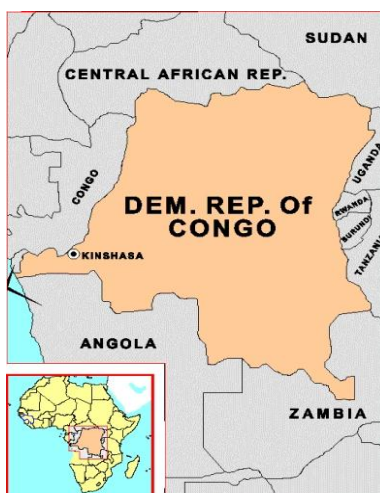


Democratic Republic of Congo: Domestic Media

Monitoring Report

*Montreal Institute for
Genocide and Human Rights Studies*

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June 6th to June 12th

Main Report Content

1. Growing insecurity after attacks by FRPI, LRA and FDLR, particularly Eastern Congo.
2. Catherine Bragg, Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator, visits the DRC. Concludes that situation in the East is remains critical and frightful
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Growing insecurity after attacks by FRPI, LRA and FDLR

Government-owned media

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

- Last weekend, the FDLR attacked three villages in Shabunda territory in South Kivu. The attack slowed down the voters' registration process in the area.

Privately owned media

(L'Observateur, privately-owned daily, article dated 6 June, 2011, in French)

“Ituri/Province orientale: Buguma, un camp militaire attaqué par des présumés FRPI” by Kléber Kungu

- The Front de résistance populaire in Ituri (FRPI) led several attacks in Buguma, south of Bunia last Friday. The rebels burnt down FARDC bases and abandoned houses. The FARDC took control of Buguma on Saturday. The FRPI also looted several houses. As a result, the population fled to the neighboring village of Kanjoka
- The attack took place during the visit of Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator in the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Catherine Bragg, who was forced to conclude that the security situation remains critical in this part of the country. There are about 2 million IDPs and humanitarian access remains difficult due to continued insecurity caused by groups such as the FRPI and the LRA. She therefore urged the central government to reinstate its authority in the region.

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

“Sud-Kivu : la population de Kabare réclame le redéploiement des FARDC” by le Potentiel

- The population of Nindja complained about the lack of security in Kabare territory, especially since the withdrawal of the FARDC, currently being trained in Walungu. According to sources, this area is under control of Hutu rebels. After speaking to local authorities and representatives, members of the UN were forced to admit that the security situation is worrying.
- According to a resident living in an area controlled by the FDLR the population stays outside the village at night as it fears attacks by the rebel group. Mai Mai groups are also said to be present as they collaborate with the FARDC in order to loot the local population
- As a consequence, residents demand the deployment of the FARDC and PNC as well as Monusco in the area.
- One person has been killed, four wounded and seventeen others kidnapped at the beginning of May.

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

“Dans un rapport sur les violations des droits humains rendu public ...”

- In a human rights report made public on 3 Friday, Asadho (l'Association africaine de défense des droits de l'Homme) said the PNC is committing human rights violations. The report was drafted after an investigation carried out in Kinshasa, Bandundu and North Kivu between November 2010 and May 2011. The report cites death threats, intimidations and arbitrary arrests. The authorities have not taken any steps against perpetrators as few of them are brought before justice. Asadho is worried that the situation will worsen during the election period.

(L'Observateur, privately-owned daily, article dated 7 June, 2011, in French)“Des FDLR encore actifs, pourquoi ?” by Didier Munsala Buakasa

- Reliable sources in Kabare territory, South Kivu, report that the FDLR is regularly attacking the population. In Ninja, the Mai Mai is collaborating with the FDLR in order to loot local residents. The latter are therefore asking for the deployment of Monusco, the FARDC and the Congolese police.
- Despite their increased presence over the past ten years, these forces have been unable to neutralize armed groups. Several local realities contribute to this, including the fact that the FDLR have married Congolese women while other FDLR combatants are working with local Congolese. These elements benefit from the hospitality of several Congolese people and not always through the use of violence.
- Residents should participate in the consolidation of peace by helping the FARDC and Monusco in their operations, and not by collaborating with negative forces for selfish reasons. Such behaviors are called treason and should be punished.

(Radio Candip, community radio broadcasting funded by Belgian NGO, Bunia, 1530 gmt, 8 June, 2011, in French)

- The FARDC announced that it had pushed back a group of LRA fighters from attacking Doruma Location in the north of Dungu Territory and that they fled towards the DRC-CAR border

(Radio Candip, community radio broadcasting funded by Belgian NGO, Bunia, 1530 gmt, 9 June, 2011, in French)

- The FARDC in Ituri District said that heavy fighting took place between its troops and the Popular Resistance Front near the Congolese border with Uganda.

**(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 11 June, 2011, in French)
“Neutralisation de la LRA : la grande énigme”**

- Despite numerous initiatives to put an end to the activities of the LRA, little progress has been made. The LRA remains an “enigma.” Conscious of the lack of consensus among politicians, bishops from the three countries affected by the rebel group the DRC, CAR and South Sudan, have declared their intention to act as mediators.
- Despite efforts by the US to neutralize the LRA, insecurity has actually increased. In a meeting organized by Caritas-Congo, bishops from the DRC, CAR, South Sudan and Uganda consulted ambassadors from various countries.
- The president of the committee, Mgr Marcel Utembi, proposed to engage in a dialogue between the governments and the LRA, and suggested they should serve as mediators. Ambassadors should urge their respective governments to be more pro-active.
- The regional bishops’ committee is an apolitical and inter-confessional network based in Kisangani. Before the meeting, the committee had made recommendations to the various governments. The DRC had been asked to deploy more police forces to sensitive areas. The internal community, meanwhile, should organize a group of representative from the UN, the African Union, the EU as well as other countries affected by the activities of the

LRA in order to come up with a number of strategies to bring lasting peace to the sub-region. The process should be combined to Barack Obama's four-goal plan, which consists of improving the protection of civilians, DDR, humanitarian access and humanitarian aid to the population.

Catherine Bragg, Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator visits the DRC



Catherine Bragg

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Privately-owned media

(L'Observateur, privately-owned daily, article dated 6 June, 2011, in French)

“Sous-secrétaire générale aux Affaires humanitaires des Nations Unies. Catherine Bragg: ‘L’insécurité est la grande question qu’il faut combattre’”

- Catherine Bragg, Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator, has ended her three-day mission in Oriental Province and South Kivu where she visited Bunia, Dungu and Bukavu. She said the humanitarian situation remains critical and frightful, especially as result of attacks by the LRA and other armed groups. The question of security remains a priority as NGOs and agencies have difficulties accessing and addressing the IDPs' humanitarian needs.
- Bragg met several civil society groups including IDPs in Linakofo camp, who called for the deployment of more FARDC and Monusco troops in order to provide long-term and sustainable assistance. They also demanded better housing and health conditions. Monusco and the FARDC have been asked to fulfill their mandate of providing security to civilians
- Bragg emphasized that the use of sexual violence committed by armed groups to terrorize civilians was unacceptable and that perpetrators would be brought to justice
- Bragg also called on the government to reinforce state authority in the region. Indeed, security remains the government's main responsibility towards its people. The government should combat impunity. The international community also demands more efforts by Monusco and more deployment in remote areas in the east
- Humanitarian aid to the growing number of IDPs remains a constant concern. Donors should therefore commit to their promises.

FARDC abandons “mixage” after approach shows little results

Privately-owned media

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

FARDC : le gouvernement dit non au mixage

- The government has decided no longer to support the process of mixage within the FARDC as the initiative has often led to poor outcomes. The declaration led to protest from the proponents of the process, who have turned towards civil society for support. However, the government decisions will not be overturned.
- The decision does not come as a surprise as a large number of observers had already noticed the failure of many “mixage” processes. New mechanism will therefore be tried.
- Kinshasa’s decision shows Starec’s incapacity to stabilize and reconstruct the country, particularly in the east. Armed groups do not necessarily seek peace. However the government has always trusted Starec, despite many “one-size-fits-all” initiatives that necessarily lead to the same poor results. Most of the programs have actually weakened the FARDC, leading to poor capacity, mistrust and disorder within the army. The chain of command remained unchanged, making the FARDC look like a multiple-headed snake with multiple leaders and interests.
- The decision to put an end to mixage therefore aims at reestablishing unity. Several observers believe that the American approach should be used, that the integration of battalions into Africom. However, this will depend on the government’s determination and willingness to fully pursue its new goal.

Monusco’s New Mandate and Operations



Roger Meece, Head of MONUSCO

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Privately-owned media

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

“Ce jeudi 9 juin à New York. Roger Meece présente son rapport au Conseil de sécurité” by Albert tshiambi

- Roger Meece, the head of Monusco, will present his report to the United Nations
- According the Monusco’s spokesman, the security situation has remained calm in Dongo and Mbandaka, Equatorial Province. In Oriental Province, relative calm has been reported as well.
- In North Kivu, activities by armed groups have decreased although Walikale remains a constant preoccupation after the discovery of new mining sites.
- The UN mission has started a new operation in Rutshuru. Operation “Kuamusha Tumaini” aims at reinforcing the security situation in order to support the electoral registration process.

**(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 10 June, 2011, in French)
“Nouveau mandat de la Monusco : la RDC pose des conditions”**

- The partnership between the DRC and Monusco is changing as the Congolese government is trying to take things into its own hands. The UN Representative to the DRC described Monusco’s new mandate, arguing that the mission was taking on a new approach considering the situation on the ground has changed. The new approach will focus on the consolidation of stability, thereby putting new emphasis on economic development.
- Training the armed forces and the PNC remains a priority but according to the UN Secretariat progress has been limited due to a lack of funding from donors. The DRC needs a capable and deterrent army and the bilateral approach should be reinforced. New accords have therefore been negotiated. Consensus has been reached between the UN and the Congolese government.
- For the government, Monusco’s logistical and technical support for CENI and the electoral process is the main challenge, and efforts should be increased in order to adhere to the electoral calendar and for the elections to take place in a peaceful climate. According to the UN Representative, the UN will provide all necessary support and hopes further resources will be attributed.
- The Secretariat General recommended amending and prolonging Monusco’s mandate for another year in order to support the electoral process. The government insisted that the Congolese government does not intend to weaken the consolidation of security and realizes that it still needs the UN’s support. The government also welcomes support to economic development, which will bring sustainable peace.
- On the subject of international and regional cooperation, the DRC Representative to the DRC declared that the country needs to financial support of the international community in order to rebuilt the state and put an end the legitimacy crisis.

**(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 10 June, 2011, in French)
Sud-Kivu : la Monusco satisfaite de l’opération «Amani ya Kweli»**

- In South Kivu, insecurity is prevailing as result of the FARDC’s absence. According to Monusco, operation «Amani ya Kweli» launched by the UN on 30 May has deterred several armed groups.

- The FARDC has also arrested several suspects after launching several operations against Hutu rebels in Ngandi where an increase in FDLR activities has been reported.
- In Katanga, Monusco has facilitated the training of 300 elements of the National Police Forces (PNC). The mission added that a group of FDLR combatants living in Manomo has asked to be repatriated to Rwanda.

Election process summary



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Government-owned media

(Radio-Television Nationale Congolaise TV, government-owned, Kinshasa, 1230 gmt, 8 June, 2011, in French)

- Following debates in the Senate, the new electoral bill was transferred to the political, administrative and judicial commission for amendment before the vote.

Privately-owned media

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

“Un mois après. La CENI enregistre 1,5 million d’électeurs à Kinshasa”

- CENI has registered 1.5 million voters in Kinshasa one month after the revision of the electoral process. The population has proven eager to enroll.
- However, the process has taken place in an atmosphere of contestation and chaos as several civilians have registered twice in different centers. Several people have also complained that registration is slow and that they must therefore take a whole day off work. Some registration machines have also proven unreliable and dysfunctional.

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 11 June, 2011, in French)

“L’Opposition dénonce les propos haineux de Kyungu wa Kumwanza”

- Political opposition in Katanga denounced the bad political climate in the province, where the president of the provincial assembly has engaged in hate speech during the electoral

registration process. The president allegedly declared that of those who would not vote for Kabila might as well go home. According to the opposition Kyungu wa Kumwamza's discourse is a threat to peace in the province and emphasized its desire for the elections to take place in an climate of calm and respect for the opinion of others.

- Kyungu wa Kumwamza has rejected the allegations, saying that such discourse did not benefit him. He said all Congolese people should understand that only Joseph Kabila can finish the work he has started.

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 11 June, 2011, in French)

“En visite à Goma. Fidèle Sarassoro plaide la cause des déplacés du Nord-Kivu” by Albert Tshiambi

- The arrival of new IDPs in North Kivu will be debated during a meeting between Monusco and CENI, according to the new UN Deputy Special Representative to the DRC. The new IDPs fled their villages after increased insecurity. Displacement slows down the electoral process and, according to Fidèle Sarassoro, it is important for all Congolese to be able to register in order to be allowed to vote.
- Fidèle Sarassoro also said that despite logistical and operational problems, the percentage of registration, about 70%, is acceptable and the electoral process is running rather smoothly.
- According to the calendar, this part of the electoral process should end in three weeks in North Kivu. However, the registration process has been slow in several circumscriptions due to logistical and security problems. The government is therefore urged to do its best to allow CENI to respect the electoral calendar. It seems necessary to reestablish state authority in the province, while CENI should focus on finding a solution to logistical problems.