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IPIS

IPIS LATEST REPORTS

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 Delcrederediens'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 Delcrederediens (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 EUODAD 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. EUODAD's principles represent a general framework for a tough but fair policy.

Mapping Conflict Motives: Central African Republic.

(20/02/2009 – IPIS)

www.ipisresearch.be/mapping_car.php

IPIS has published 'Mapping Conflict Motives: Central African Republic'. It is the third study in the IPIS mapping series and it deals with the presence, behaviour and motivation of the armed groups that operated in the Central African Republic in 2008. Also the French version of the report is now online.

Rechercher la problématique des ressources naturelles dans la RDC.

(12/02/2009 – IPIS)

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

This syllabus has been created by IPIS for its project 'Renforcement de capacité d'ONG congolaises qui travaillent autour les ressources naturelles : méthodologies de recherche et rédaction de dossiers de haute qualité servant de base aux activités de campagne et de lobbying'. The project aims to reinforce the capacity of Congolese NGOs to produce reports and articles of high quality.

Mapping Conflict Motives: Katanga Update: May- September 2008.

(6/01/2009 – IPIS)

<http://www.ipisresearch.be/updates-katanga.php>

This report is the third (and for the moment the last) in a series of updates following an initial report on conflict motives in the Congolese province of Katanga. It analyses the most important security developments from May 2008 until September 2008.

IPIS would like to highlight the following issues dealt with in the report:

Security problems in Katanga have stopped figuring in the news. To a certain extent this is justified because the overall humanitarian situation in Katanga has improved and in general the number of human rights violations has decreased.

However, with MONUC gradually retreating from the province the international presence diminishes and with it the number of eyes and ears of observers in the field. Nonetheless, for the future several security hazards remain.

For one, the impact of the economic crisis on Katanga is enormous. Virtually all mining companies have significantly reduced or stopped their activities. The social consequences are dire for a province that economically relies heavily on mining. Secondly, in August a law was promulgated providing for the creation of 25

Congolese provinces instead of the 10 current ones. In this scenario Katanga will be cut into 4 new provinces. Feelings about the issue are mixed. The possible impact is difficult to estimate. Finally, the human rights situation in the North of the province remains disquieting, with persistent violations committed by state agents.

The information for the updates is drawn from desktop research by IPIS and permanent field research carried out by four Katangese partner organisations based in different parts of Katanga.

Towards a Sustainable Cocoa Chain: Power and possibilities within the cocoa and chocolate sector.

(December 2008 – Oxfam - IPIS)

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

IPIS drafted this report for Oxfam. It contributes in various ways to the debate on a sustainable cocoa economy. A sustainable cocoa economy is where each person investing time or money into the supply chain would be able to earn a decent income for themselves and their family, work in good conditions, and in a manner which did not harm the environment. It provides an overview of the various stakeholders in the cocoa and the wider chocolate supply chain. It identifies the concentration and purchasing power of companies as well as the trends in the supply chain. Finally, it makes a series of recommendations to the various stakeholders in the supply chain.

Fatal Transaction's second submission on EIB Statements.

(November 2008 – IPIS)

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

The European Investment Bank launched in March 2008 a public consultation on its draft revised "EIB Statement of Environmental and Social Principles and Standards". The EIB adopted its first Environmental Statement in 1996, which was revised in 2002 and again in 2004. The Statement describes the Bank's environmental and social requirements for projects that it finances.

The EIB invited organizations and individuals to comment on its 2008 draft Statement. The Bank also organised two rounds of public consultations. Fatal Transactions and IPIS now also commented on the second draft Statement of the Bank.

Fatal Transaction's submission on EIB Statement of Environmental and Social Principles and Standards.

(June 2008 - IPIS)

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

Fatal Transactions and IPIS commented on the Bank's environmental and human rights policy and its approach on good governance and transparency.

From conflict resources to sustainable development: Memorandum by Fatal Transactions on the European Union's contribution to natural resource management in Africa

(July 2008 – Fatal Transactions - IPIS)

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

IPIS drafted this publication for Fatal Transactions. The Memorandum looks specifically at the European Commission's contribution to a sustainable exploitation of natural resources in Africa and a sustainable supply chain. It also assesses its approach on conflict resources. The paper provides an analysis of the Commission's trade policy, development cooperation, foreign and security policy, cooperation under bilateral and multilateral agreements, humanitarian aid and financial assistance. It also takes a look at the Commission's view on integrating and implementing external actions in its internal policies (e.g. energy and environment) in order to promote a sustainable management of natural resources abroad.

L'Afrique révisé les contrats miniers.

(July 2008 – Le Monde Diplomatique – IPIS)

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

Article on the current contract revision projects throughout Africa.

Activity Report 2007

(IPIS)

Jaarverslag 2007

(IPIS)

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

Natural resources in the Great Lakes Region

A lakeful of trouble.

(15/07/2009 – Nature News)

http://www.nature.com/news/2009/090715/full/460321a.html?s=news_rss

Africa's Lake Kivu contains vast quantities of gas, which makes it both dangerous and valuable. Anjali Nayar asks whether it is possible to tap the gas without causing a disaster.

Fatal Transactions Coordinator speaks out against Zimbabwean conflict diamonds.

(16/07/2009 – Fatal Transactions)

<http://www.fataltransactions.org/News/2009/Fatal-Transactions-Coordinator-speaks-out-against-Zimbabwean-conflict-diamonds>

Last Tuesday, as a result of the trial against the former Liberian President and warlord Charles Taylor, Fatal Transactions International Coordinator Anneke Galama spoke out against blood diamonds and Zimbabwe in the media.

DRC

Global Witness uncovers foreign companies' links to Congo violence.

(21/07/2009 – Global Witness)

http://www.globalwitness.org/media_library_detail.php/782/en/global_witness_uncovers_foreign_companies_links_to_congo_violence

Global Witness Report: 'Faced with a gun, what can you do?'

(21/07/2009 – Global Witness)

http://www.globalwitness.org/media_library_detail.php/786/en/global_witness_report_faced_with_a_gun_what_can_you_do

Congo-Kinshasa: Greedy Firms Fuel War Chasing Profits.

(21/07/2009 – Catholic Information Service for Africa – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200907210867.html>

Congo-Kinshasa: Firms Fuelling 'Conflict Minerals' Violence, Report Says.

(21/07/2009 – IPS)

<http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=47746>

British firm linked to Congo's illicit mineral trade.

(21/07/2009 – Guardian)

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2009/jul/21/congo-illicit-mineral-trade>

Mineral firms 'fuel Congo unrest'.

(21/07/2009 – BBC)

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/8159977.stm>

Mines du Kivu : Global Witness dénonce l'exploitation des civils par les groupes armés.

(21/07/2009 – Radio Okapi)

<http://www.radiookapi.net/index.php?i=53&a=24039>

Insécurité qui ne dit toujours pas son dernier mot à l'Est de la RDC : Global Witness accuse sans détours les multinationales.

(21/07/2009 – Le Potentiel – Digitalcongo.net)

<http://www.digitalcongo.net/article/59685>

The campaign group Global Witness released a report detailing how European and Asian companies have been buying minerals from DR Congo that are funding armed groups and fuelling the deadly conflict.

Congo-Kinshasa: Guerre économique en RDC : les puissances américano-européennes s'affrontent.

(20/07/2009 – Le Potentiel – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/200907200764.html>

Or, coltan et cassitérite de la RDC demeurent des enjeux de confrontation des puissances américaines et européennes.

(20/07/2009 – Le Potentiel – Digitalcongo.net)

<http://www.digitalcongo.net/article/59650>

Article discussing the economic dimension of the Congolese war, furthermore it also talks about the international dimension of the conflict for the Congolese mining resources.

Mine uranifère de Shinkolobwe : D'une exploitation artisanale illicite à l'accord entre la RD Congo et le groupe nucléaire français AREVA.

(July 2009 – ASADHO/Katanga)

For consultation at request.

Lubumbashi: l'Asadho dénonce l'exploitation illégale d'uranium à Shinkolobwe.

(15/07/2009 – Radio Okapi)

<http://www.radiookapi.net/index.php?i=53&a=23988>

ASADHO report on the exploitation of the Shinkolobwe Uranium mine and the Congolese agreement with Areva.

Congo-Kinshasa: Controverses autour des carrés miniers vendus.

(15/07/2009 – Le Potentiel – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/200907150242.html>

Controversy exists concerning the Belgian professor Jan Gorus' statement that 85% of the Katanga territory has yet been sold to mineral prospectors and exploiters.

Congo-Kinshasa: La RDC perd 70 millions \$US à cause de la fraude du métal jaune.

(15/07/2009 – La Prospérité – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/200907150336.html>

According to "Centre d'Expertise et d'Evaluation des Matières Précieuses du Congo" 123 kilos of gold have been exported legally from the DRC during 2008, compared to the annual production of 5 tonnes, the Congo loses a massive amount of finances on illicit trade of the precious metal.

Congo-Kinshasa: Gestion des ressources naturelles - Contrats léonins, fraude douanière : le déballage de la Société civile.

(15/07/2009 – Le Potentiel – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/200907150240.html>

On a conference organised by OSISA, the Congolese civil society accused to government of being responsible for the terrible situation of the Congolese mining sector.

Rapport : Propositions des Organisations de la Société Civile Congolaise Oeuvrant dans le Secteur des Ressources Naturelles pour la Finalisation des Renégociations des Contrats Miniers TFM Et KMT.

(14/07/2009 – Congolese Civil Society Organisations)

For consultation at request.

The report of the Congolese civil society organisations, made in the run up to the OSISA conference in the Memling Hotel.

Congo-Kinshasa: Revisitation des contrats miniers - L'incertitude plane sur le secteur.

(21/07/2009 – Le Potentiel – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/200907210323.html>

Congo-Kinshasa: Renégociation des contrats miniers - Point de vue de la société civile.

(21/07/2009 – Le Potentiel – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/200907210324.html>

Congo-Kinshasa: Révisitation des contrats miniers - L'ECC sollicitée pour en faire le lobbying.

(18/07/2009 – Le Potentiel – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/200907200447.html>

Articles from Le Potentiel concerning the conference in the Memling Hotel and taking a look at the civil society's stance towards the renegotiation of the mining contracts.

Accroissement des recettes sur les produits pétroliers : le conseil des ministres a pris une série de mesures.

(16/07/2009 – ACP – Digitalcongo.net)

<http://www.digitalcongo.net/article/59579>

The Congolese ministers gathered on Wednesday to discuss the measures taken aimed at enlarging the profits from the oil industry.

UGANDA

Uganda: Refinery Will Mitigate Aspects of Oil Curse.

(16/07/2009 – New Vision – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200907170026.html>

When oil and other mineral wealth is discovered in an underdeveloped country, its social impact is usually negative unless value is added before it is exported. This opinion article states that if Uganda opts to export its oil in crude form, the country is unlikely to escape the oil curse that other oil producing sub-Saharan countries like Chad, Angola, Nigeria, the DRC, the Central African Republic, Gabon and Equatorial Guinea have gone through.

Uganda: Construction of Sh44 Billion Oil Refinery Starts.

(17/07/2009 – The Monitor – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200907170486.html>

Construction of an oil refinery plant estimated to cost Shs44 billion has started in Nalukolongo -Ndeeba industrial area and it is expected to start production of several petroleum products this year.

Uganda: Options for Country After Oil Discovery.

(17/07/2009 – Business Daily – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200907170396.html>

The predicament facing Ugandans is whether to export the recently discovered crude oil or refine it locally and export products into the regional market.

Uganda: Country in Mineral Boom.

(15/07/2009 – New Vision – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200907160091.html>

Uganda's vast mineral potential is opening huge investment opportunities paving way for the creation of an attractive investment climate that will increase production for social and economic development.

Uganda: Govt Gets Sh3.3 Billion From Mining Licences.

(17/07/2009 – New Vision – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200907200008.html>

The revenue from issuance of mining licences has increased from sh1.2b in 2004 to over sh3.3b at the end of June 2009, the energy and mineral development ministry has revealed. By the end of last month, the Government had issued 498 mining licences as part of efforts to develop the mineral sector.

Uganda: Gold in Mubende, Arua, Jinja, Kitgum.

(15/07/2009 – New Vision – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200907160110.html>

Gold deposits have been confirmed in Busia, Bushenyi, Mubende and Karamoja, according to the just concluded airborne geophysical survey, which will be released today.

Uganda: Country Gets Sh80 Billion for Oil, Energy Sectors.

(17/07/2009 – New Vision – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200907200017.html>

The government of Norway has donated \$37.4m to boost Uganda's oil, energy, forestry and meat sector and bridge the budget gap. Of this fund, \$13m will help to strengthen the management of Uganda's oil and gas sector.

Uganda: Discovered Oil Enough for the Country.

(20/07/2009 – New Vision – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200907210004.html>

The 700 million barrels of discovered oil are enough for Uganda, Tim O'Hanlon, the Tullow Oil Group vice-president, has disclosed. Uganda consumes about 11,000 barrels of oil per day and depends on Kenya for supplies since it is a landlocked country.

Uganda: Minister Onek Warns NGOs Over Oil.

(19/07/2009 – New Vision – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200907200742.html>

Energy minister Hilary Onek has warned companies and NGOs against misleading the public on the ongoing oil exploration in different parts of the country. Onek said the speculation from the organisations is raising a lot of anxiety in the public. In the end, Onek said, people will start clashing over nothing because Uganda is not yet producing oil.

Secrecy, woes, war over Uganda's oil.

(3/07/2009 – The Independent)

For consultation at request.

Lead oil exploration firm, Tullow Oil PLC says it has nothing to hide. But the government continues to hide the Production Sharing Agreements. Why?

International mining companies in the Great Lakes Region

DRC

DRC's copper and gold in focus - Big elephant country beckons again.

(17/07/2009 – Mineweb)

<http://www.mineweb.com/mineweb/view/mineweb/en/page34?oid=86368&sn=Detail>

The blighted Katanga Province copper-cobalt brownfields treasures re-zoom into focus, along with gold to the far north east.

Top gold miners in gritty DRC takeover battle.

(16/07/2009 – Mineweb)

<http://www.mineweb.com/mineweb/view/mineweb/en/page67?oid=86352&sn=Detail>

Moto's dazzling Congo gold orebody is now the centre of a serious takeover battle: Red Back, AngloGold Ashanti, Randgold Resources, with more possibilities; Newmont, perhaps?

AngloGold, Randgold team up in \$488m bid for Moto.

(16/07/2009 – Mining Weekly)

<http://www.miningweekly.com/article/anglogold-randgold-team-up-to-bid-for-moto-2009-07-16>

Randgold, AngloGold to JV on Moto.

(16/07/2009 – Miningmx)

http://www.miningmx.com/news/gold_and_silver/randgold-anglogold-to-jv-on-moto.htm

AngloGold Ashanti Signs Agreements With Randgold Resources Limited in Relation to Its Proposed Acquisition of Moto Goldmines Limited.

(16/07/2009 – Marketwire)

<http://www.marketwire.com/press-release/Anglogold-Ashanti-NYSE-AU-1017932.html>

Gold companies AngloGold Ashanti and Randgold Resources, which are partners in Mali, on Thursday teamed up in a \$488-million deal to acquire Moto Goldmines, which is developing a gold resource in the DRC.

Randgold Resources International Conference Call Re Proposed Business Combination With Moto Goldmines.

(17/07/2009 – Marketwire)

<http://www.marketwire.com/press-release/Randgold-Resources-1018399.html>

Randgold Resources CEO Mark Bristow will be hosting an open conference call which is available to all, including Moto and Randgold shareholders, analysts and the press, to answer questions on the proposed business combination with Moto Goldmines announced yesterday.

RandGold moves to beat Red Back Mining's offer for Moto Goldmines.

(17/07/2009 – SmallCapNews)

http://www.smallcapnews.co.uk/article/RandGold_moves_to_beat_Red_Back_Minings_offer_for_/7956.aspx

Moto Goldmines, the gold miner which runs the Moto Gold Project in the Democratic Republic of Congo, today confirmed that it had received an unsolicited offer from Randgold Resources in a proposed plan of arrangement.

Moto to start talks with Randgold on takeover bid.

(20/07/2009 – Mining Weekly)

<http://www.miningweekly.com/article/moto-to-start-talks-with-randgold-on-takeover-bid-2009-07-20>

TSX- and Aim-listed gold development company Moto Goldmines would start negotiations with Africa-focused Randgold Resources regarding a potential takeover offer.

Hydropower crucial for development of Moto - Randgold Resources.

(17/07/2009 – Mining Weekly)

<http://www.miningweekly.com/article/randgold-resouces-2009-07-17>

Access to hydropower would have a big impact in turning Moto Goldmines to positive account in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Randgold Resources CEO Dr Mark Bristow said at the weekend.

Kilo Strengthens Management Ahead of Accelerating Exploration.

(16/07/2009 – Marketwire)

<http://www.marketwire.com/press-release/Kilo-Goldmines-Ltd-TSX-VENTURE-KGL-1018310.html>

Kilo Goldmines Ltd. is pleased announce a strengthened management team in preparation for a significant increase in corporate and exploration activity. The Company is well advanced on its exploration program at its core gold project in the DRC.

Banro files NI 43-101 technical report on Twangiza Updated Feasibility Study.

(20/07/2009 – Fox Business)

<http://www.foxbusiness.com/story/markets/industries/industrials/banro-files-ni---technical-report-twangiza-updated-feasibility-study/>

Banro Corporation is pleased to announce that it has filed on SEDAR a National Instrument 43-101 technical report relating to the Updated Feasibility Study of the Company's wholly-owned Twangiza gold project in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The report is dated July 17, 2009 and entitled "Updated Feasibility Study NI 43-101 Technical Report, Twangiza Gold Project, South Kivu Province, Democratic Republic of Congo."

CAMEC Reaches Off-Take Deal.

(15/07/2009 – Africa Mining Intelligence)

For consultation at request, or at IPIS library.

CAMEC finally reached an off-take agreement in early July after long discussions with the Chinese trader Zhejiang Galico Cobalt & Nickel Material Co Ltd.

Camec says received offers.

(16/07/2009 – Miningmx)

<http://www.miningmx.com/news/markets/comec-says-received-offers.htm>

Central African Mining and Exploration Co (CAMEC) said on Thursday it had received offer approaches, sending shares in the diversified producer up 40 percent. "Vale probably is our first pick in the speculative sense," said Nick Mellor, an analyst at Ambrian Capital. He noted that Vale recently opened a regional office in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The DRC is where CAMEC's majority-owned Mukondo Mountain cobalt and Luita copper project are based.

Vulture Fund FG Hemisphere's New Offensive.

(15/07/2009 – Africa Mining Intelligence)

For consultation at request, or at IPIS library.

The vulture fund FG Hemisphere is now targeting mining companies.

Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold Inc. Reports Second-Quarter and Six-Month 2009 Results.

(21/07/2009 – Fox Business)

<http://www.foxbusiness.com/story/markets/industries/finance/freeport-mcmoran-copper--gold-reports-second-quarter-month--results/>

Among a lot of other things there is a short state of affairs on the Tenke Fungurume project.

DJ UPDATE:Freeport: Congo License Review Ongoing, Mine Producing.

(21/07/2009 – Trading Markets)

<http://www.tradingmarkets.com/site/news/Stock%20News/2431968/>

The recently commissioned Tenke Fungurume copper-cobalt mine in Congo is expected to see sales of around 100 million pounds this year, but a mining license review hasn't yet been completed, U.S. producer Freeport McMoRan Copper & Gold Inc. said Tuesday.

UGANDA**Tower Resources re-evaluating data from Ugandan licence.**

(20/07/2009 – SmallCapNews)

http://www.smallcapnews.co.uk/article/Tower_Resources_reevaluating_data_from_Ugandan_licence/7964.aspx

Oil and gas group Tower Resources today said a re-evaluation of all the data connected to Licence EA5 in Uganda was underway following last month's news that the first test well on the licence had been unsuccessful.

Tower Resources Provides Uganda Update.

(20/07/2009 – OilVoice)

http://www.oilvoice.com/n/Tower_Resources_Provides_Uganda_Update/d0232c9d.aspx

Tower provides the following update on activities in Uganda Licence EA5.

China in the Great Lakes Region

Promoting dialogue between China and Africa.

(17/07/2009 – Saferworld)

http://www.saferworld.org.uk/newslist.php/461/promoting_dialogue_between_china_and_africa?action=article&id=461

Between 24 June - 3 July, Saferworld and partners Africa Peace Forum met with academics and policy makers in Beijing and Shanghai, China, to contribute to growing China-Africa dialogue and co-operation on security.

China vows closer bonds with DR Congo.

(15/07/2009 – Xinhua)

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2009-07/15/content_11713797.htm

China and the DR Congo agreed on Wednesday to strengthen bonds between parliaments and ruling parties. The agreement was reached in a meeting between China's top legislator Wu Bangguo and Evariste Boshab, speaker of the DR Congo's National Assembly and secretary general of the People's Party for Reconstruction and Democracy (PPRD), the country's ruling party.

Arms trade / Security in the Great Lakes Region

GLOBAL: Trade in small arms growing.

(13/07/2009 – IRIN)

<http://www.irinnews.org/report.aspx?ReportID=85260>

Trade in small arms and light weapons has been on the rise globally, fuelling violence in post-conflict regions, according to a new report. It was not clear whether the weapons were destined for civilian, police or military use, but "this increased trade is of concern because we know that legal weapons transfers can often enter illicit markets and be used in manners other than those intended," Eric Berman, managing director of the Small Arms Survey, told IRIN.

The real US–Africa policy.

(16/07/2009 – Pambazuka - AfricaFiles)

<http://www.africafiles.org/article.asp?ID=21304>

Article stating that doubling funds to AFRICOM in 2010 suggests Obama's trip to Ghana was about oil and a strategic AFRICOM base. Furthermore it wonders how increased military funding will promote and strengthen democracy in Africa?

Rwanda: Defence Chiefs to Meet in Goma.

(15/07/2009 – The New Times – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200907150426.html>

Goma : une rencontre CEPGL sur la sécurité de la région des grands lacs.

(16/07/2009 – Radio Okapi)

<http://www.radiookapi.net/index.php?i=53&a=24000>

CEPGL : les ministres de la Défense se concertent sur le renforcement de la sécurité commune.

(17/07/2009 – Radio Okapi)

<http://www.radiookapi.net/index.php?i=53&a=24010>

Rwandan Defence Minister, Gen. Marcel Gatsinzi and RDF Chief of Defence Staff, Gen. James Kabarebe are expected in Goma, DRC, for a regional defence and security meeting. The meeting will take place under the auspices of the Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries (CEPGL), a grouping that brings together Rwanda, Burundi and the DRC. The meeting will aim at exchanging information on the security situation in CEPGL as well as different initiatives aimed at enhancing peace and security in the region.

Rwanda: CEPGL Defence Ministers Agree on Eradicating Armed Forces in the Region.

(18/07/2009 – The New Times – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200907200819.html>

CEPGL : formalisation d'un cadre de sécurité mutuelle entre les Etats membres.

(18/07/2009 – Radio Okapi)

<http://www.radiookapi.net/index.php?i=53&a=24021>

The defence ministers of Rwanda, Burundi and DR Congo have agreed to eliminate all negative forces that are destabilizing the region and form a security fraternity body to assess and monitor the security situations in the region. The initiative of forming a security body under Economic Community of the Great Lakes Region (CEPGL) was reached as part of a security pact signed at Goma town of North Kivu-DR Congo.

DRC

Congo-Kinshasa: An Action Plan to End the World's Deadliest War.

(16/07/2009 – ENOUGH Project – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200907160777.html>

The world's deadliest war and most pronounced use of rape as a weapon continue to rage in the eastern DRC. The Enough Project's latest report on eastern Congo argues that this multi-layered and immensely complex conflict can only end when the international community adopts a new approach that focuses on five basic tasks: protecting civilians, implementing an effective counterinsurgency strategy against the FDLR rebels, ending the trade in conflict minerals, promoting regional peace and economic cooperation, and promoting accountability.

Pacification de l'Est de la RDC : l'état-major général des FARDC appelle derechef les FDLR et la LRA à déposer les armes.

(16/07/2009 – Digitalcongo.net)

<http://www.digitalcongo.net/article/59584>

FARDC spokesperson colonel Léon Richard Kasonga launched a new appeal to the FDLR and LRA rebels for a cessation of hostilities.

Insécurité : la cote d'alerte à Uvira au Sud-Kivu où deux caches d'armes viennent d'être découvertes en l'espace de deux mois.

(17/07/2009 – L'Avenir – Digitalcongo.net)

<http://www.digitalcongo.net/article/59610>

Uvira: découverte d'une nouvelle cache d'armes.

(16/07/2009 – Radio Okapi)

<http://www.radiookapi.net/index.php?i=53&a=23996>

In two months time, two arms depots have been discovered in Uvira.

Congo-Kinshasa: Opération « armes contre 100 dollars » - Le Parec remet 12.090 armes au gouvernement.

(20/07/2009 – Le Potentiel – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/200907200782.html>

More than twelve thousand light weapons have been collected by PAREC in Kinshasa.

Julien Paluku : « l'armée est à la recherche du chef Maï-Maï Kakulu Sikuli Lafontaine ».

(16/07/2009 – Radio Okapi)

<http://www.radiookapi.net/index.php?i=53&a=24001>

Several militia leaders have withdrawn their engagement to dissolve their rebel activities and have regrouped their militias.

Soldiers Who Rape, Commanders Who Condone: Sexual Violence and Military Reform in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

(July 2009 - Human Rights Watch)

<http://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/reports/drc0709web.pdf> (English)

http://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/related_material/drc0709fr.pdf (French)

Human Right Watch announces the publication of a new report on sexual violence by the FARDC against women and girls and impunity.

DR Congo: Hold Army Commanders Responsible for Rapes.

(16/07/2009 – Human Rights Watch)

<http://www.hrw.org/en/news/2009/07/16/dr-congo-hold-army-commanders-responsible-rapes>

L'Ong de défense des droits de l'homme HRW propose une chambre mixte à la justice militaire pour la « tolérance zéro » au sein des FARDC.

(17/07/2009 – L'Avenir – Digitalcongo.net)

<http://www.digitalcongo.net/article/59611>

The government of the DRC should urgently investigate and prosecute senior army officials allegedly involved or complicit in rampant sexual crimes against women and girls, as part of its efforts to combat sexual violence, Human Rights Watch said in a report released today. Human Rights Watch also called for a series of other actions to prevent sexual violence during conflict in Congo.

Rapes, assaults by Congo army largely unpunished: HRW.

(16/07/2009 – Reuters)

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJOE56F08E20090716?feedType=RSS&feedName=topNews>

Congo-Kinshasa: Selon HRW les cas de viols commis par les FARDC ont doublé depuis 6 mois au Kivu.

(18/07/2009 – Le Potentiel – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/200907200547.html>

Soldiers in the Democratic Republic of Congo who rape and assault civilians often go unpunished because the justice system is too weak to hold the perpetrators to account, a rights group said on Thursday.

MONUC Joint Protection Teams making a difference in the field.

(20/07/2009 – MONUC)

<http://monuc.unmissions.org/Default.aspx?tabid=932&ctl=Details&mid=1096&ItemID=4778> (English)

<http://monuc.unmissions.org/Default.aspx?tabid=1069&ctl=Details&mid=1143&ItemID=4779> (French)

MONUC's Joint Protection Teams (JPTs), comprising of civil affairs, human rights and child protection staff, have carried out 37 multidisciplinary field missions in the provinces of North and South Kivu since February 2009. By bringing MONUC military and civilian components together on the ground, the aim is to increase MONUC knowledge and capacity, thereby improving community relations and networks to better protect civilians in the Kivu provinces.

Congo-Kinshasa: La Monuc transfère ses tâches de l'Ouest vers l'Est de la RDC.

(17/07/2009 – Le Potentiel – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/200907170303.html>

Mbandaka : Ross Mountain annonce le désengagement progressif de la Monuc de l'Ouest vers l'Est du pays.

(15/07/2009 – Radio Okapi)

<http://www.radiookapi.net/index.php?i=53&a=23983>

On demand of the UN Security Council, the MONUC decided to disengage in the western part of the DRC focus all its activities on the eastern provinces of the country.

Congo-Kinshasa: Dans un rapport de juin 2009 - L'Onu dénombre 1,7 million de déplacés dans l'Est de la RDC.

(15/07/2009 – Le Potentiel – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/200907150753.html>

The UN counts 1,7 million IDP's in eastern DRC, a UN Secretary General's report states.

UN emergency fund gives \$7 million to aid eastern DR Congo's displaced.

(17/07/2009 – UN News Centre)

<http://www0.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=31504&Cr=democratic&Cr1=congo> (English)

<http://www.un.org/apps/newsFr/storyF.asp?NewsID=19646&Cr=congo&Cr1=OCHA> (French)

United Nations agencies and their partners will be able to provide urgent humanitarian relief to some 250,000 people in the strife-torn eastern region of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) thanks to \$7 million in emergency funding.

United Nations Humanitarian Fund gives \$7 million in rapid response aid to North and South Kivu.

(17/07/2009 – MONUC)

<http://monuc.unmissions.org/Default.aspx?tabid=932&ctl=Details&mid=1096&ItemID=4741> (English)

<http://monuc.unmissions.org/Default.aspx?tabid=1069&ctl=Details&mid=1143&ItemID=4740> (French)

Some 250,000 people in the Democratic Republic of Congo's troubled North and South Kivu provinces will receive urgently needed humanitarian assistance, thanks to a US\$7 million allocation from the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF).

Ms. Leila Zerrougui meets with women's organisations.

(16/07/2009 – MONUC)

<http://monuc.unmissions.org/Default.aspx?tabid=932&ctl=Details&mid=1096&ItemID=4730> (English)

<http://monuc.unmissions.org/Default.aspx?tabid=1069&ctl=Details&mid=1143&ItemID=4728> (French)

Ms. Leila Zerrougui, Deputy Special Representative of the UN Secretary General in the DRC, met with women's organisations on 13 July 2009, where she explained the mandate of MONUC and her particular responsibilities within the Mission.

Equateur: Ross Mountain encourages the authorities to do more to improve living conditions.

(15/07/2009 – MONUC)

<http://monuc.unmissions.org/Default.aspx?tabid=932&ctl=Details&mid=1096&ItemID=4685> (English)

<http://monuc.unmissions.org/Default.aspx?tabid=1069&ctl=Details&mid=1143&ItemID=4684> (French)

On a visit to Equateur province in northwestern DRC, Ross Mountain, Deputy Special Representative to the UN Secretary General in the DRC and resident UN humanitarian coordinator, noted the progress achieved since his last visit, but appealed for provincial resources to be better managed to benefit the local population.

Prosecution wraps up case of Congolese warlord at International Criminal Court.

(14/07/2009 – UN News Centre)

<http://www0.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=31470&Cr=icc&Cr1=>

The prosecution wrapped up its presentation of evidence against a Congolese warlord accused of recruiting child soldiers, the first suspect taken into custody by the International Criminal Court (ICC).

FDLR

Congo: A Comprehensive Strategy to Disarm the FDLR.

(9/07/2009 – International Crisis Group)

<http://www.crisisgroup.org/home/index.cfm?id=6209&l=1> (English)

<http://www.crisisgroup.org/home/index.cfm?id=6209&l=2> (French)

This ICG report states that the disarmament of the FDLR rebels requires a new comprehensive strategy involving national, regional and international actors, with a clear division of labour and better coordination, so as to take advantage of the recent improvement of relations between the Congo and Rwanda, put an end to the enormous civilian suffering and restore state authority in the Congo's eastern provinces.

Plaine de la Ruzizi : les FDLR attaquent à Lamera.

(15/07/2009 – Radio Okapi)

<http://www.radiookapi.net/index.php?i=53&a=23986>

FDRL attacks FARDC in Lamera, near Uvira.

Congo-Kinshasa: Traque des FDLR au Sud-Kivu - un Casque bleu pakistanais blessé à Mwenga.

(15/07/2009 – Le Potentiel – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/200907150785.html>

FDLR rebels have attacked a MONUC base in Mwenga, near Bukavu.

Le général Gaye menace les Fdlr.

(18/07/2009 – L'Avenir – Digitalcongo.net)

<http://www.digitalcongo.net/article/59637>

Following the FDLR rebel attack on Mwenga, General Gaye warned the rebels that such an attack requires a rigorous reaction.

Rwanda: DRC Army Kills 22 FDLR Rebels.

(19/07/2009 – The New Times – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200907200003.html>

Military officials of the DRC in Goma have said that their army has killed at least 22 FDLR rebels and captured several others. Speaking to The New Times, Congolese military spokesman Col. Leonce Richard Kasongo revealed that the insurgents were killed and captured during the on-going FARDC-MONUC joint operations against the FDLR.

Rwanda: Over 500 FDLR Killed, Captured – Monuc.

(21/07/2009 – The New Times – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200907210296.html>

The MONUC has revealed that more than 500 FDLR rebels have been killed or captured since the beginning of the ongoing joint DRC-MONUC offensive, Kimia II. The operation that has been centered in North and South Kivu provinces commenced in March. According to MONUC figures of between March and June show that up to 366 rebels were killed while 74 were captured in North Kivu. In South Kivu the figures reveal that 9 were killed while 65 were captured before the beginning of the current offensive.

Congo-Kinshasa: Le bilan des opérations Kimia II au Sud-Kivu est positif.

(20/07/2009 – Le Potentiel – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/200907200781.html>

Congo-Kinshasa: Opération Kimia II, les FARDC dressent un pré-bilan positif.

(21/07/2009 – Le Potentiel – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/200907210483.html>

Bukavu : Kimia 2, les Maï Maï sont aussi visés.

(19/07/2009 – Radio Okapi)

<http://www.radiookapi.net/index.php?i=53&a=24030>

The command of the military operation Kimia II expressed its satisfaction with the operation so far. Furthermore it is emphasized that also Maï Maï rebels are aimed at with this military operation.

La problématique de la protection de la population civile à la veille de l'opération Kimia II préoccupe la population du Sud-Kivu.

(15/07/2009 – ACP – Digitalcongo.net)

<http://www.digitalcongo.net/article/59562>

Civil society organisations in South Kivu asked the MONUC to make sure it fulfils its task to protect the civilian population during the Kimia II military operation.

MONUC Responds to NGO Concerns over FDLR Reprisals.

(17/07/2009 – MONUC)

<http://monuc.unmissions.org/Default.aspx?tabid=932&ctl=Details&mid=1707&ItemID=4744> (English)

<http://monuc.unmissions.org/Default.aspx?tabid=1069&ctl=Details&mid=1690&ItemID=4745> (French)

RDC : La MONUC contre la suspension des opérations contre les FDLR.

(20/07/2009 – UN News Centre)

<http://www.un.org/apps/newsFr/storyF.asp?NewsID=19653&Cr=Congo&Cr1=MONUC>

The MONUC expressed that it shares the concerns of humanitarian organizations that civilians are bearing the brunt of FDLR reprisals for current efforts to dismantle rebel forces in eastern DRC. However, the MONUC is convinced that a suggested suspension of current joint operations that are aimed at neutralizing the FDLR, would give the rebels greater opportunity to resupply, regroup and prolong the rape, forced labour, looting and torture of civilians that have been their trademark for many years.

LRA**UN 'open to Uganda rebel talks'.**

(16/07/2009 – BBC)

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/8153762.stm>

The UN has insisted it is committed to talks with Ugandan warlord Joseph Kony and his rebel group, despite disbanding its office dedicated to the process.

Uganda: Dutch Envoy Wants LRA Rebels Punished.

(16/07/2009 – New Vision – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200907170039.html>

The Netherlands ambassador, Jeroen Verheul, has said LRA rebel leader Joseph Kony should be punished at the ICC or the war division of court in Kampala for the crimes he committed in northern Uganda.

Two-track strategy needed to end conflict in northern Uganda – UN envoy.

(15/07/2009 – UN News Centre)

<http://www0.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=31481&Cr=LRA&Cr1=>

The outgoing United Nations envoy for the conflict in northern Uganda today stressed the need for a two-pronged strategy of pursuing negotiation as well as military action against the notorious rebel group known as the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA).

Grands lacs : Le Conseil de sécurité appelle la LRA à signer l'accord de paix.

(15/07/2009 – UN News Centre)

<http://www.un.org/apps/newsFr/storyF.asp?NewsID=19623&Cr=lacs&Cr1=LRA>

The UN Security Council demanded the LRA rebels again to sign the final peace agreement.

UN envoy's term ends, but rebels go on and on.

(14/07/2009 – Human Rights Watch – Reliefweb)

<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/ASHU-7TY2QH?OpenDocument&RSS20=18-P>

Joaquim Chissano will give his final briefing to the UN Security Council on July 15 in his role as the secretary-general's special envoy for the areas of east and central Africa affected by the Lord's Resistance Army and their two-decade campaign of violence. Although Chissano's mandate was suspended as of June 30, abuses by the LRA – ruthless rebels whose actions have had a devastating effect on civilians in four countries – continue.

Uganda: 'ICC Still Committed to Capture Kony'.

(14/07/2009 – New Vision – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200907150005.html>

The Chief Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, Moreno Ocampo, told President Yoweri Museveni that his interest remains to capture Joseph Kony and try him in at The Hague.

Ouganda: Traque de la LRA - les FARDC renforcent leurs positions dans la province Orientale.

(16/07/2009 – Le Potentiel – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/200907160185.html>

In order to suppress the LRA rebels, the FARDC has heightened the number of soldiers in Orientale Province.

DRC-UGANDA: LRA torture of civilians continues.

(17/07/2009 – IRIN)

<http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=85316> (English)

(20/07/2009 – IRIN – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/200907201530.html> (French)

The Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) is continuing to kill and kidnap civilians in northeastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), according to the UN.

Faraje : 7 tuées et une dizaine d'enfants enlevés par la LRA.

(15/07/2009 – Radio Okapi)

<http://www.radiookapi.net/index.php?i=53&a=23991>

Ituri: la LRA continue à enlever les enfants.

(16/07/2009 – Radio Okapi)

<http://www.radiookapi.net/index.php?i=53&a=23997>

LRA attacks, killings and kidnappings continued last week in Orientale Province.

UGANDA

Ouganda : Efforts supplémentaires nécessaires pour mettre fin aux déplacements.

(17/07/2009 – UN News Centre)

<http://www.un.org/apps/newsFr/storyF.asp?NewsID=19643&Cr=Ouganda&Cr1=d%E9plac%E9s>

Walter Kaelin, the UN Secretary General's representative for the rights of displaced persons demanded extra efforts to assure the return of North Uganda's IDPs.

Uganda: 23,000 Former Rebels Pardoned.

(16/07/2009 – New Vision – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200907170044.html>

Over 23.000 former rebels have been pardoned, the Uganda Amnesty Commission has said. Ganyana Miiro, a commissioner, said on Wednesday the beneficiaries were with various rebel groups since 2000 when the Amnesty Commission was formed.

Changing roles, shifting risks: Livelihood impacts of disarmament in Karamoja, Uganda.

(20/07/2009 – Tufts University – Reliefweb)

<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/AMMF-7U5SEF?OpenDocument&RSS20=18-P>

This report presents the findings of a research study to examine the role of disarmament policies in changes in livelihood systems of the population in the Karamoja region of northeastern Uganda.

UGANDA: "Invisible war victims" in the north require urgent attention – officials.

(22/07/2009 – IRIN)

<http://www.irinnews.org/report.aspx?ReportID=85290>

The elderly, orphans and very sick are Uganda's "invisible war victims" who urgently need help to transit from life in the internally displaced people's camps to a normal existence, officials said on 14 July.

Other

Great Lakes Echoes.

(July 2009 – EurAc)

For consultation at request.

Monthly publication of the European Network for Central Africa. Contains several interesting articles, this month among other things: Strategy to disarm the FDLR and Burundi's DDR process.

Small Arms Survey 2009.

(July 2009 – Small Arms Survey)

<http://www.smallarmssurvey.org/files/sas/publications/yearb2009.html>

An annual review of global small arms issues and themes. The Small Arms Survey 2009 contains two thematic sections. The first highlights the challenges of ensuring security after the formal end of war and comprises an overview chapter and three case studies (Aceh, Afghanistan, and Southern Lebanon). The second thematic section explores various aspects of small arms transfers, including the value of the authorized trade, national controls, and weapons tracing. Additional chapters focus on small arms measures and impacts.

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EurAc (European Network for Central Africa)	Newsletter	
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OSISA (Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa)		RSS Feed
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Oxfam	Newsletter	RSS Feed
PAC (Partnership Africa Canada)	Newsletter	
Pambazuka	Newsletter	RSS Feed
Pan African Parliament	Newsletter	
Pax Christi International	Newsletter	RSS Feed
Radio Okapi	Newsletter	
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