several villages had been forced to leave. Civil society had already warned provincial and national authorities. According to *Okapi* and *Le Potentiel*, the government should now react.

3. Security update

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 4 August, 2011, in French)

“Province Orientale : l’insécurité refait surface en Ituri” by Ludi Cardoso

- Renewed insecurity has been reported in Ituri, particularly in Irumu where nine child soldiers have been found. They were recruited between 2005 and 2011, and freed by the FARDC during operations, which started in last June.

- Armed groups committed attacks in Bavi, leading Monusco to conduct aerial patrols and to deploy troops in the area. According to the UN mission, populations have now returned.
- The security situation in Oriental Province has improved as an important reduction of LRA activities has been noted. Several LRA elements nonetheless conducted attack against the village of Kilwa, killing two residents
- Operation Iron Fist in Dungu and Nango has led to positive results and reduced the activities of armed groups in the area

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 4 August, 2011, in French)

“Les FDLR toujours actives au Sud-Kivu” by Pitshou Mulumba

- The FDLR remains active in Shabunda, Kalehe and Walungu despite multiple operations meant to neutralize the armed group. According to Monusco’s spokesman, clashes have occurred between the FARDC and the FDLR in these areas. More troops have been deployed and Monusco has set up an operational base in Kingulube, near Shabunda.
- During a meeting with Shabunda residents, Monusco convinced perpetrators of violence to stop their activities. In order to restore peace and confidence, Monusco is also patrolling the Shabunda-Lungungu axis.

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 3 August, 2011, in French)

“La Société civile envisage un plan d’action contre la LRA à Dungu” by Pitshou Mulumba

- Civil society in Dungu plans to conduct a series of actions in order to put an end to continued LRA attacks. A peaceful demonstration will be held and an appeal will be sent to the Congolese government and international community. The aim is to urge the Ugandan president to negotiate with the rebel army.

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 2 August, 2011, in French)

“Province Orientale : les éléments de la LRA n’opèrent plus en RDC”

- According to FARDC commander, Jean-Claude Kifwa, the LRA is no longer active in the DRC and said the security situation in Dungu is now under control of the FARDC and UPDF.

(Radio Candip, community radio broadcasting funded by Belgian NGO, Bunia, 1530 gmt, 29 July, 2011, in French)

- FARDC commander in Kisangani said two Mai-Mai militia fighters were captured a week ago. Gen. Jean Claude Kifwa said that his troops continue to struggle with the Mai Mai as they find refuge in the forests of North Kivu.
- FARDC forces are said to be in complete control of Bavi, South of Bunia. IDPs have returned to their homes after the village was attacked by militia fighters.

(Radio Candip, community radio broadcasting funded by Belgian NGO, Bunia, 1530 gmt, 29 July, 2011, in French)

- FARDC troops have been sent to Takoko, south of Kinsangani, to restore order after religious sects clashed with local police forces. FARDC representatives called for calm and said only those responsible for the violence would be prosecuted

Radio Candip, community radio broadcasting funded by Belgian NGO, Bunia, 1530 gmt, 1 August, 2011, in French)

- Civil society groups in Dungu (Haut Uele) plan to organize a demonstration to commemorate the first attacks of the LRA four years ago. The bodies said the aim of the demonstration is to call for international attention to the problem and to put pressure on Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni to negotiate with the LRA leadership.

(Radio Candip, community radio broadcasting funded by Belgian NGO, Bunia, 1530 gmt, 2 August, 2011, in French)

- Civil society of Dungu Territory (Haut Uele District) opposes the opinion of FARDC Gen Jean Claude Kifwa in Orientale Province, who stated that there were no more LRA fighters in north eastern Congo.

(Radio Candip, community radio broadcasting funded by Belgian NGO, Bunia, 1530 gmt, 3 August, 2011, in French)

- FARDC officials in Ituri announced that its troops arrested a PRFI combatant

(L'Observateur, privately-owned daily, article dated 3 August, 2011, in French)

“La violence persiste” by Didier Munsala Buakasa

- The burning of the PPRD in Bandundu after the return of the governor and the lack of debate between parties on political programs and practical issues should be seen as a warning sign.
- The return of governor Richard Ndambu in Bandundu is widely contested by the provincial assembly and the population, and led to tensions. It is crucial to reinstate dialogue within the community and condemn violence, especially in face of elections.
- Violence of authorities or militants is unacceptable. Instead security forces should capitalize on the presence of Monusco and help provided by France. *L'Observateur* calls for professionalism, responsibility, and respect for human rights.
- Militants should conform to the law concerning political freedom: while the constitution allows public demonstrations, these should respect public order. Political parties play an important role in the civic education of their followers. CENI and the government should ensure peaceful and credible election but political parties themselves should set an example and contribute to order and transparency. The electoral process relies on the goodwill of politicians, the government, civil society, the population as well as partners.

Consultation between CENI and politicians should be used to strengthen dialogue and find solutions to diverging views on the transparency of the electoral process.

(Radio Candip, community radio broadcasting funded by Belgian NGO, Bunia, 1530 gmt, 4 August, 2011, in French)

- FARDC officials from Ituri announced that two suspected spies from Popular Resistance Front in Ituri were arrested south of Bunia.

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 5 August, 2011, in French)

“Six femmes ont été violées et plusieurs biens de valeur emportés”

- Six women were raped and their property looted in Beni, North Kivu. According to Okapi, ten men attacked the village last Monday where they remained until the next day. Money, motorbikes, cell phones and other goods were stolen.
- Civil society groups have denounced these attacks and believe the attacks were probably committed by eleven former combatants who escaped from prison on Sunday. Colonel Ngeleka did not confirm the attacks but said an investigation would be launched.

(Radio Candip, community radio broadcasting funded by Belgian NGO, Bunia, 1530 gmt, 5 August, 2011, in French)

- Leaders in Ituri are concerned over the illegal occupation of parts of Epulu Game Reserve (Mambasa Territory) by IDPs from North Kivu. Endangered species such as okapi and elephant could be subject to poaching.

(L’Avenir, privately-owned daily, article dated 5 August, 2011, in French)

“Rutshuru/ insécurité : les humanitaires atteignent difficilement les populations vulnérables”

- Since 2011, more than sixty attacks against humanitarians have been recorded in North Kivu, including 30 attacks on vehicles in Rutshuru and Masisi. According to OCHA, humanitarian access is increasingly difficult, leading to occasional interruption of activities

(L’Avenir, privately-owned daily, article dated 4 August, 2011, in French)

“Protection des populations civiles en Province orientale: L’opération « Poing d’acier » qualifiée de positive” by Des

- The security situation in the west remains troubling: MONUSCO spokesman, lieutenant-colonel Diop, said operation “Iron Fist” in Dungu had shown positive results and armed groups have been neutralized. In Bandundu, the office of the PPRD party caught fire after the return of governor Richard Ndambu (PALU party), leading to tensions as young

militants seem to plan reprisal attack against the governor. The LRA has reduced its activities even though combatants attacked two villages, killing two villagers.

- In North Kivu, the FDLR and other armed groups have led sporadic attacks but Monusco and the FARDC have multiplied operations against these forces

4. Elections: saving the electoral process; decoupling the elections?

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 27 July, 2011, in French)

“CENI-Opposition: la sagesse s'impose” by Rombaut Ot.

- The meeting between CENI and political parties has not improved relations between the electoral body and politicians. Despite the presence of foreign investors, all the opposition parties decided to leave the assembly. The opposition no longer wants to collaborate with the institution as it has failed to respond to its demands. According to CENI's president the claims never reached the members of the commission. The UDPS had already sent a memo, to which CENI responded promptly.
- *L'Observateur* urges CENI and political parties to collaborate in order to answer the needs of the Congolese population. Opposition parties must organize themselves and adopt a clear and common position regarding CENI. They must also elaborate concrete proposition regarding the electoral process. Deputies have collaborated with the majority regarding the establishment of CENI and it seems now impossible to turn back the clock. Consequently, opposition politicians must avoid raising questions regarding the function of CENI. According to *L'Observateur*, If CENI is indeed committing fraud, political parties must act responsibly instead of crying like children.
- CENI should remain respectful towards opposition politicians and avoid being paternalistic. CENI must not serve its president's self-interest, all members of the institution must take common decisions.

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 3 August, 2011, in French)

“Découplage des élections par la CENI : des reactions” by Stephane Etinga

- The declaration by CENI's president that a decoupling of the elections could take place in case the annex to the electoral law are not adopted but 10 August has only resulted in timid reactions. According an anonymous senator, everything depends on the parliament's extraordinary session. He does not believe the elections will be decoupled as this would constitute a violation of the constitution and would anger international partners who have supported the legislative and presidential elections.
- Several political parties have remained indifferent to the declaration.
- CENI also announced that the signing of the Code of Good Electoral Conduct by the different parties would take place next week.

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 2 August, 2011, in French)

“Découplage des élections : Ngoy Mulunda menace”

- The president of CENI, Daniel Ngoy Mulunda, presented the revised annex to the electoral law, which must be adopted by Aug 10. If the annex is not adopted by this date, the elections will be decoupled and priority will be given the presidential elections. CENI's president criticized the parliament and called on its members to adopt the revised electoral law.
- An extraordinary parliamentary session should be held in order to avoid the decoupling of elections, which could lead chaos.

(Radio Candip, community radio broadcasting funded by Belgian NGO, Bunia, 1530 gmt, 29 July, 2011, in French)

- Orientale Province Governor Medar Autsai Asenga urged inhabitants to remain careful when choosing their leader in the next elections as politicians will use their financial power to influence voters.

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 4 August, 2011, in French)

“Sauver le processus”

- CENI is giving political parties a last chance and invites them to sign the Code of Good Conduct “for peaceful, free and transparent elections.” Opposition parties did not take part in discussions concerning the adoption of the Code because they demanded wider debates over the problems concerning the electoral process.
- By giving parties an ultimatum and failing to take their concerns into account, CENI is contradicting neutral stand and endangers its credibility.
- The Code of Conduct calls tolerant and respectful debates, for mutual respect, dignity and respect for the physical integrity of politicians. Politicians must also have equal access to media during the campaign and must contribute to the protection of journalists. Parties are also required to educate their members and politicians who belong to several political parties. Furthermore, parties should have recourse to the police, the army or public treasury for electoral ends.
- The signature of the Code could safe the elections as it guarantees free and transparent elections. CENI's attempt to impose the Code ignores present realities. Several parties have already started campaigning. Dialogue must be opened to safe the elections and harmonize views.

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

“Dans la perspective des élections du 28 novembre. Inquiétudes et assurances peuvent-elles faire bon ménage?” by Marcel lutete

- The current political atmosphere remains worrying. In an open letter, the political opposition expressed concern over the way the country is being governed, including the current electoral process.

- It is clear that both the majority and the opposition are preparing for eventful, conflictual elections. The opposition told the president it was worried about “constant violations’ of the fundamental law and lack of respect for human rights, which could be an obstacle to the elections. They called on the president to lead to country towards a better future, which includes to organization of free, transparent and democratic elections.
- The majority and the president dismissed these worries, arguing that they are unfounded. They also confirmed that both the legislative and presidential elections would be held this year.
- *Le Potentiel* reiterates the Congolese desire for credible and peaceful elections, without disinformation and manipulations.

(L’Avenir, privately-owned daily, article dated 7 August, 2011, in French)

“Pour la paix sociale et la culture politique : Le MSR invite des politiciens à éviter un langage violent et injurieux” by Patou Kanzi



- After holding its first Congress, the Mouvement Social pour le Renouveau (MSR) published press release regarding the current electoral process. Yves Mobando Yogo, the party’s ad interim president, praised the electoral process and encouraged CENI and politicians to collaborate and respect the code of conduct.
- The MSR is concerned about the conflictual nature of public debate and attitude of several manipulative actors. The party has some recommendations for the government, CENI, the international community, political parties and the Congolese people. They should respect the CENI’s basic principles: independence, neutrality and impartiality in the holding of free, democratic and transparent elections. CENI should avoid taking sides and must remain a mediating body.
- The MSR denounced any fraudulent attempts and called on the government and CENI to respect the will of the Congolese people. Furthermore, the party urged Congolese people and politicians to remain patriotic and act civically in order to contribute to the establishment of peace and security. For this reason, divisive and injurious language should be avoided. The elections should be led by Congolese people and contribute to a climate of peace.

5. Residents forcible moved in Mbuji-Mayi

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

“Mbuji-Mayi: délogées par force, plus de 500 personnes à la belle étoile”

- Following a judicial decision, more than 500 people from Mbuji-Mayi (Kasaï Oriental) were forcibly displaced from their homes on Saturday. They have not received any assistance.
- The decision is the result of a property dispute between these families and local landowner. The families say they have legally resided on the property for twenty years.
- According the provincial minister the case should be dealt with by the Minister of Property while the latter states it is a matter of justice.

6. South Sudanese people in Ituri

(Radio Candip, community radio broadcasting funded by Belgian NGO, Bunia, 1530 gmt, 5 August, 2011, in French)

- Several MPs from Ituri criticize the illegal occupation of Kengezi-Base by South Sudanese. They want the Congolese government to find a solution and to protect the integrity of the country

7. L’observateur praises Katanga politicians and authorities

(L’Observateur, privately-owned daily, article dated 4 August, 2011, in French)

“Bravo les autorités katangaises” by Rombaut Ot.

- Politicians and security authorities in Katanga province should be praised for promoting political tolerance and nationalism as they have let UDPS leader Etienne Tshisekedi freely move around the province. No incidents have been recorded despite earlier fears and tensions in Ktanaga province since 1991. The attitude of Katanga politicians and authorities should serve as an example for politicians in other politics.
- Provincial authorities in North Kivu and South Kivu were unable to ensure the security of UNC president Vital Kamerhe whose visit was met with tensions. Similarly, authorities in Bandundu did not protect Joseph Olengankoy, leader of FONUS. Those responsible for friction have not been prosecuted