

DRC Domestic Broadcasting, 27 September, 2010 (19 September– 26 September, 2009)

by Marie Lamensch, MIGS Reporter for the DRC

Government-owned media

**(The New Vision, government-owned newspaper, Kampala, 19 September, 2010, in English)
"Uganda, Congo discuss new plot against LRA"**

- Ugandan Defense minister Dr Crispus Kiyonga and DRC's defence and veterans' minister Charles Mwandohave vowed to "annihilate" the LRA who are threatening the two states' security. Joint operations will be organized.
- Joint operations are already taking place against Joseph Kony and the ADF in eastern Congo and northern Uganda.

(Radio-Television Nationale Congolaise TV, government-owned, Kinshasa, 1230 gmt, September 20, 2010, in French)

- Political parties have started consultations for the nomination of members of the National Electoral Independent National [CENI] bureau. Three seats out of seven will be given to the opposition.

(Radio-Television Nationale Congolaise TV, government-owned, Kinshasa, 1230 gmt, September 21, 2010, in French)

- Clashes over ownership issues erupted between two rival ethnic groups in South Kivu. Three people were killed and several wounded.

(Agence Burundaise de Presse, government-sponsored new agency, Bujumbura, Burundi, dated 22 September, 2010, in French)

"Burundi denies involvement in DR Congo 'atrocities'"

- The government of Burundi issued a press release denying allegations made against ex-Armed Forces of Burundi and the ex-Forces for the Defence and Democracy regarding human rights abuses in the DRC between March 1993 and June 2003.
- The government added that the Republic of Burundi was never involved in the Sun City negotiations or in Lusaka agreements since it only involved parties in the conflict in the DRC.
- The government therefore asked the UN secretary-General to withdraw Burundi from the list of countries involved in human rights violations.

(L'Avenir, daily newspaper known to have connections with the government, Kinshasa, September 23, 2010, in French)

“Tous les gouvernements ont les mains couvertes de sang”, Lambert Mende : « L’Asadho n’indique nulle part les progrès et les régressions enregistrés” by Lambert Mende Omalanga

- In August, Congolese NGO Asadho published a new report (“Tous les Gouvernements ont les mains couvertes de sang” translation: “All governments have blood on their hands”) accusing the government of the DRC of committing human rights abuses between 1960 and 2010. Spokesperson and Minister of Communication and Media, Lambert Mende, replied that the NGO failed to take into consideration setbacks and progress made by one or the other administration. *L’Avenir* publishes Mende’s analysis of the report.
- While he praises the initiative of the NGO, that is trying to assess fifty years of Congolese independence and human rights record, Asadho’s methodology is wrong since it assumes from the outset that all governments have committed human rights abuses and then attempt to prove it. Mende believes this argument is historically false as some administrations were different from others and made progress.
- The report also fails to see the difference between various human rights abuses and the selection is based on political motivations and ideology. For example, nothing is said about the presence of Rwandan armed groups such as the FDLR in the DRC. Asadho fails to see progress made by the government since 2006 because it is opposed Kabila’s administration and instead criticizes the government’s human rights record.
- The problem with NGOs such as Asadho is that their basic livelihood is based on dramatization and miserabilism. Thus, they cannot fathom that progress has taken place.
- Asadho’s aims are described as unpatriotic, especially as the NGO urges government and international NGOs to put pressure on Congolese authorities.

Private media

(Radio Candip, community radio broadcasting funded by Belgian NGO, Bunia, 1530 gmt, September 19, 2010, in French)

- Heavy clashes reported between the army and Popular Resistance Front militiamen in near Mbise village, Ituri. According to the army, six militiamen were killed, four wounded and twelve surrendered.

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 20 September, 2010, in French)

“Viols en RDC: le Conseil de sécurité de l’ONU accuse Kinshasa”

- Ten days before the publication of a UN report on grave crimes committed in the DRC between 1996 and 2003, the Security Council condemned rapes committed against women and children in North Kivu. The Security Council accused the Congolese government of failing in its mission.
- The Security Council believes it is the president’s role to ensure security in the country and to protect civilians according to human rights and international humanitarian law.
- Although Monusco is supposed to protect civilians as well, their failure and passivity in the face of abuses were not mentioned. A few weeks ago, Ban Ki-moon had criticized Monusco’s passivity. What has changed between then and now is not known. The

Security Council simply said Monusco should continue its efforts to develop its relationship with the civilian population.

- More UN troops have been deployed in the area. Since then no attacks have taken place and Mai Mai militiamen have been arrested.
- The Security Council also called on the Congolese government to condemn atrocities and to provide effective assistance to the victims of sexual abuse. The organ also called on the government to put an end to impunity and to reinforce its military and judiciary capacities.
- The government reacted to the Council's declaration. According to the Minister of Communication and Media, the Council's judgment is partial. Lambert Mende does not seem to think that the problem concerns the government. Just like civilians, Mende believes the DRC is a victim and the perpetrators have no links with the government.
- The dialogue between the UN and the Congolese government on the issue is therefore tense. The government's capacity to guarantee security is evident and Monusco's presence in the DRC is justified. But at the same time the mission must admit its responsibility.

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 20 September, 2010, in French)

“Ituri: affrontements entre FARDC et miliciens font quatre morts à Mbise”

- Clashes between the FARDC and militiamen have recorded in Mbise, South of Bunia. According to radio Okapi, four militiamen were killed and five others wounded, including one of the leaders of the FPJC. Insecurity in Oriental Province is on the rise and the government should act accordingly. The FARDC should deploy more forces in areas where armed groups are still active.

(Radio Okapi website, MONUC/UN-sponsored radio, Kinshasa, 21 September, 2010, in French)

“EU diplomats visit eastern DR Congo”

- European diplomats arrived in Bukavu, South Kivu Province to assert the general situation in the area. The delegation includes ambassadors of Germany, Belgium, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Great Britain, Sweden, and Spain. Among the issues discussed is the President's ban of mineral exploitation in Kivu.

(Radio Candip, community radio broadcasting funded by Belgian NGO, Bunia, 1530 gmt, September 21, 2010, in French)

- A two-day meeting on food security in Ituri and Haut-Uele Districts of Orientale Province ended today in Bunia, Ituri District. The meeting was organized by the UN's Food and Agricultural Organization and aimed to assess the ability of agricultural and fishing activities to feed the population. Participants came to the conclusion that Haut-Uele District efforts have been hampered by the LRA's activities in the area.

(Radio Okapi website, MONUC/UN-sponsored radio, Kinshasa, 23 September, 2010, in French)

“Ugandan rebels smuggling arms from DR Congo, South Sudan – UN”

- Monusco has expressed concern at reports of arms smuggling across the DR Congo and South Sudan to Uganda, by Uganda’s LRA. Measures have been taken to put an end to the traffic. The FARDC and Ugandan troops are involved in the process.

(L’Observateur, privately-owned daily, article dated September 23, 2010, in French)

“Fin de l’opération " Shop Window " à Walikale et ses environs” by Dovin Ntelolo Diasonga

- Monusco confirmed that military operation “Shop Window” launched in the Walikale area, North Kivu, ended on Saturday. According to spokesman Amadou A. Gueye the operation was more than satisfactory as the number of human rights violations clearly diminished during the operation. Twenty-seven Mai Mai militiamen surrendered and others have been arrested.
- The aim of the operation was to bring back security to the area, protect civilians and prove that the mission is very much present and capable of intervening.
- However, Monusco noted that tensions following the multiplication of attacks by armed groups have increased. Looting has been reported in certain areas.
- Four FDLR rebels surrendered to the FARDC
- Despite incidents here and there, the general situation in South Kivu has been more or less stable. However, attacks by Mai Mai groups and the FDLR have been reported.
- Regarding the situation in Oriental Province, Monusco expressed concern over arm trafficking involving the LRA.

(Radio France Internationale, French state-funded public broadcaster, 0530 gmt, dated 23 September, 2010, in French)

“DR Congo army to launch offensive in east to recapture rebel-controlled mines”

- The Walikale region is gearing up for a massive military offensive announced by the FARDC. The FARDC plans to recapture mines which fell into the hands of the Mai Mai or the FDLR. These armed groups attacked several villages in the region. The risk of renewed attacks is said to be high and Monusco’s spokesman said the mission would do all it can to minimize the “negative forces’ acts.”
- A UN operation called “shop window” was also launched following rebel attacks, looting and rapes.

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 23 September, 2010, in French)

“Selon la Monusco la LRA serait impliquée dans un trafic d’armes” by Louis-Paul Eyenga Sana

- Monusco is concerned about possible involvement of the LRA in arms trafficking through Southern Sudan and the DRC to Uganda. Monusco's spokesman Amadou Gueye said the FARDC had apparently arrested Ugandan rebels involved in arms trafficking in the Oriental Province.

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 24 September, 2010, in French)

“La Monusco invite les jeunes congolais à travailler pour la paix”

- Monusco urged young Congolese to help them bring peace to the country. Roger Meece told the youths to be creative and come up with projects that would help bring peace and prosperity.
- He said he was happy with some of progress made in the DRC.
- A National Council for Young Congolese People representative announced the launch of a national action plan for young Congolese people in relationship with local, private, national and international groups. The representative said young people should realize their role in the peace process and the creation of a new Congo.

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 24 September, 2010, in French)

“La présence des FARDC à Walikale provoque un mouvement de populations” by Louis-Paul Eyenga Sana

- The presence of FARDC forces in Walikale has led to population movement as the national army is about to launch an operation against armed groups and people involved in illicit mineral exploitation, particularly Mai Mai and FDLR soldiers.