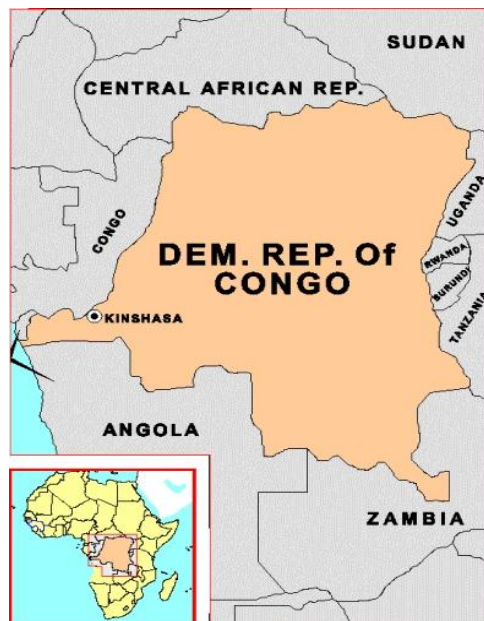


Democratic Republic of Congo: Domestic Media
Monitoring Report

*Montreal Institute for
Genocide and Human Rights Studies*

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25th June-3 July

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1. Security and Human Rights

Privately-owned media

(Radio Candip, community radio broadcasting funded by Belgian NGO, Bunia, 1530 gmt, 25 June, 2011, in French)

- The FARDC says its troops clashed with a group of armed men in Bibgolo, Bafwasende as the group took the control of a mining site near River Ituri after chasing away local miners.

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 26 June, 2011, in French)

**“Viols massifs à Fizi. La Monusco déploie une mission d’évaluation conjointe au Sud-Kivu”
by Ludi Cardoso**

- Roger Meece, head of the UN mission and representative of the UN Secretary General in the DRC, said he was deeply preoccupied with reports of mass rapes in Fizi, South Kivu. A joint evaluation mission composed of Monusco, OCHA, HCR, provincial representatives and local NGOs has been deployed.
- According to human rights groups present in the area, mass rapes have been committed in the villages of Nakiele, Abala et Kanguli on 10th and 11th June. Monusco condemned acts of violence against the population and said it would continue to collaborate with Congolese authorities in order to punish perpetrators and fight impunity

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

“Situation sécuritaire: Sud-Kivu : lancement de l’opération « Amani Ya Kweli II »” Luis Cardoso

- Monusco launched a new operation called « Amani Ya Kweli II » (Certain Peace II) in South Kivu.” The aim is to fill the security void left by FARDC troops currently undergoing training. The approach is said to be pro-active and based on interaction with local administration and civilian population. Various patrols are being deployed and bases established in order to restore peace and trust.
- Insecurity has been widespread in Shabunda and Mwenga, leading local populations to demonstrate against the lack of government and military action and presence in the province

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 29 June, 2011, in French)

“La situation des enfants venant des forces et groupes armés”

- A workshop on child soldiers in Uvira and the territories of Fizi Tombwe et Mwenga was organized by the Bureau pour le Volontariat au service de l'Enfance et de la Sante,

Monusco, Unicef and the ASBL AGAP/HP. Participants included members of civil society, international humanitarian NGOs, the army, the police as well as certain media. The security situation in South Kivu is precarious and many children remain vulnerable to recruitment as a result of poverty and lack of access to education.

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

- The Congolese government announced that road traffic between Goma, North Kivu, and Bunia, Orientale Province, reopened after the mutiny of FARDC. The road was barricaded for two days as soldier demanded payment of their salaries

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

“La Monusco réaffirme son engagement à pacifier le Nord-Kivu” by Stephane Etinga

- General Prakash, Commander of Monusco, reaffirmed the mission’s determination to protect civilians, ensure peaceful elections and reduce the activity of local and foreign armed groups active on Congolese soil. The general explained Operation «Amani yetu» (“our peace”) currently taking place in North Kivu aims at restoring peace by deploying nightly and daily patrols where the Mai Mai Pareco and the FDLR are particularly active.
- According to observers, the operation, coordinated with the FARDC, is showing positive results since the population is now able to circulate freely. The government has been urged to restore state authority in this part of the country and throughout the province, especially as the country prepares for elections.

2. Election Process

Government-owned media

(Radio-Television Nationale Congolaise TV, government-owned, Kinshasa, 1230 gmt, 27 June, 2011, in French)

- The voters' registration process should be completed on 5 July in Kinshasa but civil society member Ntantu May called for the extension of the process
- Senator Idambito, Orientale province, says electoral kits are lacking in the province and urged CENI to find a solution and extend to registration process by at least two weeks in order to reach the expected number of the voters.

(Agence Congolaise de Presse, République Démocratique du Congo, government-owned news agency, Kinshasa, article dated 28 June 2011, in French)

“La MONUSCO pour des élections apaisées au Bas-Congo”

- Monusco’s Bas Congo bureau organized a forum on the elections for all the actors involved in the electoral process. This includes political parties, civil society groups,

human rights activists and media. Monusco explained their individual role during the elections and called on the media to inform the population about the different candidates. The mission said elections were about national reconstruction

- The governor of Bas Congo reminded the Bundu dia Mayala party (BDM) that it was not allowed to run for the elections. He also stressed the importance of organizing free and transparent elections in order to preserve peace in the province.

(Radio-Television Nationale Congolaise TV, government-owned, Kinshasa, 1230 gmt, 28 June, 2011, in French)

- National Assembly Speaker Evariste Boshab welcomed EU envoy, Madam Delphine where they discussed the general elections. The EU observers will be deployed throughout the DRC.

Privately-owned media

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

- Administrative sources in Djugu, Ituri, announced that electoral kits for enrolment at Bule at were stolen by armed men.

(L'Observateur, privately-owned daily, article dated 29 June, 2011, in French)

“Enrôlement et soutien à Joseph Kabila. Bahati Lukwebo et AFDC conquièrent l'Est de la RDC” by Kléber Kungu

- Modeste Bahati Lukwebo and his party, the Alliance des forces démocratiques du Congo (AFDC), travelled from Goma, North Kivu to Bukavu, South Kivu. The act is described as highly symbolic considering the current security situation in the two provinces. The party emphasized its support for the reelection of Joseph Kabila and his party, the Majorité présidentielle (MP). Bahati Lukwebo also urged populations to register in order support the president. He was particularly adamant to emphasize the need for women to register as members of his party, which he argues is fighting for the defense and promotion of gender equality. In Bukavu, residents reacted positively to Bahati Lukwebo discourse.

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 1 July, 2011, in French)

“Message du chef de l'Etat à la nation, le 30 juin 2011. J. Kabila : « Les élections sont incontournables en 2011 »”

- During commemoration of the DRC's independence, President Kabila said the elections would definitely take place in 2011. He said the era of repeated political crises, transitional governments and never-ending consultation is now over and asked Congolese

people trust the National Independent Electoral Commission (CENI) and focus on the elections. Kabila also welcomed the maturity the young democracy that is the DRC.

- Nonetheless, he added that nothing was perfect and said institutions could be improved. It is crucial to organize free and fair elections in order to consolidate peace. He explained said he was deeply committed to this goal and called on Congolese people to respect laws and public order.
- Kabila mentioned multiple challenges still facing the DRC today, especially in terms of politics and development. The Five Pillar approach, the reform to the economic sector and the strengthening of peace and security are crucial to development. Kabila emphasized his will to transform the DRC into a developing country.
- He believes that efforts in terms of democracy, peace and security have been consistent and visible. Political opposition is allowed, national institutions function normally, CENI has been set up and functions well, decentralization is evolving, reforms have been made in the area of justice and public administration, major steps have been taken in terms of infrastructural reconstruction, and the DRC has found its place on the international stage. In terms of development, Kabila noted improvements in macroeconomics and governance, reforms of economic structures, the stability of exchange rates and a GDP growth of 7%.

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 1 July, 2011, in French)

“Révision du fichier électoral. La CENI accorde dix jours supplémentaires à six provinces du pays” by Stephane Etinga

- Orientale Province, North Kivu, South Kivu, Bandundu, Equateur and Kasai Oriental will benefit from 10 more days to register voters. CENI evoked delays in the deployment of electoral kits as well as technical problems during the electoral registration process. In order to ensure an inclusive and representative system, CENI therefore decided to prolong the process until 10th July in these 6 provinces.
- The case of Kinshasa is still being discussed.
- CENI took the time to urge all parties to sensitize populations to the importance of the registration system.

3. PALU on the brink of implosion?

Privately-owned media

(L’Observateur, privately-owned daily, article dated 27 June, 2011, in French)

“Troisième force politique du pays. Le PALU au bord de l’implosion” by Luc-Roger Mbala Bemba

- Members of the Parti Lumumbiste Unifié (PALU) urged the party’s leaders to clarify party lines and orientation for the upcoming presidential, legislative and local elections. They want PALU’s main leader, Antoine Gisenga, to organize a meeting to name the candidates to the different posts. The current situation within the party risks causing

tensions between PALU's leaders and its members: current PALU government and parliament members stated their intention to support President Kabila although many members would like Gisenga to nominate a PALU members for candidacy. Although PALU aligned itself to the Alliance de la Majorité présidentielle (AMP) in 2006 in order to prepare the party for the 2011 elections, members argue that PALU members now in government are no longer willing to leave power, thereby breaking promises made in 2006. At the time, the AMP also promised to support the candidacy of PALU.

- PALU members are now rejecting any form of alliance with MP, which they consider as a conglomeration of parties without ideology and agendas, which do not correspond to values supported by PALU. PALU urged party leaders to determine conditions for alliances and to hold its promises. Decisions which do not respect the members' opinion is a risk to PALU's stability as trust between leader and members is low. Dialog is seen as the only option.

4. Hunger and failure of agricultural policies in Bas-Congo

Privately-owned media

(L'Observateur, privately-owned daily, article dated 28 June, 2011, in French)

“Bas-Congo : La population a faim : à qui la faute ?” by Charles Nguvulu

- Government agricultural policies and budget are inadequate both at national and provincial level. Priorities have not been set. The DRC's soil is rich but needs to be exploited yet the government needs to take clear steps, develop a comprehensive program and provide the necessary resources.
- The state has no coherent policy in terms of production and distribution of agricultural resources, especially seeds. Populations in rural areas are left on their own as payments and funding are rarely respected. Agriculture does not seem to interest them: profitability is sometimes unpredictable as a result of the country capricious climate.
- Hunger is prevalent and all the necessary conditions must be put in place for populations to work: better production policies are needed; rural exodus must be discouraged; and markets have to be revived in many sectors

5. Forum on Human Trafficking and Forced Labor

Privately-owned media

(L'Observateur, privately-owned daily, article dated 28 June, 2011, in French)

“Sous les auspices de l'OIM/RDC. Atelier sur la lutte contre la traite des êtres humains” by Jean-Pierre Seke

- The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) organized a seminar financed by USAID on fight against human trafficking and forced labor. The goal of the seminar is

for the Congolese and the American government to understand the extent of the problem in the DRC. One of the major issues in the country is the use of children for combat and exploitation of natural resources by armed groups. The US government urges the government to take actions against the forced recruitment of children.

- The director of USAID/RDC said the project would contribute to a better understanding of the problem and allow for comprehensive and coordinated policy responses.
- The vice Prime Minister et Minister of the Interior, Tshitenge Kolominia said that after years of conflict and displacement, vulnerability has increased. The government will take measures to prevent human trafficking and forced labor.

6. 51 Years after independence: where is the DRC now?

Privately-owned media

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 29 June, 2011, in French)

“51 ans après l’indépendance, l’économie congolaise toujours en état de prédation” by Faustin Kuediasala

- After five decades independence, the DRC’s economy is still struggling. 2011 has been marked by renewed impoverishment. Colonial economic legacies, characterized by violence and ignorance, remain the biggest obstacle to development
- According to the newspaper, the commemorations of the country’s independence ended on a lot of words and good intentions, but little action and conviction.
- Partly as a result of Mobutu’s policies of Zairisation in 1973, the DRC’s economy is still marked by these irrational economic and political decisions. In the early 1990s, plunder has further destroyed the Congolese economy and marked the beginning of an era of predation and rent seeking.
- In 2001, Kabila’s arrival as president marked an era of liberalization and structural reforms but these policies have shown their limits. After years of independence, the Congolese economy is still based on a colonial model based solely on reliance on the primary sector. There is also little sign of progress in the near future

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 1 July, 2011, in French)

“Lier l’acte à la parole”

- During his speech on the Commemoration of the DRC’s independence, President Kabila focused on the elections, an event which he considers as essential. The president said that the era of repeated political crises and transitional governments was now over, and called on Congolese people that it was in their interest to ensure just, free and transparent elections.
- Kabila believes Congolese democracy is evolving and being adopted by Congolese people. This optimism should not obstruct the fact that many problems remain, including in the electoral process. Development and success relies on the reform of the economic sector and the promotion of peace and stability.

7. Rwanda arrests members of alleged DRC-based Terrorist Group

Government-owned media

(The New Times, Rwandan government-owned newspaper, article dated 29 June 2011, in English)

“Rwanda reportedly dismantles "terrorist network" linked to exiled general” by Edwin Musoni.

- Rwanda Security Agencies dismantled Kayumba Nyamwasa's “terror network” after it was found out that the group was planning terrorist activities in the country. The National Police confirmed the arrest of Col Ndererimana Norbert and five men. Gaheza was part of FDLR and RUD-Urunana and formed his own armed group known as FRONADER-INGABO Z'UMWAMI, in North Kivu.
- According to MONUSCO, the "Gaheza" group, the FDLR RUD-URUNANA, Mai-Mai combatants and other armed groups have conducted criminal activities in the DRC.
- A police spokesperson said the arrest of members of Gaheza group was a “remarkable success” and an opportunity to bring them to justice. He said they the group was planning attacks against innocent civilians, political leaders and public infrastructure. He said Nyamwasa and Habyarimana were behind the organizing and funding the planned attacks.

8. Chebaya Trial: reaction of the European Union

Government-owned media

(Agence Congolaise de Presse, République Démocratique du Congo, government-owned news agency, Kinshasa, article dated 28 June 2011, in French)

“RDC-Procès Chebaya/ L’Union européenne appelle à l’application effective des peines”

- The European Union called on the Congolese authorities to put everything in place to ensure that all those accused the murder of human rights activist Floribert Chebeya and his driver Fidèle Bazana do not escape criminal responsibility. The EU said the trial’s rather smooth process was globally satisfactory and should be seen as a positive step for justice in the DRC. The fight against impunity and the defense of human rights constitute central to the relationship between the DRC and the EU. Nonetheless, the EU reaffirmed its position against the death penalty and ask for several sentences to be transformed into life sentences. The DRC should also pass a law against the death penalty.

9. The UN Security Council prolongs Monusco’s mandate: critique

Privately-owned media

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 1 July, 2011, in French)

“Le Conseil de sécurité proroge d’une année le mandat de la Monusco” by Stephane Etinga

- Monusco will remain in the DRC for several years, according the UN Security Council. The UN Security General, Ban Ki-Moon, announced that the Security Council adopted resolution 1991 extending the mission’s mandate to 30 June 2012. The resolution states that Monusco will bring logistical and technical support to the Congolese authorities during the elections.
- According to UN representative in the DRC, Roger Meece, the resolution clearly reaffirms Monusco priorities, particularly the protection of civilians. The resolution includes new focus on Monusco’s role in contributing to credible, democratic and transparent elections.
- Observers believe the resolution is a sign of the international community’s commitment to peace and security in the DRC, and support the country’s electoral process. The resolution also brings some comfort to those who fear for the transparency and credibility of the elections considering the current operational situation and revision of the registration process.

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

“Monusco : l’éternelle tutelle”

- The UN mission in the DRC might have changed its name from Monuc to Monusco but has been unable to bring back security and peace in several part of the country, particularly in the east. Although the troops continue to struggle, the UN Security Council decided to prolong Monusco’s mandate. The Council argues that the mission should help secure the election and has used this as an excuse to stay in the country.
- The electoral process is meant to last until 2013 and the *Potentiel* argues that Monusco is participating to the occupation of the DRC. With SC Resolution 1991, the Security Council has decided to stay at least until 30 June 2012, stating that the protection of civilians remains the priority in terms of capacity and resources. The mission underlined that the Congolese government remains the main guarantor of peace and development, an argument which, according to the newspaper, serves to absolve the UN of any co-lateral damages.
- Similarly, the UN demanded that the government establish a climate of peace and security in order to ensure the smooth running of free, fair, credible and transparent elections. Monusco will therefore provide logistical and technical help. This includes reducing the activities of armed groups such as the FDLR and the LRA
- After ten years on Congolese soil, the mission’s numerous failures have led to disenchantment and growing hostility on the part of the population. Rape, killings and other human rights violations have continued in many parts of the country. *Le Potentiel* therefore wonders why the mission is staying.

- It seems that the UN other interests in mind than the protection of civilians and establishment of peace. Monusco is a big business with hidden financial and national interests. Despite the Congolese government's demand, everything is done in Washington for the mission to remain in the DRC. Some observers even believe that the mission is purposefully creating tensions in the east in order to stay on Congolese soil as long as possible. Now it is using the elections as an excuse.
- The DRC is negotiating its own sovereignty. For the UN, as long as the DRC remains fragile, the body is able to guarantee to survival of its interests. *Le Potentiel* believes the mission will permanently occupy the country.

10. Kyungu Affair: political intolerance and xenophobia

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 1 July, 2011, in French)

“Intolérance politique et appel à la haine tribale au Katanga. La Fédération internationale des droits de l'homme se saisit du cas Kyungu”

- The International Federation for Human Rights has taken over the “Kyungu Affair”. During the electoral registration process, the president of Katanga's Provincial Assembly pronounced a series of violent statements against people originating from outside Katanga. He threatened them of reprisal if the president was not reelected.
- The FIDH denounced these xenophobic statements and hate speech. The organization also criticized media who published these statements and warned them against the propagation of hate speech. In 1992 and 2003, Kyungu orchestrated a violent campaign against non Kasaians, who has been forced to leave their region of origin. The campaign had led to several thousand deaths and has been left unpunished.
- Human Rights activists urge the government to take judicial action and the Federation will inform the UN Security Council and the International Criminal Court.
- The government has remained silent on the issues and could threaten the president's potential reelection.