



Briefing 25 November – 1 December 2009

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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 “Congolesse 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

Is Continent's Land Up for Grabs?

(25/11/2009 – Africa Renewal – allAfrica)
<http://allafrica.com/stories/200911301343.html>

Land Grabs - New 'Resource Curse'?

(27/11/2009 – Pambazuka - allAfrica)
<http://allafrica.com/stories/200911301447.html>

An apparent surge in the purchase of African land by foreign companies and governments to grow food and other crops for export has set alarm bells ringing on and off the continent. The headlines have been strident: "The Second Scramble for Africa Starts," "Quest for Food Security Breeds Neo-Colonists," "Food Security or Economic Slavery?"

UK, Holland Move to Combat Trade in Conflict Minerals.

(28/11/2009 – The New Times – allAfrica)
<http://allafrica.com/stories/200911300992.html>

The United Kingdom's DfID and the Dutch Foreign Ministry have commissioned a research to explore mechanisms of increasing transparency in minerals trade within the Great Lakes Region. A London-based specialist consultancy - Resource Consulting Services (RCS) is currently undertaking research on the minerals traded in the DRC, Rwanda and Burundi.

Joint Methane Gas Project to Commence Soon.

(30/11/2009 – The New Times – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200911300187.html>

The regional methane gas project which was agreed upon by Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo is set to kick off next month a senior government official has said. The Minister of Finance, James Musoni revealed that the two countries have named the technical teams that are working on plans for the 200MW project and are to begin the implementation in one month.

Lake Kivu Methane Project No Danger to Environment – Report.

(29/11/2009 – The New Times – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200911300438.html>

An Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) study, conducted to identify any environment related dangers that would result from the process of energy extraction from Lake Kivu, indicates that the project will not cause any environmental danger.

Burundi seeks to join methane gas project.

(2/12/2009 – The New Times – allAfrica)

<http://www.newtimes.co.rw/index.php?issue=14097&article=23212>

The government of Burundi has expressed interest in joining the joint DRC-Rwanda exploitation of methane gas on Lake Kivu. The project was announced soon after Presidents Paul Kagame and Joseph Kabila agreed on the joint venture at a recent summit.

Kimberley Process Plenary Session, 5 November 2009.

(24/11/2009 - Kimberley Process)

<http://www.kimberleyprocess.com/download/getfile/940>

Press communiqué of the Seventh Annual Plenary Session of the KPCS, held in Namibia.

The Role of Parliaments in Ensuring that Extractive Industries Benefit SADC Citizens.

(27/11/2009 – SARW)

<http://www.sarwatch.org/publications/papers/202-papers/1048-the-role-of-parliaments-in-ensuring-that-extractive-industries-benefit-sadc-citizens.html>

Claude Kabemba, the director of the Southern Africa Resource Watch (SARW), gave a talk at the SADC-PF meeting “ Toward benefiting SADC citizens” which was held on the 26 of November in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe.

Rich world should pay Africa to preserve forests.

(30/11/2009 – Reuters)

http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJ0E5AT0J920091130?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 developed world should pay African countries to preserve their vast forests to help the fight against climate change, some of the continent's governments will argue at next month's summit in Copenhagen.

DRC

Etude sur le rôle de l'exploitation des ressources naturelles dans l'alimentation et la perpétuation des crises de l'est de la rdc.

(November 2009 – International Alert)

<http://www.international-alert.org/publications/pub.php?p=410>http://www.international-alert.org/great_lakes/index.php?t=3

For more than a decade, research has stressed the importance of the economic dimension of conflict, and of the economic interests of belligerents. Competition among political, military and business actors for the control of mineral resources in the east of the country is being increasingly recognised as a pivotal factor in assessing the causes of instability in the DRC. This report is based on a thorough review of all the main literature on the subject since the year 2000. It describes and assesses the different categories of actors and the processes, chains and linkages that are involved in mining and trading of minerals in the Kivu provinces and in the territory of Ituri.

D R Congo: How British corporations are fuelling war.

(19/11/2009 – AfricaFiles)

<http://www.africafiles.org/article.asp?ID=22385>

The Democratic Republic of Congo is probably the richest country in the world in terms of natural resources. The actions of British (and other) corporations in the Congo are explicitly linked to the continuing war for minerals that has taken the lives of more than 5,400,000 people. As Global Witness reports, "it is in the interests of all sides in the conflict, as well as unscrupulous businessmen, to prolong the conflict because it delivers financial benefits without accountability.

D R Congo: Conflict minerals a cover for Western mining interests?

(1/12/2009 – SF Bayview – AfricaFiles)

<http://www.africafiles.org/article.asp?ID=22386>

In this opinion piece the selective approach of the USA and Europe to conflict over minerals in the Democratic Republic of Congo perpetuates the root causes of the conflict and contributes nothing to a regional, political framework aimed at lasting peace and stability.

Congo's Conflict Gold Photos.

(26/11/2009 – CBS News)

<http://www.cbsnews.com/elements/2009/11/25/60minutes/photoessay5776220.shtml>

Photo report on gold from eastern Congo. The war in the Democratic Republic of Congo is fueled by a thriving gold trade today, with armed groups controlling mines and earning an estimated \$50 million last year from selling gold and minerals.

D R Congo: US Congress Rep. introduces Conflict Minerals Trade Act.

(19/11/2009 – United States Congress - AfricaFiles)

<http://www.africafiles.org/article.asp?ID=22360>

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. "It is within our power to make a meaningful difference," Rep. McDermott said, "by shining the light of truth into the darkness that currently is the supply chain for minerals mined in war-ravaged Congo that can end up in consumer electronics and other products we use every day."

Kinshasa: US lawmakers debate mining.

(25/11/2009 – Africa Mining Intelligence)

For consultation at request, or at IPIS library.

The Conflict Minerals Trade Act of 2009, being discussed in the USA, is unleashing criticism of companies operating in eastern DRC.

ENOUGH's response about US legislation.

(1/12/2009 – Jason Stearns)

<http://congosiasa.blogspot.com/2009/12/enoughs-response-about-us-legislation.html>

ENOUGH projects wrote this article to Jason Stearns as it judged there are a couple of specific provisions within the Conflict Minerals Trade Act (H.R. 4128) worth clarifying.

Bonne nouvelle pour les miniers du Katanga - Le cuivre proche de 7.000 U.S.\$ la tonne.

(25/11/2009 – Le Potentiel – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/200911250582.html>

As the price of copper is rising persistently, prospects are brightening for the Katangese miners.

Les services miniers appelés à une cohérence des données collectées.

(25/11/2009 – Le Potentiel – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/200911250583.html>

The Congolese Ministry of Mines organised a seminar on the need for coherence in the collection of mining statistics.

Miba : Joseph Kabila promet 20 millions USD pour sa relance au début de 2010.

(29/11/2009 – Radio Okapi)

<http://www.radiookapi.net/index.php?i=53&a=25652>

Mbuji-Mayi : 400.000 USD de don pour les sinistrés des pluies et deux mois de salaire pour la Miba.

(28/11/2009 – Radio Okapi)

<http://www.radiookapi.net/index.php?i=53&a=25646>

Articles on the Congolese state employing financial means to support MIBA.

Une nouvelle société minière en gestation sur les cendres de la Sengamines.

(1/12/2009 – Le Potentiel – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/200912010618.html>

President Kabila, on a visit in East Kasai, announced a new mining enterprise will be created on the remnants of Sengamines.

UN peacekeepers introduce local Congolese to the cow-drawn plough.

(25/11/2009 – UN News Centre)

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=33068&Cr=monuc&Cr1=>

United Nations peacekeepers are going beyond the call of duty in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), not only protecting local civilians from rebel militia but also helping them boost agricultural output as well as resurfacing roads and refurbishing a school.

UGANDA

Oil Prospects Excite Experts.

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

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200911250815.html>

Uganda is in a pole position to become one of the top 50 oil-producing countries in the world in six years, according to experts.

How the Country Can Avoid Becoming a Petro State.

(25/11/2009 – New Vision – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200911260211.html>

In a bid to stimulate the debate on Uganda's newly discovered oil and the sharing of the oil wealth, Business Vision runs a series of articles by Professor Kasozi, the director of the National Council for Higher Education. This week's article focuses on how Uganda can avoid depending on oil as a sole major export.

Museveni, Kiir Inspect Disputed Border Area.

(24/11/2009 – New Vision – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200911250176.html>

President Yoweri Museveni and Southern Sudan president Salva Kiir yesterday inspected the disputed Uganda-Sudan border area and called for calm. The two leaders said the border dispute should not spoil the good relationship that exists between the two countries.

Publish Oil Pacts, Activists Demand.

(27/11/2009 – The Monitor – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200911270150.html>

Civil society activists have piled pressure on the government to make public all agreements it has entered with companies prospecting in oil that has been discovered in the Albertine region in western Uganda.

RWANDA

Mineral Revenues to Fall By 36 Percent This Year.

(27/11/2009 – The New Times – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200911270049.html>

As a result of a global slump in the mineral prices due to a fall in demand on the global market, revenues from Rwanda's minerals are expected to drop by 36 percent, officials say. They are expected to earn \$ 60 million this year compared to \$ 94 million that went into government coffers in 2008.

Cassiterite, Coltan Boost Mineral Export Volume.

(27/11/2009 – The New Times – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200911270041.html>

Rwanda's mineral export volume in the 3rd quarter of 2009 registered an upward trend compared to the same period last year, but export receipts declined on account of low prices on the international market, the Ministry of Natural Resources has said.

Gov't in Joint Ventures to Boost the Mining Sector.

(28/11/2009 – The New Times – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200911300996.html>

Government is currently in joint ventures with international mining corporations to boost the country's nascent mining sector, State Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Vincent Karega, said. Noting one of the prospective ventures, the Minister said that government has entered into a joint partnership with Kivu Resources, a Mauritius-based firm to augment the exploitation of coltan, in Gatumba.

Methane Gas to Be Extracted From Nyanza Garbage Site.

(1/12/2009 – The New Times – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200912010005.html>

After more than seven years since Nyanza landfill became Kigali's only garbage site, the Ministry of Infrastructure (MININFRA) and the authorities of Kigali City Council, are putting final touches to plans that will see a German company extract methane gas from the site.

International mining companies in the Great Lakes Region

DRC

Randgold's Bristow promises Kibali 'roadmap' in Q1.

(26/11/2009 – Mining Weekly)

<http://www.miningweekly.com/article/randgold-will-beat-2011-output-forecast-bristow-2009-11-26>

Randgold sharply ups gold output forecast - without including Moto.

(27/11/2009 – Mineweb)

<http://www.mineweb.com/mineweb/view/mineweb/en/page34?oid=93667&sn=Detail>

Randgold Resources ups Kibali indicated gold resource by 23%; halves inferred resource.

(30/11/2009 – Mineweb)

<http://www.mineweb.com/mineweb/view/mineweb/en/page34?oid=93786&sn=Detail>

Material Increase in Kibali Indicated Resource.

(30/11/2009 – Marketwire)

<http://www.marketwire.com/press-release/Randgold-Resources-LSE-RRS-1083112.html>

Randgold Resources expects to produce 700,000 ounces of gold in 2011, ahead of previous company estimates of 600,000 ounces, Chief Executive Mark Bristow said on Thursday. In a presentation to analysts in Toronto, Bristow said output should grow to 1.2 million ounces by 2014. That forecast does not include production from the Kibali project -- formerly called Moto -- in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Bristow said. But Randgold Resources will outline the way forward at its Kibali gold project, in the DRC, early next year, Bristow said.

UGANDA

Giants Compete for Country's Oil.

(27/11/2009 – New Vision – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200911301007.html>

Tullow Oil could hijack Heritage Oil's Africa deal.

(1/12/2009 – Telegraph)

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/newsbysector/energy/6703203/Tullow-Oil-could-hijack-Heritage-Oils-Africa-deal.html>

Tullow Oil May Buy Heritage Assets, Thwarting Eni (Update3).

(1/12/2009 – Bloomberg)

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601116&sid=a1wYBrt14gLY>

Tullow considers buying Heritage's Ugandan oil blocks.

(1/12/2009 – Financial Times)

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/94246be8-dea7-11de-adff-00144feab49a.html>

Tullow Oil, the company with whom Heritage shares two blocks in Uganda on a 50/50 basis, has stated that it has the right to buy its partner's interests. The news comes only days after Heritage announced it signed a letter of intent with the Italian company Eni to sell its stake in the two Ugandan blocks at \$1.5b. Tullow says it has the right to pre-empt the sale, meaning that it has the first option to buy Heritage's interest in the blocks.

Country to Earn U.S.\$300 Million From Oil Firm Sale.

(1/12/2009 – East African Business Week – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200912010834.html>

Uganda government could earn over US\$300million in taxes from the sale of a company disposing of its stake in Uganda's oil fields in Western Uganda, according to highly placed industry source. This follows an offer last week by Eni SPA, an Italian oil company that is buying Heritage Oil and Gas Oil Company's stake in Uganda's Albertine rift for a sum of \$1.5billion. The offer is however yet to be approved by Heritage shareholders and partners and the Uganda Government.

RWANDA

Venture aims to step up coltan mining in Rwanda.

(26/11/2009 – Reuters)

<http://af.reuters.com/article/investingNews/idAFJJOE5AP09T20091126>

A joint venture between the Rwandan government and a Mauritius-based company is positioning the central African country to ramp up exploitation of coltan, a mineral that is crucial to the manufacture of mobile phones. Gatumba Mining Concessions (GMC) will invest at least \$2.5 million and build ten small processing plants over five years in a major step towards expanding Rwanda's nascent mining sector, which has been dominated by small-scale artisanal mining.

Arms trade / Security in the Great Lakes Region

DRC

Security Council renews arms embargo and sanctions in DR Congo.

(30/11/2009 – UN News Centre)

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=33103&Cr=Democratic&Cr1=Congo> (English)

<http://www.un.org/apps/newsFr/storyF.asp?NewsID=20694&Cr=Congo&Cr1=> (French)

Security Council extends arms embargo, related sanctions, in Democratic Republic of Congo until 30 November 2010, unanimously adopting resolution 1896 (2009).

(30/11/2009 – UN Security Council – Reliefweb)

<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/EGUA-7YAS54?OpenDocument&RSS20=18-P>

RDC : l'ONU prolonge l'embargo sur les armes jusqu'au 30 novembre 2010.

(30/11/2009 – Radio Okapi)

<http://www.radiookapi.net/index.php?i=53&a=25674>

L'ONU proroge d'un an l'embargo sur les armes en RDC.

(1/12/2009 – Le Potentiel – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/200912011086.html>

Security Council Slams Embargo on FDLR.

(2/12/2009 – The New Times – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200912020001.html>

The Security Council today extended and expanded the arms embargo and related sanctions in the DRC, which have been in place since 2003, for another year. Council members voted unanimously to adopt a resolution continuing the regime of sanctions, which consists of an arms embargo against all armed groups that are not part of either the Government's integrated army (known as the FARDC) or police units, through 30 November next year. The 15-member panel also extended the mandate of the Group of Experts.

Kindu : Wamaza ferme officiellement ses portes.

(1/12/2009 – Radio Okapi)

<http://www.radiookapi.net/index.php?i=53&a=25677>

As the Rahiya Mutomboki rebels have entered the Wamaza DDR camp, it is about to close down now.

UN boosts food aid to thousands uprooted by tribal violence in DR Congo.

(25/11/2009 – UN News Centre)

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=33069&Cr=democratic&Cr1=congo> (English)

<http://www.un.org/apps/newsFr/storyF.asp?NewsID=20678&Cr=congo&Cr1=> (French)

The United Nations World Food Programme said it is ramping up efforts to feed tens of thousand of Congolese who fled a recent outbreak of tribal violence in north-western DRC. The fighting, thought to be over disputes based on farming and fishing rights in the village of Dongo, left dozens dead and an estimated 14,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) inside DRC who are too afraid to return to their villages. In some locations, bodies are still visible lying in the streets or in the river, WFP said in a news release.

Equateur - la Monuc évalue la situation humanitaire à Dongo.

(25/11/2009 – Le Potentiel – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/200911250514.html>

Article on the MONUC evaluation team for Dongo.

DRC-ROC: More than 70,000 displaced by violence in Equateur.

(30/11/2009 – IRIN)

<http://www.irinnews.org/report.aspx?ReportId=87252> (English)

(1/12/2009 – IRIN – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/200912011101.html> (French)

More than 70,000 people have been displaced by inter-communal clashes in northwest Democratic Republic of Congo's Equateur province, according to the medical charity Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF). About half of the displaced have remained inside DRC, taking temporary shelter in locations such as Kungu, Bokonzi, Bomboma and Bonzene, according to the Belgian branch of MSF, which conducted an assessment mission to the province.

Thousands flee fighting in DRC.

(1/12/2009 – Mail&Guardian)

<http://www.mg.co.za/article/2009-12-01-thousands-flee-fighting-in-drc>

More than 44 000 people have fled ethnic violence in the western DRC to seek refuge in the Likouala region of the Republic of Congo, aid workers said on Monday.

Congo gunmen fire at UN helicopter, five wounded.

(27/11/2009 – Reuters)

http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJ0E5AQ01J20091127?feedType=RSS&feedName=topNews&utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+reuters%2FAFRICATopNews+%28News+%2F+AFRIC+A+%2F+Top+News%29&utm_content=Bloglines

Un hélicoptère de la Monuc attaqué à Dongo, 5 blessés.

(26/11/2009 – Radio Okapi)

<http://www.radiookapi.net/index.php?i=53&a=25619>

Ban deplores attack on UN helicopter in DR Congo.

(27/11/2009 – UN News Centre)

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=33084&Cr=democratic&Cr1=congo> (English)

<http://www.un.org/apps/newsFr/storyF.asp?NewsID=20685&Cr=congo&Cr1=> (French)

Kinshasa : Lambert Mende condamne l'attaque de l'hélico de la Monuc à Dongo.

(27/11/2009 – Radio Okapi)

<http://www.radiookapi.net/index.php?i=53&a=25637>

Gunmen involved in violent ethnic clashes in remote northern Democratic Republic of Congo fired on a United Nations helicopter on Thursday, injuring five people on board, the country's U.N. peacekeeping mission said. The helicopter was delivering supplies to peacekeepers recently deployed to the town of Dongo in Equateur province when it was attacked at around 2 p.m., a spokesman for the mission, known as MONUC, said.

Armed group claims firing at UN chopper in DRC.

(27/11/2009 – Mail&Guardian)

<http://www.mg.co.za/article/2009-11-27-armed-group-claims-firing-at-un-chopper-in-drc>

An armed movement calling itself the Patriots-Resistance of Dongo on Friday claimed responsibility for firing at a United Nations helicopter in the Equateur province of the DRC.

Dongo - Des cadavres empistent les rues!

(26/11/2009 – Le Phare – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/200911270694.html>

La population n'est pas prête à rentrer chez elle à Dongo.

(25/11/2009 – La Prospérité – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/200911250636.html>

Articles on the humanitarian situation in Dongo. OCHA described it as a ghost town, as most of its inhabitants are still reluctant to return home.

Congo-Brazzaville : Croix Rouge, 200 000 \$US d'assistance aux réfugiés de Dongo.

(25/11/2009 – Radio Okapi)

<http://www.radiookapi.net/index.php?i=53&a=25602>

The Red Cross has mobilised US\$200.000 to help the Dongo refugees.

Le groupe Simba sème la désolation dans la commune de N'Sele.

(30/11/2009 – Le Potentiel – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/200911301481.html>

Simba rebels are stirring up disorder in N'Sele community.

Masisi : la population toujours victime d'une double administration.

(25/11/2009 – Radio Okapi)

<http://www.radiookapi.net/index.php?i=53&a=25609>

Masisi: More reason to worry.

(1/12/2009 – Jason Stearns)

<http://congosiasa.blogspot.com/>

Mushaki village, in Masisi territory, is still subjected to a parallel administration, CNDP's and the legal one.

Madnodje Mounoubai - « En dix ans, la Monuc s'est remarquablement acquitté de ses mandats et de ses tâches ».

(26/11/2009 – Le Potentiel – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/200911260526.html>

Article on MONUC spokesperson Madnodje Mounoubai's statement that the MONUC has managed to fulfil its assignments.

L'éventuel départ de la MONUC au centre d'une polémique.

(26/11/2009 – IPS – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/200911270276.html>

Article on the controversy concerning the DRC's demand for the MONUC's exit strategy.

The west has lost its way in Congo.

(26/11/2009 – Guardian)

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2009/nov/26/eastern-congo-un-troops>

Bringing peace and development to eastern Congo will require a force 10 or 20 times the size of the present one which could take over and hold the area until all armed movements have been eliminated – or better – talked into a new peace process. (That means persuading Kabila to accept some power-sharing. That maybe difficult too.) However, this area supported Kabila in the 2006 election but has turned bitterly against him since. He has an interest in bringing peace to eastern Congo if he wants to win the 2011 election.

Brassage - Le cheval de Troie congolais.

(25/11/2009 – Le Phare – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/200911250921.html>

Critical article on the brassage process and the danger of involving former rebels in the management of a country.

MONUC and the Congolese government launch the strategy against gender based violence.

(25/11/2009 – MONUC)

<http://monuc.unmissions.org/Default.aspx?tabid=932&ctl=Details&mid=1096&ItemID=6558> (English)

<http://monuc.unmissions.org/Default.aspx?tabid=1069&ctl=Details&mid=1143&ItemID=6556> (French)

In coordination with the Congolese authorities, Leila Zerrougui, Deputy Special Representative of the UN Secretary General in the DRC, launched the new national strategy against gender based violence, in a ceremony at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Kinshasa.

Report de la tripartite HCR-Rwanda-RDC : le HCR évoque des questions techniques.

(25/11/2009 – Radio Okapi)

<http://www.radiookapi.net/index.php?i=53&a=25610>

The tripartite talks between Rwandan, the DRC and UNHCR on the refugee problem have been rescheduled to a date to be determined later.

Number of Congolese Refugees Going Home Swells.

(28/11/2009 – Times of Zambia - allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200911280001.html>

UNHCR public information assistant, Kelvin Shimo has said the number of Congolese refugees Zambia is repatriating back to their home country has continued to rise with a total of 33,424 since 2007.

Not quite as bloody as before.

(26/08/2009 – The Economist)

http://www.economist.com/world/middleeast-africa/displaystory.cfm?story_id=14979354&fsrc=rss

Article evaluating the humanitarian situation in eastern DRC.

Selon medecins sans frontières - « La situation humanitaire dans l'Est de la RDC n'a guère changé en douze mois ».

(26/11/2009 – Le Potentiel – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/200911260532.html>

According to MSF the humanitarian situation remains terrible in eastern DRC.

Red Cross Assists Returnees From DR Congo.

(28/11/2009 – AngolaPress – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200911300891.html>

The Angola Red Cross (CVA) has delivered two tonnes of assorted goods to Bengo province-born returnees recently expelled from the Democratic Republic of Congo, a local CVA official disclosed.

Situation humanitaire en République démocratique du Congo : Note d'information à la presse, 25 novembre 2009.

(25/11/2009 – OCHA – Reliefweb)

<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/SKEA-7Y5JAB?OpenDocument&RSS20=22-P>

Briefing humanitaire en RDC, 23 au 27 novembre 2009.

(26/11/2009 – OCHA – Reliefweb)

<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/JBRN-7Y6KWP?OpenDocument&RSS20=22-P>

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

Rebel Nkunda's Case to Be Opened in Country.

(1/12/2009 – Daily Nation – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200912010881.html>

Congo ex-warlord held in Rwanda seeks release.

(2/12/2009 – Reuters)

http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJ0E5B101D20091202?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 ongoing case of Congolese rebel leader Laurent Nkunda will come before Rwanda's Supreme Court, Mr Nkunda's lawyer said Tuesday. After a series of requests at civilian and military courts at lower levels, lawyer Stephane Bourgon has said he has been forced to go to Rwanda's Supreme Court in pursuit of Mr Nkunda's release from Rwandan authorities.

Bemba - Liberté provisoire aujourd'hui ou jamais!

(2/12/2009 – La Prospérité – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/200912011114.html>

The ICC Court of Appeal will decide today on the provisional release of Bemba.

Report UN Group of Experts

DR Congo - UN-backed forces 'failing' in rebel fight.

(25/11/2009 – BBC)

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/8377842.stm>

RDC: échec des opérations militaires.

(25/11/2009 – BBC)

http://www.bbc.co.uk/french/news/story/2009/11/091125_onu_monucreport.shtml

UN peace mission fuelling violence in Congo, report says.

(25/11/2009 – Guardian)

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2009/nov/25/un-peacekeeping-congo-experts>

UN 'failing' in Congo says own report.

(25/11/2009 – Telegraph)

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/africaandindianocean/congo/6654418/UN-failing-in-Congo-says-own-report.html>

Un rapport au Conseil de sécurité confirme - « Les opérations Kimia II n'ont pas démantelé les FDLR ».

(27/11/2009 – Le Potentiel – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/200911270244.html>

UN-backed operations against rebels in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo have failed, a leaked report says. The document, seen by the BBC, says mineral resources are being plundered with impunity and there has been a new surge of rapes and killings.

Diplomatic Double-Standards and an International Resource Grab are Stoking One of the Worst Wars in the World.

(25/11/2009 – Africa Confidential – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200911250877.html>

RDC : malgré l'embargo contre les armes, les FDLR multiplient des crimes.

(26/11/2009 – Radio Okapi)

<http://www.radiookapi.net/index.php?i=53&a=25612>

The United Nations Security Council's tenuous authority in Africa has been further threatened by an explosive new report from a UN Group of Experts showing wide-ranging violations of the arms embargo on Congo-Kinshasa by both Western and African states. The expert panel reports that killer militias in Eastern Congo have been receiving military orders from leaders based in Germany and France and getting finance from two Spanish-based charities linked to the Roman Catholic church in clear breach of the UN sanctions regime. The report also accuses the

governments of Burundi, Uganda, Tanzania and Congo-Kinshasa of allowing serious breaches of sanctions and the illegal export of mineral wealth.

Guerre au Kivu - Le double jeu des ONG.

(27/11/2009 – Le Potentiel – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/200911270644.html>

Deux ONGs européennes au service des rebelles rwandais.

(27/11/2009 – Le Potentiel – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/200911270643.html>

Articles on some of the accusations the latest report of the UN Group of Experts makes, two Spanish NGOs are mentioned, a Belgian trader, a Belgian missionary, ...

UN denies complicity in Congo human rights abuses after leaked report.

(1/12/2009 – World Socialist Website)

<http://www.wsws.org/articles/2009/dec2009/cong-d01.shtml>

The United Nations has denied complicity in human rights abuses in the DRC after its own report was leaked to the press. Compiled by the UN's "Group of Experts," the lengthy report catalogues the failings of the MONUC. It itemises the UN's apparent complicity in the ongoing violence and the humanitarian catastrophe in the DRC, and the looting of the country's resources. Diplomats at the UN headquarters in New York reportedly tried to delay the release of the report because "there is a lot in there that makes us look complicit," admitted one anonymous UN official.

Congo rejects criticism of UN-backed force.

(26/11/2009 – Reuters)

http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJJOE5AP00320091126?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

Lambert Mende dénonce les failles du rapport.

(30/11/2009 – Le Phare – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/200911301564.html>

Mende parle d'un rapport contrefait!

(27/11/2009 – La Prospérité – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/200911270688.html>

DRC defended on Thursday its U.N.-backed operations against Rwandan rebels, disputing the findings of a report that the mission had aggravated the conflict in its eastern borderlands. The leaked report by the United Nations' own Group of Experts concluded this week that the anti-rebel offensive had not only failed to rein in the rebels, but had worsened the already dire plight of civilians there.

Uganda Refutes Claims of Supporting FDLR.

(27/11/2009 – The New Times – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200911270050.html>

A top Ugandan army official Thursday strongly refuted allegations in the explosive report from a UN group of experts which cites Uganda as a transit route for FDLR weapons and recruits. The report says the rebels have been recruiting massively from Rwandan refugee camps in Uganda, particularly in Nakivale and Kyaka II camps, "under the noses of the Ugandan military which is supposed to have been preventing this."

UN: Rwandan militia has global support network.

(25/11/2009 – Mail&Guardian)

<http://www.mg.co.za/article/2009-11-25-un-rwandan-militia-has-global-support-network>

UN Report Exposes FDLR Global Network.

(26/11/2009 – The New Times – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200911260002.html>

An explosive report from a UN group of experts has exposed a network of allies comprising of individuals, companies, charities and governments that have aided the survival of FDLR by supplying the ragtag rebel outfit with arms in exchange for Congo's minerals.

Activists say UN policy must change in DR Congo.

(25/11/2009 – BBC)

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/8379673.stm>

Rights activists have urged the UN to change its policy in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo after a leaked report said the rebellion there was worsening. The leaked report, by UN-mandated experts, said there had been an upsurge in violence despite the UN joining the Congolese army to fight the rebels. The Security Council has been debating the findings of the experts

Global Witness urges governments to act on findings of UN experts' report on DRC.

(26/11/2009 – Global Witness)

http://www.globalwitness.org/media_library_detail.php/888/en/global_witness_urges_governments_to_act_on_findings_of_un_experts_report_on_drc

RDC : exploitation des minerais par les groupes armés, Global Witness invite l'Onu à sanctionner.

(26/11/2009 – Radio Okapi)

<http://www.radiookapi.net/index.php?i=53&a=25620>

Commerce de minerais dans l'Est - Global Witness appelle le gouvernement à agir.

(27/11/2009 – Le Potentiel – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/200911270239.html>

UN member states should take strong action in response to new information about companies and individuals who trade in minerals from areas of the eastern DRC controlled by armed groups, Global Witness said as the latest report from the Group of Experts was submitted to the UN Security Council.

UN Security Council Should Act On FDLR Report.

(27/11/2009 – The New Times – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200911270051.html>

The Group of Experts appointed by UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, has delivered on its mandate, producing a report that seems to be well-researched and detailed in its accusations against those giving support to the rebel outfit, FDLR. A response from the UN Security Council on this report will determine how global public opinion will view its credibility and impartiality.

FDLR

Rwanda: Former FDLR commander calls on compatriots in the DRC to abandon armed struggle.

(26/11/2009 – MONUC)

<http://monuc.unmissions.org/Default.aspx?tabid=932&ctl=Details&mid=1096&ItemID=6562> (English)

<http://monuc.unmissions.org/Default.aspx?tabid=1069&ctl=Details&mid=1143&ItemID=6563> (French)

In an interview with Radio Okapi, Major General Paul Rwarakabije, ex FDLR commander who surrendered and returned voluntarily to Rwanda in November 2003, appealed for his compatriots to do the same, "as fighting was not the way to right any grievance." In this regard, new messages have been recorded by MONUC's DDRR team in eastern DRC, who are preparing these broadcasts for the remaining FDLR rebels in the bush, in renewed efforts at disarmament, demobilization and repatriation.

Arrestation des leaders des FDLR Ex-FAR/Interahamwe - Les pays européens invités à suivre l'exemple de l'Allemagne.

(30/11/2009 – Le Potentiel – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/200911301394.html>

The International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) expressed its satisfaction over the arrest of the FDLR supporters in Germany, and encourages other European countries to follow the German example.

Nyamilima : l'insécurité persistante, une source de conflit entre FARDC et population.

(26/11/2009 – Radio Okapi)

<http://www.radiookapi.net/index.php?i=53&a=25613>

As insecurity prevails, a climate of distrust has grown between the civilian population and the FARDC troops engaged in the Kimia II military operation.

FDLR Rebel in DR Congo Reduced into Small Groups.

(27/11/2009 – Xinhua – Cri English.com)

<http://english.cri.cn/6966/2009/11/27/1821s532165.htm>

The elements of the rebel FDLR have been reduced into small groups causing violence in the eastern region of the DRC, the military said on Thursday. The coordinator of the anti-insurgency Kimia II operations, general Amuli, told a press briefing that arrangements had been made to cut off their mining zones still acting as their source of supply.

Kavumu : le chef de Bulenge assassiné par les FDLR.

(30/11/2009 – Radio Okapi)

<http://www.radiookapi.net/index.php?i=53&a=25665>

The customary chief of Bulenge village, South Kivu, has been assassinated by FDLR rebels last weekend.

Sud Kivu : les FDLR kidnappent 3 personnes.

(30/11/2009 – Radio Okapi)

<http://www.radiookapi.net/index.php?i=53&a=25669>

FDLR rebels abducted three persons in Kitutu, Mwenga territory.

LRA

10 LRA Rebels Flown Back to Country.

(24/11/2009 – New Vision – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200911250796.html>

A total of 10 out of the 34 LRA rebel fighters who surrendered to the UPDF in Faradje in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo last week, have been flown back to Uganda.

Sixty-Four LRA Rebels Surrender.

(25/11/2009 – New Vision – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200911260128.html>

A total of 64 fighters of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) rebel group have since October surrendered and returned home from the DRC. Capt. Samuel Obali, who returned recently with nine fighters and junior commanders, said they were forced to surrender because of the constant pursuit by the UPDF forces in the Central African Republic, DR-Congo and Southern Sudan.

LRA Abducts 24, Kill One in Central African Republic.

(27/11/2009 – The Monitor – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200911270137.html>

The Lord's Resistance Army rebels have abducted 24 people and killed one in a remote corner of Central African Republic, 850km east of the capital Bangui, the army said.

Lord's Resistance Army Thrives in Sudan.

(28/11/2009 – New Vision - allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200911290007.html>

Suspected LRA fighters have attacked Nzara region of South Sudan at least three times this month, forcing civilians to flee their homes, local officials said. Several armed groups operate in the region - including Ugandan and South Sudanese soldiers hunting the LRA since peace talks failed in 2008. The recent attacks, however, bore the "typical signs" of LRA raids, they said.

UGANDA

Amnesty Commission Receives Award.

(25/11/2009 – New Vision – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200911260129.html>

The Amnesty Commission on Tuesday received an award in recognition of its nine-year-work of resettling over 23,000 former rebels. Moses Musana, the chairman of Always Be Tolerant (ABETO), said the commission had shown commitment towards achieving peace in Uganda, including its involvement in the Juba peace talks.

Government Committed to Anti-Landmine Campaign.

(26/11/2009 – New Vision – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200911270092.html>

The Ugandan Government is committed to the campaign against landmines, relief and disaster preparedness minister Prof. Tarsis Kabwegyere has said. According to Landmine Monitor Report 2009, Uganda is yet to ratify the Convention on Cluster Munitions signed in December 2008, something that questions the government's commitment.

RWANDA

Country Declared Mine-Free.

(30/11/2009 – The New times – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200911300008.html>

The Ministry of Defence (MINADEF) announced that Rwanda is now a mine - free country, after it completed a demining campaign ahead of the December 1, 2010 deadline set by the Ottawa Convention.

BURUNDI

BURUNDI: Activists decry rights abuses, culture of impunity.

(25/11/2009 – IRIN)

<http://www.irinnews.org/report.aspx?ReportId=87191>

One of the guards of a provincial governor in Burundi seriously beat up a man in early November in a dispute over land and property. The man died after a few days in hospital. The case received wide media coverage in Burundi, with human rights organizations condemning the incident and calling for legal action to be taken against the perpetrator.

Burundi: Stop Deporting Rwandan Asylum Seekers.

(1/12/2009 – Human Rights Watch)

<http://www.hrw.org/en/news/2009/12/02/burundi-stop-deporting-rwandan-asylum-seekers>

Burundi's government should immediately reverse a new policy of deporting Rwandan asylum seekers without considering their cases, Human Rights Watch said today. On November 27, 2009, Interior Minister Edouard Nduwimana ordered police to return 103 asylum seekers to Rwanda, in violation of international law.

Burundi ex-rebel leader Agathon Rwaso to contest poll.

(30/11/2009 – BBC)

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/8385756.stm>

Former rebel to run for Burundi president.

(30/11/2009 – Reuters – allAfrica)

http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJOE5AT05R20091130?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

Former rebel leader Agathon Rwaso has been chosen by his party as its candidate for Burundi's 2010 presidential election. Mr Rwaso led his National Liberation Forces (FNL) in disarming in April. It was the last active rebel group.

Other

DR Congo eyes debt relief after Paris Club deal.

(26/11/2009 – Reuters)

http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJOE5AP01M20091126?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

International creditors have agreed to reschedule Democratic Republic of Congo's debt, paving the way for its entry into an International Monetary Fund debt relief scheme, the central African nation said on Thursday.

Le Congo sera rural ou ne sera pas.

(November 2009 – SOS Faim)

For consultation at request.

Extensive article by SOS Faim in their magazine 'défis sud' promoting rural development in the DRC as the way to go.

Rwanda 'wants to clear up diplomatic climate with France'.

(30/11/2009 – Mail&Guardian)

<http://www.mg.co.za/article/2009-11-30-rwanda-wants-to-clear-up-diplomatic-climate-with-france>

Rwanda and France restore diplomatic relations.

(30/11/2009 – BBC)

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/8385887.stm>

Rwanda and France have restored diplomatic relations three years after they were broken in a row over responsibility for the 1994 genocide.

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 Delcrederedienst. 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 Delcrederedienst 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 Delcrederedienst provide support for Belgian exports.

The paper also looks into what extent FINEXPO's and Ducroire/Nationale Delcrederedienst'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 Delcrederedienst are responsible support measures or not. EURODAD'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.

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(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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