

DRC Domestic Broadcasting, 4 April, 2010 (26 March– 3 April, 2011)

by Marie Lamensch, MIGS Reporter for the DRC

Government-owned media

(Radio-Television Nationale Congolaise TV, Kinshasa, 1230 gmt, 30 March, 2011, in French)

- Minister of Gender, Family and Child cabinet director, Madam Solange Kaminga, chaired the opening ceremony of a workshop on men's role in the fight against violence against women. The workshop is held for the Great Lakes region member countries representatives.

(Radio-Television Nationale Congolaise TV, Kinshasa, 1230 gmt, 31 March, 2011, in French)

- A delegation of UN human rights agencies is on a visit in Kinshasa following the publication of a report on the human rights last October. They plan to discuss a global strategy to fight impunity in the DRC.

Privately-owned media

(Radio Candip, community radio broadcasting funded by Belgian NGO, Bunia, 1530 gmt, 26 March, 2011, in French)

- The provincial government of Orientale Province gave US 10,000 to the victims of cholera outbreak in Kisangani Town as medical sources say about 135 people have died following the outbreak of cholera last week.
- Civil society of Ituri District explained that the government should be vigilant in signing contracts with foreign companies seeking to exploit oil on Lake Albert and to make sure the relationships will benefit local Congolese inhabitants. They denounced the presence of British Company 'CAPRICAT Ltd'.

(Radio Candip, community radio broadcasting funded by Belgian NGO, Bunia, 1530 gmt, 27 March, 2011, in French)

- A human rights NGO fighting for the rights of pygmy community denounced the detention of twelve pygmies at the main prison of Bunia. The detainees are said to have died.
- The governor of Orientale Province urged inhabitants to be vigilant during pre-electoral period and called on them not to be affected by the provocative speeches of several politicians in the region following the presence of armed groups in the area.

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 28 March, 2011, in French)

« Les Forces armées de la République démocratique du Congo ... »

- The FARDC have chased about 30.000 Mbororo, armed Sudanese cattle herder, from Ango territory, North Kasangani.

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

“Les populations du territoire de Faradje »

- Populations in Faradje demand the application of STAREC in the region in order to bring security to Haut-Uélé, an area which is still widely affected by violence and killings committed by the LRA. The FARDC has been urged to intervene.

(Radio Candip, community radio broadcasting funded by Belgian NGO, Bunia, 1530 gmt, 30 March, 2011, in French)

- The FARDC in Ituri District announced that heavy fighting took place between their troops and about fifty militia fighters south of Bunia. The FARDC recovered about thirty cows stolen by these militia fighters. According to the commander, residents fled this area following this fighting.
- In Komanda, about 70km south of Bunia, police announced the death of a FARDC soldier. He was killed by a grenade as he protested delays in the payment of his salary.

(Radio Candip, community radio broadcasting funded by Belgian NGO, Bunia, 1530 gmt, 31 March, 2011, in French)

- Several IDP families in Boga, southeast of Bunia Town have expressed their willingness to return to Nord Kivu as most of them fled fighting between the FARDC and the Ugandan rebel force ADF/NALU a few weeks ago.

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 31 March, 2011, in French)

«Selon la Société civile. Nord-Kivu : l'insécurité refait surface à Kiwanja »

- Insecurity has resurfaced in Kiwanja, Rutshuru territory. Local authorities say looting and killings are frequent. These acts are apparently committed by armed groups still active in the region.
- About 1 people have been killed and others wounded by armed bandits. These perpetrators act despite the presence of local political and military authorities.
- Civil society representatives now express their anger over the authorities' lack of capacity and ability to protect civilians.
- Military authorities meanwhile say it is the police's role to protect the population and their foods, while military forces are responsible for combating armed groups. Considering this situation, it is clear that the area requires particular attention, especially in the face of the upcoming elections. The local population needs peace and security in order to be able to vote.

(L'Observateur, privately-owned daily, article dated 31 March, 2010, in French)

« Suivi du dernier rapport Mapping sur la RDC »

- A delegation from the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights is currently in Kinshasa following the publication of a Mapping report on the human rights situation in the DRC last year. The report focused on human rights violations committed between march 1993 and June 2003.
- The delegation met with several government representatives and civil society actors in order to discuss a global strategy on transitional justice, including issues of impunity, reparations, gender justice and Security Sector reform.
- On 25 March, the Human Right Council adopted a resolution concerning the human rights situation in the DRC and decided to reinforce technical cooperation and consultancy. In the

resolution, the council emphasized on the need to put an end to impunity and urged the government to ratify international instrument related to human rights, including the setting up of a national human rights commission and creation of educational programmes. The High Commissioner for Human Rights has been asked to improve their collaboration and technical assistance with the Congolese government.

- Monusco's Indonesian troops have reconstructed several routes, including the Dungu-Faradje axis, a crucial commercial route. The new roads should improve the security situation in the region and lead to the return of IDPs who fled the area after LRA attacks.
- Following the success a military operation started at the beginning of March in Orientale Province, Haut Uélé and Bas Uélé, a new operation has now been launched. According the Monusco's military spokesman the aim is to consolidate successes as well as to improve and contribute to the deployment of humanitarian aid. Extensive patrolling is currently taking place, which should facilitate intervention by NGOs and civil society groups.
- The spokesman added that the security situation in Haut Uélé has been improving, though fall backs continue. Compared to last year, violence committed by the LRA has decreased yet the LRA is not the only group committing violence in the region.

(Financial Gazette, privately-owned Zimbabwean weekly Financial Gazette, article dated 1 April, 2011, in English)

“Zimbabwean premier visits DR Congo, Tanzania to "seek support against Mugabe"”

- Zimbabwean Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai left Harare for the DRC and Tanzania in order to talk the president Kabila and president Jakava Kikwete. The aim of the visit is to seek support against Zimbabwean president Robert Mugabe
- The SADC is set to meet at the end of the week to discuss the deteriorating state of the Zimbabwean coalition government. Civil society groups are concerned about the role the SADC is playing since the body has failed to deal with Mugabe in an effective manner. Political violence and arrests of MDC-T officials are widespread.
- Tsvangirai also held talks with President Rupiah Banda of Zambia, President Armando Guebuba of Mozambique, King Mswati III of Swaziland, Botswana President Ian Khama and South African President Jacob Zuma. Tsvangirai is worried about the country's risks to slide back into chaos.

(L'Observateur, privately-owned daily, article dated 1 April, 2010, in French)

« Loi Obama sur les minerais de sang »

- According to Obama's "Financial reform act", stocks of minerals from the DRC and Great Lakes region will no longer be sold abroad if they do not conform to international norms. As the law is about to be passed, economic actors in North Kivu's mineral sector are worried and asked the US government to delay the amendment.
- Although the law should come into effect 1 April 2012, several international agencies from the electronic sector have decided to act now and will no longer mineral from the DRC's armed conflict. Local Congolese economic actors are afraid that this will lead to widespread poverty for the Congolese population since, despite endless armed conflicts, their livelihood partly depends on their participation in small-scale mining. Civil representatives also believe that it will end fraud.
- Other local NGOs fully support the immediate application of the law and believe that economic actors and the government should make sure mineral exploitation does not benefit armed group or fuel conflict.

- The law does not forbid the trade of minerals in the region but obliges firms to declare where the minerals come from.
- During a meeting between the OCDE and local mineral firms, the latter emphasized their support to the law and for more transparency but also fear an embargo on small-scale mining. They say all the necessary measures have not been taken to ensure that the sector will not find itself in an embargo situation. Their fear seems justified: considering the number of armed and non-armed groups acting in the region, it is difficult to differentiate between blood minerals and others. The law provides for sanctions against armed groups but this would mean depriving thousands of Congolese from revenue, which would have devastating effects on the already fragile economy.
- A rigorous application of the law will contribute to the reduction of armed conflict but there are other roots to the conflict as well, including arms and oil trade.

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

« Province Orientale : mise en œuvre d’une stratégie régionale contre la LRA »

- A delegation from the African Union is planning to establish a regional strategy in countries affected by the presence of the LRA. The delegation visited Dungeni, in Orientale Province last week. The regional operation is a sign of the willingness of all states to bring long-term security and sustainable peace to the region.
- In Orientale province, where the LRA is still active, the security situation has somewhat improved thanks to joint military operations. UN troops are patrolling the area thereby facilitating humanitarian intervention.
- Monusco said 10 child soldiers have been freed.
- In Ituri, several cases of looting and the kidnapping of a young girl have been reported.

(L’Observateur, privately-owned daily, article dated 1 April, 2010, in French)

“Eclairage sur la loi Obama”

- The DRC is famous for the illegal exploitation of natural resources by armed factions. The country’s rich mineral resources, particularly coltan, have been called “blood minerals.”
- In July 2010, the Obama administration passed a law concerning the illegal trade of conflict minerals. For the government and NGOs working towards the eradication of illegal exploitation, the Obama law is a welcome development which should hopefully discourage perpetrators. The law provides for sanctions against armed groups who enrich themselves by selling illegal minerals.
- The law demands firms making business in the DRC and neighbouring countries to declare American authorities where the coltan, wolframite, oxide and gold come from. Firms should also conduct audits regularly to make sure they do not contribute to the fuelling of the conflict.
- Minerals such as coltan need to be tested in order to determine their source, which makes regulating this kind of commerce more difficult.

Kléber Kungu

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

«Sud-Kivu : à Bunyakiri, les humanitaires remplacent l’État »

- In Binyakiri South Kivu, NGOs have replaced an inexistent state and now take care of everything, from health and justice to education and infrastructure.
- The number of residents is not well known considering conflict is constantly leading to new displacements. But sources say there may be as many as 75 000 people now residing in the area.
- For five years now, the region has been largely dependent on the assistance of about 25 international and national NGOs. New schools have been built and nutrition programs have been set up in order to avoid child malnutrition. Drugs are regularly being donated to health centres and diseases such malaria and cholera are taken care of by these NGOs
- The region has been completely forgotten after years of conflict between the FDLR, Mai Mai and the FARDC. Roads have been reconstructed only thanks to the presence of NGOs. Nonetheless, more is yet to be done and cell phone communication does not yet exist. Only a couple of radios are work, mostly financed and supported by Search for Common Ground, an American organization.
- The situation will not improve if the state does not commit to the region. Local administration has little power or resources, and local government offices are inexistent. The army can be seen in major commercial centres but there is no police force. In the absence of security, the population remains mainly in urban centres and agricultural production is therefore low. As a result, residents mainly depend on humanitarian assistance.
- Residents fear for their future, once the NGOs leave.