

DRC Domestic Broadcasting, 4 October, 2010 (27 September– 3 October, 2009)

by Marie Lamensch, MIGS Reporter for the DRC

Government-owned media

(Angop news agency, Luanda, 29 September, 2010, 1130 gmt, in Portuguese)

“Angola denies army's alleged involvement in human rights abuse in DR Congo”

- At the 65th UN General Assembly Session, Georges Chikoti, Angola's secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, denied the alleged involvement of the Angolan Armed Forces in human rights violations in the DRC. He also questioned the reasons behind the allegations. He argued that the Angolan army had helped “stop the blood bath,” save lives of millions of people and allowed for the establishment of a transitional government and the holding of elections, which in turn contributed the peace in the Great lakes region.
- The secretary of State also called for a reform of the UN Security Council and supports the idea of Africa to have two permanent seats.

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

“Rwandan premier says UN report “flawed””

“Premier Makuza slams UN report”

- Rwandan Prime Minister Bernard Makuza criticized the United Nations DR Congo Human Rights Mapping Report, describing it as “flawed and baseless.” He said his government would assess the report and take the necessary measures. He believes the report lack credibility since it does not contain enough evidence and disregards facts.
- He also said the motive behind the report was to divert attention from UN failures and mistakes. The report is said to fail to take into account the situation at the time: Rwandan soldiers were simply assisting people who were trying to return home.
- Finally, he added that the UN report’s aim was to rewrite Rwanda’s history and prolong instability and insecurity in the Great Lake region.
- Government Spokesperson and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Louise Mushikiwabo, said the reports failed to understand the historical context, rendering allegations “inadequate.” She added that Rwanda would continue to defend itself “against all attempts to rewrite our history” and threatened to review Rwanda’s engagement in UN missions.

(The New Times, government-owned Rwandan newspaper, Kigali, article dated 1 October, 2010, in English)

“Rwanda says UN report on DR Congo threatens regional stability”

“UN DRC report threatens regional security - Government”

- The Rwandan government has described the UN Mapping Report as “flawed and dangerous” and as threatening for the Great Lake Region’s stability.

- The government's spokesperson and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Louise Mushikiwabo, said the mapping has been "a moral and intellectual failure" and "an insult to history."
- The report is criticized for attempting to rewrite history, for improperly apportioning blame for the Rwandan genocide and reigniting conflict in the region.
- The omission of the historical context is also heavily criticized as the report fails to understand the threat posed by refugees at the time. Rwanda is also said to have tried to reintegrate. 3.2 million Hutu refugees
- The report is also said to be flawed due to its bad methodology, including the use of anonymous sources, unidentified witnesses and hearsay assertions.

Privately-owned media

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

"La RDC et le rapport de l'ONU" by Mankenda Voka

- At the 65th session of UN General Assembly, Joseph Kabila failed to tackle of the DRC's most important issues, particularly the UN Mapping Report, which is being published 1st October. In the report, UN experts address human rights violations committed in the DRC between 1993 and 2003 by who had decided to intervene in the DRC for one or the other reason, mostly self-interest.
- The government must address the issue, especially if it wants the international community to listen and help. Kabila should therefore have had addressed the issue, especially concerning certain obscure elements of the country's recent history. The report should not be seen as a trap or a way to tarnish the image of the DRC and its allies at the time. In order to avoid misunderstandings and criticisms, the government should address the issue immediately.

(Radio France Internationale, French state-funded public broadcaster, 0430 gmt, dated 29 September, 2010, in French)

"DR Congo military regains key mining area in east, offensive continues"

- The army has begun operations aimed at regaining mining areas and ending illegal mining. Offensives against the FDLR and the Mai Mai allowed the DR Congo army to recapture the coltan mines.
- It is not known how many people were killed, wounded or taken prisoners.

(Programme summary of DR Congo Radio Candip news, 29 September, 2010, 1530 gmt)

- The office of the United Nations Mission for the Stabilisation of DR Congo said there are reports of the movement of Joseph Kony, the leader of LRA, on the border between South Sudan and the DRC. Ugandan rebel fighters are apparently attempting to meet their leader in South Sudan. They attacked villages in Oriental Province, killing and abducting several people

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

“Déferlement des populations à l’Est du pays: Walikale s’oppose à l’installation de 500 réfugiés congolais venus du Rwanda” by Louis-Paul Eyenga Sana

- Five hundred refugees from Rwanda have come to Walikale, North Kivu, leading to anger and tensions between locals and STAREC (Programme de stabilisation et de reconstruction des zones sorties des conflits armés). Local villagers do not want refugees to settle in Walikale, fearing an invasion. The refugees were originally from the region.
- However, Starec said every refugee’s case would be assessed. The organ is trying to convince Walikale villagers to accept this refugee/repatriation process, a procedure started by the Congolese government.

(Daily Monitor, privately-owned Ugandan newspaper, Kampala, article dated 30 September, 2010, in English)

“Uganda condemns UN report on DR Congo "war crimes"”

"Uganda warns UN over Congo war crimes report"

- In a letter addressed to the UN Human Rights Commissioner, Foreign Affairs Minister Sam Kutesa described as "sinister" a new UN report implicating the UPDF [Uganda People's Defence Force] in human rights violations committed in the DRC. He also said the allegations could jeopardise the country's participation in peacekeeping operations. He believes the report is deeply flawed and questioned its motives. Finally, Kutesa said his country rejects the report and asks for it not to be published.
- He also believes the UN is trying to cover up its own failures by blaming regional armies, while at the same time excluding the FDLR.

(Radio France Internationale, French state-funded public broadcaster, 0430 gmt, dated 30 September, 2010, in French)

“UNCHR official says panel to address weaknesses in DR Congo's judicial system”

- A panel of UN and local Congolese officials will hear victims of sexual violence. The victims will include people raped by members of armed groups in Walikale. The panel will then assess how victims can be better served by the judicial system and be compensated.

(Radio France Internationale, French state-funded public broadcaster, 1230 gmt, dated 30 September, 2010, in French)

“French radio previews UN probe into DR Congo massacres on eve of report's release”

- The UN report on massacres committed in the former Zaire between 1993 and 2003 described ten years of “pure horror” as investigators detail the hunting down of Rwandan Hutu refugees by Rwandan and Congolese soldiers.

- Although Uganda and Rwanda originally formed a partnership, the two armies quickly started fighting each other, particularly for the control of the Kisangani region. During the clashes, Uganda's army reportedly incited ethnic hatred between the Lendu and Hema communities in Bunia, then choosing to support the Hema. Lendu civilians are said to have brutally attacked the Hema, leading Uganda to incite the Hema to attack back.
- The report also accuses the Ugandan army of looting and smuggling the DRC natural resources, particularly gold and diamonds.
- Rwanda has also been implicated, leading the Rwandan government to reject the report's allegations. There been claims of genocide against Hutu refugees between 1997 and 1998.

(Radio Candip, community radio broadcasting funded by Belgian NGO, Bunia, 1530 gmt, September 30, 2010, in French)

“DR Congo president's party criticises ban on oil exploitation by court”

- The presidential political party (PPRD) denounced the ban imposed on the activities of oil exploitation on blocks I and II near Lake Albert. The coordinator of Ituri's PPRD said the decision by the High Court of Justice of the British Virgin Islands would have serious setbacks to the development projects initiated by the Congolese government.

(Daily Monitor, privately-owned Ugandan newspaper, Kampala, article dated 1 October, 2010, in English)

“Uganda says UN report on DR Congo war crimes "biased"”

"UN report pins Uganda on Congo"

- Uganda and Rwanda have tried to block the release of the UN report which contains allegations of the two countries' implication in human rights violations in the DRC.
- The report contains allegations of massacres and systematic sexual abuse of Congolese by the UPDF and the RPF as well as looting and smuggling of the DRC's minerals.
- Lt-Col Felix Kulayigye, Uganda's military spokesperson, discredited the report as biased and questioned the motives behind it. He described the report as “inaccurate and in bad taste” and criticized the authors of the document for not following “the rules of natural justice,” that is for failing to give Uganda and Rwanda a chance to defend themselves.
- Reed Brody, spokesman for Human Rights Watch, said perpetrators must be identified and prosecuted.

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

« Atrocités en RDC : Kinshasa réclame justice »

- The UN report condemning human rights violations committed against Hutu refugees and Congolese people by Rwandan troops and their allies between 1993 and 2003 has finally been published. Threats by the governments of Rwanda and Uganda have failed to stop the publication.
- DRC ambassador to the UN said Congolese victims deserved justice.

- The report describes 617 human rights violations committed by state and non-state actors. Thousands of people have died, many more raped, mutilated and abused in various ways.
- The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights said that now that the report had been published measures had to be taken against the perpetrators of these acts. Perpetrators include members of the armies of Uganda, Rwanda, Chad, Burundi, Angola and Zimbabwe, which fought with or against the Congolese government at the time.
- The report mentions two types of violations: violations committed against Congolese civilians, particularly women and children, and violations against Hutu refugees. Abuses against Hutus could be considered as genocide if these crimes are investigated by the appropriate tribunal.
- The report's aim is to help the Congolese government and civil society in the setting up of a transitional justice system and initiating institutional reforms in order to achieve durable peace. This includes justice for the victims of violence and putting an end to impunity.
- Rwanda has quickly rejected the report as it believes that it is deeply flawed and ignores the historical context, including the threat posed by armed and indoctrinated refugees at the time.
- Burundi, meanwhile, believes the aim of the report is to destabilize the region.
- Uganda has also rejected the results of the research and asked for the report not to be published.
- The UN said the question of genocide needed to be further investigated by the appropriate organ.