

DRC Domestic Broadcasting, 16 May, 2011 (9 – 15 May, 2011)

by Marie Lamensch, MIGS Reporter for the DRC

Government-owned media

(Radio-Television Nationale Congolaise TV, government-owned, Kinshasa, 1230 gmt, 9 May, 2011, in French)

- National MP Alain Kashindi criticized delays in the voters' registration process in Fizi territory, Sud-Kivu, including the limited number of electoral kits. He urged the National Independent Electoral Commission to find a solution and provide kits.

(Daily Nation website, Nairobi, 11 May 2011, in English)

“Kenyan police arrest DR Congo rebel commander over smuggled gold”

- The Kenyan police arrested a Congolese rebel commander for smuggling 2.5 tonne gold haul into the country. The man is believed to be a commander of a pro-government Mayi Mayi rebel movement.
- A joint team between the DRC and Kenya was formed last March to intensify the search for illegal gold after large amounts were smuggled through Kenya to Dubai in January.

Privately-owned media

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

- In Burasi Ituri District, herders accuse FARDC soldiers of committing violence, including the theft of their cattle. About 300 cows have reportedly been stolen by armed robbers in the military outfit. Many herders crossed into Uganda with their cattle following the one-month long insecurity

(L'Observateur, privately-owned daily, article dated 11 May, 2011, in French)

“Insécurité au Nord-Kivu: La société civile interpelle la communauté internationale”

- In the past few days, violence committed by the FDLR and ADF-Nalu has come to contradict the government and Monusco's recent declarations which claimed that the groups had been neutralized. Civil society in North Kivu has appealed to the international community, calling for a new global strategy against the FDLR and other rebel groups.
- Action should focus on repatriation of rebels groups to their respective countries. The declaration comes a few days after an attack that almost caused the death of a member of the government, Léonard Mashako Mamba but killed his driver and a policeman
- Insecurity is part of daily life in North Kivu, especially in Rusthuru where attacks by the FDLR have been frequent in the past few months

(L'Observateur, privately-owned daily, article dated 11 May, 2011, in French)

“Nord-Kivu: Des militaires intégrés sèment la terreur à Walikale”

- 1 500 soldiers are still deployed in Walikale, leading the local population to criticize their behaviour. During the war, combatants committed crimes and should go through a DDR or training process. Instead they are pressuring the local population to build them houses or use as carriers.
- Accords signed in 2009 between the government and various armed groups called for the integration of combatants in the FARDC. The troops deployed are now exploiting the population.
- One of the officers said soldiers were not receiving wages or food, like other integrated soldiers.
- Soldiers regularly commit physical violence against civilians. Last week fighting broke out between a young man and several soldiers after he refused to follow orders.
- The climate of insecurity is not improved by road blocks set up by soldiers on the road between the different villages. In order to go through, locals have to pay a bribe.
- The soldiers have indirectly acknowledged the facts, even though the officer claims that his men are not insurgents but individuals who still have to be integrated. Soldiers in Kifuafua want their situation to be taken into consideration but have no one to represent them since the arrest of their political leaders in Kinshasa.

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 13 May, 2011, in French)

“Province Orientale: lancement de l’opération « Falcon eye » en Ituri” by Pitshou Mulumba

- Monusco has launched a new joint operation with the FARDC in Gangala N-Boadio, Orientale Province. Operation “Falcon Eye”’s aim is to protect the population as well as Monusco personnel in the area.
- The proliferation of operations in the North-east and East of the DRC illustrates the new level of engagement by the FARDC and Monusco in order to put an end to insecurity in the region.

(Radio Candip, community radio broadcasting funded by Belgian NGO, Bunia, 1530 gmt, 12 May, 2011, in French)

- Civil society bodies in Oicha Territory reported that six Congolese civilians were abducted from Fefe Village south of Bunia Town by the Ugandan Alliance for Democratic Change/National Army Liberation of Uganda rebel fighters. Fearing violence, the population has fled
- Civil society bodies in Dungu Territory, Haut Uele, criticized increasing insecurity following attacks by the LRA on the road between Gangalabodio and Nagero. The LRA ambushed six traders.

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

“Dungu : la LRA sème la panique sur l’axe routier Gangala-Nagero” by Albert tshiambi

- The LRA is still active in Haut Uélé district, especially on the Gangala-Nagero road. Travellers have been attacked and their goods have been stolen, thereby risking disrupting transport and delivery of basic goods in the territory. Civil society is therefore urging for action.

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

“Plus de 400.000 femmes seraient violées chaque année en RDC”

- According to a report conducted by The American Journal of Public Health, 40,000 women are raped everyday in the DRC. The results are contested by the UN.
- Sexual violence against women is a weapon of war, particularly widespread in the Congo, especially in Orientale province where the government exerts little control.
- According to the report, an average of 1:100 women are raped everyday in the country, often at the hand of their husbands.
- The UN says the research is not entirely conclusive due to the low number of women consulted (3,400 cases) and the lack of attention paid to cultural practices. Moreover, the use of 5 year old statistics does not give an accurate view of the current situation

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

“RDC: la situation des droits de l’Homme ne s’est pas améliorée en 2011”

- Amnesty International will publish its 2011 Human Rights report on Friday. Concerning the DRC, the document reports grave man rights violations, including homicide, rape and arbitrary arrests of civilians by armed groups and governmental forces.
- The human rights situation has therefore not improved. The judiciary system is weak, freedom of expression is low and human rights violations are widespread in areas of conflict. The situation prison has not flared better
- Amnesty International called on the authorities to find the political will improve the situation. Freedom of expression and association must be respected, and the justice system and security forces reformed.