

**DRC Domestic Broadcasting, 1 November, 2010 (26 October– 31 October, 2010)**

**by Marie Lamensch, MIGS Reporter for the DRC**

**Government-owned media**

**(Radio-Television Nationale Congolaise TV, Kinshasa, 25 October, 2010, 1230 gmt, in French)**

- President Joseph Kabila attended the closing ceremony of the French-speaking countries summit held in Switzerland. During the two-day meeting, heads of states adopted a text aiming at consolidating unity between the French Speaking International Organization member states.
- The text advocates for reform of the UNSC. African countries claim two seats at the UNSC.
- President Kabila pledged to fight against impunity in the DRC and confirmed that perpetrators of murders of journalists have been arrested and jailed. The next summit will be held in the DRC
- Calm has been restored in Kalima, Maniema Province following fights between two communities, the Lega and Nonda.

**(Radio-Television Nationale Congolaise TV, Kinshasa, 26 October, 2010, 2000 gmt, in French)**

- Insecurity is rampant in Lemba District, Kinshasa. Lemba Salongo residents blame the DRC Electricity Company for frequent power outages, leading to increased rapes and extortion as people take profit from the lack of lights

**(Agence Burundaise de Presse news agency, government-owned agency, Burundi, Bujumbura, 27 October, 2010, 0000 gmt, in French)**

**“Some 173 refugees repatriated to DR Congo from Burundi”**

- About 173 Congolese refugees who were living in the Kinama camp in Muyinga Province (northeastern Burundi) have been repatriated to their country of origin. The refugees agreed to the repatriation exercise as peace and security seem to have been restored.
- The UNHCR helped carry out the repatriation and similar exercises will take place in Kinama, (Muyinga), Musasa (Ngozi) and Bwagiriza (Ruyigi).

**(Radio-Television Nationale Congolaise TV, Kinshasa, 27 October, 2010, 1230 gmt, in French)**

- Civil Service Minister Dieudonne Upira received the document defining the strategy against corruption in the DRC. The document was drafted during a seminar on fighting corruption.
- Armed Forces of the DRC colonel, Toms, escaped from the prison in Orientale Province . He is sentenced to the death penalty.

## **Privately owned media**

**(Radio France Internationale, French state-funded public broadcaster, 0730 gmt, dated 24 October, 2010, in French)**

**“Burundi, Rwanda, DR Congo agree common strategy to fight ‘negative forces’”**

- There are fears that new rebel pockets are forming in Burundi’s Rukoko marshes. Leaders from the DRC, Rwanda and Burundi met in Bujumbura
- The head of DRC’s security services, Jean-Pierre Daruwezi, said the team of the National Intelligence Agency (ANR) wanted to harmonize together with the other services their ideas on the list of threats to the stability of the sub region. They are said to have agreed on a common strategy, including joint operations where all forces known as negative forces operate.
- The list of threats, include DRC rebel groups, Burundi’s former leader of the FNL (National Liberation Forces) Agathon Rwasa and Rwanda’s FDLR
- The DRC allegedly requested that Burundi watch closely the Banyamulenge refugees from DRC. The three parties are said to have agreed a common strategy which provides for joint operations where all forces known as negative forces operate.

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

**“Un conflit communautaire a éclaté dernièrement à Kalima”**

- A communal conflict has erupted in Kalima, Manienma. A church, a school and several houses were destroyed. According to OCHA, the conflict started over a school problem and when the Congolese Police (PNC) got involved.
- There are reports of wounded people and displaced populations.

**(Radio France Internationale, French state-funded public broadcaster, 0330 gmt, dated 25 October, 2010, in French)**

**“DR Congo leader vows to fight impunity in country”**

- The next Francophonie summit will be held in the DRC in two years. At the summit in Switzerland, President Joseph Kabila expressed his determination to fighting impunity in his country.
- Concerning the increasing number of murdered of journalists, Kabila said the authorities would not remain inactive. An investigation was carried out in every case and a number of people have been arrested and are now in jail. He added that the dialogue between the people, the media and the government is permanent. The government is determined fight these sorts of crimes.

**(Radio France Internationale, French state-funded public broadcaster, 1230 gmt, dated 25 October, 2010, in French)**

### **“Family files suit against DR Congo over death in jail of stone-thrower”**

- The family of Armand Tungulu filed a complaint in Kinshasa against the Congolese state over the death of Armand Tungulu, who died after being jailed for throwing a stone at the presidential motorcade at the end of September.
- The Congolese authorities claim that the cause of death was suicide. The DRC justice invited the family to identify the body but none of the family members were prepared to come forward.
- The family’s lawyer Willy Bolio, said the identification of the body should be carried out in the presence of an official of the Monusco in order to make sure that there are no reprisals.
- The family does not believe in the suicide theory.
- The Belgian court also ordered the DRC to return the body to Tungulu’s family in Belgium but the order was rejected by the DRC state.

**(Radio France Internationale, French state-funded public broadcaster, 0530 gmt, dated 26 October, 2010, in French)**

### **“Eight tribal militia killed in attack on UN peacekeepers in DR Congo”**

- On Saturday 23 October, MONUSCO peacekeepers repelled an attack on their base, killing eight suspected members of the Mai-Mai tribal militia (Nord-Kivu Province). About 50 men armed with AK47 rifles and locally made weapons launched an attack on the UN base in Rwindi.

**(Radio Candip, community radio broadcasting funded by Belgian NGO, Bunia, 1530 gmt, 26 October, 2010, in French)**

### **“Hundreds said flee after militias spotted near northeastern DR Congo village”**

- Administrative leaders in Irumu Territory, Ituri District reported that a group of militia fighters were recently spotted about 80 km south of Bunia. The news created panic among residents of the surrounding villages causing hundreds of them to flee the area.
- The displaced residents urged the DRC army troops to intervene and free the area from militia fighters. Until now the situation had been relatively calm. Indeed, dozens of militia fighters from the Popular Front for Justice in Congo and the Patriotic Resistance Front in Ituri surrendered themselves to DRC’s troops in the past few weeks. During that time, NGOs were also able to bring assistance to IDPs in the area.

**(Radio Candip, community radio broadcasting funded by Belgian NGO, Bunia, 1530 gmt, 26 October, 2010, in French)**

### **“Uganda hands over two senior militia officials to DR Congo”**

- The commander of the military operational zone of the Armed Forces of DRC in Ituri District, Col Fall Sikabwe, said that two senior officers of the militia group of the Popular Front for Justice in Congo had been handed over to his troops by the Ugandan police.

- The two militia leaders are Col. Mateso Ridja and Maj Enzia. They were arrested by Ugandan authorities a week ago. Col Fall Sikabwe expressed his gratitude.
- The FPJC is very active in Ituri District and receive assistance from several senior officers of the UPDF (Ugandan People's Defence), attacking innocent civilians. But following a series of meetings between the Ugandan and Congolese governments, diplomatic relations have improved.

**(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 26 October, 2010, in French)**

**“Les victimes de violences sexuelles du Kasai Oriental exigent ...”**

- Victims of sexual violence in Kasai Oriental urged provincial authorities to apply the law to perpetrators. According to the ACP, women are angry that in most cases the crimes remain unpunished as a result of corruption and administrative complexity. The women said at least four cases of sexual violence are recorded every week in Mbuji-Mayi.

**(Radio France Internationale, French state-funded public broadcaster, 0530 gmt, dated 27 October, 2010, in French)**

**“Civilians among perpetrators of sexual violence in DR Congo - NGO report”**

- International Alert, a British NGO based in Goma and Bukavu, has described the use of rape as “a weapon of war” and a “social phenomena.”
- The NGO blamed civilians for the crimes.
- In 2009 about 15,000 women were raped in eastern DRC. International Alert investigators Jean Odarque said armed groups are often blamed for the acts, a method used to impose silence, crush resistance and transmit sexual diseases. He added that civilians are among the perpetrators of sexual violence, including members of the victims’ own families.
- Among the NGO’s recommendations are: International Alert are: confining troops to barracks; combat impunity; establish a connection between the population and the justice system.

**(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 27 October, 2010, in French)**

**“Nord-Kivu : des militaires exploitent les minerais, malgré l’interdiction”**

- Military men are extracting and smuggling mineral resources, particularly coltan and gold, in Walikale, North Kivu.
- Last September President Kabila attempted to put an end to illegal mineral extraction and to the insecurity accompanying these practices by suspending Small-scale extraction in Maniema provinces.
- The head of state asked the military men to respect his decision and deny access to the area and extraction of the mines by people still living on the ground. This only concerns Small-scale exploitation.
- Fifteen civilians died in October after a mining accident in Bisiye

- According the Mines Minister current small-scale mineral extraction does not benefit the state or the provinces but only benefits mafia groups. A 2009 Global Witness report denounced the sale of “blood diamonds” from the DRC. Blood diamonds fuel conflict
- There has been intensive extraction, despite the risks. In this area, all the mines are controlled either by militias or by the FDLR or by the FARDC. Coltan extraction has been an important activity in the region since the end of 1990s and the arrival of new technologies (mobile phones, computers etc), making coltan highly profitable on the world market
- Small-scale mineral extraction is the principal economic activity in the region because it brings in more money than agriculture.
- Violence and terror are rampant.
- Civil society is asking for sustainable solutions, including the closing down of certain airports, the withdrawal of the FARDC from mines and deployment of the « minéral police » in order to ensure security, regulated small-scale extraction, etc.
- The government has not given any sign of change

**(Radio France Internationale, French state-funded public broadcaster, 0430 gmt, dated 28 October, 2010, in French)**

**“French court rejects Rwandan rebel leader's bail application”**

- The Paris Appeal Court said Rwandan rebel leader Callixte Mbarushimana would remain in detention in France. The court rejected application to him. The ICC suspects Mbarushimana of war crimes and crimes against humanity.
- The court will decide on the possible extradition of Mbarushimana to the ICC on 3 November.

**(L’Observateur, privately-owned daily, article dated 29 October, 2010, in French)**

**“Roger Meece : ‘Des progrès importants ont été faits dans le sens de la paix en RDC’” by Luc-Roger Mbala Bemba**

- According to the head of Monusco, there is still a long way to go in the DRC. Roger Meece presented his first report to the UN Security Council during the week. Nonetheless, Meece said that he had noticed progress since he took office.
- Meece said Monusco had reinforced dialogue at multiple levels, including United Nations agencies, Congolese authorities and civil society actors.
- During a press conference, Meece said his priority had been to be in constant dialogue with the Congolese government. He also praised the work of the CEI (Commission électorale indépendante).
- He also mentioned the series of grave events that took place since the beginning of his mandate, particularly attacks on Monusco, mass rape in North Kivu and escalating violence.
- A great number of obstacles still remain, including the continued presence of FDLR and Mai Mai rebels. The two groups constitute a threat to peace and security in the east. Meece is confident that dialogue and work with the government and the Congolese people, as well as the support of the international community, these obstacles can be

overcome. Meece therefore insisted that the DR Congo government should put all its efforts in ensuring security of people and property. Monusco does not have the capacity to protect all the citizens. Monusco is therefore working in partnership with Congolese institutions.

- Roger Meece reaffirmed Monusco's desire to sustain the efforts of the DRC in strengthening institutional capacities, including the National Congolese Police and the FARDC. For example, Monusco is involved in reforming the security sector by training army and police forces, civil and military justice actors
- Meece also emphasized the improvement of regional cooperation, an important factor in the stability and security of the Great Lakes region.
- Concerning the recent attack against Monusco in Rwindi, North Kivu, the ambassador said all the threatening groups would be stopped and would fail one day or another because the population is paying too much a price and is not ready to follow them in this "murderous madness"

**(L'Observateur, privately-owned daily, article dated 29 October, 2010, in French)**

**"Sur initiative du programme des nations unies pour le développement" by Valéry Mankenda**

- Didier Drogba, United Nations Development Agency Goodwill ambassador, is encouraging Congolese people to vote. New awareness campaigns have also been launched in order to help the CEI and the electoral process.
- The EU has also pledged to give 47.5 million euros to help organize the elections. Belgium will also give 17 million dollars.