

DRC Domestic Broadcasting, 6 June April, 2011 (30 May– 5 June, 2011)

by Marie Lamensch, MIGS Reporter for the DRC

Government-owned media

(Agence Congolaise Presse, government-owned, article dated 3 June, 2011, in French)

“Le comité provincial de liaison au Nord-Kivu préoccupé par le retour des déplacés internes dans le Masisi”

- In North Kivu, a delegation of provincial government officials and humanitarians is worried about the return of IDPs in Masisi Centre as well as about stabilization and pacification.
- The provincial liaison committee spoke with residents in Masisi where they expressed concern about insecurity and the presence of armed group and FDLR combatants hostile to voluntary repatriation.
- The population is also worried about conflicts over land and property, leading some people to leave the area.
- The vice governor of the province said he was happy with the return of IDPs where stabilization and security is increasing. He added that permanent local committees would be set up to reinforce reconciliation and mediation, and urged young people to select non-extremist representatives to represent them within these committees. He also asked the administrator of the province to restore state authority in the region and bring an end to impunity.

Privately-owned media

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 30 May, 2011, in French)

**“Droits de l’Homme : la Société civile encourage la création d’une commission nationale”
by St. Augustin Kinienzi**

- After a three-day round table, human rights activists and Congolese authorities called for the creation of a National Human Rights Commission and the adoption of a law promoting and protecting human rights at all levels.
- The minister of Justice underlined the importance of human rights activists in the promotion of democracy and rule of law in the DRC.
- Activists said respect for human rights was not simply about words but should be applied. They therefore demanded concrete actions. In May, NGOs had already called for equitable and impartial justice concerning the death of Floribert Chebeya and Fidèle Bazana. They asked Congolese institutions to prosecute those responsible for the crimes, including those who have not yet been arrested.
- Concrete mechanisms should be put in place in different regions in order to ensure the protection of human rights and human rights activists. The Parliament should regularly establish reports on the situation of human rights activists and should ask politicians to pass a law protecting human rights. Political mobilization and will is urgently needed.

- During the three day round table, discussions focused on the state of human rights in the DRC; the creation of a dialogue between national authorities and human rights activists; guaranteeing the protection of human rights activists.

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 30 May, 2011, in French)

“Sécurisation du processus électoral. La Monusco démarre la formation des policiers “territoriaux” by Ludi Cardoso

- Monusco will start training territorial police battalions (PNC) on Monday in order to ensure security during the electoral period.
- In Bunia, the PNC had received training on sexual and gender-based violence.
- Officers of the Judicial Police (OPJ) in Kasangulu have also received training

L’observateur

**“Guerre dans l’Est : Nouvelle incursion des FDLR à Kiwanja” by Luc-Roger Mbala Bemba
Lundi 30 mai 2011**

- The security situation in the east is still fragile as armed groups continue to conduct attacks. Civil society sources on Rutshuru indicated that the FDLR attacked Kiwanja in the night of Saturday 27 to Sunday 28. The group first attacked the FARDC before focusing on the population, leading to the death of at least five people, including two civilians. The rebels also looted houses before setting them on fire. They also stole electoral material before fleeing into the forest.
- According to civil society in North Kivu, attacks have increased in recent months. According to them, the rebel groups want to put strains on the electoral process and spread fear among the population.
- ¼ of the region is still controlled by the FDLR, especially Walikale where they are under control of coltan mines. They live off the mines and the populations, and regularly loot, rape and kill residents.
- In a report to be presented in New York next week, Special Representative for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Head of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Roger Meece, emphasizes that armed groups such as the FDLR, Nalu and various Mai Mai groups still constitute a threat. Meece has always reaffirmed his will to work with the Congolese government in order to put an end to the activities of the rebel groups. The report will be an opportunity for the UN to support joint FARDC-Monusco operations that seek to neutralize negative forces

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

- After clashes last week, administrative sources from Ituri District announced that relative calm has returned to Burasi. FARDC troops were deployed for reinforcement and provide security to residents, many of whom who had taken refuge in Uganda.

- Senator John Tibasima from Irumu Territory, Ituri District, denounced increased armed attacks in the region and urged the government to increase their efforts in improving security.

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

- Administrative leaders in Dungen Territory stated that insecurity is still prevalent as the LRA Ugandan increased attacks on traders along the road between Dungen Town and Doruma.
- Civil society sources in Ituri District said two people were killed on the road between Kasenyi and Tchomia. A group of militia fighters are said to be responsible for the killings.

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

“Regain des cas d’insécurité au Nord-Kivu. La Société civile propose la démilitarisation des centres urbains” by Le Potentiel

- According to civil society in Lubero, insecurity has increased in several sectors and along roads in North Kivu. A trader was killed in Kirumba and two agents of a telecommunication company were attacked in the Butembo-Mangurwajipa road. The assailants stole money and, cell phones and other goods belonging to the workers. On the Maboya-Visiki road, five men were beaten up and looted.
- Mai Mai Pareco and the FDLR, as well as some elements of the FARDC, are blamed for these attacks. Civil society is worried about increased attacks and demanded the demilitarization of urban centres, securitization of rural populations and for the FARDC to continue operation Ruwenzi against these armed groups.
- The operation’s spokesman accepted the proposition and added that security is also based on the collaboration between the FARDC and the population, as well as on the fight against impunity

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

“Nord-Kivu : la population déplore la recrudescence de l’insécurité à Rutshuru” by Okapi.net/Lp

- After tensions on Sunday, fragile calm has returned to Kiwanja, Rutshuru. The population has demonstrated against the FARDC and Monusco for failing to provide security. Demonstration followed the murder of at least two people after an attack by the FDLR. The population decided to erect barricades around Monusco’s base before the FARDC dislodged them. The authorities said there seemed to have been some form of complicity between the FDLR and the local population.
- Civil society, meanwhile, argues that urban centres Kiwanja and Rutshuru are over-militarized. The FARDC was asked to return to its bases. Civil society also asked the government to control its forces and representative Jean-Claude Babanze urged the population to remain vigilant and participate to the securitization by denouncing suspects.

- The PNC said security measures had been improved and that several bandits had already been arrested.

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

“Les FDLR occupent plusieurs localités à Shabunda”

- Several villages in Shabunda Territory are under the control of the FDLR, where they exploit civilians. Tshamambe, Tshemalizi et Mulungu are cited as examples. The FDLR has benefitted from the absence of the FARDC.
- According to the commander of Armani Leo operation, the FARDC had left the area to go for training but refuted the rumour that these areas are now under the control of rebel forces. He said certain elements were causing instability and asked civilians to give him information about the presence of rebels so that actions can be planned.
- Observers have invited the government of re-establishing State authority in these localities so that residents can conduct their daily activities. The upcoming elections should justify increased government initiatives.

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

“Elections 2011 perturbées”

- The Independent National Electoral Commission failed to promulgate an electoral law by the deadline (31 May). Delays are therefore expected. The Parliament has been incapable of providing the country with an electoral law. The law is still sitting in the Senate and the latter said it would take its time to review the project, despite pressures by the National Assembly.
- Sooner or later, CENI will have to review its electoral calendar in order to adapt to these new realities. Considering the attitude of politicians, CENI had predicted such outcomes and had asked the Parliament to do everything possible to respect the calendar. CENI had urged politicians to understand the dangerous impact a lack of electoral law would have on the election process.
- According to CENI principles, the election should take place according to the constitutional calendar; according to electoral regulations; be based on a fruitful dialog and the implication of all partners in the process in order to establish an electoral consensus and ensure that elections take place in a peaceful climate.
- Once more, by taking too much time to review the electoral law, the national Assembly has put the electoral process in danger. CENI will have to review the electoral calendar, which could potentially delay the elections. Politicians are criticized for failing to take into account the Congolese people, instead privileging their personal interests.

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

“Equateur : la Monusco renforce son dispositif sécuritaire à Dongo”

- Determined to put an end to rebel activities in Equator province, Monusco has reinforced its troops in Dongo. The situation has remained calm thanks to these preventive actions

- In Oriental Province as well, security is relatively stable. Nonetheless, sporadic activities by the LRA in Garamba national park have been reported
- In North Kivu, the FDLR continues to be active. According to Monusco's spokesman, a new alliance between the APCLS is particularly dangerous as they seek control mines in the region. The FARDC and the Congolese Wildlife Authority (Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature, ICCN) have conducted joint operations in Virunga national park. Two armed rebels were killed.
- The FDLR has also conducted attacks in South Kivu and new operations have therefore been launched in Kabare territory

(L'Observateur, privately-owned daily, article dated 2 June, 2011, in French)

“Occupation de plusieurs localités de Shabunda par des FDLR. La Monusco contredit la société civile locale” by Dovin Ntelolo Diasonga

- Monusco has denied allegations that several villages in Shabunda territory are under the control of the FDLR. Instead, he explained that the FDLR activities by the FDLR and other armed groups are sporadic. He nonetheless admitted that Monusco and the FARDC are finding it difficult to ensure complete security in this part of the country. Several forested areas make access difficult and infrastructure is poor. Monusco's spokesman reiterated his determination to continue its operations and do its best to fulfil its mandate.
- In South Kivu, the FDLR has attacked the FARDC in Kabara. After operation Enduring Peace in May, Monusco has just launched a new operation called Amani ya Kali. The goal is to establish eleven mobile bases and conduct patrols in zones where human rights violations are reported
- An Egyptian force of the Monusco has been deployed in Kamituga, Nyamaronga, Ilambo and Numbi in order to provide security to the civilian population.
- In North Kivu, the discovery of new tinstone mines and the Alliance des Patriotes pour un Congo Libre et Souverain goal to control them, constitutes a new menace.
- In Nyaruhanga, clashes between the FARDC and the FDLR led to the death of one FARDC soldier. The FDLR killed people in Katweguru in order to revenge the killing of seven of its elements.

(L'Observateur, privately-owned daily, article dated 3 June, 2011, in French)

“Processus électoral en RDC. Les Etats-Unis soulignent le rôle important de la Monusco dans la sécurisation des elections” by Luc-Roger Mbala Bemba

- In a declaration last week, the Congolese government demanded the withdrawal of Monusco from the DRC, arguing that the government was capable of providing security during the elections and ensure territorial integrity.
- During a press conference, the public affairs officer for the U.S. Embassy in the DRC said that according to his government, Monusco still has a role to play in the stabilization and securitization of the country. Since this is an election year, the DRC is in need of its partners, including the UN mission, in order for the elections to take place in a climate of security and transparency. He said the US supports an credible, transparent and

democratic electoral process. This is why his government in financing civic education and reinforcing the capacity of civil society actors in the DRC

- The Congolese government's declaration has taken observers by surprise as the government does not seem to be in control of the security situation. Rebels attacked Kiwanja hours after the government's declaration and even stole electoral kits. The FDLR also conducted attacks in Rutshuru, including against a government official

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 3 June, 2011, in French)

“La population retournée de Dongo, après l’insurrection du MIA”

- After insurrection by the MIA and destruction of infrastructure, the local population in Dongo has been suffering from water shortages for several months. The population has been forced to go to the river to fetch water as wells have run dry. Several children are suffering intestinal problems as a result of the bad water quality. Residents have therefore asked the government to install drinkable water facilities

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 3 June, 2011, in French)

“Malembankulu : les chefs coutumiers sensibilisés sur la prévention des conflits” by Ludi Cardoso

- Monusco and the government conducted operations in Katanga meant to sensitize traditional chiefs to conflict prevention. The area has been badly affected by activities of the Mai Mai, especially in 2006. To this day, some of these elements have not been demobilized
- The chiefs also agreed to select members for the establishment of local development Committees.

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 3 June, 2011, in French)

“La Monusco réhabilite la route de Faradje” by Okapi.net/Lp

- The Dungu-Faradje road has been rehabilitated by the Indonesian section of Monusco. The territory's administrator welcomed the initiative and stated that it would have important socio-economic consequences. Reduction in the price of manufactured goods and construction material has been already recorded.
- The administrator also asked Monusco to work on the rehabilitation of the Dungu-Duru road.
- Commander Chander Prakash said he was ready to mobilize troops in order to rehabilitate to road as well as to ensure security along the roads.