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IPIS

IPIS RECENT PUBLICATIONS

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.

Natural resources in the Great Lakes Region

Du 24 au 27 mars 2010 - Kinshasa abrite le 4ème Congrès africain du pétrole et exposition.

(24/12/2009 – Le Potentiel – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/200912240020.html>

In March, the DRC will host the fourth African Petroleum Congress and Exhibition.

Kabila to Support Joint Dev't Projects.

(26/12/2009 – The New Times – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200912280837.html>

The President of the DRC, Joseph Kabila has called for greater cooperation between his country and Rwanda especially in designing projects of joint interest to both countries. He said this while receiving credentials of Rwanda's new Ambassador to DRC Amandin Rugira. Speaking to The New Times, from Kinshasa, Ambassador Rugira said that he discussed regional development projects like methane gas exploitation, joint railway links and fiber optics with the President.

DRC

Lubumbashi : culture de maïs, l'ultimatum aux sociétés minières expire le 15 janvier 2010.

(28/12/2009 – Radio Okapi)

<http://www.radiookapi.net/index.php?i=53&a=25956>

Katanga governor Katumbi warned mining enterprises in the province they will have to present 500 hectares of maizefield on 15 January, otherwise they are no longer allowed to export their own mineral production.

Enregistrement des ONG du secteur forestier - La Société civile adresse un mémo au gouvernement.

(23/12/2009 – Le Potentiel – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/200912230269.html>

The civil society organisations of the 'Réseau Ressources Naturelles' drafted a public memorandum to protest against the registration obligation for environmental NGOs.

Bukavu : la société civile se lance dans la lutte contre la déforestation.

(28/12/2009 – Radio Okapi)

<http://www.radiookapi.net/index.php?i=53&a=25960>

The Bukavu civil society organised a meeting on the problem of deforestation in the province.

Conservation de la nature.

(29/12/2009 – Le Potentiel – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/200912290575.html>

A seminary on forestry management is organised in Mbandaka, in the Equator Province.

Nicolas Sarkozy, défenseur de la forêt du bassin du Congo?

(29/12/2009 – Le Potentiel – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/200912280179.html>

Critical article on the French President Sarkozy's statements concerning the protection and preservation of the Congo Basin.

UGANDA

Best of the Worst?

(22/12/2009 – The Independent – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200912230294.html>

Uganda's contracts for foreign oil exploration, or the incomplete details known of them, have been largely criticised by observers. But at least one analysis concludes they are favourable. That is the determination of an International Monetary Fund (IMF) report on Uganda's agreements with oil exploration companies exposed now in The Independent for the first time.

Uganda to demand tougher terms in new oil deals.

(26/12/2009 – The Africa Report)

<http://www.theafricareport.com/last-business-news/3285664-Uganda%20to%20demand%20tougher%20terms%20in%20new%20oil%20deals.html>

[Uganda%20to%20demand%20tougher%20terms%20in%20new%20oil%20deals.html](http://www.theafricareport.com/last-business-news/3285664-Uganda%20to%20demand%20tougher%20terms%20in%20new%20oil%20deals.html)

FACTBOX-Uganda's oil industry.

(26/12/2009 – Reuters)

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/idUKLDE5BP02820091226>

Uganda will demand tougher terms in the next round of Production Sharing Agreements (PSAs) it plans to negotiate with foreign exploration firms eyeing its Lake Albert reserves, a senior government official said.

Uganda Gives Approval for Oil Exploration in National Game Park.

(29/12/2009 – Bloomberg)

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601116&sid=ab8NWPQcx71U>

Uganda's National Environment Management Authority approved the exploration of oil in a national game park, said Henry Okello Oryem, the minister of state for internal relations.

Bunyoro Disowns Oil Protest Letter.

(27/12/2009 – New Vision – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200912281062.html>

Ugandan Kingdom Not Opposed to Heritage Asset Sale, Vision Says.

(28/12/2009 – Bloomberg)

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601116&sid=a7ZEBR9gAN7Y>

The Bunyoro Kingdom has disowned a letter purportedly written by the Omukama (king) Solomon Iguru, protesting the sale of Heritage's shares to Italian oil company Eni.

International mining companies in the Great Lakes Region

DRC

KGHM pulls out of Congo.

(29/12/2009 – thenews.pl)

http://www.thenews.pl/business/artykul122757_kghm-pulls-out-of-congo.html

Poland's copper mining giant KGHM has applied for voluntary liquidation of the its operations in the Democratic Republic of Congo, to commence on 1 January 2010.

UGANDA

UK Firm Gets Oil Refinery Construction Deal.

(27/12/2009 – New Vision – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200912280001.html>

Foster Wheeler Energy Ltd, a UK-based firm, has secured a contract to carryout a feasibility study for the construction and development of oil refinery in Uganda.

China in the Great Lakes Region

China's Entry Into the Scramble for Oil Could Benefit Continent.

(23/12/2009 – New Vision – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200912240163.html>

China's entry into the African market, especially the oil market, is advantageous to the African continent as it increases demand for African resources and gives Africans more choices. The competition should positively reduce the traditionally unequal trading relations the continent has had with her former colonial masters-cum-trading partners.

Arms trade / Security in the Great Lakes Region

DRC

Alors que les populations ont besoin de l'assistance humanitaire.

(23/12/2009 – Le Potentiel – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/200912230287.html>

National deputies of the DRC and Congo-Brazzaville conducted field visits to Dongo to assess the security and humanitarian situation on the ground.

Une insurrection aux contours flous dans l'Equateur.

(28/12/2009 – Le Potentiel – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/200912281217.html>

Equateur: aucun pays étranger n'était impliqué dans le récent conflit, selon Lambert Mende.

(29/12/2009 – Radio Okapi)

<http://www.radiookapi.net/index.php?i=53&a=25963>

Governmental spokesperson Lambert Mende Omalanga on the situation in the north of the Equator province. Among other things, he states the conflict is not merely about ethnicity.

CONGO : Inquiétude des acteurs anti-sida au Congo face aux violences en RDC.

(29/12/2009 – PlusNews – Reliefweb)

<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/SODA-7Z7MLA?OpenDocument&RSS20=18-P>

Actors combating AIDS in the Republic of Congo are worried about the heightened risk of proliferation of AIDS with the influx of refugees coming from the DRC.

Dongo ressemble toujours à une cité fantôme.

(24/12/2009 – Radio Okapi)

<http://www.radiookapi.net/index.php?i=53&a=25935>

Dongo : le commissaire de district du sud Ubangi en campagne pour le retour des déplacés.

(25/12/2009 – Radio Okapi)

<http://www.radiookapi.net/index.php?i=53&a=25942>

Dongo - début de la campagne de sensibilisation des déplacés.

(29/12/2009 – Le Potentiel – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/200912290256.html>

12 days after the FARDC regained Dongo, the population is still hesitant about returning home.

RDC : Au cours des fêtes de fin d'année, les casques bleus protègent les civils.

(28/12/2009 – UN News Centre)

<http://www.un.org/apps/newsFr/storyF.asp?NewsID=20889&Cr=Congo&Cr1=>

Mbandaka : début de patrouilles mixtes PNC - FARDC – Monuc.

(24/12/2009 – Radio Okapi)

<http://www.radiookapi.net/index.php?i=53&a=25938>

During the past days the MONUC, the FARDC and the PNC conducted joint patrols in the north-western area of the Equator Province, allowing the population to celebrate Christmas in peace.

Retombées des mesures sécuritaires dans la Province Orientale - Cinquante bandits à main armée arrêtés.

(28/12/2009 – Le Potentiel – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/200912281210.html>

The measures taken to fight the rise in insecurity in Province Orientale are already beginning to pay off.

Goma : le CNDP négocie sa participation au gouvernement.

(22/12/2009 – Radio Okapi)

<http://www.radiookapi.net/index.php?i=53&a=25923>

Retombées du séjour de Kabila au Kivu.

(23/12/2009 – Le Potentiel – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/200912230286.html>

The CNDP negotiate with a new man at their helm.

(24/12/2009 – Jason Stearns)

<http://congosiasa.blogspot.com/2009/12/cndp-negotiate-with-new-man-at-their.html>

Articles on the negotiations between the Congolese government and the CNDP to discuss CNDP's participation in the national politics.

Goma : les blessés de guerre ex-CNDP enfin pris en charge par le gouvernement congolais.

(27/12/2009 – Radio Okapi)

<http://www.radiookapi.net/index.php?i=53&a=25950>

The DRC is taking over the care of the wounded ex-combatants from the former armed group CNDP, as stipulated in the Goma agreements of March.

L'ONU recommande une « Armée pluriethnique »!

(29/12/2009 – Le Potentiel – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/200912290602.html>

The UN Security Council is worried about a possible suspension of the MONUC in the future, it therefore aims for a solid SSR.

DR Congo: blue helmets protect thousands daily, says top UN envoy.

(28/12/2009 – UN News Centre)

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=33357&Cr=democratic&Cr1=congo>

The MONUC upholds the human rights of thousands of people every day, the top UN envoy to the African nation said today, rejecting criticism from a non-governmental organization that blue helmets are “complicit” in abuses committed by the Congolese army.

UN Security Council extends MONUC's mandate in the DRC until 31 May 2010.
(23/12/2009 – MONUC)

<http://monuc.unmissions.org/Default.aspx?tabid=932&ctl=Details&mid=1096&ItemID=6955> (English)
<http://monuc.unmissions.org/Default.aspx?tabid=1069&ctl=Details&mid=1143&ItemID=6957> (French)

UN extends mandate of DRC peacekeepers.

(24/12/2009 – Mail&Guardian)

<http://www.mg.co.za/article/2009-12-24-un-extends-mandate-of-drc-peacekeepers>

New York: le Conseil de sécurité proroge le mandat de la Monuc jusqu'au 31 mai 2010.

(24/12/2009 – Radio Okapi)

<http://www.radiookapi.net/index.php?i=53&a=25933>

Le mandat de la Monuc prorogé jusqu'au 31 mai 2010.

(28/12/2009 – Le Potentiel – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/200912281211.html>

The United Nations Security Council today unanimously adopted resolution 1906 (2009) by which the Council extends MONUC's mandate until 31 May 2010 and indicates that it intends to extend the Mission's mandate for further period of twelve months beyond that date. In the meantime, it asks the Secretary-General to "conduct a strategic review" of the situation in the DRC and to determine "the modalities of a reconfiguration of the mandate" and to report to the Council by 1 April 2010. The Council asks the Secretary-General to focus on "the critical tasks that need to be accomplished before MONUC can envisage its drawdown without triggering a relapse into instability" in the DRC.

DR Congo: UN peacekeepers to use 'all necessary means' to protect civilians.

(23/12/2009 – UN News Centre)

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=33335&Cr=democratic&Cr1=congo> (English)

Le Conseil de sécurité renouvelle le mandat de la Mission de l'ONU en RDC.

(23/12/2009 – UN News Centre)

<http://www.un.org/apps/newsFr/storyF.asp?NewsID=20872&Cr=RDC&Cr1=> (French)

Faced with widespread reports of massacres and other serious human rights abuses by Government soldiers and rebels in the DRC, the Security Council today again called on United Nations peacekeepers to "use all necessary means" to protect civilians from threats from any party.

UN: Ensure Peacekeepers in Congo Focus on Protecting Civilians.

(23/12/2009 – Human Rights Watch)

<http://www.hrw.org/en/news/2009/12/23/un-ensure-peacekeepers-congo-focus-protecting-civilians>

ONU : L'intervention des forces de maintien de la paix au Congo doit être axée sur la protection des civils.

(23/12/2009 – HRW – Reliefweb)

<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/ASAZ-7Z2HX6?OpenDocument&RSS20=18-P>

HRW demanding the MONUC to focus on the protection of civilians.

Massacres à répétition des civils à l'Est.

(23/12/2009 – Le Phare – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/200912230737.html>

Article on Human Rights Watch's humanitarian reports on the DRC of last year.

RD Congo : Bulletin d'information humanitaire - Provinces du Centre et de l'Ouest, 18 déc. 2009.

(18/12/2009 – OCHA – Reliefweb)

<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/VVOS-7Z7M82?OpenDocument&RSS20=22-P>

RD Congo : Bulletin d'information humanitaire - Sud-Kivu, du 16 au 22 décembre 2009.

(24/12/2009 – OCHA – Reliefweb)

<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/VVOS-7Z7QB4?OpenDocument&RSS20=22-P>

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

LRA

UN humanitarian chief calls for stronger steps against Ugandan rebels in DR Congo.

(23/12/2009 – UN News Centre)

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=33339&Cr=lra&Cr1=> (English)

<http://www.un.org/apps/newsFr/storyF.asp?NewsID=20881&Cr=LRA&Cr1=> (Fench)

UN humanitarian chief urges protection for DRC civilians vulnerable to LRA attacks.

(23/12/2009 – OCHA – Reliefweb)

<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/VDUX-7YZU47?OpenDocument&RSS20=18-P>

L'Onu s'inquiète de l'ampleur des exactions de la LRA sur les civils.

(29/12/2009 – Le Potentiel – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/200912290605.html>

On the eve of the anniversary of last year's Christmas Day massacre of at least 477 civilians in the DRC by the rebel Ugandan LRA, the top United Nations humanitarian official called for stronger measures to protect civilians still vulnerable to attacks.

Army Deploys On Congo Border.

(23/12/2009 – New Vision – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200912240175.html>

The UPDF has deployed along the Uganda-Democratic Republic of Congo border following reports that suspected LRA rebels were hiding in the West Nile region.

Insécurité dans la Province Orientale - Les élus du peuple interpellent le gouvernement central.

(23/12/2009 – Le Potentiel – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/200912230267.html>

National deputies originating from Province Orientale demanded the central government to react to the situation of insecurity in the province.

Army Lists Gains Against LRA in 2009.

(28/12/2009 – New Vision – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200912290109.html>

The army has killed 305 Lord's Resistance Army fighters since it launched a joint military offensive on the rebel bases in Garamba in eastern Congo a year ago. In a statement listing the UPDF's achievements since Operation Lightning Thunder was launched on December 14, 2008, the Ministry of Defence said another 41 rebels were captured while 52 fighters defected.

Kisangani : 6 éléments LRA capturés à Dungu présentés à la presse.

(28/12/2009 – Radio Okapi)

<http://www.radiookapi.net/index.php?i=53&a=25961>

The FARDC presented 6 LRA rebels to the press. These rebels were captured in Dungu between 18 and 20 December.

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 Delcredere's support practices in comparison to the EURODAD principles on responsible financing.

(29/04/2009 – IPIS)

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

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

This research paper looks specifically at the practices of the two most significant players at the federal level: FINEXPO and Ducroire/Nationale Delcredere. 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 Delcredere 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 Delcredere 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

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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