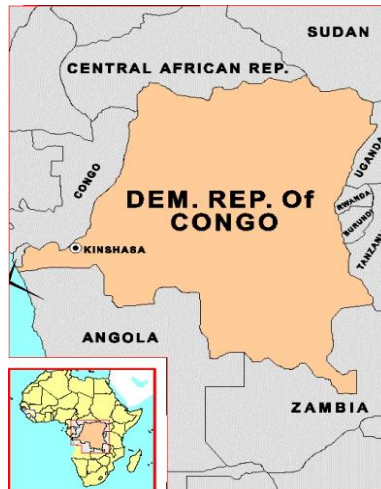


Democratic Republic of Congo: Domestic Media

Monitoring Report

*Montreal Institute for
Genocide and Human Rights Studies*

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9th -19th June

Main Report Content

1. Insecurity: Popular Resistance Front in Ituri, LRA, RPF attacks; residence protest against insecurity
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[1. Insecurity: Popular Resistance Front in Ituri, LRA and the RPF](#)

[Government-owned media](#)

(Rwandan News Agency, RNA, government-owned. Kigali, Rwanda, article dated 15 June 2011, in French)

“East DR Congo town residents protest growing insecurity; want Rwandan rebels out”

- Two marches took place Wednesday in Bukavu and Shabunda to protest against the continued presence of the FDLR after the departure of units of the Congolese army, which left for training centers.
- According to residents, the Interahamwe are looting, raping, killing, torturing, and kidnapping civilians.
- A memorandum was handed over to the territorial authorities demanding, the removal of the FDLR, and return of the FARDC in order to restore peace

Privately-owned media

(Radio Candip, community radio broadcasting funded by Belgian NGO, Bunia, 1530 gmt, 10 June, 2011, in French)

- The Popular Resistance Front fighters in Ituri attacked Beto village, southeast of Bunia but the FARDC managed to push back the combatants. One civilian was killed and goods were looted.

(Radio Candip, community radio broadcasting funded by Belgian NGO, Bunia, 1530 gmt, 13 June, 2011, in French)

- Civil society in Dungu Territory reported LRA attacks in Gangalabodio and Bangandi lately. Four civilians were killed, six abducted and goods were looted.

2. Human Rights

i. FARDC trained on sexual violence

ii. World Refugee Day

iii. Democracy in the DRC

iv. Children and human rights

v. Congolese government told to protect human rights and human rights activists

vi. IDPs in Dungu

Government-owned media

(Agence Congolaise de Presse, République Démocratique du Congo, government-owned news agency, Kinshasa, article dated 16 June 2011, in French)

“Officiers et sous-officiers des FARDC formés contre les violences sexuelles à Kisangani”

- According to Monusco and EUSEC, officers of the FARDC have received training on the issue of sexual violence. The goal of the training session was to reinforce the service of civic and patriotic education (SECP) set up by the National Defense and Veterans ministry in order to strengthen the ethics, morals and deontology of militaries. Several subjects were tackled, including democracy, security sector reform, human rights and children’s rights, citizenship as well as international humanitarian law.

(Agence Congolaise de Presse, République Démocratique du Congo, government-owned news agency, Kinshasa, article dated 18 June 2011, in French)

“Le 20 juin : le monde se souvient du Réfugié” by Dosithée WHA LAVAR)

- On Monday, several countries will commemorate World Refugee Day. This year, it coincides with the 60th anniversary of the created of the UNHCR. This year's message is "One Refugee Without Hope is too Many." The DRC is one of the countries which has opened its borders to many refugees from conflict zones. About 161.073 refugees reside in the Congo today, essentially from Angola, CAR, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Sudan and the Republic of Congo.
- Most refugees can be found in North and South Kivu, but many also reside in Bas-Congo and Kinshasa.
- About 403.646 Congolese refugees live abroad, especially in Tanzania and Uganda.
- In regards to health, employment, education and freedom of movement, Congolese legislation offers the same rights to refugees as it does to nationals. They do not, however, have the same political rights since refugees are not allowed to participate in the country's political activities.

Privately-owned media

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 14 June, 2011, in French)

“Démocratie en RDC: l'ONG Osisa parle d'avancées et ratés de cinq dernières années”

- At the launch of a report named “DRC, democracy and participation in political life: an evaluation of the first steps in the Third Republic”, Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa (Osisa) director Lubumbashi Hubert Tshiswaka, since the last elections, the DRC has made progress in terms of democracy. Yet there have also been fallbacks as well and more progress has yet to be made.
- Progress has been seen in terms of human rights and individual freedoms but failures can be seen in various institutions, including in the parliament. While several laws have been passed, little has been done in terms of implementation of these parliamentary recommendations and laws. According to Tshiwaka, the parliament should control the government.
- Another problem is the corruption and fund embezzlement.

(Radio Candip, community radio broadcasting funded by Belgian NGO, Bunia, 1530 gmt, 16 June, 2011, in French)

- On the International Day of Children, human rights activists denounced the increasing human rights abuses against children, especially in the eastern provinces.

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 18 June, 2011, in French)

“L'Etat congolais appelé à protéger les défenseurs des droits de l'Homme” by Yves Kadima

- At the end of a seminar organized by UN Joint Human Rights Office, Human Rights NGOs have urged the government of the DRC to protect human rights by adopting the law for the Protection of Human Rights in the DRC. Subjects discussed during the seminar included UN human rights structures, evaluation of human rights mechanisms and councils, and African structures and mechanism for the protection of human rights.
- The participants urged the UN and Monusco to support the writing and publication of reports, as well as collaboration, capacity training and knowledge transfer.
- They urged the Congolese government, and particularly the Minister of Justice and Human Rights, to make sure the parliament adopt the law on human rights in the DRC, to ensure the establishment of provincial bureau on human rights, and to improve collaboration between the government and NGOs.

- The UN Joint Human Rights Office said that the recommendations made are a proof of the participants' expertise and confirmed it would strongly support the DRC in the establishment of human rights in the country

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 18 June, 2011, in French)

“Plus de neuf mille déplacés sont dépourvus de vivres, d’eau potable ...”

- Since 2008, more than 9,000 IDPs are in need of drinking water, food and medical help in Ngilima, near Dungu. Children have had no access to education as teachers cannot be paid. Some IDPs have gotten involved in agricultural but they are often scared to go to their fields for fear of being attacked by the LRA

3. Electoral process

- i. Parliament passes electoral bill;*
- ii. British government supports elections*
- iii. Growing mistrust between parties in Katanga*
- iv. Media trained on role during electoral process*
- v. Lambert Mende Interview with Radio France Internationale*
- vi. UDPS' Tshisekedi Interview Radio France Internationale Internationale*
- vii. CENI on registration of voters*
- viii. Violations in Katanga and Kinshasa: Children given voters registration card*

i. Parliament passes electoral bill

Government-owned media

(Radio-Television Nationale Congolaise TV, government-owned, Kinshasa, 1230 gmt, 14 June, 2011, in French)

- The Senate approved the new electoral law on general elections after a lengthy debate on the Article 3 and 10. Minister of Justice Luzolo Bambi Lessa introduced the two bills that the Government proposes to the parliament on protection of human rights and the bill on impunity on international crimes and corruption.

(Radio-Television Nationale Congolaise TV, government-owned, Kinshasa, 1230 gmt, 16 June, 2011, in French)

- The Senate adopted the radio and television tax bill for RTNC. RTNC Deputy Manager Nicole Dibambu expressed his appreciation to the Parliament as the taxes should help improve the quality of RTNC services. The National Union for Congolese Press expressed its appreciation as well.

US-government

(Voice of America, US-government funded broadcaster, Dakar, Senegal, article dated 15 June 2011, in English)

“Congo Opposition Calls for Extended Voter Registration” by Anne Look

- Seven opposition parties asked the electoral commission for the voter registration process to be extended by 30 days in the capital as well as some provinces. Delays and logistical problems are currently undermining the credibility of the process.
- The head of the opposition party Generation Republicaine, Charles Bofassa, said registration kits in are old, the election staff is untrained, and policemen are corrupt.
- The People's Party for Reconstruction and Democracy say logistical problems could lead to voters give up.
- In Equateur Province, some registration centers have not yet started registering voters as some of the centers have not received some of the material.
- CENI said demands would be reviewed.
- Analyst belief that the one-round presidential poll, boycotted by opposition party last January, could benefit Joseph Kabila.

Privately-owned media

**(Reuters Africa, independent London-based global news agency, 7:35pm gmt, dated 15 June 2011)
“DR Congo passes election law, more hurdles ahead” by Jonny Hogg and Bienvenu Bakumanya**

- The Congolese parliament passed the electoral law organizing the November 28 presidential and legislative elections. However, opposition leaders and lawmakers are concern over the elections’ credibility since little difference exists between this document and the 2006 law. President Kabila has also reduced the elections to one round.
- The timetable for registering millions of voters is tight, leading opposition parties to call for international monitoring. Opposition leader complained about corrupt officials and shortage of registration centers. Remy Masamba, from the UDPS said the international community should act "caretakers" in order to ensure fairness and justice. Joseph Kaila, however, has tried to limit foreign intervention. Thomas Luhaka, the secretary general of the MLC, said delays could be dangerous since a lack of mandate for Kabila could lead to unrest, a situation the security forces do not have the capacity to face.
- Insecurity and social tensions are likely to emerge
- In terms of registration, about 22 million people have been registered. Considering an estimated 31 million people should register by the end of July, an unlikely goal. According to Africa expert Thierry Vircoulon, voter registration may have to be prolonged. He also suggested checking voters’ list in order to avoid duplications

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 16 June, 2011, in French)

“Clôture de la session de mars. L’Assemblée nationale vote la loi électorale” by Pitshou Mulumba

- National deputies passed the electoral law concerning the organization of the presidential, legislative, provincial, urban, municipal and local elections. This marks the final step of the organization of the elections. The law will be presented to the president for promulgation.
- An extraordinary session should take place soon in order to put finishing touches to the annex. It emerged that two major differences existed between he two texts voted by the two chambers of parliament. One concerned the level of education and experience of the candidate for eligibility, and the second one tackled the issue of the governor’s and vice-governor’s age. 18 years old has been set as a minimum.

(L’Avenir, privately-owned newspaper, article dated 17 June 2011, in French)

“Parlement : session ordinaire de mars, un bilan mitigé”

- The deputies and senators closed the extraordinary session of March after harmonizing text on the electoral law. Several parliamentarians, mostly the presidential majority, believe the essential has been done. It argues that the adoption of the electoral law by both chambers is a positive outcome.
- Others believe the outcome is rather negative since several laws have not been voted on, including the electoral law's annex regarding the number of electoral circumscriptions. The opposition says deputies and senators were not very supportive of the text at the beginning of the session.

ii. British government supports elections

(L'Observateur, privately-owned daily, article dated 13 June, 2011, in French)

“Processus électoral en RDC: La Grande- Bretagne soutiendra des élections libres, crédibles et transparentes du Congo” by Luc-Roger Mbala Bemba

- The British Prime Minister David Cameron reaffirmed his country's will to support Africa in its efforts towards economic reconstruction and consolidation of democracy. According to the PM, Africa has all the assets to develop its economy but emphasized the need to improve democracy as well. The UK is therefore closely monitoring electoral processes in Africa, especially in the DRC.
- The PM hopes the elections will be free, transparent and fair, and will take place in a peaceful and secure environment. He added that the Congo will be one of the UK's three most important partners in Africa.
- The British ambassador to the DRC, meanwhile, emphasized the UK's will to support both the electoral process and development in the DRC. He too hopes that the elections will be free, inclusive and transparent to ensure that Congolese people express their will. He added that the UK wants to continue bilateral cooperation and fully supports the work of Monusco.
- On the subject of cooperation, the ambassador, Neil Wigan, stated that 2011 would be an excellent year for relations between Kinshasa and London in various political, diplomatic, military, educational and cultural domains. The British Council should be reopened and development aid will increase from 200 million dollars to 380 million between 2010 and 2014. With this level of aid, the UK will be the DRC's biggest aid donor.

iii. Growing mistrust between parties in Katanga

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 14 June, 2011, in French)

“Suspicious”

- The emergence of mistrust within the political class is worrying. Several parties have questioned the number of double-registered voters in various provinces and the various logistical problems. Apparently, there is a tendency to inflate the number of registered voters.
- Another worrying point is the distribution of seats in each province as well as issues of funding.

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 17 June, 2011, in French)

“Intolérance politique”

- The province of Katanga is already seeing some tensions concerning the electoral campaign, which could undermine the smooth functioning of the institutions and electoral process. The emerging political intolerance has also been characterized by acts of violence, threats, and tribal

hatred. In Katanga, people get tangled up in obscure political processes, leading to xenophobic campaigns and tensions between social groups.

- The current climate does not bode well for a free, fair and democratic electoral process. Until now those responsible for tensions have not been brought to justice, a sign that the “zero tolerance” policy is not attaining its goals. All Congolese people should renounce violence and speak as one people in order to avoid plunging the country in a period of insecurity and uncertainty gain.

iv. Media trained on role during electoral process

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 14 June, 2011, in French)

“Elections et medias. Des journalistes formés sur leur rôle pendant la période électorale”

- In view of the upcoming elections, a dozen of journalists from different newspapers in Kinshasa attended a two-days formation session on the media and elections. According to Journalists for Human Rights (JDH), the training aimed at providing professional media with an idea of the challenges to come and how to best tackle them. During the first day, the participants talked about the role of the media during elections and the role of the media law. They were told that articles regarding political candidates and parties should be objective and impartial when presenting different point of views.
- Media should be a reflection of the voice of the people and should make an effort to give them the most reliable and objective information possible. They have been asked to look at issues of transparency of the electoral process and to inform voters about potential malfunctioning
- The second day of training will centre on human rights during the electoral process.

v. Government spokesman Lambert Mende Interview with Radio France Internationale



Lambert Mende

Copyright, ACP

(Radio France Internationale, French state-funded public broadcaster, Paris, date 1230 gmt, 15 June 2011, in French)

“DR Congo still keen to hold general election 21 November - government spokesman”

- Mende says accusations by the opposition that the government is putting obstacles to the enrolment of voters hostile to the regime are false. He supports his argument by providing statistics
- The government still wants to hold the election on 21 November.
- Mende says that, if the elections are delayed; the sitting president will hold office until the installation of the new elected president, which should take a few days.

- The interviewer questions the affiliation of CENI's chairman, Pastor Daniel Ngoy Mulunda, a founder member of the governing party People's Party for Reconstruction and Democracy. Mende says the pastor has denied having signed the PPRD registration deed or having any family ties with the president. He added that Mulunda has not taken any sides.
- Mende denies getting rid the second round of the presidential election because the party was afraid of loosing. Instead, he argues it was afraid of disorder, as happened in the Ivory Coast.
- Mende criticizes Tshisekedi for travelling to Europe and the USA instead of staying in the DRC and visiting provinces. According to the government's spokesman, Tshisekedi was a member of the General Executive College that was behind the neo-colonialists' coup d'etat against Patrice Lumumba's government. Tshisekedi has not changed while Kabila makes sure he does to bow to foreign countries.

vi. UDPS' Etienne Tshisekedi Interview with Radio France Internationale

(L'Observateur, privately-owned daily, article dated 15 June, 2011, in French)

“Dans un interview accordée à RFI. Tshisekedi confiant en son élection à la présidence de la République”

- L'Union pour la démocratie et le progrès social's Etienne Tshisekedi told the RFI's journalist Christophe Boisbouvier he was confident about his election as president of the Republic.
- He is currently spending time in Europe where he met the French and British ministers for Africa. The goal of these meetings is to sensitize the international community about the current challenges and dangers facing the electoral process. He argued that those responsible for organizing the elections have decided to stay in power and are therefore corrupting the process. Tshisekedi therefore wants the international community to put pressure on the organizers in order to ensure transparent and credible elections.
- Tshisekedi says that voters' registration will not completed by June 30. The process is slow, electoral kits are failing, CENI agents are trying to discourage voters the best they can in provinces where Kabila does not have majority support.
- Asked whether he trusted CENI and its president Daniel Ngoy Mulunda to ensure transparent elections, the presidential hopeful said he did not because Mulunda is not only part of Kabila's family but is also co-founder of Kabila's party, the PPRD.
- According to Tshisekedi, Congolese people are aware that the UDPS is the only uncorrupted party. It has remained consistent in its defense of the rule of law. He rejects the idea that he has weak support in Katanga and the Kivus, arguing that Kabila has failed to fulfill all the promises made in the last elections. Except for Katanga, the political candidate said to be sure to win in all 11 provinces.
- Considering the one-round electoral process, Tshisekedi says the opposition is currently trying to find a single candidate. He added that Vital Kamerhe has not been in the opposition long enough to be credible, but if he is indeed a credible member of the opposition he should participate in the negotiations in order to find a unique candidate for the opposition
- Asked whether he would be willing to give up the presidential race if another candidate is favored, Tshisekedi said that 15 opposition parties have already formed a platform called “Tshisekedi for President.”

vii. CENI on registration process



Copyright: congomaboke

Government-owned media

(Agence Congolaise de Presse, République Démocratique du Congo, government-owned news agency, Kinshasa, article dated 17 June 2011, in French)

“Plus de 25 millions d’ enrôlés enregistrés en RDC, selon le président de la CENI”

- According to the president of CENI, 25 million people have been registered nationally. Pasteur Daniel Ngoyi Mulunda said CENI is reaching its intended objective of 31 voters. He deplored low registration (53%) number in Kinshasa, a month before the revision of the electoral roll. In Katanga and Kasai Orientale, 99% of people have registered. More electoral kits have been deployed to the capital in order to accelerate the process

viii. Violations in Katanga and Kinshasa: Children given voters registration card

Privately-owned media

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 18 June, 2011, in French)

“Enfants enrôlés” by Rich Ngapi

- Children are apparently being registered as voters in the province of Katanga. Although only aged 9 or ten, a young girl was given a voter’s card, therefore passing herself as 18. The card contains the voter’s number, CENI label, the registration office number and complete identity of the voter and her parents, her address and date of birth.
- The same phenomenon has been reported in Kinshasa but several CENI agents reject having any responsibility. They argue that they are required to enroll any person, man or woman, of Congolese nationality aged 18 or above. CENI said it was not role but the role of the municipal authorities to verify issues of identification.
- Le Potentiel reminds people that the registration of children in the aim of rigging the elections is an act of treason against the voters. Congolese citizens therefore ask CENI to make sure these children are not allowed to vote and the body should also explain itself concerning the number of accusations as the credibility and transparency of the electoral process depends from it.

4. Rwanda bans sale of illegal minerals from DRC

Government-owned media

(Rwandan news agency, RNA, article dated 15 June 2011, in French)

“Rwanda bans sale of illegal minerals from DR Congo on "its soil"

- In Rwanda, Dr Michael Biryabarema, the director of the Rwandan Geology and Mines Authority, stated it would not permit illegal minerals from neighboring countries such as the DRC to be sold on Rwandan soil. Two tons of illegal minerals - coltan, tungsten and tin - were confiscated by Rwandan customs authorities at the Gisenyi border last month.

Special Reports

International Crisis Group Press Release

“Congo-Kinshasa: Strengthen Civilian Protection Before Elections”

Dated 9 June 2011

- A coalition of 47 international and Congolese NGOs have urged the UN to ensure that Monusco has the appropriate resource to protect civilians from LRA attacks and during the elections. They believe the mission does not currently have the capacity to face the forthcoming challenges. Violence from various groups has continued in the Kivus, and the mission should also prepare itself for the elections, scheduled for November 28.
- Few than 5% of Monusco's forces are deployed in LRA controlled areas. For example, no peacekeepers can be found in Baas Uele, where the LRA is heavily present. The group's leader, Joseph Kony, is believed to be operating there as well. More troops should therefore be deployed in the area and efforts should be made to work with the African Union. Monusco is aware of this problem but does not have the required funds to face the LRA threat. It is the duty of the Security Council's members to assemble the much-needed resources.
- The UN should also support the elections in terms of logistics and security. Human Rights Watch argue that the mission should be “associated with fraudulent or violent elections” and therefore make sure civilians will have the necessary protection during the process. Since violence was widespread during the 2006 elections, monitoring unit should be set up immediately in order to monitor election-related violence against politicians, media, supporters and human rights activists. More importantly, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon told the Security Council that 100 incidents of violence against political opponents, journalists, and human rights activists had already been reported. Considering the importance of elections for a peaceful Congo, Monusco should have the required means to intervene instead of being bystanders.

IRIN, Humanitarian News and Analysis, a service of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

“DRC: Angola's `sans papiers' violently deported in latest wave of expulsions”

Dated 17 June 2011

- 7, 178 Congolese expelled from Angola last month arrived in Kasai Occidental Province. Some of them spent several days in prison and were tortured before being deported to the border.

- According to the International Committee for the Development of Peoples (CISP), about 10,961 Congolese were expelled from in May, while OCHA estimated that 80,000 were expelled between January 2010 and March 2011.
- The trend is not new as an estimated 140,000 Congolese were deported from Angola between 2003-2009. Angolans have also been deported from the DRC. But expulsions were particularly violent in May with allegations of rape, torture, confinement of overcrowded cells and other forms of physical violence by the Angolan police and military forces.
- The expulsions illustrate the tensions between the two countries over issues of natural resources in border areas, illegal drilling of oil reserves in the DRC and exploitation of diamond mines in Angola. Although the two governments agreed in 2009 to “immediately stop the expulsions of citizens of their respective states”, the expulsions have continued.
- Humanitarian agencies are currently helping deportees until they can be reintegrated in to normal life. NGOs want to avoid the emergence of overcrowded refugee camps but as the number of deportees is increasing, agencies are getting overwhelmed and have struggled to provide the necessary assistance. Many people, especially rape victims, are in need of medical and psycho-social care. Food, security, shelter and means of transport are also needed.
- According to CISP, one of the problems is that some deportees try to return to Angola, only to be deported to the border again. The socio-economic situation in the DRC does not convince them to stay in their country while Angolan diamond mines have attracted thousands of Congolese miners, where they do not have a legal status.