

DRC Domestic Broadcasting, 15 November, 2010 (7 November– 14 November, 2010)

by Marie Lamensch, MIGS Reporter for the DRC

Government-owned media

(Radio-Television Nationale Congolaise TV, government-owned, Kinshasa, 1230 gmt, 8 November, 2010, in French)

- Security has returned to Makanza territory, Equateur Province, after an attack of Enyele insurgents. But the health situation is still precarious as hospital equipment and medicine are scarce. Honorable Ebeka appealed to the government and all goodwill people

(Net Press news agency, Bujumbura, 0000 gmt, 9 November, 2010, in French)

“Burundi army chief plays down existence of DR Congo-based armed rebellion”

Text of unattributed report entitled "Army chief plays down reports emerging from DRC"

- Maj-Gen Godefroid Niyombare, chief of general staff of the National Defence Force, clarified RFI certain claims originating from the eastern DRC. Indeed, since last Friday, international radios have been reporting that Agathon Rwasa is heading an armed rebellion that aims to seize power in Bujumbura. The Congolese army has been fighting the rebellion.
- However, the Burundi army chief said the rebellion is simply a confused group of thieves and armed bandits. Nonetheless, he said he was aware of the existence of a rebel group and that they would remain “fictitious” as long as they don’t claim leadership.

(The New Times website, Kigali, 11 November, 2010, in English)

“Rwandan army dismisses reports of deployment in eastern DR Congo”

Text of report by James Karuhanga entitled "RDF dismisses reports of deployment in DRC"

- The Rwanda Defence Forces (RDF), denied allegations that their troops crossed back into the eastern DRC, particularly the Walikale region.
- The allegations started after Africa Confidential published an article titled "Chaos in the Kivus has given Kigali a pretext to send its soldiers back across the border."
- Defence and Army Spokesperson, Lt-Col Jill Rutaremar also denied claims that "RDF's Directorate of Military Intelligence" was kidnapping former CNDP troops who remain loyal to Gen Laurent Nkunda and are currently living in Rwanda
- Nonetheless, Rutaremar said dissidents (Gen Faustin Kayumba Nyamwasa and Colonel Patrick Karegeya) are forging links with the FDLR in the DRC.

(Zambia Daily Mail, state-owned national newspaper, Lusaka, article dated 13 November, 2010, in English)

“Zambia, DR Congo to host global meeting on illegal exploitation of resources”

- Zambia and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) have agreed to hold a special summit of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) on illegal exploitation of natural resources. The summit will be held in December and the two countries reiterated their determination to participate to ICGLR initiatives.

Privately-owned Media

(Radio Okapi website, MONUC/UN-sponsored radio, Kinshasa, 7 November, 2010, in French)

“Militia group kills 10 in eastern DR Congo”

- Five soldiers and a similar number of civilians were killed in an ambush by a militia group in Issale, Nord-Kivu Province.

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 8 November, 2010, in French)

“Les cas d’insécurité » en constante hausse à Kikwit”

- Insecurity is increasing in Kikwit and its surroundings. On Tuesday, a man was burnt alive by the population, who thought he was one of the attackers currently terrorizing the town. On Wednesday, three military men were killed by an unidentified individual. Another body was discovered near the river in Kikwit III.

(Radio Okapi website, MONUC/UN-sponsored radio, Kinshasa, 9 November, 2010, in French)

“Ten soldiers killed in clash between DR Congo army, rebel coalition”

- Clashes between the FARDC and a coalition made up of combatants of Federal Republican Forces (FRF), FDLR and Burundi’s National Liberation Forces occurred on Sunday night in the Mibunda, Fizi Territory, South Kivu.
- The attack on a FARDC army position by the assailants took everybody by surprise. Ten FARDC soldiers died and two others were injured. The FARDC is looking for the attackers.
- The impact of the clashes on the civilian population is unknown as the region is rather isolated but cases of looting have been reported. Cattle were taken away from traders by Mayi Mayi combatants when the traders refused to be drafted.

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 9 November, 2010, in French)

“Des problèmes de protection des populations se posent”

- There have been security concerns in the district of Sud-Ubangi. OCHA says militiamen are travelling in the area and roadblocks have been set up on the city's main roads in order to raise illegal taxes. The situation might impede the return of displaced populations.
- However, 250.000 have returned and were given 200 tons of food supplies by PAM, an NGO (Dongo)

(Radio Candip, community radio broadcasting funded by Belgian NGO, Bunia, 1530 gmt, 9 November, 2010, in French)

- Elders from Walendu Bindi area, Ituri District, demanded the immediate exit of MONUSCO from their area. They accuse the UN peacekeepers of providing logistical assistance to PFJC militia.
- Medar Autsai Asenga, Orientale Provincial Governor, and the Armed Forces of the DRC commander in Ituri District appealed to inhabitants of Walendu Bindi area to remain calm. The military officer confirmed all UN peacekeepers had been asked to remain inside their local camps.

(Radio-Television Nationale Congolaise TV, government-owned, Kinshasa, 1230 gmt, 10 November, 2010, in French)

- The Senate has reviewed the agenda of its activities. Priority has been given to the 2011 budget and to the reform of the justice, police and army sector.
- The population of Kiliba, Sud-Kivu Province has started to return to the city. They were attacked by Burundi's National Liberation Forces rebels on 6 November, leading the population to flee to Uvira. FNL rebels arrested two people in Kiliba.

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 10 November, 2010, in French)

“Sud-Kivu : des affrontements entre FARDC et FNL signalés à Kiliba” by Louis-Paul Eyenga Sana

- The FARDC clashed with FNL combatants in Kaliba, South Kivu. Two civilians, who work at the local sugar company, have been killed according to radiookapi.net. Four FNL combatants have been arrested and situation is now under control.
- The clashes led many women and children to flee the area towards Uvira.
- On Friday, a group of FNL combatants arrived in Kaliba in order to get food. The FARDC arrested four of them, while others fled to the forest, where a larger group of FNL is hiding. According to sources, the combatants said they would destabilize the sugar company as long their four arrested members are not freed.
- On Monday, the FNL combatants tried enter a FARDC camp but were fought back. They left a number of weapons behind and fled to the border.
- Col. Ruhagi, chief of the FARDC in the area, urged the population to remain calm.

(Radio Candip, community radio broadcasting funded by Belgian NGO, Bunia, 1530 gmt, 10 November, 2010, in French)

“UN mission in DR Congo denies supplying arms to militia”

- Last week, elders in Walendu Bindi area accused UN peacekeepers of providing logistical assistance to the FPJC militia. They urged Monusco to leave the area and demanded a greater FARDC presence.
- Monusco refuted allegations made against the Bangladeshi peacekeeping contingent based in Bukiringi location, south of Bunia town. The peacekeepers are accused of handing ammunitions and military equipment to the FPJC near Ahero forest. However, Monusco said one of their trucks had broken down in the area, forcing the peacekeepers to move boxes of food from one truck to another, probably leading residents therefore misinterpreted the situation
- Monusco nonetheless called on the central government to launch an investigation into these allegations and explain to citizens what actually took place.
- Monusco also said it had never collaborated with any armed group in the region.

(Radio Candip, community radio broadcasting funded by Belgian NGO, Bunia, 1530 gmt, 10 November, 2010, in French)

- Monusco strongly denied allegations that its peacekeepers belonging to the Bangladeshi contingent based in Bukiringi Location (south of Bunia Town) provided ammunition and military equipment to the PFJ (Popular Front for Justice).

(Radio France Internationale, French state-funded public broadcaster, dated 20 August, 2010, in French)

“DR Congo: Police face trial on 12 November over activist killing”

- The hearing of eight police officers suspected to have been involved in the assassination of human rights activist Floribert Chebeya started on Friday.
- However, General John Numbi, who is suspected of having ordered the assassination, will not appear in court.
- The body of Floribert Chebeya, director of the NGO Voice for the Voiceless, was found on 2 June 2010 in his car. His driver is still missing.

(Radio Candip, community radio broadcasting funded by Belgian NGO, Bunia, 1530 gmt, 11 November, 2010, in French)

“DR Congo's officials says UN to investigate allegations against UN troops”

- Governor Medar Autsai Asenga of Orientale Province announced that a joint commission of investigation will be set up in order to investigate allegation made against UN peacekeepers from Bangladeshi contingent (Walendu Bindi area).
- The governor also appealed on the population to collaborate with the UN mission

(Radio Candip, community radio broadcasting funded by Belgian NGO, Bunia, 1530 gmt, 11 November, 2010, in French)

- Medar Autsai Asenga, governor of Orientale Province, urged the Walendu Bindi's population to collaborate with Monusco in order to bring peace in the area.
- A joint commission of investigation will also be set up to investigate allegations made against UN peacekeepers from the Bangladeshi contingent near Bukiringi.

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 11 November, 2010, in French)

“Haut-Uélé : le CIP recense 119 cas de violences sexuelles en octobre” by Okapi.net/Lp

- 119 cases of rape were recorded in the past seven months by the Centre d'intervention psycho-sociale (CIP). Most of the victims have not benefitted from adequate treatment, leading the head of the project to call for action.
- Two cases were recorded in October: the rape of a 13 year old girl who was fetching water and the rape of a 4 year old by a 24 year old man. The latter is in jail.
- According to the head of CIP, six other minors were victims of sexual violence in the past month.
- Among the victims, 53 have been treated by the UNFPA and Medecins sans Frontières. But victims in other areas such as Wamba, Rungu, Nangazizi et Ibambi have not been treated adequately as material is missing.

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 12 November, 2010, in French)

“La LRA accusée de « viols » de femmes en Ituri”

- An increase in cases of rape has been recorded in Ituri district. According to Monusco's spokesman, they are the work of LRA militia men. Monusco's forces will stay in the area in order to maintain ensure the security of civilians under threat from the LRA and FPJC.
- Monusco also recorded attacks in Ngilima-Dungu, near Southern Sudan. The area was left unprotected after deployment of the FARDC in the two Kivu provinces. Operations should take place in order to protect civilians.
- Sylvie Den Wildenberg, Monusco spokeswoman, denied allegations that UN peacekeepers had given ammunitions and equipment to the FPJC.

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 12 November, 2010, in French)

“Kinshasa et Lusaka veulent éradiquer l'exploitation illégale des ressources naturelles” by Stephane Etinga

- Joseph Kabila and the Zambian president Rupiah Bwezani Banda said on Wednesday they were determined to fight illegal exploitation of the Great Lakes' natural resources. Illegal exploitation of natural resources is one of the main causes of conflict in the region.
- The two presidents also discussed other issues such as bi-lateral relations and regional interests.

(L'Observateur, privately-owned daily, article dated 12 November, 2010, in French)

“Reconnus coupables de viol/Kasai Occidental. Neuf policiers condamnés à plusieurs années d'emprisonnement” by Dovin Ntelolo Diasonga

- Nine policemen (PNC) have been charged with rape in Tshumbulu and sentenced to several years in prison, sending a clear message against impunity. They have been found guilty of the rape of 12 women.
- Monusco said one of the accused was sentenced to 10 years in prison, while the eight other were sentenced to 20 years. They also have to pay a fine to the victims.
- The trial was organized by the Kananga military tribunal with the support of the Bureau conjoint des Nations Unies aux droits de l'homme (BCNUDH).
- The local population and several NGOs also strongly welcomed and supported the process
- Last month, Monusco launched a research project meant to evaluate the socio-economic impacts on women and girls working in the exploitation of natural resources in the DRC.
- The project is based on the idea that natural resource exploitation is one of the main survival activities adopted by women in the country, a position that can put them in great danger. The project will come up with recommendations and Monusco hopes to promote human rights and to fully involve women socio-economic and cultural development activities.