

DRC Domestic Broadcasting, 13 September, 2010 (6 September– 12 September, 2009)

by Marie Lamensch, MIGS Reporter for the DRC

Government-owned media

(Radio-Television Nationale Congolaise TV, government-owned, Kinshasa, 1230 gmt, September 7, 2010, in French)

- President Kabila attended the inauguration of Rwandan President Paul Kagame's second mandate. Kagame pledged to preserve peace, integrity and national unity. The presence of Kabila and Foreign Affairs Minister Alexis Thambwe Mwamba is understood as a sign of commitment to peace in the region

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

- President Joseph Kabila met Rwandan President Paul Kagame after the latter's inauguration ceremony. No information came out of the meeting yet sources believe that the two heads of state talked about consolidating relations between their two countries.

(The New Times website, Rwandan government-owned newspaper, article dated 8 September, 2010 Kigali, in English)

“UN boss in Rwanda to discuss leaked war crimes report”

- UN Secretary General, Ban Ki-Moon, is in Rwanda to discuss a controversial leaked draft UN report alleging that Rwandan troops committed human rights abuses in neighbouring DRC. Ban Ki-Moon will hold talks with President Paul Kagame and other government officials. UN Special Representative for DRC, Roger Meece, accompanied the UN General.
- The report titled "Democratic Republic of the Congo Human Rights Mapping" compiled by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, has been dismissed by Rwanda as "malicious."

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

- President Joseph Kabila continues is in Goma, Nord-Kivu Province, to talk about the economic and political security situation in the province. President Joseph Kabila warned against fraudulent export of minerals from the area.
- 320 cases of the rape have been recorded in Shabunda, Sud-Kivu Province according to the UN Office for Coordination for Humanitarian Affairs. Armed groups and civilians are said to be responsible for most of the rapes.

Privately-owned media

(Radio Okapi website, MONUC/UN-sponsored radio, Kinshasa, 6 September, 2010, in French)

“DRCongo NGOs urge UN to respect release date of rights violations report”

- More than 200 Congolese NGOs asked the UN to respect the publishing date of a report on human rights and international law violations committed in the DRC between 1993 and 2003.
- Communal graves have been discovered in South Kivu, Oriental Province and Equateur Province. The victims were allegedly targeted for being Hutu or for being Congolese.
- The NGOs also urged the UN to include other violent act in their report.
- African Association for the Defence of Human Rights asked the Congolese government to punish suspects and clean up public institutions, including the army and the national police.

(Radio Candip, community radio broadcasting funded by Belgian NGO, Bunia, 1530 gmt, September 6, 2010, in French)

- Warlord Shariff Manda, a Popular Front for Justice in Congo leader, was transferred from Bunia to Kinshasa. According to military sources, he will be tried by the high military court of the DRC.

(Radio Candip, community radio broadcasting funded by Belgian NGO, Bunia, 1530 gmt, September 7, 2010, in French)

- Residents of several villages in Walendu Bindi and Andisoma areas have seen militia fighters of the Popular Front for Justice in Congo.

(Radio France Internationale, French state-funded public radio, Paris, 8 September, 2010, 0530 gmt, in French)

“UN officials call for sanctions after failure protect rape victims in DRCongo”

- Several UN officials have called on the UN Security Council to consider sanctions against those responsible for crimes committed in the DRC. They also admitted the failure of UN peacekeepers in their mission.

(L’Observateur, privately owned daily, article dated 9 September, 2010, in French)

“Conseil de sécurité: Atul Khare present son rapport sur le viols en RDC”

- Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations presented a report on rape in the DRC. The report, presented to the UN Security Council on Tuesday, states that at least 242 people were systematically raped between 30 July and 2 August.
- Atul Khare acknowledged the failure of Monusco in this affair, stating that the peacekeepers’ actions had been inadequate, resulting in unacceptable brutality against villagers in the area.

- He called for sanctions and added that those responsible should be punished in order to put an end to the rapes. Sanctions should be placed on the leaders of the FDLR.
- Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict, Margot Wallstrom, also urged the Security Council to take action and said it was their collective responsibility to make the first step.

(Radio France Internationale, French state-funded public radio, Paris, 9 September, 2010, 0430 gmt, in French)

“DR Congo court acquits newspaper editor accused of treason”

- The editor of the daily Le Journal in the DRC has been acquitted and released after he was imprisoned for 5 months on charges of treason. He was accused of publishing a press release by the FDLR. It was the Minister of communication who had lodged a complaint against the journalist after he suspended the newspaper.
- Tshivis Tshivuadi, secretary general of the association Journalists in Danger, considers the journalist’s release as a “great victory for freedom of the press.”

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

- General Chander Pankrash, Monusco’s army chief of staff, expressed satisfaction over the recent arrest of Warlord Shariff Manda, the leader of the militia group of the Popular Front for Justice in Congo [FPJC]. He believes the arrest will bring peace to the area and promised that peacekeepers would continue to provide military support to the troops of the Armed Forces of DRC in fighting militia groups.

(AFP, French news agency, Paris, 9 September, 2010, 1225 gmt, French)

“France backs UN plan to improve DR Congo force over failure to prevent rapes”

- France’s Foreign Ministry said it would support the UN in their desire to "put right" "dysfunctions" in their peacekeeping force in the DRC, which was unable to prevent mass rapes in eastern Congo in July and August. The ministry also supports “calls from the Secretary-General's Office and the Security Council for those responsible for these crimes to be actively sought, brought to trial and punished.”
- Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations Atul Khare admitted that the peacekeepers had failed in their mission

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

- The UNHCR office in Orientale Province announced the distribution of 20 tonnes of humanitarian assistance to about 6,000 IDPs in haut Uele District. The IDPs are victims of the Ugandan rebel group of the Lord’s Resistance Army.