

DRC Domestic Broadcasting, 8 November, 2010 (29 October– 7 November, 2010)

by Marie Lamensch, MIGS Reporter for the DRC

Government-owned media

(Radio-Television Nationale Congolaise TV, Kinshasa, 29 October, 2010, 1930 gmt, in French)

- The governor of Orientale Province will attend a meeting in Uganda. He met with the UNHCR. The meeting will tackle repatriation of Congolese refugees living in Uganda.
- Several Congolese citizens expelled from Angola arrived Tembo, Bandundu Province. Several women underwent a mass rape in Angola before being kicked out.

Source: Radio-Television Nationale Congolaise TV, Kinshasa, in French 1230 gmt 29 Oct 10

(The New Times, government-owned Rwandan newspaper, Kigali, article dated 2 November, 2010, in English)

“Rwandan, DR Congo defence ministers meet”

Text of report by James Karuhanga entitled "Rwanda, DRC defence ministers meet in Kigali"

- Top Rwandan and Congolese defence officials met in Kigali for several days. They exchanged intelligence and information on common security threats and attempted to design concrete strategies and plans to deal with the FDLR rebels, in order to create a peaceful and prosperous environment.
- Before the meeting, Rwanda's Gen James Kabarebe and DRC's Charles Mwando Nsimba said that they wanted to come up with concrete actions and strategic guidance as the FDLR and other negative forces continue to pose a serious threat to the region. They said there was a need to neutralize and eradicate these groups
- The two countries' army chiefs - DRC's Lt-Gen. Didier Etumba Longila and Rwanda's Lt-Gen Charles Kayonga, participated in the meeting.
- The two ministers dismissed the idea that the two countries are planning another joint military operation to hunt the rebels in eastern Congo.
- Mwando said the remaining FDLR are simply small elements but who have a capacity for nuisance and hence the need for more strategies. Gen Kabarebe said that the rebels' strength has been reduced by nearly 90 per cent and so there was a possibility to eradicate them.

(Radio-Television Nationale Congolaise TV, Kinshasa, 2 November, 2010, 1230 gmt, in French)

- MPs passed two important draft bills: on targeting the reduction of small and light weapons and the second concerning the organization and functioning of the judicial court.
- MPs also debated on the bill on the organization and functioning of the Congolese National Police.

(Radio-Television Nationale Congolaise TV, Kinshasa, 3 November, 2010, 1230 gmt, in French)

- Nkulu inhabitants, South Kivu Province, fled to the forest after being attacked by Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda combatants who urged them to exploit minerals.

(The New Times, government-owned Rwandan newspaper, Kigali, article dated 3 November, 2010, in English)

“Rwanda, DR Congo vow to continue working on regional security”

Text of report by Edmund Kagire entitled "Rwanda, DRC Defence Ministers present report to President Kagame"

- The ministers of defence from Rwanda and the DRC delivered a report containing recommendations from their one-day meeting regarding issues of regional security. The report was delivered to President Paul Kagame.
- The defence ministers said they were happy with the outcome of the meeting. The continued existence of negative forces such as the FDLR and other armed groups were discussed. They believe that engaging with these negative forces should not be restricted to military operations but should include an understanding of how they work and where they get their arms and support from.
- The two countries also touched on how they can improve their relationship and how the two countries can continue to live in peace through various forms of exchange, including trade.

(The New Times, government-owned Rwandan newspaper, Kigali, article dated 3 November, 2010, in English)

“Rwanda, DR Congo agree on "concrete" measures against rebels”

Text of report by James Karuhanga entitled "Rwanda and DRC agree on measures against FDLR"

- Even though no details were disclosed to the media, Rwandan and Congolese defence officials who met in Kigali, announced that they had agreed on concrete measures to eradicate FDLR rebels in eastern DRC.
- The measures are set in a joint report containing resolutions and decisions by the Rwandan and DRC defence chiefs as well as Lt-Gen Charles Kayonga and Lt-Gen Didier Etumba Longila.
- Mwando (DRC) reiterated his government's strong support for all efforts to attain a stable, region, while his Rwandan counterpart noted a lot of progress had been made.
- Gen Kabarebe noted the progress brought about by earlier military offensives against the FDLR, such as operations Umoja Wetu, Kimia I and II, Amani Leo and recent joint intelligence operations.
- Mwando also said the FARDC was continuing with "actions of cleaning up and neutralizing" FDLR pockets in his country, and dismissed rumors that the two countries

are planning another joint military operation. Both defence ministers acknowledge that despite the reduction of their forces, they still have the capacity to create damage.

Source: The New Times website, Kigali, in English 3 Nov 10

Privately-owned media

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 30 October, 2010, 1530 gmt , in French)

- The governor of Orientale Province reassured about 32,000 Congolese refugees wanting to return from Uganda to the DRC that peace and state of order have returned to most of the eastern Congo.

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 2 November, 2010, in French)

“Consolider l’Etat de droit”

- Roger Meece, head of Monusco, spend last week end in Rwindi and Kitshanga (North Kivu) where he was informed about risks of a new war in the region.
- Roger Meece dialogue should be privileged between all the parties in order to find a solution to the problem.
- However, even authorities are persuaded that a new war is coming. People seem to be recruiting young people in villages, as recently happened in Busumba.
- The MLC had more to say about this. While the country is preparing for elections, a process which requires peace and security, the CDNP (signatories to the Peace Accords) still constitutes a menace and threatened to wage a new war if one of their members is sent to another province. This proves that the government has failed to constitute a republican army ready to ensure security. The promise to put an end to the war in North Kivu and to eradicate all pockets of insecurity has never been fulfilled. Military operations in this part of the country have failed.
- Today more than a million Congolese lives either in refugee camps or in the forest as they try to flee battles and attacks between the various armed groups and the FARDC.
- In order to attain peace, the DRC must be a legally constituted state. This must be done three ways: through the reform the security sector, by neutralizing armed groups and by putting an end to illicit exploitation of the country’s natural resources.

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 3 November, 2010, in French)

“Les miliciens du FPJC lancent une attaque à Kaya et Ngendi” by Albert tshiambi

- FPJC combatants launched an attack last Sunday and Monday in Kaya and Ngendi, Irumu territory, Ituri. Sources say several combatants died, one civilian and one soldier wounded, a several houses were set on fire. Looting was also widespread and many have fled.
- The combatants fled when the FARDC intervened.
- As can be observed, violence is again emerging in Ituri as several attacks have been recorded in the past few weeks. The government should do more to ensure the security of civilians and more troops must be deployed to different areas.

- Combatants, meanwhile, should give up the fight and reintegrate public life or integrate a army. They too can participate in the reconstruction of the DRC.

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 4 November, 2010, in French)

“Situation sécuritaire : la Monusco et les FARDC multiplient des patrouilles à l’Est de la RDC” by DIOSSO OLIVIER

- Insecurity is still heavily in the eastern DRC. Monusco and the FARDC are multiplying operations along the Congo River in order to ensure the security of the local populations.
- Concerning the Bangadi-Ngilima-Niangara area (Haut-Uélé), a military official said that the referendum in near-by Sudan, may lead to a refugee influx. In order to prepare for this, Monusco has established a plan with the UNHCR in order to provide assistance to the refugees.
- The same source also said that several rebel groups leaders has been arrested in Uganda and in Ituri.
- Concerning in North Kivu, it is the refugee camps Monusco is particularly worried about. Several troops are therefore patrolling the area and security measures have been reinforced in order to ensure the security of the civilian population.
- In South Kivu, relative peace and security seems to be reigning in several places, including in Shabunda, where residents have now returned to their homes after having fled attacks and lootings by armed forces.
- Concerning operation “Amani Leo”, the head of Monusco said pockets of resistance still existed and military operations in South Kivu have therefore continued. Ten objectives had been planned for September and October, seven of which have been fulfilled. Ten other objectives have been set for November, including the three not attained in October.

(L’Observateur, privately-owned daily, article dated 4 November, 2010, in French)

“La population victime d’insécurité et de violation des droits humains” by Dovin Ntelolo Diasonga

- Residents of Kitchange (Masisi, North Kivu) have expressed their security fears to Roger Meece. Meece talked to civilians and local representatives and leaders, who said grave human rights violations are taking place and insecurity is widespread.
- Meece tried to reassure them and urged all to use pacifism and dialogue in order to solve problems. He added that Monusco and FARDC forces were ready to protect them and to react in case of attacks.
- The goal of Meece’s visit was to find out more about the causes of the attack on Monusco bases in Rwindi.
- Roger also mentioned Resolution 1325, concerning the relationship between women, armed conflict, peace and security. A national plan of action has been established in order to put resolution 1325 in place. He said several acts had been signed concerning the financial aspect of the plan.
- Concerning the military situation, Monusco said several leaders have been arrested in Arua, Uganda, and Ituri. He said the arrest has led to greater trust between Monusco and the ARDC.

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 6 November, 2010, in French)

“Nord-Kivu : arrestation de six exploitants clandestins des mines”

Through AFP

- Six individuals have been arrested after they were caught illegally exploiting mines near Walikale in eastern Congo, even though extraction was officially suspended in September.
- Victor-Destin Mongombo, chief of the military in Walikale, said an investigation had been launched to find out who was protecting them or allowing them to mine there. It seems that they had received the protection of civil and military authorities who are pressuring them to commit such acts.