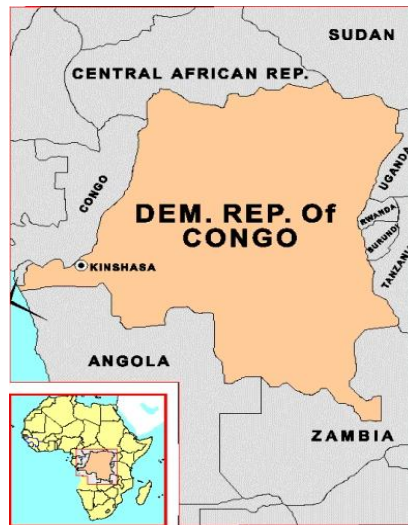


Democratic Republic of Congo: Domestic Media

Monitoring Report

*Montreal Institute for
Genocide and Human Rights Studies*

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18th – 25th June

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1. Chebeya Murder Trial: four accused sentenced to death penalty

Government-owned media

(Agence Congolaise de Presse, République Démocratique du Congo, government-owned news agency, Kinshasa, article dated 24 June 2011, in French)

RDC-Procès Chebeya/ La Cour prononce quatre condamnations à mort et une à perpétuité

- The military court condemned col. Daniel Mukalay, Christian Ngoy Kenga Kenga, Paul Muilambue and Jacques Migabo to the death sentence for the murder of Chebeya. Michel Muila will serve life in prison but Georges Kitungua, Ngoy Mulongoy and Blaise Mandiangu were acquitted
- The court also declared that a number of financial reparations would be paid to Chebeya and Bazana's widows, as well as to their children, families, Voix de sans voix and RENADHOCé
- Prosecuting attorneys welcomed the verdict, which, according to them, will contribute to human rights in the DRC. The lawyers for the defense said would lodge an appeal.

Privately-owned media

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 24 June, 2011, in French)

Procès Chebeya : Mukalay condamné à mort, John Numbi lavé

- The former deputy police intelligence chief Daniel Mukalay has been sentenced to death for the murder of human rights activists Floribert Chebeya and his driver Fidèle Bazana. Lieutenant Colonel Christian Ngoy, head of the elite Simba battalion, his bodyguard and a police protocol chief have also been sentenced to death.
- Chief Inspector General John Numbi, the author of the letter that served as bait, was acquitted, which angers all the plaintiffs. Indeed the human rights activists had gone to police headquarters in Kinshasa after being convened to a meeting with Numbi. The latter had signed the letter. The plaintiffs say only some of the murderers have been convicted. The court accepts the plaintiffs' demands but finds them excessive. Also acquitted are Georges Kitungwa and Blaise Mandiangu.
- Chebeya, founder of la Voix des Sans Voix, was found dead in the back of his car 2 June 2010.
- Police officer Michel Mwila was sent to jail for life for complicity
- The defendants and the Congolese state must also pay 50.000 USD to Chebeya's and Bazana's widows, 25.000 USD to each of their children, 20.000 USD to each brother and sister, 10.000 USD the NGOS « La Voix des sans voix » and another 10.000 USD au Renadhoc

2. Murder of radio journalist Kambale Musonia

Government-owned media

(Agence Congolaise de Presse, République Démocratique du Congo, government-owned news agency, Kinshasa, article dated 24 June 2011, in French)

“Assassinat du journaliste Kambale Musonia au Nord-Kivu”

- Journalist Kambale Musonia, who works for a community radio in Lubero South in Kirumba was assassinated on Tuesday. According to NGO Journaliste en Danger (JED), Kambale was killed close to his home.
- The UNPC deplores this sixth murder of a journalist and said it was worried about the security of journalist months preceding the elections. The organization therefore urged the state to reestablish security in the east.
- Other killed journalists include, Serge Maheshe, Franck Ngikie and his wife, Bapwa Mwamba, Didace Namujimob and Patrick Kikuku. Trials have yet to take place and the UNPC therefore urged the state to prosecute the criminals. Their arrest and trial should serve as an example.

Privately-owned media**(Committee to Protect Journalists website, New York b, 22 June 2011, in English)****Gunmen kill DR Congo radio presenter**

- The Committee to Protect Journalists urged authorities in Kirumba, eastern Congo, to investigate the murder of radio journalist Witness-Patchelly Kambale Musonia, who hosted a daily talk show program on community station Radio Communautaire de Lubero Sud.
- His body was discovered in North Kivu province on 22 June. He was killed by unidentified gunmen but the motive of the murder is not clear. No arrests have been made and the Committee to Protect Journalists is currently investigating the case in order to see whether it has anything to do with his job as a journalist. Recently, Musonia had discussed the recent arrest of dozen people accused of arms trafficking. CPJ condemned the murder and urged authorities to “conduct thorough, transparent, and credible investigations.”
- Musonia is the second journalist to have been shot this year: Indeed, radio technician Hardy Kazadi Ilunga was killed in March but local authorities have failed to investigate the murder.

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 23 June, 2011, in French)**“Suite à l’assassinat d’un confrere. L’UNPC et JED plaident pour la sécurité des journalistes” by Bienvenu Ipan**

- The Union nationale de la presse du Congo (UNPC) and NGO Journaliste en danger (JED) urged Congolese authorities to take concrete actions to end violence against journalists after the murder on 21 June of Kambala Musonia, community radio journalist from Goma.
- This is the 6th murder of a journalist and the UNPC called on public authorities to ensure security, especially in the east. The situation is particularly worrying as the elections are about to start. The state should prosecute and judge those responsible for these crimes.

- Kambala Musonia had recently organized a discussion with local civil society president M. Marcel Tenengeza on the subject of arms trafficking by local armed groups operating with the help of local police.

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 24 June, 2011, in French)

“Assassinat du journaliste Kambale Musonia : Jed se dit profondément choqué”

- In a press release, NGO Journaliste en danger (JED) declared it is shocked by and denounced the assassination of a community radio journalist, Kambal Musonia. The NGO demanded that provincial authorities open a serious investigation and to prosecute the author of the crime, the sixth murder of a journalist in five years. JED also asked authorities to ensure the security of journalists during the electoral process.
- Musonia worked as a community radio journalist in South Lubero. According to witnesses, the journalist was coming back from work when he was attacked by assailants, who had obviously been waiting for him. The same sources told JED that, a few days earlier, Kambale had organized a talk show on arms trafficking. Participants had denounced the climate of insecurity caused by armed bandits with the complicity of police forces.
- The Union Nationale de la Presse du Congo (National Union for the Press) expressed its worries over the insecurity of journalists, who are always considered as scapegoats. The UNPC therefore called on authorities to restore security in the country, especially in the east and to take exemplary measures.

3. Rwanda invades the DRC again?

Privately-owned media

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 25 June, 2011, in French)

“Invasion de la RDC: le nouvel alibi de Kigali”

- Rwanda is accused of stealing natural resources in the eastern DRC. In the 1990s, the need to track down the FDLR was used as a justification for Rwandan presence on Congolese soil but the government now argues that a rebel group in Virunga Park threatens the country's security and regime. This security discourse is being used a new excuse to invade the DRC and the Rwandan police announced that a group of six “terrorists” based in the Congo were preparing an invasion of Rwanda. A police statement stated that “the arrested terrorist criminals revealed their plans to commit acts of terror in Rwanda from their bases in Eastern DRC.” The men planned to target “high populated areas, fuel storage facilities and fuel transport vehicles, national leaders as well as diplomats.”
- Rwandan authorities are also convinced that the group has ties with hostile individuals in Uganda and South Africa. Colonel Ndererimana and the five other men arrested, are said to have received orders from general Faustin Kayumba Nyamwasa, former army chief of

staff, and Emmanuel Habyarimana, President Kagame's former minister of Defense. Both live in exile.

- The police forces' statement reveals Kigali's determination to control the eastern DRC and allegations of the presence of a terrorist group will serve as a powerful justification for a new invasion by Rwandan troops. The Congolese government is therefore urged not to allow the presence of Rwandan troops in the DRC, especially since the existence of the terrorist group has not been proven by the government. Congolese people have suffered enough from the presence of the FDLR and do not need renewed conflicts. Rwanda should not be under the illusion that it can again invade the DRC as its alibi does not hold water.

4. Elections 2011: various issues

Government-owned media

(Radio-Television Nationale Congolaise TV, government-owned, Kinshasa, 1230 gmt, 20 June, 2011, in French)

- The voters' registration exercise is still underway in several provinces except Kasai Occidental and Katanga Provinces and several logistical problems have been reported in several areas. In Kinshasa, provincial MP Laurent Batumona Kandika Bibwa deplores logistical problems and urges CENI to open other registration centers and requested an extension of the exercise in Kinshasa.

(Agence Congolaise de Presse, République Démocratique du Congo, government-owned news agency, Kinshasa, article dated 24 June 2011, in French)

“La certification des résultats des élections n'est pas le rôle de la Monusco, estime la sous-secrétaire d'Etat américaine adjointe pour les affaires de l'Afrique centrale”

- Susan Page, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs at U.S. Department of State. According, said it was not within Monusco's mandate or role to certify the elections. Congolese people must control the process themselves in order to ensure local ownership. The role of the UN mission is to bring logical support.
- The US government is responsible for 27% of Monusco's budget and emphasizes the need for free, transparent and secure elections. The results must be accepted by all.
- After visiting several registration centers in Kinshasa, Page said she was satisfied with the registration process and stated that everything was going well. She also praised well-organized electoral calendar published by CENI.

Privately-owned media

(Radio Candip, community radio broadcasting funded by Belgian NGO, Bunia, 1530 gmt, 18 June, 2011, in French)

- The police inspector of Ituri urged the central government and international community to provide more logistical aid to Congolese police in order to ensure security during the electoral process.

(Radio Candip, community radio broadcasting funded by Belgian NGO, Bunia, 1530 gmt, 19 June, 2011, in French)

- CENI's coordinator in Ituri District announced that 110 % of citizens have registered to vote in Mambasa Territory, He says these results are a consequences of the influx of Congolese from North Kivu and Wamba, Haut Uele, searching for new land for agricultural activities and work on the gold mines recently discovered in the region

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 22 June, 2011, in French)

“La Monusco préoccupée par la sécurité électorale” by Ludi Cardoso

- The smooth and peaceful running of the elections will depend on several factors, including security. Monusco is therefore currently training national police forces (PNC). According to Roger Meece, head of the UN mission, two PNC brigades will be trained and equipped by France, two others will be trained by the Congolese government and six others by Monusco. The latter is not allowed to equip them but asked the members of the UN to contribute financially or logistically in order to respond to the needs of these units.
- Last April, CENI and Monusco organized a meeting on the elections during which participants, including members of civil society and the main political parties, discussed the best way to ensure a peaceful and open electoral process, and the promotion of dialog between all parties involved. According to Meece, the meeting was successful since it led to the revision of the electoral code of conduct
- Meece also emphasized his support for CENI and for the setting up of a Committee of mediation responsible for settling disputes between parties. Monusco said the elections are crucial, challenging and success is not guaranteed. The same challenges were present during the last elections and many predicted their failure. There is therefore no reason to automatically assume that the 2011 will fail. Meece called on all the parties to take all the necessary measures to ensure peaceful and democratic election.

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 22 June, 2011, in French)

“Selon la CENI: ‘Il n’ y aura pas prolongation de révision électorale au Sud-Kivu” by Pitshou Mulumba

- CENI does not plan to prolong the revision of the electoral roll in South Kivu because the electoral calendar is already full. CENI urged all future voters not yet enrolled to do so rapidly since the process ends in 10 days. Several logistical problems have slowed the whole process, especially distance between villages and registration centers. CENI is trying to find solutions to all the problems, including the breaking down of computers and the lack of electoral kits as a result of insecurity.

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 23 June, 2011, in French)

“Afin de sensibiliser la population au processus électoral. Les membres du Bureau de la CENI se déploient en provinces” by Stephane Etinga

- Members of CENI have been deployed to provinces in order to sensitize populations on the electoral registration process. They emphasize the need for future voters to be actively involved in the process in order to ensure that the elections are owned by Congolese people. The vice-president of CENI, Jacques N'Djoli, et with several representatives, civil society, religious groups, students and women's groups.

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 23 June, 2011, in French)

“Elections 2011: une mission préparatoire de l'UE en RDC” by Pitshou Mulumba

- An EU mission is currently on a visit in the DRC in order to monitor the electoral process. The mission, headed by Delphine Skowron, will make recommendations to the EU's High Representative, which will lead to the deployment of monitoring bodies during the elections. During the 2006 elections, 300 monitors from the EU's 25 bodies as well as other nations such Canada and Norway had been deployed. In 2001, the EU developed a global electoral assistance and monitoring strategy.

(L'Observateur, privately-owned daily, article dated 24 June, 2011, in French)

“Bannir l'intolérance politique” by Rombaut Ot.

- In Katanga, political intolerance is rising. One politician declared himself “king” of Katanga several years ago and just launched a hunt against Kasais who want to settle in the province. He accuses them of supporting an opposition candidate belonging to the presidential majority, a party he also belongs to. This is not the first this politician shows signs of xenophobia: he already chased a group of Shaba people from Katanga several years ago. This ethnic cleansing has taken place with the approval of Mobutu. Congolese people are surprised by the impunity enjoyed by the politician in question. Apparently the policy of Zero Tolerance is not applicable to everybody.
- The second problem affecting Katanaga is a clash between two politicians in the province. One has been minister of social and humanitarian affairs, while the second one, a deputy, manages the province. The former minister is jealous and does not recognize the merit of political adversaries. What is paradoxical is that both actors belong to the same party. Their attitude is currently undermining the legitimacy and seriousness of the MP.

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 25 June, 2011, in French)

Révision du fichier électoral : la Ceni envisage une prolongation à Kinshasa

- According to CENI, the body will decide in two or three weeks whether it will prolong the registration process in Kinshasa. CENI says it is conscious of the challenges encountered

during the process, including the lack of voters' ID card, the non-respect of procedures and the breakdown of machines. CENI is currently trying to find solutions to all these problems, including the relocation of machines to agglomerations.

- Monusco has noticed a decline of applicants at registration centers in Kinshasa. A joint CENI-Monusco mission will monitor the evolution of process and visit registration centers in the periphery

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 23 June, 2011, in French)

“Pour des élections apaisées. Sécurité du territoire : priorité à l'équipement des FARDC”

- The government must equip the FARDC, the national police and the security forces in order to improve security in the DRC. The CSD (Conseil supérieur de defense) the Supreme Defense Council, has made specific recommendations after a meeting headed by president Kabila in Libumshi, Katanga.
- The main theme of the meeting was the securitization of the electoral process. Once more, the president of the Republic reaffirmed his determination to conduct peaceful, democratic and free elections in 2011. Everything must be put in place to achieve this goal and the CSD has been particularly adamant to underline the importance of the armed forces and police authorities. Peace remains the main condition.
- Although a restructuration of the security forces has been one of the government's main goal, action has been slow. Recently the two Chambers of the Parliament passed laws concerning the reorganization of the FARDC and the PNC. Now that these laws have been passed, it is to hope that the government will actually put them into practice and follow the council's recommendations.

5. Continued Insecurity and Human Rights violations: growing anger among population

Government-owned media

(Radio-Television Nationale Congolaise TV, government-owned, Kinshasa, 1230 gmt, 20 June, 2011, in French)

- The security situation is worrying in Shabunda territory, South-Kivu, as the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda harass local residents.

(Agence Congolaise de Presse, République Démocratique du Congo, government-owned news agency, Kinshasa, article dated 24 June 2011, in French)

“L'insécurité grandissante à Shabunda et Mwenga pousse à des manifestations populaires”

- Growing insecurity in Shabunda and Mwenga has led local residents to organize demonstrations aimed at attracting the state's attention to their problems and to take

appropriate measures. These peaceful demonstrations attracted 150 people in Shabunda and more than 300 in Mwenga.

- In Shabunda, the population met with Vice-governor Jean-Claude Kibala in order to find a solution to violence caused by FDLR, the Mai Mai and other armed groups. Acts of violence include killings, lootings, kidnappings and ransoms. Schools have been closed and the electoral process is being undermined.
- In Mwenga, residents issued a memorandum expressing their worry and calling for the deployment of the FARDC and the PNC, as well as the prolongation of the registration process. A delegation of representatives spoke with the vice-president of the provincial Assembly, Gilbert Ngongo Lusana and described violence caused by the Mai Mai and the FDLR.

(Agence Congolaise de Presse, République Démocratique du Congo, government-owned news agency, Kinshasa, article dated 24 June 2011, in French)

La situation sécuritaire dans l'Est de la RDC marquée par des affrontements récurrents, selon la MONUSCO

- Clashes between the Mai Mai, the ACLS and the FDLR are frequent in the east of the country, according to the Monusco spokesman Felix Basse. The Mai Mai Chela and the APCLS are fighting over the control of Walikale, leading to the displacement of local populations. Moreover, about 15 elements of the FDLR-FOCA attacked a police base in Kishera, wounding one policeman. The assailants were then chased by Monusco forces.
- Since mid-June, a military operation « Amani ya kweli II » is being conducted in South Kivu in order to fill the security vacuum left by FARDC forces currently being trained elsewhere.

Privately-owned media

(Radio Candip, community radio broadcasting funded by Belgian NGO, Bunia, 1530 gmt, 18 June, 2011, in French)

- Human rights activists are concerned with increasing LRA attacks in Dungu, Niangara and Faradje Territories in Haut Uele District and urged the FARDC to increase patrols in the area.

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 20 June, 2011, in French)

“Tenir sur ses gardes”

- Considering growing insecurity in Orientale Province, one wonders whether the government fully understands what is going on in the east and whether it has been done to limit conflicts and tensions in this part of the country. It seems that the government's performance has been poor. The state is completely absent in the east and, instead of anticipating problems, simply accepts them.

- The newspaper criticizes the absence of monitoring body responsible for anticipating tensions and events. One of the main problems is that the government does not seem aware of the size of its territory. A second issue is the country's constant need to be assisted by the international community: the DRC has remained a protectorate, as exemplified by Monusco's presence. Without the mission the DRC would be lost but there is a need for politicians who are capable of facing the international community and of defending the integrity of the Congo. The Congolese people should mobilize and organize resistance against policies such as the "Plan Sarkozy" for a common management of Eastern Congo's natural resources

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 21 June, 2011, in French)

"L'autorité bafouée de l'Etat"

- The process of stabilisation and securitization is still underway in the Eastern DRC. According to various sources, violent clashes have taken place in Walikale territory in North Kivu between the APCLS and Mai Mai. According to Radio Okapi, the two groups are fighting over the control tin mining sites and have already led to the death of 7 individuals and displacement of local residents.
- The FARDC is criticized for being absent, including because the natural resources belong to the state, and these conflicts come as a proof that the east has never been securitized. Considering the forthcoming election, the current situation in Walikale discredits the capacity of the DRC to guarantee peaceful elections

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 21 June, 2011, in French)

"Shabunda: une attaque des FDLR signalée à Wakabango"

- An attack by the FDLR in Mizobo has led to one death and 7 hostages. According to civil society on Shabunda the population, tired of these continued attacks, decided to take matters into its own hands to ensure security and to follow the assailants. Villagers belonging to an old armed group, Aria Mutomboki, ran after the assailants, who were able to flee.
- This is not the first attack since the FARDC left for training a few weeks ago.

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 21 June, 2011, in French)

"Nord-Kivu : des affrontements entre deux milices font 7 morts à Walikale"

- Clashes between the APCLS led by Col. Janvier and the Mai Mai led by Col. Tcheka have been reported in Walikale territory. The two leaders are fighting over the control of Misooka, a rich tin mining site.
- According to civil society, the local population has deserted their villages and schools have been closed. Civil society representatives urge the two leaders to reconcile.
- The FDLR and their allies, the Mai Mai, have now left the mining site of Bisiyé, allowing local authorities to retake control of the area. The assailants apparently organized a

meeting during which they allegedly stated that they did not want the military to exploit minerals in Walikale. Tcheka, a former FARDC officer, apparently headed the meeting himself. Residents taken hostage by the assailants were forced to pay a 1.000 Congolese francs fine each.

- According to Walikale's administrator, measures are being taken to ensure security on all mining sites.

(Radio Candip, community radio broadcasting funded by Belgian NGO, Bunia, 1530 gmt, 21 June, 2011, in French)

“Militia group attacks voter registration centre in eastern DR Congo”

- FRPI fighters attacked a registration centre in Kyakurundu village, east of Bunia. They also tried to steal the enrolment kits at the only centre in the village. A Congolese police officer was killed while three others seriously injured during the attack.
- Attacks have increased in the area, especially against FARDC bases. Several days ago the group led a series of attacks on Buguma and surrounding villages (southeast of Bunia).

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 21 June, 2011, in French)

“Sud-Kivu: recrudescence de l'insécurité à Shabunda et Mwenga” by Pitshou Mulumba

- Residents of Shabunda and Mwenga have expressed their anger over continued and increased insecurity in both areas. Two peaceful marches took place 15 June in order to attract the attention of political, administrative and military authorities and force them to take appropriate security measures.
- A memorandum was presented to local authorities. The documents states that the population deplores the perturbation of the electoral registration process as a result continued insecurity. Demonstrators were welcomed by the vice-governor Jean-Claude Kibala, who assured that a sustainable solution would be found.
- 300 people took place in the Mwenga march. A memorandum was also presented to the administrator of the territory, who promised that measures would be taken. The memorandum calls for the deployment of FARDC forces in the area and for a prolongation of the revision of the electoral roll. The FDLR and the Mai Mai are responsible for growing insecurity in the area.

(Radio Candip, community radio broadcasting funded by Belgian NGO, Bunia, 1530 gmt, 21 June, 2011, in French)

- MONUSCO's announced that its peacekeepers and the FARDC launched a military operation in the Semiliki valley near Uganda. The goal is to neutralize the Popular Resistance Front in Ituri.
- Jean Charles Dupon, coordinator of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in Orientale Province, announced the LRA conducted 18 attacks on various villages in Haut Uele and Bas Uele districts in the last month alone, leading to the displacement of about 4,500 people.

(Radio Candip, community radio broadcasting funded by Belgian NGO, Bunia, 1530 gmt, 22 June, 2011, in French)

- Humanitarian agencies in Bas Uele District said that the Ugandan People's Defence Forces clashed with LRA near Dingila Location. Three rebel fighters were killed and many residents fled to Dingila in Bas Uele District.
- In Ituri, more Congolese citizens living in Uganda arrived in Kasenyi and Tchomia near Lake Albert to enroll for the general elections. There are an insufficient number of machines at various enrolment centers.

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 23 June, 2011, in French)

“Situation sécuritaire. La Monusco veut rouvrir le site des observateurs militaires de Matadi” by Ludi Cardoso

- Monusco's spokesperson Lt-Col Félix Prosper Basse said the mission's plans to reopen a military post in Matadi in order to ensure optimum surveillance and security in Bas-Congo province.
- An information mission was also conducted in Tshela territory to verify allegations of the presence of Liberation of the Enclave of Cabinda (FLEC) forces in Ngunga forest.
- Monusco said the rumors were false. The situation in the West remains calm and in Oriental province, elements of the LRA have remained active around Bangadi, Ngilima et Faradje. The FARDC and UPDF have conducted joint operations in the region in order to neutralize the LRA. Eight individuals kidnapped by the rebels have been freed.
- Monusco criticized increased criminal activities led by armed groups in Ituri. As in Orientale Province, North Kivu has seen clashes between the Mai Mai Cheka and the APCLS. According to the UN mission are fighting over the control of Walikale territory, leading to the displacement of civilians populations
- FDLR and FOCA elements attacked a police post in Kishero, wounding one policeman. The UN mission led a aerial reconnaissance mission over Busurungi-Ishangi-Otobora region in order to evaluate the security situation. Monusco said four Mai Mai elements surrendered to the FARDC in Mangedjipa. Moreover, eight former FDLR and ten former child soldiers were repatriated to Rwanda, and five elements of ADF-NALU were brought back to Uganda.

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 25 June, 2011, in French)

“Plus de 100 victimes de viols et violences dans un village de l'Est de la RDC”

- According to MSF, more than a hundred people were victims of violence and rape in the eastern DRC between 10 and 12th June. All victims come from the area of Nyakiele village, South Kivu. According to provincial deputy Jean-Marie Ngoma, more than 60 women have been raped by the Congolese army lead by Col. Kifarua, a former Mai Mai combatant. The UN had already reported looting and violence against civilians in Kanguli, Abala and Nyakiele by 200 deserted militiamen.

- Colonel Vianney Kazarama, an FARDC in South Kivu, denied allegations of Col. Kifarur's involvement in the rapes. He said Mai Mai and FDLR combatants were also present in the area. However, the spokesperson admitted that the colonel had deserted the army.
- MSF said access to this area is difficult and the official number of rapes may rise.
- The FARDC is currently undergoing training in North and South Kivu after the integration of various local armed groups into its ranks.
- According to the provincial deputy in Ngoma, Colonel Kifarur is a former Mai Mai Pareco combatant in charge of the FARDC based in Fizi. The group is heading towards North Kivu and committing numerous violent acts.

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 25 June, 2011, in French)

“Journée internationale de soutien aux victimes de la torture. La Monusco prévoit plusieurs activités à travers la RDC” by Luis Cardoso

- Internationally, June 26th is dedicated to victims of torture and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights has therefore organized various activities throughout the DRC. According to Monusco, the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights should have organized a commemorative ceremony in collaboration with the OHCHR and local human rights NGOs.
- Last week, the OHCHR organized a training session for NGOs during which they were taught about UN and African human rights mechanisms, and the role of civil society in the dissemination of the recommendations and comments made by these organs.
- United Nations Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the DRC, Leila Zerrougui, visited Rutshuru in mid-June, where the situation remains worrying. She spoke with civilian and military authorities, members of civil society, NGOs and UN agencies, and reiterated Monusco's support to the Congolese population in the east. She encouraged local authorities to find an institutional response to the numerous human rights violations.

6. Le Potentiel criticizes Congolese politics

Privately-owned media

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 21 June, 2011, in French)

“Prise en sandwich par des forces internes et externes. La RDC fragilisée!”

- According to the Potentiel, Congolese elites, including leaders, have weakened the country for decades and many believe that the DRC is incapable of governing itself without the help of the international community. Clientelism, fraud, corruption, impunity and lack of rule of law are widespread and have led to the exploitation of the country's natural resources, embezzlement of public funds and alienation of the public heritage. The DRC is described as being part of a plot, caught between both external and internal destructive forces.
- The numerous initiatives elaborated to redress the country's economy have failed and most Congolese do not feel their effect.

- Wars, rebellions and invasions emerge occasionally, while armed conflict caused by ethnic antagonisms and the exploitation of natural resources are widespread. The beneficiaries are well known but have never faced national or international prosecution.
- The international community presents the elections as a universal remedy but the whole process has lost legitimacy: the constitution and other laws have been violated as a result of the jurists' selective interpretation.
- All parties and institutions seem divided on the electoral process, from the electoral law and to the electoral calendar. This gives Congolese people and the international community a bad and amateurish image of Congolese leaders and elites, and an image of the country as no man's land and jungle where only the fittest can survive.
- According to the newspapers, neither national nor international elites and groups are interested in the DRC development and partisans of partition have done their best to seduce Congolese people, and any initiative meant to develop the country is therefore doomed to failure. The DRC lags behind in any sectors and is seen a country that can only play a secondary role. Enterprises interested in development are giving up while business and the economy are being badly managed. Those actually interested in the DRC's economic and political development are being undermined before they can even start.
- Yet, according to the Potentiel, this is not a fatality and it is time to break with the colonial past and the culture of volatility. Congolese people are therefore urged to regain control of their country and the Potentiel calls for a reawakening of consciousness.

7. New Decree on Transparency and Natural resources: sincerity or pre-elections political move?

Privately-owned media

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 25 June, 2011, in French)

“RDC: Kinshasa, la transparence et le marketing politique”

- The government said it wanted more transparency in the natural resource sector and issued a decree on the publication of new mining, forestry and oil contract. The Potentiel questions the process and wonders whether this is simply a political marketing operation before the elections. According to a ministerial decree dated 20 May, the government will now publish contract signed in the three above-mentioned sectors. While these efforts are welcomed, one wonders whether it will be enough to convince the IMF, the World Bank and the Congolese people, who are calling for a more transparent process. Indeed, while the decree is concerned with future contracts, nothing is said about contracts signed before 2011. Moreover, the decree does not make provisions for sanctions in case of non-publication of contracts.
- According to the Minister of the Environment, Nature Preservation and Tourism, transparency is an engagement taken by the government vis-à-vis the IMF and the World Bank. He said all forestry contracts would soon be published on the internet. Whether this will also concern oil and mining contracts is to be seen.

- According to several observers, the whole process is only meant to satisfy donors, while others believe this is only a political marketing operation as the regime is seeking to gain more votes.
- The whole question on the publication of contracts refers to the question of transparency in the Congo, especially on economic and public affairs. Until now, information has only been provided sparingly and publication had been selective, despite the government's adherence to the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative in 2005.
- Civil Society therefore heightened pressure on the government and called for a trimestrial or annual publication funds and taxes generated by natural resources contracts. Civil society and parliamentarians have not yet reacted to the signature of the decree.

8. National Forum on the role of the state

Government-owned media

(Agence Congolaise de Presse, République Démocratique du Congo, government-owned news agency, Kinshasa, article dated 24 June 2011, in French)

“RDC/ Forum national à Kinshasa sur le rôle de l'Etat”

- The Vice Prime Minister, Minister of the Interior and Security, Adolphe Lumani Mulenda Bwana N'sefu presided over a ceremony for the opening a two-day forum on the role of the state. Also present was former secretary general of the African Union and former Prime Minister of Togo.
- The forum is meant to improve dialogue between the government and civil society, and to develop better political strategies for the government. The Vice P Lumanu, the main objective is to figure out the state main role. He praised President Joseph Kabila for maintaining peace, national unity and territorial integrity, and for leading the country towards political stabilization. As a fragile and poor post-conflict state, the DRC is in need to a real program for development
- The minister of Pan, Olivier Kamitatu Etsou, emphasized the need to have a clear vision of development and to define priorities. Beyond economic success, the state will be judged according to life conditions in the country. He underlined the importance of establish a common understanding of development, that is to avoid exploiting natural resources. He added that one the main objectives of the Millenium Development Goals is the reduction of poverty by 2015 and this objectives should be kept in mind.