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IPIS

IPIS UPCOMING EVENTS

3 December – Lecture ‘Artisanal Mining in Katanga’ – KU Leuven, Department of Anthropology

9 December – Presentation on the principal engagements of the EU concerning natural resources during the Public Hearing “The Resource curse in Central Africa: Can the EU contribute to fairer economic relations?” at the European Parliament. – Belgian Network Natural Resources.

10 December - 'Analyse du plan Starec et son impact sur la violence faite aux femmes' – CNCD, Brussels

17 December – Public Debate “Congolese NGO’s als sleutel voor beter beheer van natuurlijke rijkdommen” – IPIS, Antwerp – More information: <http://www.ipisresearch.be/news.php?id=263>

Natural resources in the Great Lakes Region

Lake Project Also to Cover Burundi, Rwanda.

(19/11/2009 – The Citizen – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200911190923.html>

Lake Victoria Project to Cover Rwanda, Burundi.

(20/11/2009 – The New Times – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200911200051.html>

The World Bank supported Lake Victoria Environment Management Programme (LVEMP), launched in the mid-1990s, will now be extended to Burundi and Rwanda.

Experts to Meet Over Lake Kivu.

(19/11/2009 – The New Times – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200911190024.html>

An international group of researchers will meet January 13-15, 2009 at a conference in Gisenyi to grapple with the problem of Lake Kivu. The team of researchers from Rwanda and the US are set to meet in a move to come up with ways of tackling the high levels of carbon dioxide and methane gas in Lake Kivu, Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) said in a statement.

DRC

Rep. McDermott Introduces Conflict Minerals Trade Act.

(19/11/2009 – US House of Representatives – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200911191195.html>

Rep. Jim McDermott (D-WA), flanked by leaders from World Vision, the Enough Project, Global Witness, and the Information Technology Industry Council, unveiled legislation he will introduce in the U.S. House of Representatives today to help stop trade in conflict minerals that is sustaining a brutal war of unfathomable atrocities, especially against women, in the Congo. Rep. Frank Wolf (R-VA) co-sponsored the bill. The Conflict Minerals Trade Act provides a pragmatic and practical approach. It commissions a map that will overlay areas of conflict with areas rich in mineral resources in the DRC, so refiners will know which mines are likely to fund conflict.

Les mines minées.

(18/11/2009 – Le Potentiel – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/200911180654.html>

Article on the press conference organised by the Congolese minister of mines to evaluate the process of the mining contracts renegotiation.

Kawama : des coups de feu tirés en l'air pour chasser les creuseurs miniers artisanaux.

(24/11/2009 – Radio Okapi)

<http://www.radiookapi.net/index.php?i=53&a=25588>

Gunshots have been heard in Kawama, Katanga province. It probably concerns an operation to evacuate the illegal artisanal miners on Forrest's mining fields.

Encore un malaise préjudiciable.

(20/11/2009 – Le Potentiel – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/200911200458.html>

The modification of the MIBA statutes is dividing its stakeholders, including the Congolese state.

Miba : les travailleurs réclament les 20 millions USD promis par le gouvernement.

(18/11/2009 – Radio Okapi)

<http://www.radiookapi.net/index.php?i=53&a=25514>

MIBA workers are on a strike, demanding the US\$20 million the government promised and an amelioration of the social situation.

Christine Tusse : « le gouvernement ne va pas laisser la Miba sombrer ».

(22/11/2009 – Radio Okapi)

<http://www.radiookapi.net/index.php?i=53&a=25567>

MIBA administrator Christine Tusse tries to calm down the situation at the diamond mining enterprise, stating the government will live up to its promises.

Le Lac Kivu ouvert à l'exploitation.

(18/11/2009 – Africa Energy Intelligence)

For consultation at request, or at IPIS library.

The DRC received a report from the WB financed Expert Working Group on Lake Kivu Gas Extraction, and will probably start talking with enterprises on the exploitation of the gas from the Congolese site of the lake.

RD Congo : après les Chinois, les contrats indiens...

(23/11/2009 – Les Afriques)

<http://www.lesafriques.com/actualite/rd-congo-apres-les-chinois-les-contrats-indiens.html?Itemid=89?article=20596>

The DRC eyes to close down its infrastructure gap by signing a US\$263 million contract with India.

UNICEF says over 43,000 children work in DR Congo mines.

(19/11/2009 – Afrique en ligne)

<http://www.afriquejet.com/news/africa-news/unicef-says-over-43,000-children-work-in-dr-congo-mines-2009112038587.html>

RDC : plus de 43 000 enfants travaillent dans les mines, selon l'Unicef.

(20/11/2009 – Radio Okapi)

<http://www.radiookapi.net/index.php?i=53&a=25532>

UNICEF said on Thursday that more than 43,000 children work in mines in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), PANA reported from here. The UN agency made this known in a statement it issued ahead of the 20th anniversary of the Convention on the Children's Rights. "The child labourers include 20,000 in the south eastern province of Katanga, 12,000 in the central province of Kasa-Occidental and more than 11,000 in the central-south province of Kasa-Oriental," it stated.

DR Congo says Canadian hitch holds up debt deal.

(24/11/2009 – Reuters)

http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJOE5AN0JX20091124?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

(24/11/2009 – Mining Weekly)

<http://www.miningweekly.com/article/drc-says-canada-mining-hitch-holds-up-debt-deal-2009-11-24>

Democratic Republic of Congo accused Canada on Tuesday of holding up a rescheduling of its foreign debt in a dispute over a cancelled mining contract in the country. The IMF said this month the central African nation must arrange a rescheduling of its debt with the Paris Club of creditor nations before it could qualify to enter a global debt relief programme. Talks with them have been going on this week, but Congo said they had become snagged over its decision in August to cancel a copper and cobalt project in which Toronto-listed First Quantum Minerals is the majority shareholder.

Inga III, un projet nationaliste.

(18/11/2009 – Africa Energy Intelligence)

For consultation at request, or at IPIS library.

It is stated SNEL has never paid the promised US\$100.000, that should have constituted the starting capital of Westcor Joint Venture Co.

Lac Edouard : la pêche illicite à la base de la baisse de production des poissons.

(18/11/2009 – Radio Okapi)

<http://www.radiookapi.net/index.php?i=53&a=25499>

The illegal fishing on Lake Edward, causing overfishing, has caused the total fish production to diminish recently, which is threatening the livelihoods of the 20 thousand inhabitants of Vitshumbi.

Protection environnementale - Bas-Congo : la biosphère de Luki victime d'une déforestation à grande échelle.

(19/11/2009 – Le Potentiel – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/200911190619.html>

Article on the problem of deforestation and poaching in the forest reserve of Luki, Bas-Congo province.

UGANDA

Loopholes in Oil Agreements Revealed.

(22/11/2009 – The Monitor – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200911231178.html>

Uganda settled for relatively unfavourable terms from agreements she signed with companies currently working the huge oil fields discovered in western Uganda, according to a new report to be released this week. According to the report which was compiled from data gleaned off copies of the original draft contracts eventually signed between the government and several oil companies, the oil companies are set to make "three times what's internationally recognised as a fair profit".

Karuma à nouveau sur les rails?

(18/11/2009 – Africa Energy Intelligence)

For consultation at request, or at IPIS library.

After 10 years, it finally looks like the Karuma dam project will start in the short term, as the Indian company Infratech is conducting a feasibility study on the project at the moment.

Acholi Advised to Demand Oil Royalties.

(23/11/2009 – New Vision – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200911240899.html>

The Acholi Paramount Chief (Rwot), David Onen Achana II, has advised his subjects to form groups so that they can demand oil royalties from the exploration company in the region. He said when they form a forum, it will be easy to pressurise Heritage International Gas and Oil Company in a bid to benefit from the oil.

International mining companies in the Great Lakes Region

Congolese corporate responsibility.

(18/11/2009 – Kelowna.com)

<http://www.kelowna.com/2009/11/18/congolese-corporate-responsibility/>

The Commons committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade is this week holding further hearings on Liberal MP John McKay's private member's bill, which would essentially give radical non-governmental organization a veto over Canadian mining activities overseas. Under it, companies could thus find themselves legally bombarded by everybody from anti-rape campaigners to anti-development religious groups. Proponents of Bill C-300 claim they want to ensure that Canadian mining companies exercise "corporate social responsibility" (CSR) when operating in places such as the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

DRC

Metorex says Ruashi output improving, shares up.

(18/11/2009 – Mining Weekly)

<http://www.miningweekly.com/article/metorex-says-ruashi-output-improving-shares-gain-2009-11-18>

Metorex sees higher output from Congo mine.

(18/11/2009 – Reuters)

<http://af.reuters.com/article/investingNews/idAFJJOE5AH0CP20091118>

Metorex Gains Most in Seven Weeks on Improving Output at Ruashi.

(18/11/2009 – Bloomberg)

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601116&sid=at3wVPeDUFKq>

South African miner Metorex said on Wednesday its Ruashi mine in the Democratic Republic of Congo could produce 36,000 tonnes copper per year and up to 5,000 tonnes of cobalt in the long term.

Bunia : Caracal Gold prospecte de l'or.

(23/11/2009 – Radio Okapi)

<http://www.radiookapi.net/index.php?i=53&a=25582>

Caracal Gold is exploring for gold in Mambasa territory, Province Orientale.

Pweto : Anvil Mining débute l'opération recouvrement des factures d'eau.

(18/11/2009 – Radio Okapi)

<http://www.radiookapi.net/index.php?i=53&a=25502>

Anvil mining is now starting to collect the bills of the water supply project it established in Pweto.

UGANDA

Heritage Oil sells Ugandan oil field stakes to Eni.

(23/11/2009 – BBC)

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/business/8374261.stm>

Heritage Oil Confirms Sale to Italian Firm.

(23/11/2009 – The Monitor – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200911231630.html>

Italian Firm Buys Country's Oil Fields.

(23/11/2009 – The Monitor – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200911230544.html>

Heritage Oil to Sell Its Ugandan Interests to Eni in US\$1.35 billion Deal.

(23/11/2009 – OilVoice)

http://www.oilvoice.com/n/Heritage_Oil_to_Sell_Its_Ugandan_Interests_to_Eni_in_US135_billion_Deal/54577dbfb.aspx

Heritage Oil Pulls Out of the Country.

(22/11/2009 – New Vision – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200911230638.html>

Exploration company Heritage Oil has agreed to sell its stakes in two Ugandan oil fields to Italy's Eni for \$1.5bn (£903.2m). Heritage will sell its 50% share in the fields for \$1.35bn in cash and a deferred payment of \$150m.

Government Yet to Okay Sale of Oil Wells.

(23/11/2009 – New Vision – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200911240004.html>

Oil Deals Must Be Transparent.

(24/11/2009 – The Monitor – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200911240482.html>

The Government has not yet approved the sale of Ugandan oil fields to an Italian company, a senior energy ministry official has said. Ernest Rubondo, the commissioner in the petroleum exploration and production department, said any transaction related to the oil discovered in the Albertine Graben is "subject to Government approval".

Urgent Need for Cash Behind Heritage Sale.

(24/11/2009 – The Monitor – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200911250012.html>

Heritage Oil and Gas Company is apparently offering its business stakes in Uganda to Italian energy giant Eni S.P.A because it lacks sufficient financing to construct oil infrastructure such as refineries and pipeline, according to a top official.

ENI still pursues dream of joining that elite sorority called the Sette Sorrelle.

(24/11/2009 – Gerson Lehrman Group)

<http://www.glggroup.com/News/ENI-still-pursues-dream-of-joining-that-elite-sorority-called-the-Sette-Sorrelle-45028.html>

Eni and Heritage reached agreement under which ENI will obtain 50% interest in blocks 1 and 3A in Uganda for \$1.35 billion. An additional payment of \$150 million may be made for future contingencies. ENI will become the operator. The two blocks are located in the Lake Albert basin with discovered reserves of 700 million barrels. Twenty eight wells exist in the area. The transaction is part of ENI's strategy to grow the company in Africa. ENI currently works in Angola, Nigeria, Congo and Gabon.

Les nouveaux défis de Tullow Oil.

(18/11/2009 – Africa Energy Intelligence)

For consultation at request, or at IPIS library.

Article giving a short overview of Tullow's activities in Africa.

China in the Great Lakes Region

Full briefing paper: The Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC)

(August 2009 - Centre for Chinese Studies and World Wide Fund for Nature)

<http://www.ccs.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2009/11/CCS-FOCAC-Briefing-Paper-August-2009.pdf>

Paper on the history, use, achievements, ... of the FOCAC meetings.

Patterns of Chinese Investment, Aid and Trade in Central Africa (Cameroon, the DRC and Gabon).

(August 2009 - Centre for Chinese Studies and World Wide Fund for Nature)

<http://www.ccs.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2009/11/CCS-Central-Africa-Briefing-Paper-August-2009.pdf>

The paper seeks to outline patterns of Chinese investment, aid and trade in three Central African countries, namely Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Gabon. It draws on field research undertaken by the author in Cameroon (June 2009), the DRC (September-October 2008 and February-March 2009) and Gabon (September 2008), telephonic interviews with relevant stakeholders and a large body of secondary data: newspaper articles, books and academic articles.

Chinese Companies in the Extractive Industries of Gabon & the DRC: Perceptions of Transparency.

(August 2009 - Centre for Chinese Studies, EITI and Revenue Watch Institute)

<http://tinyurl.com/yezq87c>

The aim of the research was to ascertain perceptions held by Chinese stakeholders of African operational environments and transparency in general, and the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) in particular. The research findings indicate that the majority of Chinese stakeholders currently engaged in the DRC and Gabon are not aware of EITI. However, Chinese company representatives show a willingness to comply with local rules and respond quickly to demands from local authorities. They showed a positive attitude toward the principle of transparency in general and EITI in particular when informed about the initiative.

China And Africa Strengthen Cooperation Under Focac.

(19/11/2009 – Southern African News Features – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200911190839.html>

China and Africa have agreed on a new plan of action for the next three years in a bid to strengthen cooperation. The Sharm el-Sheikh Action Plan 2010-2012, which was adopted together with the Sharm el-Sheikh Declaration, will focus on trade, agriculture, infrastructure, climate change and social welfare among other issues.

Arms trade / Security in the Great Lakes Region

DRC

ADF, Govt Agree to Meet.

(25/11/2009 – The Monitor – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200911250039.html>

The Democratic Republic of Congo will play host to peace talks between Uganda and the defeated rebels of Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), the Ugandan government has announced. The Chairperson of the Amnesty Commission, Justice Peter Onega, who has been involved in secret talks with the group, said yesterday that plans are underway for open peace talks with the Congo-based Ugandan rebel group.

Sud-Kivu - Fizi - Le chef Mai-Mai Dunia se désolidarise de Yakutumba et rejoint le gouvernement.

(24/11/2009 – Le Potentiel – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/200911240701.html>

(23/11/2009 – Radio Okapi)

<http://www.radiookapi.net/index.php?i=53&a=25570>

Mai Mai chief Dunia, from Baraka in Fizi territory, is in Bukavu to talk with the government, he has stopped his collaboration with the Yakutumba.

Les humanitaires reprennent à zéro au nord Congo.

(19/11/2009 – IPS – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/200911191119.html>

Retombées des affrontements - Des milliers de personnes sans abris à Dongo.

(21/11/2009 – Le Potentiel – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/200911230740.html>

About 25.000 people have fled interethnic fighting in Dongo, in the northern part of the Equator Province. UNHCR deplores this situation, stating several years of work have been wiped out.

UN: 100 die in DRC ethnic clashes.

(19/11/2009 – Mail&Guardian)

<http://www.mg.co.za/article/2009-11-19-un-100-die-in-drc-ethnic-clashes>

At least 100 people have been killed in inter-ethnic clashes in north-western DRC that caused 25 000 civilians to flee, the UN said on Wednesday. Many of the victims drowned while crossing the Oubangui river in an attempt to reach the sanctuary of neighbouring Republic of Congo, he said. The Munzaya and Enyele tribes clashed over land and fishing rights in the region around Dongo in north-western Equateur province on October 28 and 29.

Eleven killed in Congo ethnic clashes: UN.

(20/11/2009 – Reuters)

http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJJOE5AJ0GM20091120?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

Mbandaka : 10 personnes tuées, bilan d'une attaque dans le secteur de Bombama.

(20/11/2009 – Radio Okapi)

<http://www.radiookapi.net/index.php?i=53&a=25534>

Two days of clashes between rival ethnic groups killed 11 people in isolated northern DRC this week, the MONUC said on Friday. The fighting -- unrelated to simmering rebel violence in the mineral-rich east -- follows the killings of at least 100 people last month in the northern village of Dongo, including 47 policemen, in a feud over fishing rights.

Dongo : les cadavres en putréfaction font craindre des risques des maladies.

(22/11/2009 – Radio Okapi)

<http://www.radiookapi.net/index.php?i=53&a=25565>

OCHA concerned about the state of public health in Dongo.

New Wave of Refugees Flees Fresh Fighting.

(20/11/2009 – IRIN)

<http://www.irinnews.org/report.aspx?ReportId=87136>

(20/11/2009 – IRIN – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200911200899.html>

Renewed clashes in northwestern DRC have led to a further wave of refugees, leaving corpse-littered villages in the affected area deserted, say humanitarian officials.

Equateur: New interdisciplinary MONUC mission in Dongo.

(24/11/2009 – MONUC)

<http://monuc.unmissions.org/Default.aspx?tabid=932&ctl=Details&mid=1096&ItemID=6547> (English)

<http://monuc.unmissions.org/Default.aspx?tabid=1069&ctl=Details&mid=1143&ItemID=6545> (French)

Situation humanitaire à Dongo : la Monuc dépêche une mission d'évaluation.

(23/11/2009 – Radio Okapi)

<http://www.radiookapi.net/index.php?i=53&a=25584>

A joint interdisciplinary team from MONUC, including representatives from MONUC Civil Affairs, Human Rights, Blue Helmets, the head of MONUC Mbandaka and the Commander of MONUC's Western Brigade, arrived today in the village of Dongo, in Equateur province, to investigate the intercommunity confrontations in the past few weeks that left many dead and thousands displaced.

Plus de 60 barrières à franchir pour joindre les deux Kivus.

(18/11/2009 – Le Potentiel – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/200911180656.html>

Article complaining about the immense number of roadblocks scattered over the Kivu provinces.

DDR - Wamaza accueille 300 miliciens de Raiya Mutomboki pour leur réinsertion.

(19/11/2009 – Le Potentiel – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/200911190612.html>

291 Rahiya Mutomboki rebels, accompanied by their leader Symphorien, have arrived at the Wamaza DDR camp for their integration into the FARDC.

Les Chefs coutumiers ont peur!

(19/11/2009 – La Prospérité – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/200911190405.html>

Customary chiefs in the DRC have expressed their fear for new ethnic conflicts as their might be rescheduling of territorial authorities.

Retour massif des réfugiés.

(23/11/2009 – Le Potentiel – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/200911230930.html>

Nord-Kivu - Arrivée massive des réfugiés congolais du Rwanda.

(21/11/2009 – Le Potentiel – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/200911230742.html>

Goma : arrivée massive des réfugiés congolais du Rwanda.

(20/11/2009 – Radio Okapi)

<http://www.radiookapi.net/index.php?i=53&a=25538>

Goma : confusion autour du retour des réfugiés en provenance du Rwanda.

(24/11/2009 – Radio Okapi)

<http://www.radiookapi.net/index.php?i=53&a=25591>

The situation in the Kivu provinces threatens to destabilize again as an enormous amount of refugees are returning home to the provinces.

Rapport synthèse sur l'insécurité grandissante dans le contexte spécifique des territoires d'Uvira et de Fizi/Sud-Kivu en République Démocratique du Congo.

(19/10 – 5/11/2009 – CEADHO)

For consultation at request.

Report on the situation of insecurity in the territories of Uvira and Fizi in South Kivu.

La Monuc plaide en faveur d'une mission de pacification à Dongo.

(19/11/2009 – Le Potentiel – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/200911190610.html>

Article on the MONUC press conference in Kinshasa, on the agenda, among other things, the pacification of Dongo village and the arrestation of the two FDLR leaders in Germany.

South Kivu: Joint MONUC/PNC patrols reinforce security in Bukavu.

(20/11/2009 – MONUC)

<http://monuc.unmissions.org/Default.aspx?tabid=932&ctl=Details&mid=1096&ItemID=6513> (English)

<http://monuc.unmissions.org/Default.aspx?tabid=1069&ctl=Details&mid=1143&ItemID=6512> (French)

Today joint patrols were launched between MONUC police and the Congolese National Police (PNC), with the goal of reinforcing security in Bukavu.

Goma: MONUC's hospital provides essential support to the mission and the FARDC.

(18/11/2009 – MONUC)

<http://monuc.unmissions.org/Default.aspx?tabid=932&ctl=Details&mid=1096&ItemID=6500> (English)

<http://monuc.unmissions.org/Default.aspx?tabid=1069&ctl=Details&mid=1143&ItemID=6501> (French)

The MONUC Indian Level 3 Hospital in Goma, is a modern state of the art facility that treats MONUC staff and FARDC casualties, assists medical NGOs and treats the local population.

Mission des Nations unies au Congo - C'est quand le départ?

(17/11/2009 – L'Observateur – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/200911180264.html>

Le gouvernement demande à l'Onu un plan de retrait de la Monuc.

(21/11/2009 – Le Potentiel – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/200911230738.html>

DRC approaches UN on force withdrawals.

(20/11/2009 – Mail&Guardian)

<http://www.mg.co.za/article/2009-11-20-drc-approaches-un-on-force-withdrawals>

Articles on President Kabila's demand to the UN to prepare an exit strategy for its mission in the DRC.

Alors que la MONUC se prépare à partir - AFRICOM, UE s'intéressent aux FARDC.

(18/11/2009 – Le Potentiel – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/200911180357.html>

As there is speculation on the departure of the MONUC, Europe and America have expressed their willingness to support the restructuring of the FARDC in the future.

Répondant à une question orale à l'Assemblée nationale - Situation des FARDC : Mwando Nsimba en appelle à la collaboration des députés.

(23/11/2009 – Le Potentiel – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/200911231840.html>

Congolese Minister of Defence Charles Mwando Nsimba asked the Congolese MPs to collaborate on the reform of the FARDC.

Angola seeks UN aid to repatriate 60,000 nationals from DR Congo.

(18/11/2009 – UN News Centre)

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=32995&Cr=angola&Cr1=>

Angola has requested the re-activation of a tripartite mechanism with the DRC and the United Nations refugee agency to repatriate some 60,000 Angolans still in DRC in the wake of the mutual expulsion of scores of thousands of each other's nationals by the neighbouring States.

Congolese Refugees Ask to Return Home.

(18/11/2009 – New Vision – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200911190173.html>

Hundreds of Congolese women in Gulu district have asked the Government to repatriate them home. They argued that is the responsibility of the Government to return them home, saying they were brought to Uganda and abandoned by their husbands, most of whom are in the UPDF.

Ituri : 40 000 déplacés sans assistance depuis 4 mois.

(18/11/2009 – Radio Okapi)

<http://www.radiookapi.net/index.php?i=53&a=25511>

Since 4 months, 40.000 IDPs are located in Walendu Bindi, 40 kilometres south of Bunia.

Aide d'urgence aux victimes de la guerre - Le Programme alimentaire mondial reçoit plus d'un million d'euros de la France.

(19/11/2009 – Le Potentiel – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/200911190618.html>

Près de 40.000 victimes des conflits armés seront assistées pendant trois mois.

(18/11/2009 – La Prospérité – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/200911180591.html>

France offers 1,5 million euros to the World Food Programme to support its activities in the DRC.

Kasese Feels Pinch of Evictions From DRC.

(20/11/ 2009 – The Monitor – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200911200153.html>

At least 150,000 people, residents of Kasese District who had crossed to the DRC but were evicted, have started feeling the pinch of expulsion, Daily Monitor has learnt. They were forced out of DRC after the Allied Democratic Forces rebels invaded the country and allegations that Ugandans were plundering its resources in the mid 90s. The Congolese saw this as an infringement on their rights.

Population Movements in Eastern DR Congo, Jul - Sep 2009.

(30/09/2009 – OCHA – Reliefweb)

<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/VDUX-7Y3R9A?OpenDocument&RSS20=22-P>

OCHA report giving an overview of the population displacements in eastern DRC.

Action humanitaire en RDC : Rapport hebdomadaire, 20 novembre 2009.

(20/11/2009 – OCHA – reliefweb)

<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/FBUO-7XZGD7?OpenDocument&RSS20=22-P>

Humanitarian Action in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Weekly Report, 20 Nov 2009.

(20/11/2009 – OCHA – reliefweb)

<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/FBUO-7XZGGB?OpenDocument&RSS20=22-P>

Briefing humanitaire en RDC, 16 au 20 novembre 2009.

(20/11/2009 – OCHA – reliefweb)

<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/VVOS-7XYMFA?OpenDocument&RSS20=22-P>

Situation humanitaire en République démocratique du Congo : Note d'information à la presse, 18 novembre 2009.

(18/11/2009 – OCHA - Reliefweb)

<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/ASAZ-7XXEJD?OpenDocument&RSS20=22-P>

RD Congo : Bulletin d'information humanitaire - Provinces du Centre et de l'Ouest, 16 au 20 novembre 2009.

(20/11/2009 – OCHA – reliefweb)

<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/VVOS-7XYRNZ?OpenDocument&RSS20=22-P>

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

DR Congo 'warlords' trial to open at ICC.

(24/11/2009 – BBC)

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/8375601.stm>

International Criminal Court trial of two former Congolese leaders opens tomorrow.

(23/11/2009 – UN News Centre)

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=33038&Cr=democratic&Cr1=congo> (English)

<http://www.un.org/apps/newsFr/storyF.asp?NewsID=20647&Cr=CPI&Cr1=> (French)

Congolese warlords to stand trial at world court.

(23/11/2009 – Reuters)

http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJOE5AM0NY20091123?feedType=RSS&feedName=topNews&utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+reuters%2FAFRICATopNews+%28News+%2FAFRICA+%2F+Top+News%29&utm_content=Bloglines

The trial of two alleged Congolese militia leaders charged with war crimes is due to begin at the International Criminal Court in The Hague. Germain Katanga and Mathieu Ngudjolo Chui are accused of directing an attack on a village in 2003 in which more than 200 people were killed.

Govt Cooperation With ICC Should Include Arrest of Notorious Suspect Bosco Ntaganda.

(23/11/2009 – Human Rights Watch – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200911230895.html>

Ouverture du deuxième procès de chefs de guerre congolais à La Haye.

(22/11/2009 – Human Rights Watch – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/200911231018.html>

ICC/DRC: Second Trial of Congolese Warlords.

(23/11/2009 – Human Rights Watch)

<http://www.hrw.org/en/news/2009/11/23/iccdrc-second-trial-congolese-warlords>

Human Rights Watch souhaite voir Bosco Ntaganda à la CPI.

(23/11/2009 – Radio Okapi)

<http://www.radiookapi.net/index.php?i=53&a=25576>

The International Criminal Court's (ICC) joint trial of two Congolese rebel leaders offers victims the chance to see accountability for atrocities committed in Congo's armed conflict, Human Rights Watch said. Despite substantial cooperation by Congo, another Congolese warlord sought by the ICC, Bosco Ntaganda, remains at large and now plays a leading role in military operations in eastern Congo backed by United Nations peacekeepers.

FDLR

DRC Gold 'Still Funding' FDLR Rebels - UN Expert.

(19/11/2009 – The New Times – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200911190002.html>

Dinesh Mahtani, the coordinator of the UN Eminent Group of Experts report on militia groups' activities in DRC has told the BBC that almost 40 tonnes of gold is smuggled out of the country annually. Mahtani said most of the gold was controlled by rebel groups, including the FDLR, who use the proceeds to buy arms for their activities.

Shabunda : la population déserte le village de Kitindi.

(23/11/2009 – Radio Okapi)

<http://www.radiookapi.net/index.php?i=53&a=25577>

During the weekend Kitindi village, chefferie Wakabango I in Shabunda, has been attacked by some armed men. It is unclear whether the assailants were FDLR, Rahiya Mutomboki or Mayi Mayi Kapopo rebels.

Rutchuru : nouvelle incursion des FDLR, un mort et des maisons pillées.

(20/11/2009 – Radio Okapi)

<http://www.radiookapi.net/index.php?i=53&a=25549>

FDLR kill and plunder in an attack on Buramba Majengo, south of Nyamilima in North Kivu. Locals say the rebels came out of the mountains.

Spain, France on the Spot Over FDLR Links.

(19/11/2009 – The New Times – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200911190011.html>

The UN's Eminent Group of Expert report on rebel militias in the DRC is expected to reveal Spanish and French connections to the FDLR militia, The New Times has been informed.

Hutu diaspora fuels war crimes in Congo.

(25/11/2009 – Financial Times)

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/4da2b528-d928-11de-b2d5-00144feabdc0.html>

UN investigators have found detailed evidence that extremist networks in Europe are providing financial and operational support to Rwandan Hutu militias responsible for a catalogue of alleged war crimes in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Leaders of Rwandan rebel militia arrested for atrocities committed in DR Congo – UN.

(19/11/2009 – UN News Centre)

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=33007&Cr=democratic&Cr1=congo> (English)

<http://www.un.org/apps/newsFr/storyF.asp?NewsID=20633&Cr=Congo&Cr1=> (French)

Impact.

(19/11/2009 – Le Potentiel – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/200911190627.html>

Le porte-parole des FDLR arrêté en Allemagne.

(19/11/2009 – Le Potentiel – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/200911190611.html>

Les rebelles hutus des FDLR décapités en Allemagne.

(17/11/2009 – Colette Braeckman)

<http://blogs.lesoir.be/colette-braeckman/2009/11/17/les-rebelles-hutus-des-fdlr-decapites-en-allemande/>

Rwandan rebel leaders arrested for Congo war crimes.

(17/11/2009 – Guardian)

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2009/nov/17/congo-rebel-leaders-arrested>

The top UN envoy to the DRC welcomed the arrest of Ignace Murwanashyaka and Straton Musoni, who are thought to be high-ranking FDLR members, a militia on suspicion of carrying out crimes against humanity and war crimes in the eastern region of the DRC.

FDLR Inc: Congo's multinational rebels.

(18/11/2009 – BBC)

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/8364327.stm>

The German authorities have arrested FDLR leaders - but how strong is the case against them? The BBC's East Africa Correspondent Peter Greste investigates. He has been investigating connections between war crimes allegedly committed by the FDLR in the Congo, and their leaders living in Europe.

Kinshasa : le gouvernement se dit satisfait de l'arrestation de Murwanashaka.

(18/11/2009 – Radio Okapi)

<http://www.radiookapi.net/index.php?i=53&a=25500>

Arrestation de Murwanashyaka : la Monuc attend le geste similaire des autres pays.

(19/11/2009 – Radio Okapi)

<http://www.radiookapi.net/index.php?i=53&a=25521>

Arrestation de Murwanashyaka : Karel De Gucht parle d'un développement positif.

(20/11/2009 – Radio Okapi)

<http://www.radiookapi.net/index.php?i=53&a=25539>

The Congolese government, MONUC and the European Commission have expressed their satisfaction with the arrest of the two FDLR leaders in Germany.

France Comes Out on Mbarushimana, FDLR.

(25/11/2009 – The New Times – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200911250041.html>

France has in a rare message welcomed the recent arrest of two top FDLR leaders in Germany, describing their detention as a "positive development."

Rwanda seeks rebels' extradition.

(18/11/2009 – BBC)

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/8365949.stm>

Rwandan Foreign Minister Rose Museminali told the BBC that she welcomed the arrest of FDLR leader Ignace Murwanashyaka and his deputy Straton Musoni in Germany. Furthermore she stated the two rebel leaders should be sent home to face trial.

Fate of FDLR Chiefs to Be Known in Three Months.

(20/11/2009 – The New Times – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200911200062.html>

The case of the two top leaders of FDLR who were arrested in Germany on Tuesday will be re-examined in three months. According to information gathered from the German city of Karlsruhe, where the group's chief, Ignace Murwanashyaka, was arrested, the duo will remain in custody until next year.

Bukavu : Léonce Muderwa dénonce la complicité avec les FDLR.

(18/11/2009 – Radio Okapi)

<http://www.radiookapi.net/index.php?i=53&a=25504>

South Kivu governor Muderwa called on the province's population to stop participating in the criminal activities of foreign armed groups.

Letter from ICG to UN Secretary General concerning Kimia II.

(12/11/2009 – International Crisis Group)

For consultation at request.

The letter states: "The high cost and limited effectiveness of a military strategy: MONUC must suspend support to Kimia II."

La Monuc change sa stratégie contre les FDLR.

(24/11/2009 – Le Potentiel – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/200911240702.html>

The MONUC is considering to change its strategy towards the FDLR, General Babacar Gaye declared.

Huge UN Congo force fails against rebels: experts.

(25/11/2009 – Reuters)

http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJOE5AO05220091125?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

The massive U.N. peacekeeping effort in eastern Congo has failed to deliver a knockout blow to Rwandan rebels while local insurgents have seized new territory under its nose, United Nations experts said on Wednesday. "Military operations have...not succeeded in neutralising the FDLR, have exacerbated the humanitarian crisis in the Kivus and have resulted in an expansion of CNDP military influence in the region," the group said, referring to Congolese Tutsi CNDP insurgents.

LRA

Dungu : 10 personnes tuées par les LRA près de Ngilima.

(23/11/2009 – Radio Okapi)

<http://www.radiookapi.net/index.php?i=53&a=25569>

10 people have been killed by the LRA in Ngilima, near Dungu.

America Moves to Make Life Harder for Kony Rebels.

(19/11/2009 – The Monitor – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200911190536.html>

Historic LRA/Uganda Legislation Takes Crucial Step Forward in U.S. Senate.

(18/11/2009 – Resolve Uganda - allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200911181035.html>

The Ugandan army yesterday said it had killed yet another commander of the LRA in the Central African Republic even as US lawmakers moved closer to passing a law to enable the White House directly get involved in anti-LRA efforts. On Tuesday, the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee passed the "LRA Disarmament and Northern Uganda Recovery Act of 2009" moving the Bill a step forward in the legislative process. The Bill whose aim is to "eliminate the threat posed by the Lord's Resistance Army" would empower the Obama Administration to coordinate a strategy which includes the provision of military, intelligence and humanitarian assistance to countries like Uganda, DR Congo, Central African Republic and South Sudan to fight the rebels.

UN Condemns LRA on Civilian Attacks.

(18/11/2009 – New Vision – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200911190326.html>

The UN Security Council has condemned the increasing attacks by the LRA in the DRC, Central African Republic and the Sudan. The 15 members of the security council, sitting in New York on Tuesday, also praised the increased cooperation of regional governments in dealing with the serious threat posed by the LRA and encouraged them to cooperate with the United Nations to ensure the protection of civilians in the area.

Calls for LRA to Face Charges.

(18/11/2009 – Institute for war and peace reporting)

http://www.iwpr.net/index.php?apc_state=hen&s=o&o=l=EN&p=acr&s=f&o=357560

(18/11/2009 – Institute for war and peace reporting – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200911181012.html>

Human rights activists are calling on the International Criminal Court, ICC, to charge the Lord's Resistance Army leaders with a series of brutal crimes they are accused of perpetrating in the Democratic Republic of Congo, DRC.

Nine LRA Fighters Surrender.

(19/11/2009 – The Monitor – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200911191059.html>

Kony Rebels Surrender in Congo.

(20/11/2009 – The Monitor - allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200911200152.html>

Nine former fighters of the Lord's Resistance Army who recently escaped from captivity in the DRC, have returned to Gulu, northern Uganda. The nine young men, aged between 15 and 29 were abducted years ago as children but escaped from the LRA captivity in October this year.

34 LRA Rebels Surrender in DR Congo.

(20/11/2009 – New Vision – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200911210011.html>

34 Kony Rebels Surrender to Army.

(24/11/2009 – The Monitor- allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200911240477.html>

A total of 34 rebels of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) have surrendered to the UPDF intelligence squad in Faradje in eastern Congo Nzara, according to military sources.

UPDF Kills Another LRA Commander.

(19/11/2009 – New Vision – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200911200321.html>

Ugandan special forces have killed a senior commander of the LRA in the Central African Republic, the army spokesman said yesterday. Lt. Col. Felix Kulayigye said Okello Okutti was shot and killed on Tuesday during a clash with Ugandan troops in Obo, near the country's eastern border with Sudan.

Selon la Monuc la LRA réduite à une centaine d'éléments.

(20/11/2009 – Le Potentiel – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/200911200466.html>

The military operations 'Rudia II' and 'Pierre d'acier' conducted against the LRA are successful, according the MONUC. The LRA, by now, would count no more than 100 rebels.

LRA's Joseph Kony to Seek Protection From Sudan Army.

(22/11/2009 – New Vision – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200911230012.html>

LRA leader Joseph Kony has instructed his troops to move into Darfur and report to the first detachment of the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) seeking protection and logistical support. This was revealed by the LRA (Lord's Resistance Army) director of operations, 'Lt. Col.' Charles Arop, who surrendered earlier this month and was flown to Kampala last week.

BURUNDI

Upcoming Polls to Test Country's Fragile Peace.

(19/11/2009 – IRIN)

<http://www.irinnews.org/report.aspx?ReportId=87117>

(19/11/2009 – IRIN – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200911191047.html> (English)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/200911200743.html> (French)

Next year's elections in Burundi, billed as a milestone on the country's long road to sustainable peace, could trigger more conflict because of a combination of widespread illegal weapons and well-organized youth wings of political parties, according to analysts.

Nqakula to Table Report on Burundi Peace Process.

(19/11/2009 – BuaNews – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200911200037.html>

Chief Mediator, Charles Nqakula, is expected to table South Africa's final report on the Burundi Peace Process at the summit to be held in Arusha, Tanzania on Friday.

Other

Democracy under threat.

(19/11/2009 – The Economist)

http://www.economist.com/world/middleeast-africa/displaystory.cfm?story_id=14920068&fsrc=rss

In recent parliamentary sessions, it emerged that President Joseph Kabila had called for a special constitutional review commission to consider amending Congo's four-year-old charter. Among various suggestions, it may ask for presidential terms to be extended from five to seven years and perhaps for term limits to be junked altogether. Another idea being touted is for the president to become head of the Superior Council of Magistrates, the country's most powerful judicial body. But the constitution specifically forbids amendments in all of those areas. In the past three years the 38-year-old president has shown increasingly little interest in living up to the democratic promise that impressed the West when he won at the polls in 2006.

Statement by an IMF Mission to Burundi.

(23/11/2009 – IMF)

<http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2009/pr09426.htm>

A mission from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), led by Mr. Bernardin Akitoby, visited Burundi November 8-21, 2009 to conduct the third review of the government's economic and financial program supported by an arrangement under the Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility (PRGF).

Democratic Republic of the Congo: Request for the Rapid-Access Component of the Exogenous Shocks Facility and Report on the 2008 Staff Monitored Program.

(23/11/2009 – IMF)

<http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/cat/longres.cfm?sk=23422.0>

Steep declines in commodity export prices on account of the global financial crisis contributed to a sharp drop in gross official reserves and a slowdown in economic growth. The escalating conflict in the eastern provinces aggravated the economic situation. Adjustment to the severe terms of trade shock could threaten economic stability, intensify the slowdown, and increase social tensions at a time when the DRC is facing both reconstruction and political reconciliation challenges. The DRC authorities are thus requesting a disbursement from the Rapid-Access Component of the ESF (SDR 133.25 million, 25 percent of quota) to help the economy adjust to the exogenous shock and cushion its impact. The full amount would become available upon Board approval.

IPIS latest publications

IPIS LATEST REPORTS

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.

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 Delcrederedienst'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 para-fiscal 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 Delcrederedienst (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.

IPIS LATEST ARTICLES

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.

Sources

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Africa Confidential	Newsletter	RSS Feed	
Africa Energy Intelligence		RSS Feed	
Africa Mining Intelligence		RSS Feed	
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OCIPE (Jesuit European Office)	Newsletter	RSS Feed
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OSISA (Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa)		RSS Feed
Overseas Development Institute		RSS Feed
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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*Can be found at IPIS library

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