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Natural resources in the Great Lakes Region

DRC

A thriving mine lost in the heart of the DR Congo forest.

(22/04/2010 – AFP – Reliefweb)

<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/RWB.NSF/db900SID/SNAA-84UBFB?OpenDocument>

At Bisie, an enclave 200 kilometres (125 miles) west of Goma, the capital of Nord-Kivu province, a whole town has grown based around the biggest cassiterite mine in the vast central African country. The place is not marked on any map, but in the east of the DRC, 80,000 people risk their lives and health to mine cassiterite, the primary ore of tin. But it is hard to access. Tin ore, beer, food, clothing, other supplies and equipment are all transported on the backs of men for the 50 kilometres linking the site with the nearest road.

Ban on exporting copper and cobalt concentrate.

(21/04/2010 – Africa Mining Intelligence)

For consultation at request, or at IPIS library.

Minister of mines Kabwelulu announced a ban on exports of copper and cobalt concentrate from Katanga. The measure dates back to 2007.

DRC to require "clean" diamond exports by mid-June.

(26/04/2010 – Mining Weekly)

<http://www.miningweekly.com/article/drc-to-require-clean-diamond-exports-by-mid-june-2010-04-26>

The DRC will make the cleansing of all rough diamonds compulsory before export from mid-June, according to a document of the ministry of mines. The move could raise the value of stones exported by the world's number two exporter by volume, but could also exacerbate the vast central African country's deep-rooted smuggling problems, analysts have said.

Mbujimayi: un conflit minier dégenère.

(23/04/2010 – Radio Okapi)

<http://radiookapi.net/actualite/2010/04/23/mbujimayi-un-conflit-minier-degenere/>

The population from two localities in Tshaba, Miabi territory in Kasai Oriental, rejects the decision of their local chief to confiscate the Masaka diamond mines.

DRC copper, cobalt to more than double over next two years.

(26/04/2010 – Mineweb)

<http://www.mineweb.com/mineweb/view/mineweb/en/page36?oid=103387&sn=Detail>

Congo sees copper, cobalt output doubling by 2012.

(26/04/2010 – Mining Weekly)

<http://www.miningweekly.com/article/congo-sees-copper-cobalt-output-doubling-by-2012-2010-04-26>

Copper and cobalt production from DRCo will more than double over the next two years, signalling a surge in revenues, according to a government forecast. The projected rise in output, the bulk of which is expected to come from Freeport-MacMoRan's Tenke Fungurume mine, could pad coffers in the vast central African state where the two minerals already represent about 75 percent of exports.

Congo expects revenue from mining industry to triple.

(28/04/2010 – Business Day)

<http://www.businessday.co.za/articles/Content.aspx?id=107317>

The DRC would see revenue from the mining industry more than triple this year after increased copper production, the mines ministry forecast yesterday.

UGANDA

Huge Oil Reserves Confirmed in Buliisa.

(22/04/2010 – The New Vision – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201004230565.html>

Two appraisal wells in Buliisa have confirmed presence of massive oil reserves, hastening steps towards early petroleum production. The review was done on the Kasamene-3 and Kasamene-3A wells in the Butiaba region of Block-2. It also discovered more oil at the Wahrindi North fault block. The Kasamene oil field is where Tullow Oil, the firm that is exploring for oil and gas in Uganda, wants to locate the early oil production scheme.

Uganda oil companies come under scrutiny.

(25/04/2010 – Turbo News)

<http://www.eturbonews.com/15716/uganda-oil-companies-come-under-scrutiny>

Fresh allegations were made by some wildlife managers that the present oil exploration in areas both inside and outside national parks and game reserves was responsible for killing wildlife in the affected areas. The claims were made before the parliamentary committee on tourism where the Uganda Wildlife Authority officials made presentations and answered questions by members.

Tullow May Expand Cooperation in Africa With Total, Cnooc.

(23/04/2010 – Bloomberg)

<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2010-04-23/tullow-may-expand-cooperation-in-africa-with-total-cnooc.html>

Tullow Oil Plc, the U.K. explorer with the most licenses in Africa, may use a tie-up with China National Offshore Oil Corp. and Total SA in Uganda as a testing ground for future exploration on the continent.

RWANDA

Canadian firm to search for oil in Rwanda lake.

(23/04/2010 – Daily Nation)

<http://www.nation.co.ke/News/africa/Canadian%20firm%20to%20search%20for%20oil%20in%20Rwanda%20lake%20-%20/1066/905480/-/c93f0ez/-/>

Canada's Vanoil will start a marine seismic survey for oil on Rwanda's Lake Kivu in June, an official with the Ministry of Infrastructure said on Friday.

International mining companies in the Great Lakes Region

DRC

Randgold meets with DRC govt on Kibali progress.

(21/04/2010 – Mining Weekly)

<http://www.miningweekly.com/article/randgold-resources-takes-strides-towards-development-of-kibali-project-2010-04-21>

Africa-focused gold-mining and exploration company Randgold Resources met with the DRC government on Tuesday to report on the latest steps taken towards the development of the Kibali gold project. The DRC government has a 10% stake in the project, which is said to be the largest undeveloped gold deposit in Africa, through its parastatal Okimo. The Kibali project is a joint venture between Randgold, AngloGold Ashanti and Okimo, with Randgold being the operator of the project.

Gold Values From Adumbi Adit Sampling Include 3.24 Grammes Per Tonne Over 15 Metres in the DRC, Part of a Wide Mineralized Gold Bearing Package.

(21/04/2010 – Marketwire)

<http://www.marketwire.com/press-release/Gold-Values-From-Adumbi-Adit-Sampling-Include-324-Grammes-Per-Tonne-Over-15-Metres-DRC-TSX-VENTURE-KGL-1151559.htm>

Kilo Goldmines Ltd. is pleased to report that the gold values for continuous horizontal channel samples from three adits on the former producing Adumbi gold mine in the DRC confirm that the wall rocks of the exploited gold bearing quartz vein are gold bearing.

La société minière Tenke Fungurume Mining est à couteaux tirés avec l'INPP.

(21/04/2010 – Le Potentiel – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/201004210382.html>

Tenke Fungurume Mining is having a quarrel with 'Institut nationale de préparation professionnelle' (INPP) over a tax the latter imposed on the former.

La canadienne First Quantum succède à la Gécamines au leadership minier en RDC avec un impôt de 55 millions USD payés au Trésor.

(26/04/2010 – Le Potentiel - Digitalcongo.net)

<http://www.digitalcongo.net/article/66433>

First Quantum has become the biggest contributor to the Congolese National Treasury within the country's mining sector.

Lubumbashi: la population de Tshamilemba accusent Chemaf de polluer leur camp.

(26/04/2010 – Radio Okapi)

<http://radiookapi.net/actualite/2010/04/26/lubumbashi-la-population-de-tshamilemba-accusent-chemaf-de-polluer-leur-camp/>

Mining enterprise Chemaf has been accused of pollution by the Tshamilemba population.

UGANDA

Uganda, Heritage Oil Tax Talks Delay Asset Sale –Source.

(27/04/2010 – The Wall Street Journal)

http://online.wsj.com/article/BT-CO-20100427-707554.html?mod=WSJ_World_MIDDLEHeadlinesEurope

Tullow Oil sees Ugandan project okay within weeks.

(22/04/2010 – Reuters)

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/idUKLDE63L2BB20100422>

The Ugandan government wants to levy a 30% capital gains tax on the \$1.35 billion to be paid up front by Tullow Oil PLC to Heritage for its 50% stakes in blocks 1 and 3A.

Arms trade / Security in the Great Lakes Region

Congo Officials Dodge Border Talks.

(20/04/2010 – New Vision – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201004210579.html>

Leaders in Kasese, Bushenyi and Rukungiri districts in western Uganda have expressed disappointment with the authorities in the DR Congo over their failure to implement resolutions made by the presidents of the two countries over border conflicts. Bushenyi resident district commissioner John Gaston Maliro said the leaders have arranged four meetings to discuss the persistent clashes over Lake Edward between the two countries but Congo authorities do not show up.

Congo Agree to Trade.

(25/04/2010 – New Vision – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201004261128.html>

Uganda and the DRC have agreed to step up trade between the two countries. This was resolved in the DRC meetings held in Kisangani and Goma between Uganda's envoy to the James Kinobe and his Ugandan counterpart Jean Lolakombe, recently. The meetings are a follow-up on the framework of commitment that Presidents Yoweri Museveni and Joseph Kabila signed in 2006 to normalise relations between their countries.

Rwanda, DRC Launch 24 Hour Border Post.

(21/04/2010 – The New Times – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201004210242.html>

CEPGL: la RDC, le Rwanda et le Burundi ouvrent leurs frontières 24h/24.

(20/04/2010 – Radio Okapi)

<http://radiookapi.net/actualite/2010/04/20/cep-gl-la-rdc-le-rwanda-et-le-burundi-ouvrent-leurs-frontieres-24h24/>

CEPGL - réunion des gouverneurs congolais, rwandais et burundais à Gisenyi.

(21/04/2010 – Le Potentiel – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/201004210235.html>

In the bid to foster economic development and freedom of movement between the two countries, Rwanda and DRC have launched 24 hour border operations at the Gisenyi-Goma border. According to Governor of South Kivu, Julien Kahongya Paluku the extension of business hours shows how much Rwanda and RDC relations have improved.

Burundi and DRC to Step Up Security Cooperation.

(27/04/2010 – The New Times – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201004270219.html>

The Rwandan national coordinator of the ICGLR, has emphasized that Rwanda, Burundi and the DRC have a large potential for cooperation in the areas of security and development. Joseph Kabakeza, made the remarks at the opening of a two-day national workshop held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MINAFFET) on "Trans-Border Development Basins" in the ICGLR's zone 10 - exclusively Rwanda, Burundi and DRC.

Obama and US military engagement in Africa.

(22/04/2010 – Pambazuka)

<http://pambazuka.org/en/category/features/63866>

When Barack Obama took office as president of the United States in January 2009, it was widely expected that he would dramatically change, or even reverse, the militarised and unilateral national security policy toward Africa that had been pursued by the Bush administration. But, after a little more than one year in office, it is clear that the Obama administration is essentially following the same policy that has guided US military involvement in Africa for more than a decade. Indeed, it appears that President Obama is determined to expand and intensify US military engagement throughout Africa. Thus, in its budget request for the State Department for the 2010 financial year, the Obama administration proposed significant increases in funding for US arms sales and military training programmes for African countries, as well as for regional programmes on the continent, and is expected to propose further increases in its budget request for the 2011 financial year.

New SIPRI tool reduces involvement of arms traffickers in humanitarian aid and peace-keeping operations.

(20/04/2010 – SIPRI)

<http://www.sipri.org/media/pressreleases/100420ethicalcargo>

Can air cargo carriers be forced to choose between arms and aid?

(21/04/2010 – Reuters)

http://www.alertnet.org/db/an_art/57964/2010/03/21-163750-1.htm

Un site Internet pour lutter contre les liaisons dangereuses entre trafiquants et humanitaires.

(20/04/2010 – Le Monde)

http://www.lemonde.fr/organisations-internationales/article/2010/04/20/un-site-internet-pour-lutter-contre-les-liaisons-dangereuses-entre-trafiquants-et-humanitaires_1339942_3220.html

EthicalCargo.net, un nouvel outil afin de réduire les activités des trafiquants d'armes.

(20/04/2010 – GRIP)

<http://www.grip.org/fr/siteweb/dev.asp?N=simple&O=839>

Companies involved in destabilizing commodity transfers such as weapons, narcotics or other conflict-sensitive goods have been widely used by UN agencies, EU and NATO member states, defence contractors and leading humanitarian NGOs to transport humanitarian aid, peacekeepers and other equipment. An earlier report by SIPRI showed that more than 90 per cent of the air cargo carriers identified in arms trafficking-related reports had also been used for humanitarian aid and peace-keeping operations between 2004 - 2009. In some cases, air cargo companies have delivered both aid and weapons to the same conflict zones.

Global Witness welcomes Dutch court decision to retry timber baron Guus Kouwenhoven for crimes committed during Liberian war.

(21/04/2010 – Global Witness)

http://www.globalwitness.org/media_library_detail.php/957/en/global_witness_welcomes_dutch_court_decision_to_retry_timber_baron_guus_kouwenhoven_for_crimes_committed_during_liberian_war

The Dutch Supreme Court has overturned a 2008 ruling by the Court of Appeal which cleared businessman Guus Kouwenhoven of charges of involvement in illegal arms deals and war crimes during the civil war in Liberia between 2000 and 2003. The Court of Appeal will now have to re-examine the case and bring a new judgment.

DRC

Ban on military's business dealings.

(21/04/2010 – Africa Mining Intelligence)

For consultation at request, or at IPIS library.

Congolese minister of defense Charles Mwando Nsimba formally banned military and police personnel from continuing to engage in mining operations and in trading minerals in the Walikale region.

CNDP-Kigali rift.

(27/04/2010 – Jason Stearns)

<http://congosiasa.blogspot.com/2010/04/cndp-kigali-rift.html>

More and more former CNDP members seem to be falling out with the government in Kigali. Jason Stearns wrote previously that some members of the Rwandan security services suspect that the CNDP could be involved in the grenade attacks in Kigali.

Gunmen attack Congo army camp, kill at least six.

(26/04/2010 – Reuters)

http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJ0E63P0J220100426?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

Beni: 5 morts dans une attaque au centre de Nyaleke.

(25/04/2010 – Radio Okapi)

<http://radiookapi.net/actualite/2010/04/25/beni-5-morts-dans-une-attaque-au-centre-de-nyaleke/>

Congo's army blamed the attack in Nyaleke, in North Kivu province, on fighters from the Mai Mai militia group and Ugandan ADF-NALU rebels based in Congo, highlighting the patchwork of gunmen still operating in the vast country's lawless east.

Ituri - des affrontements entre FARDC et miliciens signalés à Walendu Bindi.

(23/04/2010 – Le Potentiel – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/201004230145.html>

Ituri: affrontements dans le Walendu Bindi.

(22/04/2010 – Radio Okapi)

<http://radiookapi.net/actualite/2010/04/22/ituri-affrontements-dans-le-walendu-bindi/>

Violent confrontations have been reported last week in Walendu Bindi between FPJC rebels and the FARDC.

Haut plateaux: les Mai Mai d'Idi Amin prennent un préfet d'école en otage.

(24/04/2010 – Radio Okapi)

<http://radiookapi.net/actualite/2010/04/24/haut-plateaux-les-mai-mai-d%E2%80%99idi-amin-prennent-un-prefet-d%E2%80%99ecole-en-otage/>

The head of a school in Uvira's highlands has been abducted by the Mai Mai Idi Amin.

Shabunda: une milice en recrutement depuis plusieurs semaines.

(23/04/2010 – Radio Okapi)

<http://radiookapi.net/actualite/2010/04/23/shabunda-une-milice-en-recrutement-depuis-plusieurs-semaines/>

It has been reported that a man called Kyatenda is recruiting in Shabunda to start a new rebellion.

DR Congo army 'killed civilians' in Mbandaka.

(21/04/2010 – BBC)

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/8634565.stm>

Événements de Mbandaka: 49 civils exécutés par les FARDC, selon l'Asadho.

(22/04/2010 – Radio Okapi)

<http://radiookapi.net/actualite/2010/04/22/evenements-de-mbandaka-49-civils-executes-sommairement-par-les-fardc-selon-l%E2%80%99asadho/>

Mbandaka - Un rapport de l'Asadho fait état des exécutions sommaires par des belligérants.

(22/04/2010 – Le Potentiel – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/201004220279.html>

The FARDC army killed at least 11 civilians as it retook the airport in Mbandaka from the Enyele rebels this month, rights group Asadho says. It even suspects another 31 killings during the Easter attack.

DR Congo: UN envoy promises increased civilian protection in troubled city.

(22/04/2010 – UN News Centre)

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=34451&Cr=democratic&Cr1=congo> (English)

<http://www.un.org/apps/newsFr/storyF.asp?NewsID=21753&Cr=RDC&Cr1=> (French)

Equateur: Alan Doss annonce renforcement de MONUC militaire.

(22/04/2010 – MONUC)

<http://monuc.unmissions.org/Default.aspx?tabid=932&ctl=Details&mid=1096&ItemID=8644> (English)

<http://monuc.unmissions.org/Default.aspx?tabid=1069&ctl=Details&mid=1143&ItemID=8640> (French)

Mbandaka: Alan Doss promet de renforcer la Monuc.

(21/04/2010 – Radio Okapi)

<http://radiookapi.net/actualite/2010/04/21/mbandaka-alan-doss-promet-de-renforcer-la-monuc/>

The top United Nations envoy in the DRC has pledged to strengthen its military presence in the capital of the north-western province of Equateur to help the Government provide better protection for civilians following a deadly raid by rebels earlier this month on the city.

Selon la Monuc, les violents combats se déroulent autour de Mbandaka.

(22/04/2010 – Le Potentiel – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/201004220280.html>

The MONUC declared Mandaka is under control of the Congolese national army, violent confrontations however still occur in Nganda-Bumba and Secli-Wedji, about 50 kilometres from Mbandaka.

Lambert Mende - « Il n'y a pas de combat autour de Mbandaka et le rapport de l'Asadho est une imposture ».

(23/04/2010 – Le Potentiel – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/201004230156.html>

Réplique et dénonciation par le ministre Mende des rapports des Ong sur des combats autour de Mbandaka.

(23/04/2010 – Le Potentiel – Digitalcongo.net)

<http://www.digitalcongo.net/article/66387>

Le gouvernement rejette un rapport d'ONG qui accable les militaires congolais.

(26/04/2010 – IPS – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/201004270142.html>

Lambert Mende balaie les critiques des ONG.

(22/04/2010 – Radio Okapi)

<http://radiookapi.net/actualite/2010/04/22/lambert-mende-balaie-les-critiques-des-ong/>

Congolese governmental spokesperson Lambert Mende rejected the Asadho report's accusations of the FARDC's complicity in the killing of civilians in Mbandaka. Furthermore he denied fighting continued around Mbandaka.

The Senegalese contingent stationed at Dingila outpost, Oriental Province, prepares to leave.

(23/04/2010 – MONUC)

<http://monuc.unmissions.org/Default.aspx?tabid=932&ctl=Details&mid=1096&ItemID=8648> (English)

<http://monuc.unmissions.org/Default.aspx?tabid=1069&ctl=Details&mid=1143&ItemID=8646> (French)

La Monuc a entamé son désengagement de la RDC par le retrait du contingent sénégalais basé à Dingila dans la Province Orientale.

(24/04/2010 – La République – Digitalcongo.net)

<http://www.digitalcongo.net/article/66416>

Bas-Uélé: le contingent sénégalais se désengage de Dingila.

(22/04/2010 – Radio Okapi)

<http://radiookapi.net/actualite/2010/04/22/bas-uele-le-contingent-senegalais-se-desengage-de-dingila/>

In anticipation of its reconfiguration, the MONUC is preparing to withdraw its Senegalese contingent from the post at Dingila, situated over 500 kilometres north of Kisangani, in Bas-Uele district. MONUC Force Commander, General Babacar Gaye, announced this during a mission he carried out to Isiro and Dingila in the remote eastern region on April 21st. The announced withdrawal of Blue Helmets, however, raised concern among the population of Dingila who wish for the peacekeeping contingent to stay and protect people against security threats from Ugandan rebels of the LRA plaguing the region of Haut and Bas Uele.

E. Boshab évoque avec les diplomates la question électorale et le sort de la Monuc.

(24/04/2010 – Le Potentiel – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/201004260213.html>

Evariste Boshab, president of the Congolese national assembly, gathered with several diplomats of the international community to talk about the 2011-elections and the MONUC's withdrawal from the country.

MONUC to leave the DRC, mission unaccomplished?

(26/04/2010 – ISS)

http://www.iss.co.za/iss_today.php?ID=936

The announcement of the DRC's desire for a MONUC withdrawal came as a surprise to both Congolese as well as the international community. Congolese rebels and foreign armed groups are still fighting the Congolese army across much of the east, and parts of the north of the DRC and gunmen from all sides are still committing gross human rights abuses, especially rape.

Insécurité et déstabilisation - Avril noir au pays.

(27/04/2010 – Le Potentiel – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/201004270760.html>

April 2010 has been marked by a lot of violence and insecurity in the DRC, just at the time Kinshasa wants the MONUC out of the country.

Les Etats-Unis soutiennent la professionnalisation de l'armée nationale.

(23/04/2010 – Le Potentiel – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/201004230160.html>

During a press conference, Johnnie Carson, US assistant secretary of state for African affairs, expressed America's support for the formation of the FARDC.

Fizi: Le Colonel Kahimbi invite les déplacés à rentrer chez eux.

(27/04/2010 – Radio Okapi)

<http://radiookapi.net/actualite/2010/04/27/fizi-le-colonel-kahimbi-invite-les-deplaces-a-rentrer-chez-eux/>

Amani Leo commander Colonel Kahimbi assured people of several villages in Fizi (Kananda, Misufi, Kasakwa, Bwala, Kiricha) they can return home because FARDC now controls positions there, controlled by Mai Mai Yakutumba before.

Rapport préliminaire sur la situation sécuritaire à Fizi.

(21/04/2010 - Comité d'Action pour le Développement Intégral)

For consultation at request.

Short report on the security situation in Fizi territory, South Kivu.

DR CONGO: Unstable Areas Endanger Returns.

(20/04/2010 – Refugees International)

<http://www.refintl.org/sites/default/files/041910%20drc.pdf>

The recent signing of a tripartite agreement between the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) and the governments of the DRC and Rwanda will lead to the official return of tens of thousands of Congolese refugees. However, their reintegration is challenged by mounting tensions in areas controlled by the CNDP rebel group.

Rapport de monitoring des ONGDH/Beni sur la situation des violations des droits de l'homme en ville et territoire de Beni, janvier-mars 2010.

(April 2010 - Beni civil society)

For consultation at request.

Report of Beni's civil society on the human rights situation in the territory.

Nord-Kivu - La Société civile propose la démilitarisation de la ville de Beni.

(24/04/2010 – Le Potentiel – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/201004260214.html>

Insécurité à Beni: la société civile propose la démilitarisation de la ville.

(23/04/2010 – Radio Okapi)

<http://radiookapi.net/actualite/2010/04/23/insecurite-a-beni-la-societe-civile-propose-la-demilitarisation-de-la-ville-3/>

Civil society organisations of Beni are complaining FARDC soldiers are responsible for the recent surge of insecurity in the territory.

We must not forget the victims of the war in Congo.

(23/04/2010 – Guardian)

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2010/apr/23/victims-of-war-in-congo>

The people of the Democratic Republic of the Congo have for over 11 years endured violence, war crimes, corruption, humanitarian crisis, looting and rape on a scale that defies comprehension. In April 2007, the International Rescue Committee estimated the death toll in Congo since 1998 at 5.4 million. What these shocking figures cannot convey is the scale of ongoing rape, torture and mutilation.

UN refugee agency dismayed by impunity for endemic rape in DR Congo.

(23/04/2010 – UN News Centre)

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=34458&Cr=democratic&Cr1=congo> (English)

<http://www.un.org/apps/newsFr/storyF.asp?NewsID=21761&Cr=Congo&Cr1=> (French)

Le HCR critique l'absence de justice pour les victimes de viol en RDC.

(23/04/2010 – UNHCR – Reliefweb)

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

UNHCR today spoke out against the large number of rapes in the DRC, voicing concern at the impunity with which the attacks are being carried out.

Margot Wallström reaffirms her commitment to the fight against sexual violence in the DRC.

(20/04/2010 – MONUC)

<http://monuc.unmissions.org/Default.aspx?tabid=932&ctl=Details&mid=1096&ItemID=8617> (English)

<http://monuc.unmissions.org/Default.aspx?tabid=1069&ctl=Details&mid=1143&ItemID=8613> (French)

The fight against sexual violence and the reign of impunity are a growing concern for the United Nations. During her official visit to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), made from 12 to 18 April 2010, the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Sexual Violence in Conflict, Margot Wallström, reiterated the Security Council's commitment to continuing and full implementation of all its resolutions relating to this issue.

RD Congo : Nord-Kivu : des familles déplacées bloquées à Kitshanga.

(27/04/2010 – Le Potentiel – allAfrica)

<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/KHII-84W3H5?OpenDocument&RSS20=02-P>

Insécurité: 7 000 ménages des déplacés bloqués à Kitshanga.

(24/04/2010 – Radio Okapi)

<http://radiookapi.net/actualite/2010/04/24/insecurite-7-000-menages-des-deplaces-bloques-a-kitshanga/>

More than 7.000 displaced households are stuck in Kitshanga. They do not want to return to their villages because of an upsurge of insecurity.

Fidèle Sarassoro calls for an end to humanitarian crises in Eastern DRC.

(27/04/2010 – MONUC)

<http://monuc.unmissions.org/Default.aspx?tabid=932&ctl=Details&mid=1096&ItemID=8685> (English)

<http://monuc.unmissions.org/Default.aspx?tabid=1069&ctl=Details&mid=1143&ItemID=8684> (French)

There is a need for urgent intervention in DRC given the extent of the humanitarian disaster there, said the Deputy-Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for the coordination of humanitarian Affairs, Fidèle Sarassoro. Mr. Sarassoro and North Kivu provincial officials, MONUC officials, humanitarian players as well as members of civil society organisations reviewed the overall humanitarian situation, more particularly that of the displaced persons in Sake camp and the returnees in Kitshanga.

France Offers to Help With Congolese Refugees.

(27/04/2010 – Voice of America)

<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/VVOS-84WQR6?OpenDocument&RSS20=02-P>

Rdc : le plaidoyer du Président Sassou à Sarkozy pour les déplacés de Dongo.

(27/04/2010 – Digitalcongo.net)

<http://www.digitalcongo.net/article/66455>

France says it will help the Congo Republic feed more than 100,000 refugees from the Democratic Republic of Congo who have been displaced by fighting in the western Equateur Province.

RD Congo: Rapport mensuel situation humanitaire Sud-Kivu - Mars 2010.

(31/03/2010 – OCHA – Reliefweb)

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

RDC : Bulletin d'information humanitaire, 20 avril 2010 - Province du Sud-Kivu.

(20/04/2010 – OCHA – reliefweb)

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

Situation humanitaire en République Démocratique du Congo : Note d'information à la presse, 21 avril 2010.

(21/04/2010 – OCHA – Reliefweb)

<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/FBUO-84QG2E?OpenDocument&RSS20=22-P>

Situation humanitaire en RDC : Période du 16 au 22 Avril 2010.

(22/04/2010 – OCHA – Reliefweb)

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

RDC : Bulletin d'information humanitaire, 23 avril 2010 - Provinces du Centre et de l'Ouest.

(23/04/2010 – OCHA – Reliefweb)

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

RD Congo: Action Humanitaire en Province Orientale rapport mensuel mars 2010.

(27/04/2010 – OCHA – Reliefweb)

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

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

DR Congo overturns death sentences for Norwegians.

(22/04/2010 – BBC)

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/8637543.stm>

Les deux condamnés à mort norvégiens seront rejugés pour vice de procédure.

(23/04/2010 – Radio Okapi)

<http://radiookapi.net/actualite/2010/04/23/les-deux-condamnes-a-mort-norvegiens-seront-rejudges-pour-vice-de-procedure/>

A court in DRC has overturned the death sentences passed on two Norwegians convicted of murdering their driver. They were also found guilty of spying for Norway. A re-trial with different judges has now been ordered.

FDLR

UN Requests Canada to Deny Asylum to FDLR Rebel.

(22/04/2010 – The New Times – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201004220094.html>

The United Nations on Tuesday formally requested Canada to deny asylum to a senior member of the FDLR currently in the eastern DRC.

FDLR's Capacity to Regroup Reduced – DRC.

(24/04/2010 – The New Times – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201004260684.html>

A Congolese army spokesperson has said that the Rwandan militia FDLR operating in the eastern part of the country, "pose no threat" at all, as their capacity to regroup has been diminished.

Nord-Kivu - L'opération conjointe FARDC-MONUC a fait 18 morts dans les rangs des FDLR.

(23/04/2010 – Le Potentiel – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/201004230118.html>

During a joint FARDC-MONUC operation, last week in North Kivu, 18 FDLR rebels have been killed.

Constat fait par Sarassoro: la population de Kimua vit dans la peur des FDLR.

(26/04/2010 – Radio Okapi)

<http://radiookapi.net/actualite/2010/04/26/constat-fait-par-sarassoro-la-population-de-kimua-vit-dans-la-peur-des-fdlr/>

RDC : des populations terrorisées en appelle à la MONUC.

(27/04/2010 – Reliefweb)

<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/VDUX-84WQZA?OpenDocument&RSS20=02-P>

Article reporting FDLR combatants still harass civilians in Kimua village, Walikale territory.

LRA

Kony Rebels Returning to Garamba, Says UN Report.

(27/04/2010 – The Monitor – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201004261668.html>

MONUC, in its April 11-17 weekly security update, reports that no one knows Joseph Kony's whereabouts but "there is more evidence of LRA group operating in the Faradje area." "LRA may be moving back to arms caches in the Garamba national park; LRA appears to have re-established themselves in the Faradje area [east of Garamba]," notes the 27-page report.

LRA Resorts to Undressing People and Taking Their Clothes.

(20/04/2010 – The Monitor – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201004210418.html>

The LRA rebels have resorted to undressing people in the DRC and Central African Republic to get clothes, a non-governmental organisation has said. According to a statement issued by Enough field researcher on LRA, Ledio Cakaj, the rebels are in dire need of clothes after running short of uniforms.

RWANDA

Opposition leader Ingabire released in Rwanda.

(22/04/2010 – BBC)

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/8638129.stm>

Victoire Ingabire Umuhiza, a Rwandan opposition leader, has been conditionally released after being arrested on Wednesday. She was accused of collaborating with a terrorist group and denying the genocide.

BURUNDI

Burundi leader to run for presidency again.

(25/04/2010 – Reuters)

http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJ0E63O02020100425?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

Burundi's President Pierre Nkurunziza will run for another five-year term as leader after his ruling CNDD-FDD party picked him on Saturday as its candidate for the election later this year.

IPIS latest publications

IPIS LATEST REPORTS

Mapping Conflict Motives: Province Orientale (DRC)

(March 2010 – IPIS)

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

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

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

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

(December 2009 – IPIS)

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

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

Activity Report 2008.

(9/11/2009 – IPIS)

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

Jaarverslag 2008.

(13/10/2009 – IPIS)

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

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

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

(13/10/2009 – IPIS)

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

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

Africa's natural resources in a global context.

(12/08/2009 – IPIS)

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

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

Militarised Mining Areas in the Kivus.

(10/08/2009 – IPIS)

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

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

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

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

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

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

(July 2009 – RRN)

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

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

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

(14/07/2009 – IPIS)

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

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

Given the importance of the mining sector as a source of revenue for the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the development of a sound policy for crisis management is of vital importance to protect the health of the Congolese Treasury and to keep intact the possibility of stepping up government efforts in terms of poverty reduction and infrastructure development once the global economy starts to recover. This report shows that both the central government in Kinshasa and the provincial government in Lubumbashi have taken a number of measures to cope with the consequences of the global financial crisis.

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

Zimbabwe - Arms and Corruption: fuelling human rights abuse.

(July 2009 – IPIS)

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

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

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

(13/05/2009 – IPIS)

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

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

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

An analysis of Finexpo's and Ducroire/Nationale 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 EURODAD Charter on Responsible Financing. The principles in the Charter outline the essential components of a reasonable loan. Given that only FINEXPO provides loans, the principles in the Charter are only directly applicable to the provision of loans by FINEXPO. Despite this fact, the principles are still useful in determining whether the financial and insurance practices of all support measures by FINEXPO and those by Ducroire/Nationale Delcrederediens are responsible support measures or not. EURODAD's principles represent a general framework for a tough but fair policy.

IPIS LATEST ARTICLES

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

(September 2009 – IPIS)

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

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

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

(August 2009 – IPIS)

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

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

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*Can be found at IPIS library

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