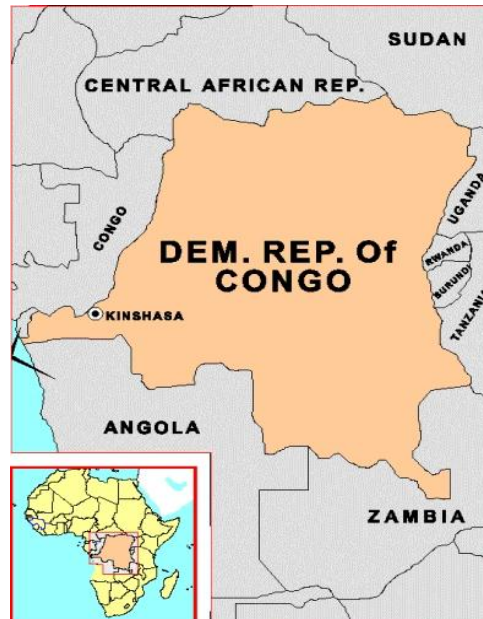


**Democratic Republic of Congo: Domestic Media**  
**Monitoring Report**

*Montreal Institute for  
Genocide and Human Rights Studies*

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**4<sup>th</sup> July-10<sup>th</sup> July**

**Main Report Content**

- 1. Union for the Nation on the electoral process**
- 2. Chebeya trial: SCCD worried over possible obstruction of justice**
- 3. Growing concern regarding cholera epidemic**
- 4. 51st Independence Commemorations**
- 5. Sit-in in Bukavu: NGOs demonstrate against continued insecurity**
- 6. Elections: continued challenges; opinion piece on the President's speech; PNC repression after demonstration**
- 7. Insecurity and human rights situation: various issues**
- 8. 37th session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Francophonie (APF)**

## 1. Union for the Nation on the electoral process

### Privately-owned media

(L'Observateur, privately-owned daily, article dated 5 July, 2011, in French)

**“Au cours d’un message du coordinateur à l’occasion du 30 juin, L’Union pour la nation invite les Congolais a un vote judicieux et responsable” by Freddy Longangu**

- The Union for the Nation (UN) has noticed many faults in the electoral registration process: registration of minors, faulty electoral kits, disappearance of voters’ ID card, payment to registration agents, strikes, lack of registration centers etc. In an address to the nation, Clement Kanku Bukasa wa Tshibuabua asked CENI to find solutions to the many anomalies so that the electoral and constitutional agenda can be respected. He also urged Congolese people to make responsible choices during the elections in order to break with the anomalies and difficulties of the past. Both the state and Congolese should assume their responsibilities. He therefore urged Congolese citizens to elect visionary, integral and competent leaders, and to enroll in masses.
- Addressing the other political parties, the leader of the UN proved conciliatory by appealing to their sense of responsibility and calling for dialogue and common ground in order to respond to the need of the many, not of the few. Parties should come together to form a structured and unified image of the opposition engaged in dialogue based on mutual respect.
- He explained that the last 50 years has seen their share of broken promises and repetitive crises. Today the overall situation in the DRC remains poor on many levels.
- At the end of his speech, Kanku was given a diploma of Excellency and Merit for his fight for small Congolese business and against the despoliation of public property by expatriates.

## 2. Chebeya trial: SCCD worried over obstruction of justice

### Privately-owned media

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

**“Procès Chebeya : les ONGDH persistent sur l’association de malfaiteurs” by Donatien Ngandu Mupompa**

- Concerning the trial of Chebeya and Bazana, human rights activist Christopher Ngoyi (Synergie Congo Culture et Développement - SCCD) said that the military court wants to control the whole process and believes there has been obstruction of justice. Ngoyi argues that the court still has not provided satisfactory answers to the reasons behind Chebeya assassination, including who truly killed him.
- Regarding the case of the driver, Fidèle Bazana, Ngoyi demands to know the location of the body and the reasons behind the assassination. On the day of the verdict, the court was

unable to provide “material evidence for certain truth.” Bazana therefore concludes that the court intends to manipulate opinions.

- He also believes human rights activists are in danger.
- The prosecutor and two defendants have lodged appeals.

### 3. Growing concern regarding cholera epidemic

#### Privately-owned media

**(L’Observateur, privately-owned daily, article dated 6 July, 2011, in French)**

**“Le cri d’alarme de l’OMS : Kinshasa sous l’emprise du cholera” by Luc-Roger Mbala Bemba**

- According to the World Health Organization, the cholera epidemic in Bandundu and Equateur has reached Kinshasa. Kossi Aligba, emergency coordinator at WHO, more than 25 cases have been registered, including 5 deaths. The main cause of the epidemic is the lack of hygiene in several districts and communes, as well as the lack of clean water. WHO recommends the strict implementation of hygiene measures.
- Since June, the cholera epidemic continues to affect the populations of Equateur and Bandundu but the government has remained largely inactive. In Equateur province, 310 have been recorded, with 26 deaths. The situation in Bandundu is catastrophic with more than 400 cases and about a hundred deaths. According to various sources, this is the third time in 2 years that cholera hits the province. Civil society therefore urges the government to take efficient measures in order to control and put an end to the epidemic. Their call has yet to be heard.
- *L’Observateur* calls on central authorities to put in place a plan of emergency in order to neutralize the cholera in Kinshasa.

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

**“Province Orientale: 82 cas de choléra, dont 4 décès, enregistrés entre avril et mai 2011” by Okapi.net/Lp**

- Almost 82 cases of cholera and four deaths have been recorded since the month of April in Yaisuli, Oriental province. Dr Jean-Marc Mambidi nonetheless said efficient measures have been taken to neutralize the epidemic. MSF is said to have participated to these efforts, which allowed rapid intervention and formation of medical teams.
- According to Mambidi, cholera has worsened in the province since the end of March. Bandundu, Equateur and Kinshasa are particularly affected by the epidemic and WHO says 1383 cases have been recorded

### 4. The DRC’s 51<sup>st</sup> Independence Commemorations

#### Government-owned media

(Agence Congolaise de Presse, République Démocratique du Congo, government-owned news agency, Kinshasa, article dated 4 July 2011, in French)

**“30 Juin 1960 et 30 Juin 2011: Des coïncidences frappantes à 50 ans d’écart”**

- According to M Luamba, chief of Bas Congo’s provincial bureau, the DRC 51st commemorations of independence have three elements in common with the country’s celebration of independence fifty years ago: the good weather, the day (a Thursday), and astonishing promises made by politicians. He hopes that this time these promises will be held but expressed confidence in Congolese people and the productive capacities for the next 50 years.

## **5. Sit-in in Bukavu: NGOs demonstrate against continued insecurity**

### **Government-owned media**

(Agence Congolaise de Presse, République Démocratique du Congo, government-owned news agency, Kinshasa, article dated 4 July 2011, in French)

**“Le 51ème anniversaire de l’indépendance de la RDC marqué à Bukavu par un sit-in”**

- The 51<sup>st</sup> independence commemorations were marked by a sit-in organized civil society organizations in the South Kivu city of Bukavu. Dressed in black as a sign of mourning, the different organization wanted to express their anger over the lack of security and poor humanitarian situation in the province. Residents complain about killings, assassinations, sexual slavery, rape, systematic pillaging of goods and natural resources, expropriation, forced labor and displacement, and destruction of villages.
- Civil society said the integration of former combatants within the FARDC is failing as the army is unable to protect civilians. The FARDC has also failed to neutralize the FDLR. The Congolese army is poorly qualified and disciplined and therefore often commits violations.
- Civil society also added that the sit-in will be followed by a series of action meant to put pressure on Congolese state, provincial and military authorities.

## **6. Elections: continued challenges; President’s speech**

### **Government-owned media**

(Radio-Television Nationale Congolaise TV, government-owned, Kinshasa, 1230 gmt, 4 July, 2011, in French)

- Residents of Shabunda, Sud-Kivu, asked CENI to extend the voters' registration for 200 days technical and logistic problems have delayed the process

(Radio-Television Nationale Congolaise TV, government-owned, Kinshasa, 1230 gmt, 6 July, 2011, in French)

- A sit-in was organized by the Union for Democracy and Social Progress in front of CENI's offices in Kinshasa to express frustration over alleged irregularities in the voters' registration process. The central government announced that irregularities were to be expected but will be corrected and emphasizes the need for a peaceful process.
- CENI also announced that the registration exercise has been extended by 10 days in Kinshasa and urged all resident to register.

**(Agence Congolaise de Presse, République Démocratique du Congo, government-owned news agency, Kinshasa, article dated 8 July 2011, in French)**

**“Plus rien qu’aux élections !” by Jean-Marie Vianney Longonya Okungu Dembe D’Ote**

- The President of the Republic gave a speech in the city of Lumbashi in which he presented the most important aspects of his program as well as his main priorities and preoccupations for the future. He is focused on the elections but reassured the audience about his will to process with his Five Pillar program.
- The president emphasized his commitment to open and share the space for political debate. Vianney says the president's speech now reassures those who had started doubting his commitment to the electoral process, especially his interest in the way the media are handling the elections.
- The attitude of some professional media, parliamentarians and future candidates is questionable. Some argue they are “children of the country” but, in reality, should be regarded as “burdens to their country.” Their elimination from the ballot would only be justice and would improve the transparency of the process.
- The president's last speech should serve as an example of realism and humility. Politicians should not present themselves as supermen.

**(Radio-Television Nationale Congolaise TV, government-owned, Kinshasa, 1230 gmt, 6 July, 2011, in French)**

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### **Privately-owned media**

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

**“Ituri : la société civile propose une prolongation d’un mois de l’opération d’enrôlement”**

- Civil Society in Ituri suggested prolonging the registration process in Oriental Province by at least a month, and not ten days as proposed by CENI. Numerous problems have been

reported, including recurring technical shortcoming and strikes by CENI agents. Some centers started the process late and in other centers machines have been defective while some have not received them yet.

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

**“La Ceni dément les allégations d’enrôlement des mineurs au Katanga”**

- CENI denies allegations of registration of minors for the elections. In a report published on Sunday, the body said no complains of fraudulent registration has been received. The investigation was conducted by representatives of CENI, Monusco, Unicef, the PNC and the administration of Kalemie and Manono in Katanga, where the problem had been reported.

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

- CENI called on politicians to respect the electoral law and to restrain from campaigning.

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

**“L’UDPS projette un deuxième sit-in devant la CENI le lundi 11 juillet” by Pitshou Mulumba**

The UPPS plans to hold another sit-in next Monday to denounce irregularities noticed during the electoral registration process. The first sit-in resulted in confrontations between militants and the FARDC on Monday in Kinshasa.

The party’s secretary general, Jacquemain Shabani Lukoo, said CENI had first proposed a meeting but later decided to postpone it. He explained that the party’s goal was to ensure that the elections remain transparent and free of fraud. The UDPS intends to monitor irregularities. Jacquemain Shabani Lukoo also deplored the Congole’s authority’s brutal repression of the meeting, which led to the death of one militant. He underlined the importance of letting peaceful citizens express their civic rights and demands for free, transparent and democratic election. He believes these rights were not respected, rejected responsibility for the violence and intends to seek reparation and justice. He argued that the current government seeks to hides fraudulent activities with the help of CENI but said that the party and the Congolese people will not accept a “hold-up” of the elections.

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

**“Elections transparentes et apaisées en RDC : la VSV s’inquiète” by Donatien Ngandu Mupompa**

- During a press conference, the NGO “La Voix des sans voix pour les droits de l’Homme” (VSV) said it was worried about the forthcoming elections. VSV expressed its opinion



on the different irregularities, delays and authoritarian repression reported during the registration process.

- Concerning the prolongation of the registration process in several provinces, VSV said a ten-day prolongation does not take into account realities on the count, particularly defective machines and some of the agents' lack experience, which lead to persistent delays, corruption and fraud.
- Concerning the repression of UDPS militants by the PNC, VSV said this is a sign that the elections risk being far from peaceful of CENI does not ensure the transparency of the voters' registration process. The repression led to the death of one militant, Serge Lukusa Diyoka , after he inhaled a large quantity of gas thrown by the police forces. The body another person hit by bullets was taken away by the police and has yet to be found, while many demonstrator were arrested or gravely wounded

**(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 9 July, 2011, in French)**

**“Unique exigence: des élections apaisées”**

- Political tensions are mounting as the election nears. Monday's scuffles between the UDPS militants and the authorities, as well as tensions regarding campaigning are a sign of the climate the elections under which the elections will take place. The *Potentiel* fears for the country's future.
- According to the newspaper, Congolese politicians have not learned from the past and continue to see each other as enemies, rather than political adversaries, Despite political development, old attitudes have resurfaced: political intolerance, tensions over official laws, suspicions, verbal and physical violence are daily occurrences.
- It seems important to remind politicians that power must be shared and compromise found in order to reconstruct the country. There is a risk for development to stall or return to ten years back if the elections do not take place in a climate of free choice, transparency and peace

**(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 9 July, 2011, in French)**

**“Joseph Kabila promulgue la loi électorale” by Pitshou Mulumba**

- Adopted by both chambers in Parliament, Joseph Kabila promulgated the new electoral law, thereby opening the road for the upcoming 2011 elections.
- The proposition asking ministers and governors in function to resign before becoming political candidates has been rejected. The original author of the proposition had argue that this would place all candidates on the same level and would prevent them from using the state apparatus during their campaign. But article 36 already prevents such procedures.

**(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 9 July, 2011, in French)**

**“Une mission mixte Ceni-Monusco en RSA pour finaliser la prospection des kits électoraux” by Ludi Cardoso**

- A mixed CENI-Monusco delegation travelled to South Africa to finalize the requisition of electoral kits and other electoral material, such as ballot boxes, bulletins and even helicopters. Registration centers in the DRC have suffered from logistical and technical shortcomings but South Africa promised to contribute and support the electoral process in order to ensure successful elections, which, according to South African President Jacob Zuma, will consolidate to the DRC's democracy

**(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 9 July, 2011, in French)**

**“Accrochages entre la police et les combattants de l’UDPS. Le corps de Serge Lukusa présenté à la CENI” by Donatien Ngandu Mupompa**

- The body of the UDPS militant killed by tear gas used by state authorities during a UDPS sit-in was presented to CENI, leading to renewed scuffles. The UDPS militants sought to contradict Minister Lambert Mende, who claimed yesterday that no deaths had been reported during the repression.
- The body of Serge Lukusa Diyoka was taken away by the authorities. For the UDPS this is a new case of provocation and they started to chant hostile songs while the authorities shot at them with tear gas and real bullets. This caused panic as non-militants also started fleeing the area. However, UDPS militants continued to fight back. Officers had to calm their juniors before they were able to bring things back to normal. The body of the Serge Lukusa Diyoka was also given back to the UDPS.

**(L’Observateur, privately-owned daily, article dated 8 July, 2011, in French)**

**“Course contra la montre” by Willy K.**

- The promulgation of the electoral law has awoken political candidates and parties who believed the elections would be delayed. Several support demonstration have been organized on the left although CENI has not yet declared the electoral campaign open. Politicians now seem rather unprepared and many parties seem to suffer from a lack of strategy, especially parties caught between the opposition and the majority party. For months, politicians lacked basis and ideals, and are now rushing to be ready on time.

## **7. Insecurity and human rights situation**

*i. Counter-productive measures*

### **Privately-owned media**

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

**“Solution contreproductive”**



- At the inter-institutional meeting held in Katanga, Joseph Kabila was told by the Minister of Defense and Veterans that armed groups remain active in four sectors of Oriental Province and the Kivu but that the problem should be one of public security and post-conflict, rather than a military concern. The National Police should therefore take more responsibilities since, according to the Constitution, it is responsible for maintaining public order.
- According to the government, current insecurity in these areas is not a problem of armed conflict but of public insecurity. The situation has remained relatively calm and under control.
- *Le Potentiel* questions the capacity of the National Police in neutralizing “armed bandits” in the country’s forests. The PNC is constituted of veterans and former FARDC soldiers, of the old colonial and national police dating back to the 1960s, and of former belligerents and civil guard elements. The PNC is currently undergoing reform but lacks both material and infrastructural capacities, and is far from being homogeneous. Thus, according to the *Potentiel*, it is difficult to imagine how the PNC could neutralize so-called “armed bandits.” The government’s point of view goes against recommendations made by the Superior defense council, which demanded that the FARDC be better equipped in order to pacify oriental province.

*ii. Massive cases of rape in South Kivu*

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

**“Cent vingt et une femmes violées dans le Sud-Kivu”**

- In South Kivu, 121 women were raped by Mai Mai soldiers. According to medical personal, the authorities and several victims, the belligerents also committed widespread looting. The UN, Monusco, and NGOs have conducted an investigatory mission and second mission is planned in the next few days.

*iii. Worries regarding the Law on Torture*

**(L’Observateur, privately-owned daily, article dated 5 July, 2011, in French)**

**“Texte de loi portant pénalisation de la torture en RD Congo. Appel des ONG des Droits de l’Homme au Président de la République”**

- A collective of NGOS for the defense of human rights in the DRC is worried about the promulgation of a law on torture in the DRC. The law modifies and complements a decree passed in 1940 in the Congolese penal code. The new law has already gone through the Senate and the National Assembly, and has been reviewed by the Supreme Court of Justice. The law, which will ban the use of torture in the DRC, is now only waiting for the president’s promulgation. NGOs are worried about the length of the process as a lot of innocent people, jailed in secret by the security forces, are waiting to be heard by a court of justice. Conditions of detention are famously poor and human rights violations are widespread.

- The collective therefore started a widespread campaign that seeks to mobilize Congolese people around the issue. Demonstrations have been planned in major Congolese cities.
- The DRC has adhered to the International Convention against Torture and should therefore fight against inhumane practices. By signing the Convention, Kinshasa also agreed to pass a law against any acts of torture committed on Congolese soil. Article 16 of the Congolese Constitution also states that the state is in the obligation of respecting and protecting human beings, emphasizing the illegality of cruel, inhumane and degrading treatment.

*iv. NGO draws attention to situation of displaced families*

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

**“L’action contre l’impunité pour les droits humains”**

- Action contre l’impunité pour les droits humains (Action against impunity for human rights) urges the Congolese government to find a solution to the situation of 500 hundred delocalized families in Sakania. Five years ago, the families were delocalized after the mining enterprise, Frontier Sprl, moved onto their land. According to the NGO, more than a thousand hectares of land have been despoiled and exploited but families have not been compensated correctly although their livelihood heavily depended on agriculture. Their daily living conditions remain precarious.

*v. FARDC soldiers demand salaries*

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

**“Rumangabo : retour au calme, après le soulèvement des FARDC”**

- Calm has returned in Rumangabo, Rutshuru, after an insurgency by FARDC elements. They demanded their salaries and barricaded the Goma-Rutshuru road. FARDC elements include invalid soldiers, officers without troops and soldiers too old to join the army. According the spokesman of operation “Amani Leo” in North and South Kivu, salaries are not yet effective because the 8<sup>th</sup> legion of the FARDC is currently undergoing reform. Yet he complained that several of the soldiers are not part of the 8<sup>th</sup> legion, including 200 sick or demobilized elements from a military base in Kamina. Soldiers will be paid after identification.

*vi. The minister of Justice on double standard in the Congolese justice system*

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

**“Le ministre de la Justice et des Droits humains”**

- The Minister of Justice and Human Rights, Luzolo Bambi, presented operation “Justice for All” which seeks to put an end to intervention, taboos and double standard in the

judiciary processes. Rich and poor should be treated the same way, and special attention should be paid to widows and orphans – especially concerning heritage – and individuals whose land has been despoiled.

*vii. The case of the ADF/NALU*

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

**“Nord-Kivu : l’ADF-Nalu attaque une position des FARDC à Abialos”**

- ADF/Nalu rebels attacked FARDC bases in Abialos, Beni territory but were pushed back by the army.
- Other sources indicated that increased insecurity has led to panic and displacement among the residents of Kokola and Mayimoya. The attack against the FARDC is the second one in 2 weeks.
- During the pre-electoral period the government is required to ensure protection of civilians in order to ensure that Congolese citizens are able to fulfill their civic responsibility. The state should therefore reestablish its authority in North Kivu

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

- The FARDC’s Colonel Celestin Ngeleka stated that the operation Rwenzori launched a year ago against the Uganda’s ADF/NALU has been successful so far as the rebel group capacities have diminished and strongholds have been destroyed. They are still active South of Bunia, in Eringeti

*viii. Le Potentiel journalist sentenced to jail for defamation*

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

**“Kinshasa: Le directeur du journal « Le Potentiel » condamné à un mois de prison pour diffamation”**

- Freddy Mulumba Kabwaya, Le Potentiel's administrator/director, has been sentenced to a month in prison for defamation against Sylvère Boswa, secretary general of the Parti Communiste Congolais (PCCO – Congolese Communist Party). The journalist had criticized Boswa for failing to defend values of justice, equality and transparency within his party. Télé 7, a channel owned by the same group, also refused to let Boswa respond.
- Journaliste en danger (JED) says the sentence is not justified and urges the journalist’s lawyer to appeal.

*ix. Rape victims in Walikale; Final UN report on crimes against humanity and war crimes in Walikale, 2010*

**Government-owned media**

**(Radio-Television Nationale Congolaise TV, government-owned, Kinshasa, 1230 gmt, 7 July, 2011, in French)**

- A new Monusco report details how 384 people were raped in Walikale, North Kivu between 30 June and 2 July 2010.

**Privately-owned media**

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

**“Nord-Kivu : les victimes de viols en situation difficile à Walikale” by Anaclet Kondoko**

- Victims of sexual violence which took place last year in Walikale have developed grave cases of infections, according to a coalition of NGOs on the ground. Jeanne Bitondo Yalla told radio Okapi said infection has caused the death of a woman and that most women have been infected but have not come forward because they fear being ostracized by their husbands. They remain silent and do not get medical help. Due to lack of financial means the NGO Heal Africa is incapable of handling all the cases

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

**“Walikale: la Monusco qualifie les attaques du 30 juillet au 2 août 2010 de crimes contre l’humanité”**

- Monusco and the UN qualified the attacks perpetrated by armed groups in Walikale between 30 July and 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2010 as crimes against humanity and war crimes. The attacks were systematic and planned. The UN just released a final report after conducting an investigation on rape and crimes against humanity committed in Walikale, North Kivu.
- The United Nations Commission on Human Rights (UNCHR) said crimes were committed in 13 villages. 387 women, girls and boys were raped, 116 kidnapped, 965 houses and shops looted by a coalition of armed groups. The report highlights continued insecurity in this part of the country.
- United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Navi Pillay, said the lack of investigation against the perpetrators reinforce impunity
- According to the report and to Monusco, rapes and other forms of sexual crimes were committed in front of children and family members, and were used as a weapon of war. The aim was to punish local residents, whom the armed groups considered as traitors for collaborating with the FARDC and to steal weapons and other goods.
- Navi Pillay urges the government to prosecute perpetrators and protect victims. The number of victims could be much higher but stigma and fear of ostracization, frustration over continued interrogations and lack of medical help leads many victims to remain silent.
- According to the UN mission, North Kivu’s military court opened a judicial investigation and has interviewed about 150 interviews with victims and witnesses. Yet the enquiry has been suspended after concern for the security of victims and witnesses.

- Most of the victims suffer from trauma and have not received appropriate medical help. Roger Meece revealed that growing anger and frustration by local residents and victims of these crimes must be seen as a call for action.
- The report underlines the lack of state authority in the territory. It leads to a proliferation of armed groups, especially those involved in mining activities and arms trafficking. The investigation also reveals that the FARDC collaborated with these armed groups in mineral trafficking. It is the responsibility of the government to protect its citizens. Yet Pillay said the international community should take more responsibilities and provide Monusco with more means in order to fulfill the mission's mandate.

*x. Refugees fear insecurity*

**(L'Avenir, privately-owned daily, article dated 4 July, 2011, in French)**

**“Après plus de 15 ans : Les réfugiés Congolais retournent timidement au pays” by Onassis Mutombo**

- Congolese refugees from South and North Kivu still hesitate returning to their country. Traumatized by years of conflict, 400 000 still live in Rwanda, Tanzania and Burundi. Despite sensitization campaigns led by UN organizations, voluntary repatriation is still slow as people fear continued insecurity in the Kivus. Many do not have the material means either. Life in refugee camps is much more secure since the UN and other NGOs provide help and “demands no efforts” from the refugees. Many of them would like to go to Europe.
- Candidates to repatriation usually receive reinsertion kits (kitchenware, a bike, \$500 etc). Some of them get a house if they are capable of proving their incapability to get one on their own. Such is the case for women who have lost their husbands and do not get support from their families. Only half of the refugees from Tanzania have returned to the DRC since October 2005, when the repatriation process was first initiated.

## **8. 37<sup>th</sup> session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Francophonie (APF)**

### **Government-owned media**

**(Agence Congolaise de Presse, République Démocratique du Congo, government-owned news agency, Kinshasa, article dated 6 July 2011, in French)**

**“Le Président Joseph Kabila salue les efforts de soutien de l'OIF à la RDC”**

- President Joseph Kabila welcomed efforts of the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF) to rally francophone countries around the DRC. He also welcomed the central theme of this year's OIF meeting, “peace, democracy and development”, three notions which he believes are intimately linked. Without peace, democracy cannot be achieved, and development cannot be realized without democracy. Kabila said the notion had already been integrated in the DRC and his country has not ceased to work towards sustainable peace and democracy. He mentioned the 2011 elections, which he argues

strengthen democracy in the Congo. He added that peace and democracy are two values which the DRC strictly adheres to and called on OIF participants to think about and share their experience on issues of conflict and contentious elections

- Kabila also explained that democracy in his country opened the way for media freedom and led Congolese people to register massively for the upcoming elections
- In terms of development, the DRC has known economic growth in the past decade thanks to macroeconomic stabilization, the rehabilitation and modernization of infrastructure, and improvement in areas of governance. He also mentioned that the DRC had worked towards improving the rights and status of women, particularly in terms of discrimination.

**(Agence Congolaise de Presse, République Démocratique du Congo, government-owned news agency, Kinshasa, article dated 7 July 2011, in French)**

**“Abdou Diouf satisfait des avancées réalisées par la RDC en prévision de la tenue à Kinshasa du 14ème sommet de la Francophonie”**

- The Secretary General of the OIF, Abdou Diouf, says he is satisfied with progress made by the Congolese government in preparing for the 14<sup>th</sup> Summit of the Francophonie to be held in Kinshasa in October 2012. He also praised the government for promoting French language and Francophone values, particularly human rights, democracy and freedom. He said the DRC is an example of what the Francophonie can be, founded on norms and values respected by all.

**(Radio-Television Nationale Congolaise TV, government-owned, Kinshasa, 1230 gmt, 7 July, 2011, in French)**

- Chairing the opening ceremony of the 37th parliamentarian session held under the theme peace, democracy, elections and economic development, OIF secretary general, Abdou Diouf, confirmed his commitment to the electoral process.
- Senate President Leon Kengo wa Dondo held a meeting Abdou Diouf, to discuss cooperation between the OIF and the DRC to promote French language.

### **Privately-owned media**

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

**“Ouverture de la 37ème session de l’APF hier à Kinshasa. J. Kabila : « Sans la paix, la démocratie ne peut s’instaurer »”**

- At 37<sup>th</sup> session of the Francophone Parliamentary Assembly, President Joseph Kabila and the Secretary General of the OIF agreed on two fundamental principles: peace and democracy. The theme of the current session is “Peace, democracy and development.” The President argued that development could not take place without democracy but that the country had already integrated this notion and is now working on establishing sustainable peace.



- According to Kabila, Congolese people have matured greatly since independence and have shown commitment to free, transparent and democratic elections.
- The DRC seeks to promote economic and social development through its national reconstruction program. Congolese people have gained experience in managing conflict and contentious elections, and are therefore capable of solving and preventing conflicts and crises. The president argued that democracy could be observed in the media and the current electoral registration process. Economic development can also be observed as the country has sought to modernize and rehabilitate its infrastructure and governance.
- The Secretary General of the OIF, Abdou Diouf, said Congolese people has suffered greatly in the past years and that many challenges remain. He therefore reiterated the will of the Francophonie to help the DRC. He added that democracy could not be achieved without democrats as well as free and transparent elections
- The President of the National Assembly, Evariste Boshab. Declared that the 37<sup>th</sup> session of the APF was occasion to celebrate “fraternity in a peaceful country”
- The President of the APF, meanwhile, described the DRC as “a rising giant.”

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

**“Autour de la 37<sup>ème</sup> session de l’APF. Rencontre francophone de Kinshasa : les mots-clés de Abdou Diouf” by Freddy Monsa Iyaka Duku**

- Francophone parliamentarians met in Kinshasa to consult on issues regarding peace, democracy and development in francophone countries. Both Abdou Diouf, the secretary general of the OIF, and President Kabila opened the 37<sup>th</sup> session underlined the importance of elections and democracy. Considering elections are part of the survival of a country and dignity of a people, all risks of blunders, which characterize African elections, should be avoided. A Côte d’Ivoire post-electoral situation should be prevented. Diouf emphasized the need to respect the rules of the game and the temporary nature of power; accept free choice and change; recognize that democracy promotes stability, peace and development
- According to the *Potentiel*, Diouf delivered important messages to the Congolese political community. It seems particularly fitting as some political parties have already started campaigning, despite the illegality of the deed. This is not a good sign for the election and the newspaper wonders whether one can really talk of peace, democracy and development in the DRC.