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IPIS

IPIS UPCOMING EVENTS

22 April – IPIS lecture, 'The role of NGOs', at the conference 'China, Africa and the EU, an Uneasy Relation', organised by UA and UAMS – University of Antwerp.

27 April – IPIS lecture, 'Sociaal economische realiteit van Congo', organised by ACV-Kempen – 20h, CC De Warande, Turnhout

IPIS RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Mapping Conflict Motives: Province Orientale (DRC)

(March 2010 – IPIS)

http://www.ipisresearch.be/mapping_orientale.php?&lang=en

It is the fourth study in the IPIS mapping series and deals with the presence, behaviour and motivation of the armed groups that have been active in the Orientale province of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in 2009.

With the publication of this fourth mapping report, IPIS links two areas it has studied and mapped in the past: the Kivu provinces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Central African Republic. IPIS is trying to complete the jigsaw puzzle of a conflict-ridden region. The following report constitutes a new piece fitting into this puzzle. As the work advances, ever more linkages will appear and facilitate regional analysis.

Natural resources in the Great Lakes Region

Kinshasa - Kampala : une discorde se pointe à l'horizon.

(12/04/2010 – Le Phare – Digitalcongo.net)

<http://www.digitalcongo.net/article/66064>

Article stating tensions between Uganda and the DRC might rise because of disagreements over their common border and Lake Albert's oil reserves.

Moment of truth for drive to tackle oil's power to corrupt.

(13/04/2010 – Financial Times)

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/70c64a9e-4695-11df-9713-00144feab49a.html>

The board of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative will weigh what action to take against 17 countries that have applied for membership but which missed last month's deadline to have their audits of payments from mining and oil companies independently verified. Peter Eigen, the EITI chairman, told the Financial Times that many candidate countries had made prog-ress in documenting industry payments and should not be given unduly harsh penalties. However, others were at risk of "excommunication".

Land Grabs Continue As Elites Resist Regulation.

(13/04/2010 – IPS)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201004130343.html>

A year after the purchases of vast swathes of farm land in Africa first drew public attention, transactions remain as opaque as ever. Private companies are resisting a global code of conduct that would ensure transparency and local elites continue to benefit from deals that encourage corruption and increase food insecurity.

DRC

OKIMO's plan for exploring for gold.

(7/04/2010 – Africa Mining Intelligence)

For consultation at request, or at IPIS library.

OKIMO has earmarked US\$6 million for its exploration programme over the coming three years on iits concessions in Orientale Province.

The problem of tracing minerals in Congo-K.

(7/04/2010 – Africa Mining Intelligence)

For consultation at request, or at IPIS library.

Feeling the heat from the introduction of a 'Conflict Minerals Trade Act in the US House of Representatives, senior executives in the tin industry and in the information technology branch announced that they were launching a new mineral tracing instrument, the ITRI Tin Supply Chain Initiative.

Gecamines, catalyseur ou inhibiteur de développement du secteur minier?

(13/04/2010 – Le Potentiel – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/201004130847.html>

Extensive article looking at the merit of Gécamines for the Congolese mining sector.

L'exportation des concentrés miniers interdits au Katanga.

(10/04/2010 – Radio Okapi)

<http://radiookapi.net/actualite/2010/04/10/1%E2%80%99exportation-des-concentres-miniers-interdits-au-katanga/>

Katanga : Interdiction d'exploitation des produits miniers concentrés.

(13/04/2010 – ACP – Digitalcongo.net)

<http://www.digitalcongo.net/article/66100>

DR Congo bans export of concentrated mineral products from Katanga.

(12/04/2010 – People's Daily Online)

<http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/90001/90777/90855/6947725.html>

Congo's Katanga Province Bans Export of Mineral Concentrates.

(13/04/2010 – Fox Business)

<http://www.foxbusiness.com/story/markets/industries/industrials/congos-katanga-province-bans-export-mineral-concentrates/>

The government of the Democratic Republic of Congo has banned exportation of concentrated mineral products from Katanga province, forcing the mining operators to build metallurgic factories to produce raw copper. Congolese Minister of Mines Martin Kabwelulu said on Sunday the measure should have come into force three years ago, but its implementation was delayed.

Congo's oil - We've got it too.

(8/04/2010 – The Economist)

http://www.economist.com/world/middle-east/displaystory.cfm?story_id=15871934&fsrc=rss

In the wake of exciting oil discoveries on the eastern side of Lake Albert, which separates north-eastern Congo from Uganda, the Congolese government is trying to emulate its smaller neighbour by wooing foreign investors to help rejuvenate its country's ramshackle but potentially rich economy. But Congo is not Uganda. Though the Ugandans have their share of headaches, they have at least a core of functioning institutions and infrastructure that the Congolese woefully lack. But Congo's leaders are hoping a similar oil bonanza will give their country the boost it so badly needs.

Joseph Kabila in Seoul.

(7/04/2010 – Africa Mining Intelligence)

For consultation at request, or at IPIS library.

President Kabila met with officials from the Busan Port Authority, which is interesting in the construction of a deep water port at Banana.

Forest Carbon Partnership Facility concludes fifth Participants Committee meeting.

(12/04/2010 – BIC)

<http://www.bicusa.org/en/Article.11841.aspx>

Representatives from donor countries, REDD countries plus observers and World Bank staff met in La Lope, Gabon from March 22 to 25 to discuss readiness proposals from several countries. Ghana, Democratic Republic of Congo and Mexico were each allocated readiness grants up to 3.6 million USD.

Gouvernance forestière - Gros plan sur les défis à relever.

(9/04/2010 – Le Potentiel – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/201004090130.html>

In the framework of FLEGT, experts have defined several challenges for the DRC's forest management.

UGANDA

Uganda to Start Mining of Vermiculite.

(12/04/2010 – The East African)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201004130825.html>

Mining and processing vermiculite, an ingredient needed to make inorganic fertilisers, is scheduled to start this month in Manafwa district, eastern Uganda. Experts estimate the vermiculite deposit in Namekhala area in Manafwa to be among the biggest single concentrations of the mineral in the world.

Oil exploration killing wildlife – experts.

(14/04/2010 – Daily Monitor)

<http://www.monitor.co.ug/News/National/-/688334/899010/-/wiki7sg/-/>

Toxic wastes from oil exploration and increased human presence at Murchison Falls National Park are killing animals experts told Parliament yesterday. A Senior Uganda Wildlife Authority Planning and Environment Impact Assessment Coordinator, Mr Edgar Buhanga, told MPs yesterday that "if the country has to benefit from both resources (oil and wildlife), the two have to sustainably co-exist. Most of the petroleum prospective areas lie in protected areas which are also a major source of income for the country through tourism."

Bujagali Power Project to Come on Stream Unit by Unit in 2011.

(12/04/2010 – The East African - allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201004121697.html>

The French development finance institution, Proparco -- a key financier of the 250MW Bujagali Hydropower dam has asked the government to urgently address the rising power demand in Uganda, in order to avoid costly ventures in the long term.

Uganda announces plan to sell Jinja oil reserves.

(7/04/2010 – Commodity Online)

<http://www.commodityonline.com/news/Uganda-announces-plan-to-sell-Jinja-oil-reserves-27188-3-1.html>

Amid looming fuel shortages, Uganda on Tuesday announced fresh plans to sell the Jinja Oil Reserves. In a statement, Uganda's energy ministry said the government does not have the money to maintain the reserves.

International mining companies in the Great Lakes Region

Why Oil Giants Are Exiting African Markets.

(8/04/2010 – New Vision – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201004090589.html>

The latest withdrawal of oil majors from Uganda and other 20 African countries is part of the growing trend of shifting away from retail and marketing to exploration and production where returns on investments are high. Esso (ExxonMobil), Agip, Mobil, BP, Caltex (Chevron) and now Shell have given up their African downstream businesses which have been a combination of production, refining, transporting and marketing oil.

Shell Exit Not the End of the World.

(8/04/2010 – New Vision – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201004090483.html>

Last week oil company Shell announced it was pulling out of Uganda and about 20 other countries on the continent. Shell says the downstream operations are becoming less and less profitable and will now focus on its upstream operations - exploration and production, where capital outlays are much larger but margins are much better.

DRC

AngloGold Ashanti, Okimo to jointly develop DRC project.

(9/04/2010 – Mining Weekly)

<http://www.miningweekly.com/article/gold-major-agrees-enters-jv-to-develop-agk-2010-04-09>

Gold-mining major AngloGold Ashanti has entered into a definitive joint venture with OKIMO to develop the Ashanti Goldfields Kilo (AGK) project in the DRC and the transfer of the exploitation permits to AGK. Under the JV agreement, the companies are to jointly develop the AGK project through the joint company AGK, in which AngloGold Ashanti holds an 86,22% interest and Okimo the remaining 13,78%.

TFM short of power.

(7/04/2010 – Africa Mining Intelligence)

For consultation at request, or at IPIS library.

Tenke Fungurume Mining is experiencing a severe shortage of electricity.

Taejoo Synthesis wins green light for Musoshi.

(7/04/2010 – Africa Mining Intelligence)

For consultation at request, or at IPIS library.

The South Korean firm Taejoo Synthesis Steel Co. has been authorized to mine the copper field owned by the Musoshi concern in Sakanya, Katanga province.

Congo assets in brief fast lane sprint.

(13/04/2010 – Mineweb)

<http://www.mineweb.com/mineweb/view/mineweb/en/page36?oid=102654&sn=Detail>

Some fairly heavy trading towards the end of the Toronto trading session on Monday saw Katanga Mining's stock price leap, to close 25% higher. This prompted a request to Katanga Mining, from the scary-sounding "Market Surveillance, on behalf of the Toronto Stock Exchange" to address the issue.

UGANDA

Heritage Could Drag Tullow to Court over Breach of Agreement.

(7/04/2010 – New Vision – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201004080753.html>

A Deal to buy \$1.5b oil fields owned by Heritage Oil has hit a snag, threatening investment in Uganda's nascent oil and gas industry. Tullow Oil and Heritage are joint partners in two oil fields, blocks 1 and 3A. Tullow wants to buy out Heritage and the process is ongoing after the two entered into a sales and purchase agreement. Heritage has, however, raised concern over Tullow's delay in approving the transactions, lack of disclosure, transparency and information sharing.

Government Delays Oil Block Sale.

(10/04/2010 – The Monitor – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201004120329.html>

(12/04/2010 – Trading Markets)

http://www.tradingmarkets.com/news/press-release/hrtif_tuoif_government-delays-oil-block-sale-904381.html

The government has defended its right to delay the finalisation of the sale of Heritage Oil's interests to Tullow Oil, after it emerged that the former had complained that deadlines were stretching.

Heritage Oil drops 9% after well drilling news and Uganda delay.

(7/04/2010 – The Guardian)

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/business/marketforceslive/2010/apr/07/1>

Heritage Oil has been hit by a double dose of disappointing news, sending its shares sharply lower. The FTSE 250 oil exploration group said it would need to drill deeper at a test well in Iraq, and at the same time announced a delay in the sale of its Ugandan interests.

Tullow Oil Reports Kasamene and Wahrindi North Exploratory Appraisal Results.

(13/04/2010 – OilVoice)

http://www.oilvoice.com/n/Tullow_Oil_Reports_Kasamene_and_Wahrindi_North_Exploratory_Appraisal_Results/d56030042.aspx

Tullow Strikes More Oil in Country.

(14/04/2010 – The Monitor – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201004131276.html>

Tullow announces fresh oil findings in Uganda.

(14/04/2010 - Commodity Online)

<http://www.commodityonline.com/news/Tullow-announces-fresh-oil-findings-in-Uganda-27381-3-1.html>

Tullow Oil:Uganda Block 2 Wells Confirm Kasamene Field Viability.

(13/04/2010 – The Wall Street Journal)

http://online.wsj.com/article/BT-CO-20100413-701378.html?mod=WSJ_latestheadlines

Tullow Oil plc announces that the Kasamene-3 and Kasamene-3A wells in the Butiaba region of Uganda Block 2 have successfully delineated the extent of oil in the Kasamene field and discovered oil in the Wahrindi North fault block.

Dominion Announces Issue of Official Drilling Permit for Uganda.

(12/04/2010 – OilVoice)

http://www.oilvoice.com/n/Dominion_Announces_Issue_of_Official_Drilling_Permit_for_Uganda/6d4766d10.aspx

Uganda Grants Overseas Explorer It's First Drilling Permit.

(13/04/2010 – OilVoice)

http://www.oilvoice.com/n/Uganda_Grants_Overseas_Explorer_Its_First_Drilling_Permit/503387159.aspx

Dominion gets first Lake Edward basin permit.

(12/04/2010 – Business Financial News)

<http://www.bfnnews.com/display/?id=3820066§ionId=standardNews>

Dominion reports that it has received its drilling permit for the Ngaji-1 well on Exploration Area Block 4B (EA4B), Dominion's first exploration well in Uganda and the first ever to be drilled in the Lake Edward basin. The permit was issued by Uganda's Department of Petroleum Exploration and Production ('PEPD').

Italian firm still wants \$1.5b oil deal.

(13/04/2010 – New Vision)

<http://www.newvision.co.ug/D/8/220/716083>

ENI, the Italian energy giant, is still interested in Uganda's \$1.5b oil fields. The move could avoid a monopoly situation and offer strong investment opportunity in the nascent oil and gas industry.

Arms trade / Security in the Great Lakes Region

Le président Pierre Nkurunziza attendu ce mardi à Kinshasa.

(12/04/2010 – Le Potentiel – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/201004120196.html>

Le président burundais Pierre Nkurunziza annoncé en visite mardi prochain à Kinshasa pour raffermir les relations RDC-Burundi.

(10/04/2010 – Digitalcongo.net)

<http://www.digitalcongo.net/article/66048>

The Burundian president Nkurunziza on a visit in Kinshasa to maintain and further the relationship between the two neighbouring countries.

Burundi's 'Smallest' Military Budget Highest As Fraction of GDP in Region.

(12/04/2010 – The East African - allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201004130823.html>

Article comparing the military budgets of the East African countries.

DRC

Congo: A Stalled Democratic Agenda.

(8/04/2010 – International Crisis Group)

<http://www.crisisgroup.org/home/index.cfm?id=6614&l=1> (English)

<http://www.crisisgroup.org/home/index.cfm?id=6614&l=2> (French, includes full report)

The consolidation of democracy in the DRC is stalled on almost all fronts, and the Congolese regime remains fragile. Furthering the democratic agenda is vital to the Congo's mid- and long-term stabilisation. Creating new momentum to reverse current trends will require that institutional reforms and legislative programs are not considered merely as technical processes, but as tests of the government's political will to improve governance and as a central part of any dialogue on additional aid.

DR Congo risks falling into anarchy: report.

(8/04/2010 – Reuters)

http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJOE6370P720100408?feedType=RSS&feedName=topNews&utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+reuters%2FAFRICATopNews+%28News+%2F+AFRICA+%2F+Top+News%29&utm_content=Bloglines

La démocratie s'enlise en RDC, selon International Crisis Group.

(12/04/2010 – Radio Okapi)

<http://radiookapi.net/actualite/2010/04/12/la-democratie-s%E2%80%99enlise-en-rdc-selon-international-crisis-group/>

The DRC risks falling into anarchy if a move towards authoritarian rule developing under President Joseph Kabila continues, a report from the International Crisis Group stated. The report says an "authoritarian trend" has seen the president's office concentrate power, undermine the judiciary and fail to implement plans to decentralise, in an "abysmal" record since 2006.

Experts Present Suggestions to Move Country from International Conflict to Stability.

(8/04/2010 – MediaGlobal - allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201004090625.html>

The DRC has a long history of exploitation and conflict. To move past turmoil to a functioning state, it must promote government capacity and institution building, according to Eric Kashambuzi. Kashambuzi was a member of an African Union (AU) team sent to DRC in January and February to study the issues hindering post-conflict reconstruction and make recommendations for the AU's Peace and Security Council. The full report will be released in the next month.

Bundibugyo in Fear Over Rumours of ADF Regrouping in DR Congo.

(7/04/2010 – New Vision – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201004080106.html>

The Allied Democratic Front rebels killed over 3,000 people and displaced 100,000 in the 1990s. The deputy Resident District Commissioner of Bundibugyo district, Patrick Kawamara, however, dispels fears that they could attack. He says the district is peaceful and the people are protected by the UPDF patrolling the border.

Red Cross: Eight aid workers abducted in DRC.

(13/04/2010 – CNN)

http://edition.cnn.com/2010/WORLD/africa/04/13/congo.kidnap/index.html?eref=edition_africa&utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+rss%2Fedition_africa+%28RSS%3A+Africa%29&utm_content=Bloglines

Red Cross says eight staff kidnapped in Congo.

(13/04/2010 – Reuters)

http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJOE63C06820100413?feedType=RSS&feedName=topNews&utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+reuters%2FAFRICATopNews+%28News+%2F+AFRICA+%2F+Top+News%29&utm_content=Bloglines

Democratic Republic of the Congo: ICRC staff held by armed group in South Kivu.

(13/04/2010 – ICRC – Reliefweb)

<http://www.reliefweb.int/rwb.nsf/db900SID/SNAA-84G9ZY?OpenDocument&RSS20=18-P>

DR Congo rebels seize Red Cross workers.

(13/04/2010 – BBC)

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/8617160.stm> (English)

http://www.bbc.co.uk/french/news/story/2010/04/100413_rdc_enlevementcicr.shtml (French)

Fizi: enlèvement de huit employés du CICR.

(13/04/2010 – Radio Okapi)

<http://radiookapi.net/actualite/2010/04/13/fizi-enlevement-de-huit-employes-du-cicr/>

Sud-Kivu : les miliciens Mai-Mai prennent en otage huit agents de la Croix rouge Internationale.

(13/04/2010 – AFP – Digitalcongo.net)

<http://www.digitalcongo.net/article/66114>

A Swiss delegate and seven Congolese staff members of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), who had just completed an assessment of displaced people in the Fizi area, have been abducted since April 9 by Mai Mai Yakutumba, a militia operating in South Kivu province.

DRC Rebel Groups to Form Coalition.

(8/04/2010 – VOA News)

<http://www1.voanews.com/english/news/africa/DRC-Rebel-Groups-to-Form-Coalition--90296912.html>

Création de l'Alliance pour la Sauvegarde des Accords de Goma.

(13/04/2010 – Radio Okapi)

<http://radiookapi.net/actualite/2010/04/13/creation-de-lalliance-pour-la-sauvegarde-des-accords-de-goma/>

In the DRC, the leader of the Mai Mai Kifuafua rebels says a new rebel coalition comprising over 17 different armed groups will be unveiled in the eastern part of the country Friday. Didier Bitaki said the various armed groups decided to join forces after President Joseph Kabila's government failed to fully implement several peace accords. Bitaki said the group, to be known as the Alliance for Maintaining the Peace Agreement of Goma, will ensure President Kabila's administration lives up to the promises made when it signed peace accords with the various armed groups. He said the rebel coalition includes Mai Mai Kifuafua, CNDP, Pareco and Mai Mai Yakutumba, among other rebel groups.

Le Cndp se désolidarise de la nébuleuse alliance annoncée au Nord- Kivu par certains groupes armés.

(13/04/2010 – Digitalcongo.net)

<http://www.digitalcongo.net/article/66109>

The CNDP, through its president Philippe Gashishi Ngango, denies its implication in the rebel coalition announced by Didier Bitaki.

Ituri: un mort suite aux attaques des miliciens FPJC.

(7/04/2010 – Radio Okapi)

<http://radiookapi.net/actualite/2010/04/07/ituri-un-mort-suite-aux-attaques-des-miliciens-fpjc/>

Several villages in Irumu have been attacked by FPJC rebels last week, one civilian has been killed.

Bunia : appel pour que le FPJC dépose les armes.

(9/04/2010 – Radio Okapi)

<http://radiookapi.net/actualite/2010/04/09/bunia-appel-pour-que-le-fpic-depose-les-armes/>

Ituri senator John Tibasima called on the FPJC rebels to lay down their arms.

Les peuples autochtones pygmées du Sud-Kivu victimes des tracasseries dans le voisinage du parc de Kahuzi Biega.

(9/04/2010 – ACP – Digitalcongo.net)

<http://www.digitalcongo.net/article/66003>

Pygmies living in South Kivu, near the Kahuzi Biega National Park, are not able to conduct their normal agricultural activities because of harassments committed by armed men.

MONUC: Ban Ki-moon recommande a responsible exit strategy.

(7/04/2010 – MONUC)

<http://monuc.unmissions.org/Default.aspx?tabid=932&ctl=Details&mid=1096&ItemID=8504> (English)

<http://monuc.unmissions.org/Default.aspx?tabid=1069&ctl=Details&mid=1143&ItemID=8491> (French)

Ban Kin-moon présente un rapport sur le retrait partiel de la Monuc.

(7/04/2010 – Le Potentiel – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/201004070274.html>

Retrait de la Monuc - l'Onu pose des conditions.

(7/04/2010 – Le Potentiel – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/201004070128.html>

In his 31st report (S/2010/164) to the UN Security Council, the UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, recommends that the Council extends the deployment of MONUC's mandate in DRC for one year, starting from 1st June 2010. The Secretary-General also notes the notable progress made by the DRC despite difficult challenges, as well as the advances made by MONUC in discharging its mandate. This report will be discussed before the Security Council on 13 April.

UN to begin first phase of pullout of blue helmets in DR Congo by July.

(13/04/2010 – UN News Centre)

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=34355&Cr=democratic&Cr1=congo>

RDC : Des progrès inégaux mais importants, selon le chef de la MONUC.

(13/04/2010 – UN News Centre)

<http://www.un.org/apps/newsFr/storyF.asp?NewsID=21679&Cr=Congo&Cr1=>

The top United Nations official in the DRC told the Security Council today that the first stage of withdrawing blue helmets from the country by July is "operationally feasible," but the safety of civilians under threat from militias and criminals remains a priority.

L'Ituri a encore besoin de la Monuc, estime la société civile.

(12/04/2010 – Radio Okapi)

<http://radiookapi.net/actualite/2010/04/12/1%E2%80%99ituri-a-encore-besoin-de-la-monuc-estime-la-societe-civile/>

The Ituri civil society stated the current security situation shows the province still requires MONUC presence.

DRC: Doctors fear drug shortages after clashes.

(7/04/2010 – IRIN)

<http://www.irinnews.org/report.aspx?ReportId=88722>

Health facilities in Equateur's Provincial capital, Mbandaka, are overwhelmed with people injured in recent fighting between the Congolese army and insurgents in the town, raising concerns that essential medical supplies are running out.

DR Congo army says rescues Spanish hostage.

(13/04/2010 – Reuters)

http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJOE63C0UV20100413?feedType=RSS&feedName=topNews&utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+reuters%2FAFRICATopNews+%28News+%2F+AFRICA+%2F+Top+News%29&utm_content=Bloglines

Les FARDC délivrent un touriste espagnol de mains des insurgés Enyele.

(13/04/2010 – Radio Okapi)

<http://radiookapi.net/actualite/2010/04/13/les-fardc-delivrent-un-touriste-espagnol-de-mains-des-insurges-eneyle/>

Congo army commandos rescued a Spanish doctor held by the Enyele rebels in the DRC's Equateur Province, army spokesman Colonel Leon Kasonga said.

UN takes new security steps after deadly attack in north-western DR Congo.

(7/04/2010 – UN News Centre)

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=34303&Cr=democratic&Cr1=congo> (English)

<http://www.un.org/apps/newsFr/storyF.asp?NewsID=21636&Cr=Congo&Cr1=> (French)

Après l'attaque meurtrière de la ville de Mbandaka par les Enyele - Des mesures exceptionnelles!

(8/04/2010 – La Prospérité – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/201004090175.html>

UN peacekeepers in the DRC and the national army are adopting new security measures after a deadly attack in a hitherto more stable region of the vast strife-torn country highlighted the potential for local conflicts to rapidly escalate. Top UN military commander Lieutenant-General Babacar Gaye and national army Chief of Staff General Didier Etumba yesterday visited Mbandaka, to take stock of the situation after Enyele insurgents struck at the governor's mansion and national assembly on Sunday before temporarily occupying the airport.

UN failed civilians during Congo rebel attack: minister.

(10/4/2010 – Reuters)

http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJOE63900Y20100410?feedType=RSS&feedName=topNews&utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+reuters%2FAFRICATopNews+%28News+%2F+AFRICA+%2F+Top+News%29&utm_content=Bloglines

RDC: la MONUC à nouveau sur la sellette.

(9/04/2010 – BBC)

http://www.bbc.co.uk/french/news/story/2010/04/100409_drc_monuc_equateur.shtml

L'attaque de Mbandaka par les insurgés Enyele dénoncée par le ministre Lambert Mende comme une entreprise terroriste.

(10/04/2010 – Digitalcongo.net)

<http://www.digitalcongo.net/article/66042>

Lambert Mende dévoile l'identité des assaillants de Mbandaka.

(9/04/2010 – Radio Okapi)

<http://radiookapi.net/actualite/2010/04/09/lambert-mende-devoile-l%E2%80%99identite-des-assaillants-de-mbandaka/>

Mende takes a stand against MONUC.

(13/04/2010 – Jason Stearns)

<http://congosiassa.blogspot.com/2010/04/mende-takes-stand-against-monuc.html>

Congo's government accused UN peacekeepers on Friday of failing to protect civilians when rebels attacked a northern town last weekend, but said the violence should not delay a possible U.N. withdrawal.

Événements de Mbandaka: le MLC réfute les accusations du gouvernement.

(12/04/2010 – Radio Okapi)

<http://radiookapi.net/actualite/2010/04/12/francois-mwamba-refute-les-accusations-du-gouvernement-contre-l%E2%80%99opposition/>

Evénements de Mbandaka - François Mwamba réfute les accusations du gouvernement contre l'opposition.

(13/04/2010 – Le Potentiel – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/201004130852.html>

The MLC denounces the accusations of the Congolese government that has been involved in the Enyele rebel assault on Mbandaka.

« La Monuc n'a jamais minimisé le dossier Enyele » selon le porte-parole de la mission onusienne en RDC.

(8/04/2010 – ACP – Digitalcongo.net)

<http://www.digitalcongo.net/article/65997>

The assault of the Enyele rebels on Mbandaka dominated the MONUC press conference.

Equateur province: High-powered MONUC delegation visits Mbandaka.

(13/04/2010 – MONUC)

<http://monuc.unmissions.org/Default.aspx?tabid=932&ctl=Details&mid=1096&ItemID=8550> (English)

<http://monuc.unmissions.org/Default.aspx?tabid=1069&ctl=Details&mid=1143&ItemID=8548> (French)

La Monuc ouvre une enquête sur les événements de Mbandaka.

(13/04/2010 – Le Potentiel – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/201004130855.html>

Deputy Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for DRC, Ms Leila Zerrougui, made a six-hour visit to the administrative town of Equateur province on 12 April to bring the Mission's moral support to UN staff and local populations on the ground and to evaluate the security situation, a few days after the violent clashes of 4th and 5th April.

Evénements de Mbandaka - 3 officiers supérieurs des FARDC à la barre.

(10/04/2010 – Le Potentiel – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/201004120386.html>

Article on the Enyele rebels' attack on Mbandaka and the casualties suffered on both sides.

Situation sécuritaire : l'hypothèque FARDC.

(9/04/2010 – Le Potentiel – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/201004090295.html>

Kabila veut tirer au clair la situation des Enyele.

(8/04/2010 – La Prospérité – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/201004080624.html>

Après l'attaque des Enyele : Joseph Kabila à Mbandaka.

(8/04/2010 – Le Potentiel – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/201004080296.html>

Joseph Kabila à Mbandaka ce jeudi.

(8/04/2010 – Radio Okapi)

<http://radiookapi.net/actualite/2010/04/08/joseph-kabila-a-mbandaka-ce-jeudi/>

Retour du Chef de l'Etat à Kinshasa après avoir réconforté à Mbandaka les compatriotes de l'Equateur sous le choc de l'attaque des Enyele.

(12/04/2010 – Digitalcongo.net)

<http://www.digitalcongo.net/article/66074>

La population de Mbandaka requinquée par l'espoir lui rendu par le président Joseph Kabila et le Premier ministre A. Muzito.

(12/04/2010 – ACP – Digitalcongo.net)

<http://www.digitalcongo.net/article/66079>

The Congolese 'Conseil supérieur de la défense' gathered in Mbandaka last week, shortly after the Enyele rebels attack the provincial chief town.

Mbandaka - la vie reprend timidement!

(8/04/2010 – La Prospérité – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/201004080623.html>

Mbandaka: retour hésitant à la normale.

(7/04/2010 – Radio Okapi)

<http://radiookapi.net/actualite/2010/04/07/mbandaka-retour-hesitant-a-la-normale/>

'Ordinary' life returns slowly to Mbandaka after the Enyele rebels' assault of last week.

UN-backed survey finds alarming malnutrition rates in DR Congo.

(7/04/2010 – UN News Centre)

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=34297&Cr=democratic&Cr1=congo> (English)

<http://www.un.org/apps/newsFr/storyF.asp?NewsID=21632&Cr=Congo&Cr1=> (French)

Taux excessifs de malnutritions en RDC.

(8/04/2010 – Le Potentiel – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/201004080454.html>

A UN-supported survey has revealed alarming acute malnutrition rates among some 530.000 children under five and more than one million pregnant women in the DRC. The Government survey was conducted last year in five provinces – Kasai Occidental, Kasai Oriental and Equateur (west), Maniema (east), and Katanga (south-east) – with the support of UNICEF and the WFP.

DRC: Half a million children at risk of malnutrition.

(9/04/2010 – IRIN)

<http://www.irinnews.org/report.aspx?ReportId=88760>

About 530,000 children younger than five and more than a million women need urgent nutritional support in the Democratic Republic of Congo, says the Ministry of Health. Officials are calling for more resources for prevention and treatment and for agricultural production to be improved.

South Kivu: Campaign to fight social stigma of sexual violence.

(8/04/2010 – MONUC)

<http://monuc.unmissions.org/Default.aspx?tabid=932&ctl=Details&mid=1096&ItemID=8509> (English)

<http://monuc.unmissions.org/Default.aspx?tabid=1069&ctl=Details&mid=1143&ItemID=8500> (French)

The UN Joint Human Rights Office (UNJHRO) and the MONUC Bukavu launched, on 6 April, a campaign against stigmatisation of victims of sexual violence. South Kivu is one of the worst affected Congolese provinces by cases of rape and violence against women. A significant number of victims do not report the abuse for fear of stigma and rejection. In some cases, the victim is obliged to make an arrangement with the rapist, rather than take him to court.

Resolution on the Human Rights Situation in Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

(10/04/2010 – FIDH)

<http://www.fidh.org/Resolution-on-the-Human-Rights-Situation-in-7771>

FIDH document on the human rights situation in the DRC.

UN agency urges Zambia to halt deportation of refugees.

(13/04/2010 – UN News Centre)

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=34346&Cr=refugee&Cr1=> (English)

<http://www.un.org/apps/newsFr/storyF.asp?NewsID=21680&Cr=r%E9fugi%E9s&Cr1=> (French)

Lubumbashi: arrivée de 30 Congolais expulsés de la Zambie.

(8/04/2010 – Radio Okapi)

<http://radiookapi.net/actualite/2010/04/08/lubumbashi-arrivee-de-30-congolais-expulses-de-la-zambie/>

The United Nations refugee agency today urged the Zambian Government to halt the expulsion of refugees and asylum-seekers to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) after 36 individuals were recently sent back.

RDC : Bulletin d'information humanitaire Province Orientale 30 mars 2010.

(30/03/2010 – OCHA – Reliefweb)

<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/NMUO-848R7V?OpenDocument&RSS20=22-P>

RDC : Bulletin d'information humanitaire, Province du Sud-Kivu 30 mars 2010.

(30/03/2010 – OCHA – Reliefweb)

<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/NMUO-848QZN?OpenDocument&RSS20=22-P>

Situation humanitaire en République Démocratique du Congo : Période du 26 Mars au 01 Avril 2010.

(1/04/2010 – OCHA – Reliefweb)

<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/MYAI-8465UU?OpenDocument&RSS20=22-P>

RDC : Bulletin d'information humanitaire, 06 avril 2010 - Province du Sud-Kivu.

(6/04/2010 – OCHA – Reliefweb)

<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/NMUO-84BSK8?OpenDocument&RSS20=22-P>

RDC : Bulletin d'information humanitaire, 07 avril 2010 - Province Orientale.

(7/04/2010 – OCHA – Reliefweb)

<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/NMUO-84BKRN?OpenDocument&RSS20=22-P>

RDC : Bulletin d'information humanitaire, 07 avril 2010 - Provinces du Centre et de l'Ouest.

(7/04/2010 – OCHA – Reliefweb)

<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/MDCS-84BDHZ?OpenDocument&RSS20=22-P>

RDC : Bulletin d'information humanitaire, 06 avril 2010 - Province du Nord Kivu.

(7/04/2010 – OCHA – Reliefweb)

<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/NMUO-84APA2?OpenDocument&RSS20=22-P>

Situation humanitaire en République Démocratique du Congo : Note d'information à la presse, 7 avril 2010.

(7/04/2010 – OCHA – Reliefweb)

<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/FBUO-84AH73?OpenDocument&RSS20=22-P>

OCHA reports on the humanitarian situation and humanitarian assistance in the eastern Congolese provinces.

FDLR

MONUC 'Helpline' for former Rebels.

(10/04/2010 – MONUC)

<http://monuc.unmissions.org/Default.aspx?tabid=932&ctl=Details&mid=1096&ItemID=8513> (English)

<http://monuc.unmissions.org/Default.aspx?tabid=1069&ctl=Details&mid=1143&ItemID=8536> (French)

MONUC peacekeepers are using broadcasts from mobile radio stations, mobile phones and leaflets air-dropped over hostile territory, to encourage rebels of the FDLR to quit the bush in eastern Congo and accept safe passage to Rwanda. MONUC is also using its powerful nation-wide radio station, 'Radio Okapi' to broadcast special messages on the process of DDRRR. Radio Okapi also carries interviews with former rebels who have been safely repatriated and reunited with families in their old communities.

A travers le processus DDRRR - Plus de 2.400 combattants FDLR rapatriés au Rwanda.

(9/04/2010 – Le Potentiel – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/201004090372.html>

MONUC and OCHA confirmed that, since January 2009, 21.992 Rwandans, of whom 2.426 FDLR rebels have been repatriated.

LRA

Democratic Party Denies Rebel Links.

(6/04/2010 – New Vision – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201004070311.html>

The Democratic Party (DP) of Uganda has denied links to the LRA rebels. The New Vision yesterday reported that Okello 'Mission', the LRA political commissar who was captured by the UPDF last month, allegedly possessed a DP membership card.

Le Ministre de l'intérieur touche du doigt les exactions de la LRA.

(5/04/2010 – Africa Info – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/201004080203.html>

The CAR's minister of internal affairs Elie Ouéfié denounces the assaults committed by the LRA rebels.

Selon l'armée ougandaise - Le chef de la LRA compte réorganiser ses combattants au pays.

(13/04/2010 – Le Potentiel – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/201004130853.html>

According to a spokesperson of the Ugandan army, Joseph Kony has gone from the CAR to the DRC to regroup its fighters and to rearm.

Is Kony's Luck Running Out as U.S. Joins the Hunt for Him?

(13/04/2010 – The Independent – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201004131217.html>

Opinion article stating the "Lord's Resistance Army Disarmament and Northern Uganda Recovery Act of 2009" will allow the United States to provide "political, economic, military, and intelligence support for" multilateral efforts that seek to protect civilians from the LRA and attempt to apprehend Joseph Kony, in the absence of a negotiated solution. The bill also calls on the United States to respond to the humanitarian needs of those affected by LRA activities, especially the needs of people in Northern-Uganda.

UGANDA

More Sukhoi for Algeria, some for Uganda too?

(13/04/2010 – Defence Web)

http://www.defenceweb.co.za/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=7488:more-sukhoi-for-algeria-some-for-uganda-too&catid=35:Aerospace&Itemid=107

Russian news agency RIA Novosti is reporting Russia's state arms exporter Rosoboronexport has signed two contracts worth a total of US\$1.2 billion to deliver Irkut Corporation Sukhoi Su-30 "Flanker" fighter aircraft to Algeria and Uganda.

Government Asks Russia to Explain Jet Story.

(8/04/2010 – The Monitor – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201004080005.html>

The government has summoned Moscow's envoy to Kampala to protest against Russian press reports that Uganda had bought fighter jets paid for by promises of crude oil. Defence Minister Crispus Kiyonga told Parliament yesterday that government has communicated to Moscow asking for the press reports to be withdrawn or explained.

Army Now Says It Will Buy Fighter Jets.

(7/04/2010 – The Monitor – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201004070015.html>

The army now says it will buy six fighter jets from a Russian arms exporter if the government gets the money. Daily Monitor yesterday reported that the government had denied reports in a leading Russian business daily, Vedomotsi, that it had signed a contract with Moscow to buy the Su-30-MK2s fighter jets at Shs654 billion.

Govt Denies Jets Deal, Fake Waragi Kills 30.

(11/04/2010 – The Monitor – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201004121458.html>

The government and the UPDF vehemently denied reports in the Russian press that they were planning to buy six state-of-the-art jet fighters at a cost of Shs654 billion.

Does the Country Need Fighter Jets?

(8/04/2010 – The Independent – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201004080643.html>

Analysis of the controversy in the news this week about Uganda allegedly buying fighter jets from Russia. The report broke in the Russian media and, on Monday, UPDF spokesperson Lt. Col. Felix Kulayigye told reporters that Uganda would not be buying the planes, citing the exuberant cost.

Ugandan troops kill 41 cattle rustlers: media.

(12/04/2010 – Reuters)

http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJ0E63B0I220100412?feedType=RSS&feedName=topNews&utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+reuters%2FAFRICATopNews+%28News+%2F+AFRICA+%2F+Top+News%29&utm_content=Bloglines

Army Kills 42 Cattle Rustlers in Kaabong.

(12/04/2010 – New Vision – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201004130263.html>

Ugandan troops killed 41 Karamojong warriors last week in a fierce gun battle after intercepting them stealing hundreds of cattle from a rival tribe.

Police, Army Ordered to Stop Raiders.

(11/04/2010 – New Vision – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201004120776.html>

President Yoweri Museveni has ordered the Police and the army to stop suspected Karimojong warriors who have been raiding cattle in Otuke district. The order came after the district chairman, Donald Olyet, informed Museveni that the cattle rustlers were causing insecurity in Ogwete and Amua parishes in Olilim sub-county.

Donors Unhappy Over Karamoja.

(11/04/2010 – New Vision – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201004120791.html>

The donor community has expressed dissatisfaction at the way the Government is handling the disarmament process and development issues in Karamoja.

It is Easier to Create an Army Than Fight Corruption, Says Museveni.

(11/04/2010 – The Monitor – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201004121459.html>

Interview with President Museveni on several issues, for example the relations with Buganda Kingdom, the Ugandan army, corruption, ...

RWANDA

Citizen Refugees in Uganda Lose Cultivation Rights.

(11/04/2010 – The New Times – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201004120232.html>

Rwandan refugees living in Nakivale camp in Uganda have been stopped from carrying out farming activities in an effort to compel them to return home.

Military shuffle in Kigali.

(12/04/2010 – Jason Stearns)

<http://congosiasa.blogspot.com/2010/04/military-shuffle-in-kigali.html>

President Kagame shuffled his military top brass, making General James Kabarebe his new Minister of Defense. Lt Gen Charles Kayonga has replaced Kabarebe as the Chief of Defense Staff, undermining rumours that he had been placed under house arrest. Other important nominations are the promotion of Gen Caesar Kayizari to become commander of the land forces. Another appointment for Congo watchers will be of interest: Colonel Dan Munyuza has been appointed as head of military intelligence, a powerful position. Munyuza was key, albeit junior, character during the first Congo war.

BURUNDI

Le Burundi doit consolider son processus de paix pour stimuler l'économie.

(12/04/2010 – UN News Centre)

<http://www.un.org/apps/newsFr/storyF.asp?NewsID=21672&Cr=Burundi&Cr1=>

The UN stated Burundi should consolidate peace in the country to attract foreign investments and stimulate the economy.

IPIS latest publications

IPIS LATEST REPORTS

From deceit to discovery: The strange flight of 4L-AWA (text and documents).

(December 2009 – IPIS)

<http://www.ipisresearch.be/arms-trade.php>

On Saturday 12 December 2009 Thai authorities seized an aircraft at Bangkok's Don Mueang airport. The Ilyushin-76 had stopped on the 11th December for refuelling while en-route from Pyongyang to Tehran, and was carrying 35 tonnes of arms and ammunition. While the media rushed to make unproven claims about the plane and alleged former owners of the aircraft, little attention was paid to the web of companies, the flight plan, and final destination.

Activity Report 2008.

(9/11/2009 – IPIS)

<http://www.ipisresearch.be/natural-resources.php>

Jaarverslag 2008.

(13/10/2009 – IPIS)

<http://www.ipisresearch.be/news.php?id=252>

IPIS has published its activity report 2008. The activity report is a comprehensive report of IPIS' activities in 2008. Its assignments, publications and lectures are presented in this document.

Note accompagnatrice de la carte interactive des zones minières militarisées aux Kivus.

(13/10/2009 – IPIS)

<http://www.ipisresearch.be/mining-sites-kivus.php>

The French version of the accompanying note on the interactive map of militarised mining areas in the Kivus has been published. It is an explanatory guide to the research methodology used to produce the interactive map of militarised mining areas in the Kivus (MiMiKi) map, the Concessions map and the 'Comptoirs 2008' table that are available at the site.

Africa's natural resources in a global context.

(12/08/2009 – IPIS)

<http://www.ipisresearch.be/natural-resources.php>

While, on the one hand, it is widely acknowledged that Africa has great natural resource potential, on the other hand, one cannot but regret that the complex interplay between political and economic factors at the national and international level appears to make it impossible to use a more substantial part of the revenues from the exploitation and trade of these resources for the promotion of the well-being of people at the grassroots level. This paper, which concentrates on non-renewable natural resources, aims to disentangle some of the processes that explain the paradox between Africa's natural wealth and its relatively limited level of economic development. It shows that the state of affairs in the resource sectors of most African countries is still to a large extent determined by external factors. Extractive industries in Africa tend to be export-oriented and contribute disappointingly little to local development.

Militarised Mining Areas in the Kivus.

(10/08/2009 – IPIS)

<http://www.ipisresearch.be/mining-sites-kivus.php>

IPIS has published an interactive map of militarised mining areas in the Kivus (MiMiKi). Together with the map comes an explanatory guide to the research methodology and the possible uses of the map, including some striking findings.

The MiMiKi map constitutes a first systematic attempt to clarify the issue of profit by armed groups from the extractive industry in the east of the DR Congo. The interactive map contains information on the location of mines, the presence of armed groups at mining pits and a number of other variables. Although most recent analyses written on the issue point out that the region's relative mineral wealth is not the primary cause of the armed conflict in the Kivus, its role in financing armed groups is indisputable. Because of this situation, Western companies buying ores originating from the Great Lakes region, have been targeted by international NGOs who are asking them to implement a thorough system of due diligence. In the light of the loudening call for a stricter regulation of the sector, the listing of mining sites in the Kivus is essential.

The MiMiKi map only shows a part of the mining sector, namely the extraction of the minerals. In order to find out whether Western companies are buying Congolese minerals from which armed groups might benefit, the whole trading chain needs to be established. Therefore, in addition to the MiMiKi map, IPIS has appended a specific table containing information on the activities of the official comptoirs (mineral traders) in 2008.

It has to be noted that the MiMiKi map is not yet complete and should be considered as a work in progress. To date, more than 200 active mining sites are located on the map, including the most important. There are a few remaining blind spots (areas on which IPIS has no first hand information) on the map.

Impact de l'exploitation pétrolière sur la santé des populations locales et de l'environnement à Moanda. Cas de la firme Perenco.

(July 2009 – RRN)

<http://www.ipisresearch.be/ong-congolaises.php?&lang=en>

Report the Congolese NGO RRN made under direction of IPIS within the framework of IPIS' capacity building project.

The impact of the global financial crisis on mining in Katanga.

(14/07/2009 – IPIS)

<http://www.ipisresearch.be/natural-resources.php>

This report examines the impact of the global financial crisis on the mining sector in Katanga, the southeast province of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. As far as the industrial mining sector is concerned, it is shown that the crisis exacerbated the uncertainty of mining companies that were waiting for the results of the review of the mining contracts and that were often in the middle of starting up or expanding their activities in Katanga. Nevertheless, IPIS remains convinced that the renegotiation of the mining contracts is of vital importance for the long-term development of the Congolese mining industry. As far as the artisanal mining sector is concerned, it is pointed out that, due to the sharp decline in mineral prices, large numbers of artisanal miners have left the mines. While some of them appear to have found a new source of income in agriculture, there are disturbing reports that others may have chosen to engage in criminal activities in order to stay afloat.

Given the importance of the mining sector as a source of revenue for the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the development of a sound policy for crisis management is of vital importance to protect the health of the Congolese Treasury and to keep intact the possibility of stepping up government efforts in terms of poverty reduction and infrastructure development once the global economy starts to recover. This report

shows that both the central government in Kinshasa and the provincial government in Lubumbashi have taken a number of measures to cope with the consequences of the global financial crisis.

Unfortunately, there are indications that the ongoing decentralisation process tends to complicate the cooperation between the two governments. Moreover, as a result of the exaggerated attention for the so-called 'rétrocession' issue in the Congolese press, there is a real risk that the anti-crisis measures of the Congolese authorities are not examined in a critical manner.

Zimbabwe - Arms and Corruption: fuelling human rights abuse.

(July 2009 – IPIS)

<http://www.ipisresearch.be/arms-trade.php>

The following examples of irresponsible arms transfers involving Zimbabwe and other actors should be of great concern to the international community. The examples cited below are intended to illustrate further the need to ensure that the proposed international Arms Trade Treaty is as comprehensive as possible, and fully reflects the obligations of States to prevent arms transfers which pose a substantial risk of being used in serious violations of international human rights law. It is perhaps not a coincidence that these examples involve, amongst others, China and the U.S.A. – both of whose governments have been amongst the 'doubters' in the ongoing United Nations General Assembly deliberations on the ATT since 2006. Hopefully, as the new Obama Administration reviews the U.S. approach to the control of conventional arms, the U.S. position will become more constructive.

Culprits or scapegoats? Revisiting the role of Belgian mineral traders in eastern DRC.

(13/05/2009 – IPIS)

<http://www.ipisresearch.be/natural-resources.php>

Ever since the eruption of the second Congo war in August 1998, the mining sector in eastern DRC has been under the scrutiny of UN Sanctions Committees, academics, NGOs, and local and international media, who have been worried and disturbed by the links between natural resource exploitation and armed conflict in the region. Both state and non-state armed actors are deriving benefit from the local mining business by levying taxes on mineral exports, by selling minerals for their own profit, and by trading mining rights for financial and military support.

The present report aims to clarify the position and responsibility of Belgian mineral traders in the area. Our purpose is not only to shed more light on the activities of Trademet and Traxys, the two companies featuring in the latest UN report, but also to discuss the activities of two other companies that have received less attention so far, namely Services and Trading International (STI) and Société pour le Développement et l'Expansion d'Entreprises (SDE).

An analysis of Finexpo's and Ducroire/Nationale Delcredere's support practices in comparison to the EURODAD principles on responsible financing.

(29/04/2009 – IPIS)

<http://www.ipisresearch.be/corporate-social-responsibility.php>

In 2007, Belgian exports generated 89,3% of Belgium's gross domestic product. The exports created employment as well as fiscal and parafiscal revenues. Because of the importance that exporting holds in the Belgian economy, Belgium has several public instruments in place to encourage and support the export of goods and services. At the federal level, there are Ducroire/Nationale Delcredere (ONDD), FINEXPO and the Belgian International Investment Company (BMI-SBI). At the regional level, the most important are the Agence Wallonne à l'Exportation (AWEX) for Wallonia, Brussels Export for the Brussels region, and Flanders Investment and Trade for the Flanders Region.

This research paper looks specifically at the practices of the two most significant players at the federal level: FINEXPO and Ducroire/Nationale Delcrederediens. FINEXPO provides advice to the Belgian government about five types of support measures: rent stabilisation mechanism, interest relief (with or without grants), pure grants and loans (tied and untied). Ducroire/Nationale Delcrederediens provides insurances and financial guarantees against commercial and political risks. Annex 1 to this report lists and explains the various types of support. The paper will discuss the financial terms, legal terms and conditions in place when FINEXPO and Ducroire/Nationale Delcrederediens provide support for Belgian exports.

The paper also looks into what extent FINEXPO's and Ducroire/Nationale Delcrederediens's practices match the financial terms, legal terms and conditions which are set out in the EURODAD Charter on Responsible Financing. The principles in the Charter outline the essential components of a reasonable loan. Given that only FINEXPO provides loans, the principles in the Charter are only directly applicable to the provision of loans by FINEXPO. Despite this fact, the principles are still useful in determining whether the financial and insurance practices of all support measures by FINEXPO and those by Ducroire/Nationale Delcrederediens are responsible support measures or not. EURODAD's principles represent a general framework for a tough but fair policy.

Impact de l'exploitation de diamant et de l'or dans la reconstruction socio-économique de la Province Orientale.

(March 2009 – CENADEP)

<http://www.ipisresearch.be/ong-congolaises.php?&lang=en>

Report the Congolese NGO CENADEP made under direction of IPIS within the framework of IPIS' capacity building project.

IPIS LATEST ARTICLES

Illicit brokering of SALW in Europe: lacunae in Eastern European arms control and verification regimes.

(September 2009 – IPIS)

<http://www.ipisresearch.be/arms-trade.php>

The article argues that no arms control agreement which does not recognize the need to licence and control the activities of arms brokers can ever hope to be effective. Therefore the vital interest of the EU Code of Conduct for the purposes of this article is that it is extended to cover arms brokering activities by the EU Common Position on arms brokering of June 2003.

Stabilisation et secteur minier dans l'Est de la RDC.

(August 2009 – IPIS)

<http://www.ipisresearch.be/natural-resources.php>

In the beginning of July the Congolese government established a plan for the stabilisation of eastern DRC. The media remained silent concerning this initiative and the plan has not been made public. IPIS, however, managed to obtain this Congolese stabilisation plan. The objective of this article is to look at the essential points of the plan that could be useful as part of the Congolese and international efforts to dissolve the crisis in the eastern part of the country.

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