

DRC Domestic Broadcasting, 28 March, 2010 (21 March– 27 March, 2011)

by Marie Lamensch, MIGS Reporter for the DRC

Government-owned media

(Radio France Internationale, state-funded, Paris, in French, 0430 gmt, 26 March 2011)

“DR Congo said recalling envoy to neighbouring Congo over extraditions”

- Relations between the DRC and the Republic of Congo are not well as the DRC has just recalled its ambassador to Brazzaville. Kinshasa is calling for the extradition of several individuals who have sought refuge in the neighbouring country's capital but Brazzaville is refusing to cooperate.
- The DRC accused General Faustin Munene of attempting to stage a coup and Ondjani Mangbama of leading an insurgency at the end of 2009 respectively. Both have been detained in Brazzaville.
- The Congolese government spokesman denied any tensions between the two countries, adding that relations were “as good as ever”.

(The New Vision website, state-owned, mass-circulation Ugandan daily, Kampala, in English, 21 March 2011)

“Uganda hails DR Congo for fight against LRA, ADF rebels”

- At the opening of a two-day bilateral defence and security meeting between Uganda and DR Congo, Ugandan Defence Minister Dr Crispus Kiyonga praised the DRC’s efforts in helping fight the LRA and ADF and both presidents’ efforts in bringing peace, stability and security in their countries.
- In 2008, Uganda, Congo and Central African Republic launched a joint operation against the LRA code-named 'Lightning Thunder'.
- The DRC assured Uganda of its support in ensuring peace at the Uganda-Congo border as the Congolese army had gained capacity and experience in dealing with rebel groups.
- Roger Meece said the UN would improve collaboration between the two countries in order to build a strong foundation and achieve long-term peace and security. He said the capacity of the LRA had been reduced. Meece nonetheless called for increased cooperation.

(The New Vision website, state-owned, mass-circulation Ugandan daily, Kampala, in English, 21 March 2011)

“Uganda, DR Congo, UN to resume offensive against LRA rebels”

Text of report headlined "Uganda, Congo resume Kony hunt"

- Uganda, the DRC and the UN agreed to resume joint operations against the LRA and the ADF. Plans are being finalised
- Multiple approaches are being used to neutralize the LRA and arrest Kony, the leader. An anonymous source said Kony would be arrested if found on African soil.

- Kiyonga denied reports that the ADF had asked for peace talks
- Kiyonga and his Congolese counterpart, Charles Mwandu Nsimba, called for greater cooperation in handling insecurity in the two countries.
- Monusco's Roger Meece, pledged the UN's total logistical and human support.

Privately-owned media

(L'Observateur, privately-owned daily, article dated 22 March, 2010, in French)

« Insécurité en Province Orientale : L'évêque de Dungu appelle le gouvernement à agir contre la LRA » by Kléber Kungu

- Despite military operations in Orientale Province, the capacity of the LRA has not been reduced. Incursions, rape, looting and other forms of violence and exploitations are still widespread. Dungu-Doruma's Evêque Mgr Richard Domba Mady therefore urged the central government to act. In a letter addressed to the government; Domba criticized the government's attitude toward the LRA, arguing that it is minimizing the capacity of the rebel group.
- The government claims that only 10 rebels remain but the FARDC is still heavily present as well as the UPDF and Monusco. And atrocities have been committed in Faradje, Dungu, Bangadi, Doruma and Banda.
- Domba urges the government not to minimize the situation and the rebellion. Regarding Joseph Kony, Domba prefers diplomacy to military action.
- Two days ago, Defense Minister Mwando Simba claimed that only 10 LRA leader remained in the area. But Faradje civil society representative Abbé Guillaume Abriandroa rejected the declaration, arguing that nobody had gone into the forest to count the rebels.
- The Defense Minister said the FARDC was well equipped to counter attacks by the LRA. He said the FARDC received all the support of the government and its partners.
- A delegation of the African Union is currently in the country in order to discuss and establish a strategy against the LRA.
- Since joint operations between the DRC and Uganda, rebel groups act in small groups, multiplying incursions, massacre, kidnappings, looting and rapes.

(Radio Candip, community radio broadcasting funded by Belgian NGO, Bunia, 1530 gmt, 22 March, 2010, in French)

- Col. Fall Sikabwe, commander of the operational zone of the FARDC in Ituri District, instructed soldiers to stop putting illegal roadblocks on all roads and warned them of disciplinary action. Civilians denounced harassment by the FARDC at many illegal roadblocks.
- An African Union delegation undertook a working mission in Orientale Province in order to look at joint strategies for putting an end to the LRA's actions in the region. The mission will also go to Sudan and Uganda.

(Radio Candip, community radio broadcasting funded by Belgian NGO, Bunia, 1530 gmt, 23 March, 2010, in French)

- Administrative leaders in Dungu Territory said workers of the National Independent Electoral Commission are having difficulties travelling within the territory due to continuing insecurity caused by Uganda's Lord's Resistance Army. They fear the electoral process might be disrupted in the territory if security is not provided

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 24 March, 2010, in French)

« Les Nations unies préoccupées par la situation des droits de l'Homme en RDC »

- The UN is worried about the human rights situation in the DRC. The security situation in Orientale province is particularly worrying as various forces, including national security forces, continue to commit grave human rights violations.
- The UN therefore urged the government to implement the recommendations made in the UN 2010 UN Human Rights report. Among these recommendations, is the passing of a law regarding the protection of human rights activists, the creation of an interactive process between the DRC and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, the establishment of a mineral certification process that will ensure transparency and accountability, and the payment of good salaries to civil service agents in order to put an end to corruption.

(L'Observateur, privately-owned daily, article dated 24 March, 2010, in French)

« Renforcement des capacités de la Police nationale congolaise (PNC) » by Dovin Ntelolo Diasonga

- Training human capital is essential Security Sector Reform and new police forces are currently being trained. More particularly, information and training sessions organized by Monusco in partnership with Europol/RDC and various NGOs and UN agencies will focus on fighting sexual violence and impunity. The 50 trained officers will become trainees themselves and will each be responsible for training 500 police forces (PNC) under the supervision of Monusco. The ultimate goal is also to restore state authority.
- In South Kivu, DDRRR is currently experiencing difficulties regarding the repatriation of Burundian refugees. There are at least 45 former Burundian combatants in the camp but mechanisms to welcome them in their country are lacking.
- Still in South Kivu, Monusco deployed an emergency peacekeeping force in Fizi and FARDC presence has been increased in Baraka.
- 514 elements of the Mai Mai Kapopo have been integrated into the FARDC
- Walikale and Rutshuru in North Kivu continue to be the theatre of violence and fighting between the FARDC and the rebel forces. Attacks have led to arrests, including two FDLR combatants.

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 24 March, 2010, in French)

« La force militaire régionale et les élections en RD Congo » JP Mbelu

- The Conference of the CEPGL was held in Kigali at the beginning of March and led to the adoption of a document on the creation of a regional military in the DRC, Rwanda and Burundi.

- Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi have all exploited the DRC's natural resources; their armies have committed grave human rights violations and acts which could be compared to genocide. This was done with the help of Congolese elites. Logically, the government should have focused on these issues and should demand the creation of tribunals to try those responsible for crimes committed since 1996.
- Yet, there are within the parliament, people who have participated in these crimes and therefore have an interest in remaining silent and support a political process based in injustice and impunity. The 'zero tolerance' policy has little meaning.
- The creation of a regional military force inscribes itself within this trend and comes at the expense of the population. It officialises the infiltration of soldiers in the country. In the face of coming elections, the population is worried about the real reasons for the creation of a regional force. The DRC, and thus election results, is a crucial geopolitical and economic player on the continent. According to the document, the creation of a regional military force is essential to peace and stability on the region but the newspaper questions the real meaning of this statement. Is it to prolong the presence of dictators and military actors after the election?

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 25 March, 2010, in French)

“L'UDPS dénonce les irrégularités dans les opérations pré-électorales » by Pitshou Mulumba

- The Union pour la démocratie et le progrès social (UDPS) declared there are some irregularities in the pre-election process in several provinces as Congolese civilians in general, and members of his in particular, find it difficult to register. The long distances that potential voters have to travel in order to get to registering centres are also not encouraging.
- According to the party, some members are not taken in account and the process lacks transparency.