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Natural resources in the Great Lakes Region

Unctad 'Forgets' Real Risks Faced by African Farmers.

(30/06/2010 – IPS – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201006300932.html>

The latest UNCTAD report on science and technology repeats previous calls for a "green revolution" in African agriculture but contains no mention of the real and present dangers that the international trade and financial framework present to African farmers.

Le méthane du Kivu se fait attendre.

(30/06/2010 – Africa Energy Intelligence)

For consultation at request, or at IPIS library.

The methane exploitation projects on Lake Kivu are experiencing delays.

Africa's Diamond Trade: Bringing Justice to Miners through Property Rights.

(June 2010 – USAID)

http://www.usaid.gov/press/frontlines/fl_jun10/p16_diamonds100622.html

It is ironic that diamonds, the beautiful stones that many cultures use to celebrate love and marriage, have also been used to finance violence and oppression. The trade in illegal diamonds in Africa, worth billions of dollars, has been used by warlords and rebels to buy arms to fight wars in Angola, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Liberia, and Sierra Leone. These wars have not only cost millions of lives, but also have shattered weak economies, spread disease, fueled government corruption, and created millions of refugees.

DRC

Lac Albert: faites vos jeux, rien ne va plus!

(30/06/2010 – Africa Energy Intelligence)

For consultation at request, or at IPIS library.

Kabila signed on the 18th of June several presidential decrees awarding the development rights on Block 1, 2 and 3 on Lake Albert and Block 5 on Lake Edward.

Liberia Gets Debt Relief, DR Congo on Hold.

(30/06/2010 – IPS)

<http://ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=52007>

Canada blocks debt relief as Congo marks jubilee.

(30/06/2010 – Mineweb)

<http://www.mineweb.com/mineweb/view/mineweb/en/page72068?oid=107165&sn=Detail>

Congo fetes jubilee without debt relief deal.

(30/06/2010 – Reuters)

http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJOE65T0HL20100630?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

Pressure mounts on DRC over mine-rights controversy.

(30/06/2010 – Mining Weekly)

<http://www.miningweekly.com/article/pressure-mounts-on-drc-over-mine-rights-controversy-2010-06-30>

Donor hypocrisy.

(30/06/2010 – Jason Stearns)

<http://congosiassa.blogspot.com/2010/06/donor-hypocrisy.html>

A legal dispute between Canada-based First Quantum Minerals and the DRC government over the ownership of one of the deposits of these minerals in DRC is seen as the main motivation behind Canada's postponement request for the DRC's debt relief. Critics have argued a decision on debt relief should not be tied to a commercial deal. Canada has said it must protect its country's investments and has concerns regarding governance and the rule of law in DRC.

DR Congo to get billions in debt relief from IMF.

(2/07/2010 – BBC)

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/world/africa/10484495.stm>

Democratic Republic of Congo to get billions of dollars in debt relief.

(2/07/2010 – CNN)

http://edition.cnn.com/2010/WORLD/africa/07/02/congo.debt.relief/index.html?eref=edition_africa&utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed:rss/edition_africa+%28RSS:+Africa%29&utm_content=Bloglines&bid=IGQvg-nsvy9

DR Congo wins debt relief despite Canadian concerns.

(2/07/2010 – Reuters)

http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJOE66104X20100702?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

World Bank approves debt relief for DR Congo: source.

(1/07/2010 – Reuters)

http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJOE6600XP20100701?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

IMF, others, support USD 12.3bn debt relief for DRC.

(2/07/2010 – Mineweb)

<http://www.mineweb.com/mineweb/view/mineweb/en/page72068?oid=107353&sn=Detail>

DRC wins debt relief despite Canadian concerns.

(2/07/2010 – Mining Weekly)

<http://www.miningweekly.com/article/drc-wins-debt-relief-despite-canadian-concerns-2010-07-02>

A debt relief programme worth \$12.3bn has been agreed for the DRC, it has been announced. Canada had blocked the debt relief package earlier in the week amid a dispute between a Canadian mining firm and the government of President Joseph Kabila. The government closed down a cobalt mining project run by the company First Quantum in September.

World Bank backs Congo's mining industry.

(2/07/2010 – UPI.com)

http://www.upi.com/Science_News/Resource-Wars/2010/07/02/World-Bank-backs-Congos-mining-industry/UPI-36061278084600/

A \$50 million grant for the Democratic Republic of Congo will increase transparency in the mining sector and fuel sustainable growth, the World Bank said. The World Bank said it was funding a "growth with governance" project in the Congo in order to encourage transparency and accountability in the mining sector. With the Congo boasting some of the richest mineral reserves in the world, the World Bank said the income from natural resources should encourage inclusive and sustainable growth.

UGANDA

L'oléoduc de Tamoil en panne.

(30/06/2010 – Africa Energy Intelligence)

For consultation at request, or at IPIS library.

Article on the lack of progress concerning the Eldoret-Kampala pipeline.

Oil Companies Punch Hole in Secrecy Over Agreements.

(5/07/2010 – The Independent – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201007061233.html>

Confronted by MPs at a petroleum governance workshop two weeks ago, Energy Minister Hillary Onek promised to table the Production Sharing Agreements (PSAs) with oil companies the very next Tuesday. When he did not appear in parliament that day, June 22nd, no one was surprised however. Government has been obfuscating and delaying on the contracts for months now.

International mining companies in the Great Lakes Region

DRC

IDC asks SA government to assist in DRC Kolwezi saga.

(6/07/2010 – Mining Weekly)

<http://www.miningweekly.com/article/idc-asks-sa-government-to-assist-in-drc-kolwezi-saga-2010-07-06>

South Africa's State-owned Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) has asked the government to step in to protect the DRC mine that was "expropriated" from copper-miner First Quantum last year - the IDC owned a 10% stake in the mine.

Expensive Copper Helps Some Firms.

(1/07/2010 – Business Day - allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201007010321.html>

The high copper price and its subsequent positive effects on related industries have assisted some South African companies to emerge from hard times. Bell Equipment, which posted a net loss of R372m for the financial year to March, said the increase in the copper price, and the resultant surge in mining, meant a major increase in the use of its materials-handling equipment. The company is operating in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Atlas Copco opens customer center in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

(1/07/2010 – Cision Wire)

<http://www.cisionwire.com/atlas-copco/atlas-copco-opens-customer-center-in-the-democratic-republic-of-the-congo--drc-24381>

The DRC is a country rich in natural resources with vast array of minerals, providing a growing market for Atlas Copco's products. The new customer center, Atlas Copco DRC Sprl., markets products such as drill rigs and consumables for both underground and surface mining operations, as well as exploration equipment, compressors, and construction equipment. It is a wholly owned subsidiary with the main office in Lubumbashi and a branch office in Kolwezi.

L'ombre de Gertler sur le lac Albert.

(30/06/2010 – Africa Energy Intelligence)

For consultation at request, or at IPIS library.

Article on the Israeli businessman Dan Gertler, who is involved in the enterprises Caprikat and Foxwhelp, that captured Blocks 1 and 2 on Lake Albert.

Gazoduc: la méthode Chevron.

(30/06/2010 – Africa Energy Intelligence)

For consultation at request, or at IPIS library.

Chevron has to negotiate a new deal with the DRC on a gas pipeline from Cabinda to Angola, that has to pass Congolese territory.

Tullow looks to counter Congo "smash-and-grab".

(2/07/2010 – Reuters)

<http://af.reuters.com/article/energyOilNews/idAFLDE6611EO20100702>

Britain's Tullow Oil is studying how to counter what it called Congo's "smash-and-grab" move to strip it of rights to two oil licence blocks, including possible legal recourse, its chief for Africa said on Friday.

Steve Jobs Statement on Conflict Minerals.

(30/06/2010 – The New York Times)

<http://kristof.blogs.nytimes.com/2010/06/30/steve-jobs-statement-on-conflict-minerals/>

Steve Jobs: "Yes. We require all of our suppliers to certify in writing that they use conflict few materials. But honestly there is no way for them to be sure. Until someone invents a way to chemically trace minerals from the source mine, it's a very difficult problem."

UGANDA

Oil Production Agreements in Spotlight.

(30/06/2010 – New Vision – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201007010226.html>

Hardman Petroleum Resources did not follow the Oil Production Sharing Agreement (PSA) to the letter for Block 2 in the Albertine graben, auditors have discovered. Ernst & Young, an audit firm, also discovered that Hardman, that was eventually taken over by Tullow, breached local tax laws and made Ugandan taxpayers bear customs and excise duty on imports not related to petroleum operations.

ARKeX Helps De-risk Uganda Exploration for Tower Resources.

(6/07/2010 – OilVoice)

http://www.oilvoice.com/n/ARKeX_Helps_Derisk_Uganda_Exploration_for_Tower_Resources/070fd2ded.aspx

ARKeX, the provider of geophysical imaging services, is currently performing an airborne BlueQube gravity gradiometry survey for Tower Resources plc over Block EA5, onshore Uganda, which is operated by its wholly-owned subsidiary, Neptune Petroleum (Uganda) Limited.

Arms trade / Security in the Great Lakes Region

Central Africa Intends to Create Military Block.

(30/06/2010 – AngolaPress – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201006300716.html>

The DRC intends to create within the Economic Community of Central Africa States (ECCAS) a military organisation similar to that one existing in the SADC region.

Relations With DRC Good for Business.

(3/07/2010 – The New Times – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201007050186.html>

Rwanda's relationship with Congo was once strained but concerted efforts from both countries to restore relations have been remarkably successful. They have formed joint operations to root out FDLR/Interahamwe militia, living in the DRC who not only posed a threat to Rwanda's security but also to the Congolese people. As the two countries enjoy good relations, their people should take advantage and boost cross border trade.

DRC

Democratic Republic of the Congo: Mineral Exploitation by Armed Groups (as of Jun 2009).

(28/06/2010 – US Department of State – Reliefweb)

<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/LYLN-874JUV?OpenDocument&RSS20=02-P>

A map from the US Department of State showing North and South Kivu mining sites that are exploited by armed groups. The map is based on data from a study completed in July 2009 by IPIS.

Congo's Illicit Trade in Conflict Minerals.

(6/07/2010 – The Huffington Post)

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/bob-hormats/congos-illicit-trade-in-c_b_636110.html

Remarks at Enough Project Panel on Conflict Minerals.

(29/06/2010 – US Department of State)

<http://www.state.gov/e/rls/rmk/2010/143784.htm>

Robert D. Hormats, Under Secretary for Economic, Energy and Agricultural Affairs, on the DRC's conflict minerals.

Conflict Minerals in Congo: Enough! Project's Mixed Messages.

(1/07/2010 – Metal Miner)

<http://agmetalmminer.com/2010/07/01/conflict-minerals-in-congo-enough-project%E2%80%99s-mixed-messages/>

Article stating Enough! Project is calling on consumers to raise awareness around the fact that electronics contain minerals that are illegally mined in the Congo, where profits go to "armed groups...that regularly commit conscious-shocking atrocities as they jockey to control the region's most valuable mines." A worthy cause? Of course. One only has to watch videos such as this to realize how heartbreaking and dire the situation is. But the Enough! Project's public face and actions are quite different from what their actual research report promotes, and our question is: what's the real message here?

Dormant Uganda rebels attack Congolese town: army.

(29/06/2010 – AFP – Reliefweb)

<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/MUMA-86X7QB?OpenDocument&RSS20=02-P>

Uganda's military was put on heightened alert following an attack inside the DRC by a long-dormant rebel group, the army spokesman told AFP Tuesday. "We have confirmed the ADF are attacking a Congolese town called Mutwanga and have killed 16 civilians," UPDF Lieutenant Colonel Felix Kulayigye said.

Le feuilleton Enyele.

(5/07/2010 – Le Potentiel – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/201007050319.html>

Capturé, le chef des Enyele mis à la disposition de la justice militaire.

(5/07/2010 – Le Potentiel – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/201007050311.html>

Ibrahim Mangbama Mambenga capturé par les FARDC.

(5/07/2010 – La Prospérité – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/201007051214.html>

Equateur: le père du chef rebelle Oudjani, arrêté puis transféré à Kinshasa.

(3/07/2010 – Radio Okapi)

<http://radiookapi.net/actualite/2010/07/03/equateur-le-pere-du-chef-rebelle-oudjani-arrete-puis-transfere-a-kinshasa/>

M.Ibrahim Mangbama Mambenga, the political, spiritual and military leader of the Enyele rebels, has been arrested by the FARDC.

Arrests of CNDP members.

(1/07/2010 – Jason Stearns)

<http://congosiasa.blogspot.com/2010/07/arrests-of-cndp-members.html>

The Rwandan government has been cracking down against ex-CNDP members in their country. There could be several reasons behind this: Rwandan security sources suggest that ex-CNDP members may be linked to the recent grenade attacks in Kigali and could also be in contact with General Kayumba Nyamwasa.

Gad Ngabo arrested.

(30/07/2010 – Jason stearns)

<http://congosiasa.blogspot.com/2010/06/gad-ngabo-arrested.html>

Numerous sources in Uganda indicate that Gad Ngabo, the leader of the FPLC rebellion that is based on the Ugandan-Congolese border around Ishasha, has been arrested in Kampala. Gad's troops have been fighting with ex-CNDP units in the Congolese army around Kitchanga over the past few weeks, and have been accused of ambushing aid convoys in Rutshuru territory.

Is colonialism still to blame for the DRC's woes?

(4/07/2010 – Mail&Guardian)

<http://www.mg.co.za/article/2010-07-04-is-colonialism-still-to-blame-for-the-drcs-woes>

The rape and plunder of Congo under his ancestor, Leopold II, remains one of history's greatest crimes. Last week's milestone reignited debate over the legacy of colonialism in Africa and whether, even half a century later, all the continent's ills can still be hung around its neck.

Cinquantenaire: les FARDC montrent leur arsenal militaire.

(1/07/2010 – Radio Okapi)

<http://radiookapi.net/actualite/2010/07/01/cinquantenaire-les-farcd-montrent-leur-arsenal-militaire/>

The FARDC has shown its military arsenal during the parade at the DRC's fiftieth anniversary.

Sud-Kivu - La Société civile appelle la MONUSCO à se déployer dans les zones à « haute insécurité ».

(6/07/2010 – Le Potentiel – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/201007060348.html>

The South Kivu civil society demands the MONUSCO to deploy blue helmets in areas that are plagued by high insecurity, as this will really help the return of IDPs to their villages.

Secretary-General inaugurates new phase of UN mission in DR Congo.

(1/07/2010 – UN News Centre)

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=35209&Cr=democratic&Cr1=congo> (English)

Ban Ki Moon inaugurates the MONUSCO Plaque.

(30/06/2010 – MONUC)

<http://monuc.unmissions.org/Default.aspx?tabid=932&ctl=Details&mid=1096&ItemID=9473> (English)

<http://monuc.unmissions.org/Default.aspx?tabid=1069&ctl=Details&mid=1143&ItemID=9472> (French)

UN's focus in DR Congo remains civilian protection, Ban says on eve of mission change.

(30/06/2010 – UN News Centre)

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=35194&Cr=democratic&Cr1=congo> (English)

Kinshasa: Ban Kin-Moon inaugure la Monusco.

(30/06/2010 – Radio Okapi)

<http://radiookapi.net/actualite/2010/06/30/kinshasa-ban-kin-moon-inaugure-la-monusco/>

From the first of July, the UN mission will be known as the UN Organization Stabilization Mission in the DRC (MONUSCO) and will stay in the DRC only until 30 June next year. "The emphasis is on stabilization and consolidating peace," Mr. Ban said

Ban Ki Moon attends the DRC's fiftieth independence anniversary celebrations.

(30/06/2010 – MONUC)

<http://monuc.unmissions.org/Default.aspx?tabid=932&ctl=Details&mid=1096&ItemID=9457> (English)

<http://monuc.unmissions.org/Default.aspx?tabid=1069&ctl=Details&mid=1143&ItemID=9447> (French)

L'ONU réitère son soutien à la RDC qui fête 50 ans d'indépendance.

(30/06/2010 – UN News Centre)

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/fr/storyF.asp?NewsID=22309&Cr=Congo&Cr1=>

The Secretary General of the United Nations, Ban Ki-moon, arrived in the Congolese capital yesterday to take part in the festivities of the fiftieth anniversary of the independence of the DRC. He wished to mark the commitment of the United Nations to the country, and to accompany the transition, from MONUC to MONUSCO, on 01 July 2010.

U.N. pullback likely to worsen Congo wars.

(2/07/2010 – TerraDaily)

http://www.terradaily.com/reports/UN_pullback_likely_to_worsen_Congo_wars_999.html

U.N. officials have tried in vain to convince Kinshasa that rolling up the decade-old peacekeeping operation, the largest undertaken by the world body, will plunge the mineral-rich Central African state into total chaos and threaten the survival of the government itself.

Kabila calls for 'moral revolution in DRC.

(30/06/2010 – Mail&Guardian)

<http://www.mg.co.za/article/2010-06-29-kabila-calls-for-moral-revolution-in-drc>

Joseph Kabila: «Nous sommes tous responsables des ratés».

(30/06/2010 – Radio Okapi)

<http://radiookapi.net/actualite/2010/06/30/joseph-kabila-%C2%AB-nous-sommes-tous-responsables-des-rates-%C2%BB/>

President Joseph Kabila called Wednesday for a "moral revolution" in the Democratic Republic of Congo at ceremonies marking the 50th anniversary of the war-torn country's independence from Belgium. Congolese should put an end to "attacks on human life and dignity" and in particular the widespread rape that has become a feature of the guerrilla conflicts racking the vast nation, he said.

Over 200 Ex-Combatants Go Home.

(1/07/2010 – The New Times – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201007010011.html>

202 of the 303 ex combatants who abandoned rebel activities in the DRC, have completed a two-month demobilisation and reintegration course at Mutobo Demobilisation Centre, in Musanze District.

DRC-RWANDA: Land rows complicate refugees' return.

(2/07/2010 – IRIN)

<http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=89708> (English)

(5/07/2010 – IRIN)

<http://www.irinnews.org/fr/ReportFrench.aspx?ReportId=89741> (French)

Tens of thousands of Congolese Tutsi refugees living in Rwanda for more than a decade are preparing to return to North Kivu province. But longstanding and unresolved tensions over land threaten to upset their homecoming.

Humanitarian Action in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) Weekly Bulletin, 28 June 2010.

(28/06/2010 – OCHA – Reliefweb)

<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/VVOS-86YPC2?OpenDocument&RSS20=22-P>

Briefing humanitaire en RDC du 26 Juin au 02 Juillet 2010.

(2/07/2010 – OCHA – Reliefweb)

<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/FGAI-86YM9X?OpenDocument&RSS20=22-P>

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

LRA

Peace and Security Council Report no. 12, July 2010.

(July – Institute for Security Studies)

<http://www.issafrica.org/uploads/No12July2010.pdf>

In this issue, the PSC Report examines the rise of The Lord's Resistance Army and how much of threat to stability they have become, while providing a number of scenarios, possible outcomes and some early response options that are available.

Instabilité - Le pays recourt aux USA pour neutraliser la rébellion de la LRA.

(6/07/2010 – Le Potentiel – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/201007060345.html>

The CAR's minister of foreign affairs, Antoine Gambi, has asked the USA to help neutralise the LRA on the Central African country's territory.

UGANDA

Govt Pardons Ex-Rebels in West Nile.

(3/07/2010 – New Vision – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201007050261.html>

An additional 2,600 ex-rebels who instigated civil strife in the West Nile region have received amnesty from the Government after denouncing rebellion. This brings the total of ex-combatants with amnesty certificates in West Nile alone to 9,600.

Heightened Alert After Deadly Rebel Attack in Congo.

(2/07/2010 – Catholic Information Service for Africa – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201007050845.html>

Ugandan army spokesman Lieutenant Colonel Felix Kulayigye said troops in the western border areas are closely monitoring the ADF rebel group's activities, following the attack Monday on Mutwanga village - about 50 kilometres from Uganda's border with Congo, Kinshasa. The army has deployed 15,000 reservists on standby to respond to any attempts by Allied Democratic Forces militia to enter Uganda.

RWANDA

Troop Deployment Allegations False – RDF.

(1/07/2010 – The New Times – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201007010009.html>

The Uganda People's Defence Force (UPDF) continues to assert that Rwanda has increased troops along its border with Uganda and has called for calm among the residents of Kabale District.

Foreign agents in shooting of Rwandan general: S.Africa.

(1/07/2010 – AFP - TerraDaily)

http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Foreign_agents_in_shooting_of_Rwandan_general_SAfrica_999.html

Foreign "security operatives" were involved in the shooting of Rwandan General Faustin Nyamwasa who was living in exile in Johannesburg, South Africa's foreign ministry said Thursday.

BURUNDI

Burundi : le président Nkurunziza réélu.

(1/07/2010 – Afrik.com)

<http://www.afrik.com/article20236.html>

La réélection du président Pierre Nkurunziza - Un quasi référendum.

(1/07/2010 – Radio France Internationale - allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/201007010516.html>

De grands nuages sur le pays.

(30/06/2010 – L'Observateur – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/201007010186.html>

Réélection sans surprise du président Nkurunziza à la tête du pays.

(30/06/2010 – Radio France Internationale - allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/201007010142.html>

Nkurunziza Stages a Massive Win.

(5/07/2010 – Daily Nation – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201007050714.html>

President Nkurunziza has been re-elected as he received 90% of the votes.

La réélection de Pierre Nkurunziza compromet l'avenir démocratique.

(3/07/2010 – Le Potentiel – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/201007030142.html>

Article questioning the level of democracy in Burundi following the re-election of Nkurunziza.

Burundi: Violence, Rights Violations Mar Elections.

(1/07/2010 – Human Rights Watch)

<http://www.hrw.org/en/news/2010/07/01/burundi-violence-rights-violations-mar-elections> (English)

<http://www.hrw.org/fr/news/2010/07/01/burundi-les-violences-et-atteintes-aux-droits-humains-termissent-les-lections>
(French)

Les attentats et les arrestations d'opposants se multiplient.

(3/07/2010 – Radio France Internationale – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/201007030174.html>

Increasing human rights violations could undermine Burundi's electoral process unless the government takes immediate action, Human Rights Watch said today. Leaders of the ruling party and opposition groups should also issue clear instructions to their members that acts of violence will not be tolerated.

Burundi opposition leader says hiding to avoid arrest.

(30/06/2010 – Reuters)

http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJ0E65T0JC20100630?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 opposition leader Rwaswa admits he is in hiding.

(30/06/2010 – BBC)

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/world/africa/10458425.stm>

Le chef des ex-rebelles des FNL explique sa disparition dans une cassette audio.

(30/06/2010 – Radio France Internationale – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/201006300709.html>

Burundi opposition leader in hiding.

(30/06/2010 – Al Jazeera)

<http://english.aljazeera.net/news/africa/2010/06/2010630131733366396.html>

Burundi's main opposition leader and former rebel leader Agathon Rwaswa has confirmed that he has gone into hiding. In a taped message sent to a local radio station, Mr Rwaswa said he had fled because he feared for his safety.

IPIS latest publications

IPIS LATEST REPORTS

Jaarverslag 2009.

(06/05/2010 – IPIS)

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

IPIS has published its activity report 2009. The activity report is a comprehensive report of IPIS' activities in 2009. Its assignments, publications and lectures are presented in this document. The English version follows later on.

Mapping Conflict Motives: Province Orientale (DRC)

(March 2010 – IPIS)

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

Cartographie des motivations derrières les conflits: 'Province Orientale' (RDC).

(June 2010 – IPIS)

http://www.ipisresearch.be/mapping_orientale.php

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.

Impact de l'exploitation de diamant et de l'or dans la reconstruction socio-économique de la Province Orientale.

(March 2009 – CENADEP)

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

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

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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