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IPIS

IPIS LATEST REPORTS

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

(13/05/2009 – IPIS)

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

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

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

An analysis of Finexpo's and Ducroire/Nationale Delcredere's support practices in comparison to the EURODAD principles on responsible financing.

(29/04/2009 – IPIS)

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

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

This research paper looks specifically at the practices of the two most significant players at the federal level: FINEXPO and Ducroire/Nationale Delcredere. FINEXPO provides advice to the Belgian government about five types of support measures: rent stabilisation mechanism, interest relief (with or without grants), pure grants and loans (tied and untied). Ducroire/Nationale Delcredere provides insurances and financial guarantees against commercial and political risks. Annex 1 to this report lists and explains the various types of support. The paper will discuss the financial terms, legal terms and conditions in place when FINEXPO and Ducroire/Nationale Delcredere provide support for Belgian exports.

The paper also looks into what extent FINEXPO's and Ducroire/Nationale Delcredere'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 Delcrededienst 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.

Towards a Sustainable Cocoa Chain: Power and possibilities within the cocoa and chocolate sector.

(December 2008 – Oxfam - IPIS)

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

IPIS drafted this report for Oxfam. It contributes in various ways to the debate on a sustainable cocoa economy. A sustainable cocoa economy is where each person investing time or money into the supply chain would be able to earn a decent income for themselves and their family, work in good conditions, and in a manner which did not harm the environment. It provides an overview of the various stakeholders in the cocoa and the wider chocolate supply chain. It identifies the concentration and purchasing power of companies as well as the trends in the supply chain. Finally, it makes a series of recommendations to the various stakeholders in the supply chain.

Fatal Transaction's second submission on EIB Statements.

(November 2008 – IPIS)

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

The European Investment Bank launched in March 2008 a public consultation on its draft revised "EIB Statement of Environmental and Social Principles and Standards". The EIB adopted its first Environmental Statement in 1996, which was revised in 2002 and again in 2004. The Statement describes the Bank's environmental and social requirements for projects that it finances.

The EIB invited organizations and individuals to comment on its 2008 draft Statement. The Bank also organised two rounds of public consultations. Fatal Transactions and IPIS now also commented on the second draft Statement of the Bank.

Fatal Transaction's submission on EIB Statement of Environmental and Social Principles and Standards.

(June 2008 - IPIS)

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

Fatal Transactions and IPIS commented on the Bank's environmental and human rights policy and its approach on good governance and transparency.

From conflict resources to sustainable development: Memorandum by Fatal Transactions on the European Union's contribution to natural resource management in Africa

(July 2008 – Fatal Transactions - IPIS)

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

IPIS drafted this publication for Fatal Transactions. The Memorandum looks specifically at the European Commission's contribution to a sustainable exploitation of natural resources in Africa and a sustainable supply chain. It also assesses its approach on conflict resources. The paper provides an analysis of the Commission's trade policy, development cooperation, foreign and security policy, cooperation under bilateral and multilateral agreements, humanitarian aid and financial assistance. It also takes a look at the Commission's view on integrating and implementing external actions in its internal policies (e.g. energy and environment) in order to promote a sustainable management of natural resources abroad.

L'Afrique révisé les contrats miniers.

(July 2008 – Le Monde Diplomatique – IPIS)

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

Article on the current contract revision projects throughout Africa.

Activity Report 2007

(IPIS)

Jaarverslag 2007

(IPIS)

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

Natural resources in the Great Lakes Region

Fatal Transactions conference report 'Digging for Peace' available now!

(6/05/2009 – Fatal Transactions)

<http://www.fataltransactions.org/News/2009/Fatal-Transactions-conference-report-Digging-for-Peace-available-now!>

On 21-22 November 2008 the annual Fatal Transactions conference was held in Bonn. The conference was hosted by Fatal Transactions member BICC and offered a platform for analysing the current status quo of resource extraction in (potential) conflict areas. The conference report is available now.

Rdc-Ouganda : l'exploitation commune des ressources transfrontalières en marche.

(9/05/2009 – Le Potentiel – Digitalcongo.net)

<http://www.digitalcongo.net/article/58060>

The representatives of the Ugandan and Congolese governments in their meeting focussed on the joint exploitation of resources in the border region.

DRC

Congo's electronic blood diamonds.

(8/05/2009 – Guardian)

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/cifamerica/2009/may/06/congo-human-rights>

It is indisputable that the illicit minerals trade in eastern Congo (minerals that ultimately end up in many of our personal electronics devices such as mobile phones, laptops and digital cameras) remains one of the important factors fuelling the violence.

The blood diamonds of gadgets.

(9/05/2009 – stuff.co.nz)

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/technology/2396349/The-blood-diamonds-of-gadgets>

For much of the past decade, cheap supplies of tantalum derived from mines under the control of various rebel groups based in the north-eastern regions of the DRC have flowed into a long and complex supply chain.

La RDC enflamme le marché de l'étain.

(7/05/2009 – Mineralinfo)

<http://www.mineralinfo.org/Actualités/News.htm>

Prospects of a possible suspension of Congolese tin exports is inciting the price of the mineral.

Illegal Trade Threatens Tin Market in Congo.

(7/05/2009 – The Wall Street Journal)

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB124166223502494633.html>

Tin trade in Congo's North and South Kivu provinces is under threat as a United Nations observer mission in Congo intensifies pressure on mineral buyers to observe due diligence on minerals they procure, a dealer said Wednesday.

Gold & minerals: Curse of Congo!

(9/05/2009 – Commodity Online)

<http://www.commodityonline.com/news/Gold-and-minerals-Curse-of-Congo-17622-3-1.html>

African nations rich in minerals are bound to witness internal wars and unrest. Because, groups of people who want to take control of the minerals will always try to drive away others from the regions. Minerals such as cobalt, coltan, cassiterite, copper, and gold are rare in the world. The Democratic Republic of the Congo is one nation which has an abundant stock of all these minerals.

Congo-Kinshasa: Contrats chinois et tentatives de blocage occidentales.

(8/05/2009 – Le Potentiel – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/200905080252.html>

Article on the current situation on the mineral world market and the following prospects for the Congolese mining industry.

Des investissements américains au Katanga évoqués à Lubumbashi.

(11/05/2009 – ACP – Digitalcongo.net)

<http://www.digitalcongo.net/article/58082>

American ambassador William Garvelimk visited Katanga where he held a meeting with Governor Katumbi to talk about the economic situation and American investments in the province. Furthermore the ambassador visited the Tenke Fungurume site.

Un émissaire du président Museveni déclare à Kinshasa que la RDC et l'Ouganda ont l'obligation de vivre ensemble.

(8/05/2009 – ACP – Le Potentiel – allAfrica)

<http://www.digitalcongo.net/article/58035>

Congolese Prime Minister Muzito welcomed the Ugandan Minister of Energy to reopen talks on the common exploitation of mineral resources in the border regions.

Congo-Kinshasa: Cinq questions à Gabriel Mola Motya.

(7/05/2009 – Le Potentiel – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/200905070245.html>

Interview with Gabriel Mola Motya, former Governor of the Equator Province, concerning, among other things, the Congolese forest exploitation and the security situation in the country.

Kasaï Occidental : La déforestation élimine insectes et champignons comestibles.

(7/05/2009 – Le Phare – Digitalcongo.net)

<http://www.digitalcongo.net/article/58024>

This article reports on the damage caused to the ecosystem in the West Kasaï province by forestry enterprises.

Congo-Kinshasa: Après plusieurs « plans » - Pole institute au service de la balkanisation de la RDC.

(8/05/2009 – Le Potentiel – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/200905080404.html>

Droit de réponse au journal Le Potentiel: " Pole Institute au service de la balkanisation de la RDC ".

(8/05/2009 – Pole Institute)

<http://www.pole-institute.org/site%20web/echos/echo107.htm>

Critical article from Le Potentiel stating the Pole Institute is supporting the DRC balkanisation plans. The second link gives the reaction of the Pole Institute on this article.

UGANDA

Uganda to build mini oil refinery – minister.

(8/05/2009 – Guardian)

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/business/feedarticle/8496734>

Uganda plans to go-ahead with the construction of a mini-refinery for the east African nation's 2 billion barrels of crude reserves after previously ruling the idea out, the state energy minister said.

RWANDA

Rwanda: Intensive Search for Gold Continues.

(6/05/2009 – The New Times – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200905070446.html>

Statistics show that gold contributed \$0.3 million to the mineral revenues in 2007 compared to \$1million last year. The Ministry of Natural Resources has said that the intensive search for gold is still ongoing countrywide, in a bid to increase minerals export receipts.

International mining companies in the Great Lakes Region

Dominion Petroleum: High-impact exploration in Sub-Saharan Africa.

(7/05/2009 – Proactive Investors)

<http://www.proactiveinvestors.co.uk/companies/news/5533/dominion-petroleum-high-impact-exploration-in-sub-saharan-africa-5533.html>

AIM-listed, Sub-Saharan Africa focussed Dominion Petroleum is targeting higher risk, but potentially high reward, opportunities. It is currently focussed exclusively on three countries around Lake Victoria, being Uganda to the north, Tanzania to the south, and the DRC to the west. Investor and industry interest in this area has surged recently, thanks to some major discoveries by other operators - and Dominion is seeking to join them.

First Quantum plans to revive Zambian copper plant.

(11/05/2009 – Mining Weekly)

<http://www.miningweekly.com/article/first-quantum-plans-to-revive-zambian-copper-plant-2009-05-11>

Canada's First Quantum Minerals plans to restart copper production at its closed Bwana Mkubwa processing plant once it receives the go-ahead to open a new mine in central Zambia, the company said. First Quantum shut down the Bwana Mkubwa plant in October 2008 after authorities in the DRC banned exports of copper ore to Zambia.

DRC

Metorex in survival mode.

(11/05/2009 – Miningmx)

http://www.miningmx.com/news/base_metals/153700.htm

Metorex expects new mine design, schedule for Ruashi by mid-August.

(11/05/2009 – Mining Weekly)

<http://www.miningweekly.com/article/metorex-expects-new-mine-design-schedule-for-ruashi-by-mid-august-2009-05-11>

Diversified South African mining group Metorex firmly believes it can rectify its liquidity problems while aggressively pursuing its copper mine Ruashi's ramp up.

UPDATE: Many Big Cos Interested In Tullow Uganda Partnership.

(12/05/2009 – The Wall Street Journal)

<http://online.wsj.com/article/BT-CO-20090512-712896.html>

Many large oil companies are interested in partnerships with Tullow Oil in its Ugandan operations and the company will bring in a partner once major exploration work is complete, said the company's Chief Executive Aidan Heavey Tuesday.

UGANDA

Tullow Announces Oil discovery in the Nsoga-1 Exploration Well in Uganda.

(6/05/2009 – OilVoice)

http://www.oilvoice.com/n/Tullow_Announces_Oil_discovery_in_the_Nsoga1_Exploration_Well_in_Uganda/4387f0ec.aspx

Tullow Oil discovers oil in Butiaba region of Uganda.

(7/05/2009 – TradingMarkets)

<http://www.tradingmarkets.com/site/news/Stock%20News/2315591/>

Tullow discovers more oil in Uganda.

(8/05/2009 – Oil&Gas Journal)

http://www.ojg.com/display_article/361611/120/ARTCL/none/ExplD/1/Tullow-discovers-more-oil-in-Uganda/

Tullow Oil plc announces that the Nsoga-1 exploration well, which is located in the Butiaba region of Uganda Block 2, has encountered good quality Kasamene-type oil bearing reservoirs in a down-dip location at the oil water contact.

Tullow Says Uganda Oil Field Resources Exceed 1 Billion Barrels.

(12/05/2009 – Bloomberg)

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=newsarchive&sid=aNy5y1vEZK6w>

Tullow Oil Plc, the U.K. explorer with projects in Africa, said its Uganda oil field's potential crude resources are "well in excess" of 1 billion barrels after it drilled more wells in the region.

UPDATE: Tullow Oil CEO Sees '09 Capex Rising 25% To GBP750M.

(12/05/2009 – The Wall Street Journal)

<http://online.wsj.com/article/BT-CO-20090512-711676.html>

Tullow Oil PLC's 2009 capital expenditure will probably rise by a quarter from the previous estimate to around GBP750 million as the company drills more wells to take advantage of recent oil discoveries in Uganda and Ghana, Chief Executive Aidan Heavey said Tuesday.

Irish oil company to fast-track commercial oil production in Uganda.

(12/05/2009 – Xinhua)

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2009-05/12/content_11360614.htm

The Ugandan government had expected to see early oil production late this year after the establishment of a mini-refinery which would process the crude oil into heavy fuel and other products to meet domestic demand. The Tullow statement, however, did not give a timetable for the early production as government official said earlier the production was not likely to start this year.

Tullow says performed 'strongly' so far in 2009.

(12/05/2009 – Reuters)

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/businessNews/idUKTRE54B11U20090512>

Oil explorer Tullow Oil said on Tuesday it performed strongly in 2009 and that overall its performance is in line with expectations.

RWANDA

Vangold Granted 90 Day Extension for Lake Kivu, Rwanda.

(8/05/2009 – MarketWatch)

http://www.marketwatch.com/story/vangold-granted-90-day-extension-for-lake-kivu-rwanda?dist=msr_1

Vangold Resources Ltd. reports that it has signed on April 30, 2009 an Addendum to the Technical Evaluation Agreement to assess the petroleum potential in the Rwandan side of the western branch of the African rift that was originally executed on October 19th, 2007.

China in the Great Lakes Region

Congo-Kinshasa: RDC - FMI - les contrats chinois ou rien.

(7/05/2009 – Le Potentiel – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/200905070226.html>

The Congolese contracts with the Chinese investors keep pressuring the DRC-IMF relationship, the latest spring-meeting in Washington serves as a new example.

Les Chinois reconstruisent Kinshasa.

(12/05/2009 – Colette Braeckman)

<http://blogs.lesoir.be/colette-braeckman/2009/05/12/les-chinois-reconstruisent-kinshasa/>

Article stating that for several decennia the view of Kinshasa remained unchanged, while at the moment the construction works of CREC are changing the view of Kinshasa ultra fast.

Arms trade / Security in the Great Lakes Region

Afrique: Africom toujours sous hypothèque.

(9/05/2009 – Le Soleil - allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/200905110338.html>

Despite General William E. Ward's tour through Africa, Africom remains a controversial instrument that African countries do not seem to be welcoming at all.

Same air cargo companies deliver both humanitarian aid and weapons, says SIPRI.

(12/05/2009 – SIPRI)

<http://www.sipri.org/contents/update/finalreleasepp24.pdf> (press release)

Air Transport and Destabilizing Commodity Flows.

(May 2009 – SIPRI)

<http://books.sipri.org/files/PP/SIPRIPP24.pdf> (full report)

Firms 'fly Africa aid and arms'.

(12/05/2009 – BBC)

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/8046491.stm>

Africa: Same Firms Shipping Aid And Arms, Report Says.

(12/05/2009 – IPS – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200905121035.html>

The military conflicts raging across Africa, Asia and Latin America have been significantly influenced by the heavy flow of illicit small arms, cocaine and rich minerals. But, ironically, some of the air cargo companies involved in these profitable - and politically destabilising - smuggling operations are also delivering humanitarian aid and supporting peacekeeping operations, according to a new report released Tuesday by SIPRI.

Applying Sustainable Development to Arms Transfer Decisions: Practical Guide.

(April 2009 – Oxfam)

http://www.oxfam.org.uk/resources/policy/conflict_disasters/tb_practical_guide_arms_trade.html

Every day, governments around the world give authorisation for the export and transfer of weapons. These decisions affect the lives of millions of people. In some cases, these arms transfers undermine development, by fuelling conflict and armed violence, threatening peace-building efforts, or when they involve excessive unaccountable spending.

Economic crisis heightens Africa's conflict tensions: OECD.

(10/05/2009 – AFP)

http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20090510/wl_africa_afp/africafinanceeconomyoecd

The global economic crisis has heightened the risk that "tensions could explode" in Africa, where growth will be slashed this year because of recession in rich nations, the OECD warned Monday. It highlighted widespread fallout from the crisis already seen in mass layoffs in the key mining sector.

DRC

Congo: Five Priorities for a Peacebuilding Strategy.

(11/05/2009 – International Crisis Group)

<http://www.crisisgroup.org/home/index.cfm?id=6095&l=1>

The deal struck by the DRC and Rwanda for renewed military and political cooperation is an important step forward, but is not sufficient to bring peace to the Kivus. This ICG report states that a peacebuilding strategy for the eastern Congo should have five priorities: comprehensive disarmament strategy, a continuation of the security system reform, a specific plan for fostering reconciliation and human security, political engagement dedicated to improving governance and continuing efforts to sustain stable regional relations.

Congo-Kinshasa: Armée nationale - Effectifs fictifs.

(6/05/2009 – Le Potentiel – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/200905060213.html>

Article analyzing the strength and effectiveness of the Congolese national army. It looks at the recently published number of paid soldiers, and at the army's professionalism.

Programme Amani au Sud-Kivu : Les groupes armés menacent de suspendre leur participation.

(12/05/2009 – L'Observateur - Digitalcongo.net)

<http://www.digitalcongo.net/article/58111>

Congo-Kinshasa: Les groupes armés du Sud-Kivu se désengagent.

(12/05/2009 – Le Potentiel – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/200905120600.html>

Several armed groups in South Kivu, participants of the Amani programme, have announced to halt their participation to the disengagement and integration process.

Congo-Kinshasa: La LRA et les FDLR - Un danger permanent.

(8/05/2009 – Le Potentiel – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/200905080399.html>

The presence of the LRA and FDLR rebels in eastern DRC continues to plague this part of the country and causes a permanent feeling of insecurity for the civilian population.

MONUC continues to support joint operations against rebels in eastern DRC.

(6/05/2009 – MONUC)

<http://monuc.unmissions.org/Default.aspx?tabid=932&ctl=Details&mid=1096&ItemID=3703> (English)

<http://monuc.unmissions.org/Default.aspx?tabid=1069&ctl=Details&mid=1143&ItemID=3704> (French)

At its weekly press conference, MONUC said that it was reinforcing its military manpower in Haut Uele, Ituri and North Kivu in eastern DRC, in order to support the FARDC in their efforts to put an end to rebel and militia exactions against the local population.

Mr. Doss reaffirms that protecting civilians is MONUC's first priority.

(11/05/2009 – MONUC)

<http://monuc.unmissions.org/Default.aspx?tabid=932&ctl=Details&mid=1096&ItemID=3729> (English)

<http://monuc.unmissions.org/Default.aspx?tabid=1069&ctl=Details&mid=1143&ItemID=3736> (French)

In an interview this week, Alan Doss, Special Representative of the UN Secretary General in the DRC, provided an overview of recent developments in eastern DRC, including progress with the Government's stabilization plan.

Congo-Kinshasa: Cinq questions à Jean-Paul Dietrich.

(9/05/2009 – Le Potentiel – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/200905110281.html>

Interview with Jean-Paul Dietrich, published by Le Potentiel, concerning the FARDC-MONUC joint military operation.

Congo-Kinshasa: Cinq questions à Alan Doss.

(12/05/2009 – Le Potentiel – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/200905120617.html>

Interview with Alan Doss, published by Le Potentiel, concerning the security situation in eastern DRC.

Ross Mountain visits Uvira.

(8/05/2009 – MONUC)

<http://monuc.unmissions.org/Default.aspx?tabid=932&ctl=Details&mid=1096&ItemID=3722>

Ross Mountain, Deputy Special Representative of the UN Secretary General in the DRC made an official visit to Uvira in South Kivu province yesterday, where he met with MONUC and UN officials on the ground, as well as representatives from humanitarian NGOs and civil society organizations.

Congo-Kinshasa: Grands Lacs - Les gouverneurs de provinces frontalières se concertent à Bukavu.

(8/05/2009 – Le Potentiel – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/200905080250.html>

Recommandation à la RDC, au Rwanda et au Burundi à lutter contre le trafic des minerais au profit des forces négatives.

(11/05/2009 – ACP – Digitalcongo.net)

<http://www.digitalcongo.net/article/58080>

Articles on the Burundi, Rwanda and DRC Provincial Governors' gathering in Bukavu to analyze the current security and humanitarian situation in South Kivu. The conference makes some recommendations to fight the illegal trade in minerals.

Congo cuts Radio France International frequency.

(6/05/2009 – Reuters)

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJQE5450AD20090506?feedType=RSS&feedName=topNews>

Information Minister Lambert Mende said in a statement that RFI was "throwing oil on the fire of all of the armed conflicts in the country's east...even inciting Congolese soldiers in pacification operations to mutiny."

Amnesty law for DR Congo militias.

(7/05/2009 – BBC)

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/8037891.stm>

Congo passes amnesty law for eastern rebels.

(7/05/2009 – Reuters)

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJQE5460IP20090507?feedType=RSS&feedName=topNews>

L'Assemblée nationale vient de transmettre au Chef de l'Etat pour promulgation le projet de loi sur l'amnistie.

(8/05/2009 – Le Potentiel – Digitalcongo.net)

<http://www.digitalcongo.net/article/58034>

MPs in the Democratic Republic of Congo have passed a law granting amnesty to militias in the east of the country. It will include "acts of war" committed since 2003 but does not offer amnesty to those accused of war crimes such as rebel leader Laurent Nkunda.

Congo-Kinshasa: Controverse autour de la loi d'amnistie pour faits de guerre au Kivu.

(12/05/2009 – Le Potentiel – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/200905120591.html>

Congo-Kinshasa: Amnistie pour faits de guerre à l'Est - « Cette loi a davantage divisé les Congolais », estime Me Ngomo.

(11/05/2009 – Le Phare – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/200905120443.html>

Critical reactions on the new Congolese Amnesty law. The criticism denounces the discriminatory character of the new law.

Court Told of Lubanga's UPC Role.

(8/05/2009 – Institute for war and peace reporting)

http://www.iwpr.net/index.php?apc_state=hen&s=o&o=l=EN&p=acr&s=f&o=352325

The rapid rise of accused Congolese leader Thomas Lubanga within the UPC and his role in the group's militia were revealed this week in his trial before the International Criminal Court in The Hague.

Humanitarian situation

Congo-Kinshasa: Suspension des opérations humanitaires à Bunyakiri

(7/05/2009 – Le Phare – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/200905070764.html>

OCHA has expressed its concern on the humanitarian situation as reports of FDLR-, Mai Mai – and FARDC violations keep coming in.

Congo-Kinshasa: People from North Kivu Flee Again to Escape Violence.

(12/05/2009 – Médecins sans Frontières)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200905120575.html>

People in the northern region of North Kivu province of the DRC have been fleeing violence since late January when an offensive against rebel FDLR forces was launched. MSF is providing medical care in several of the region's towns and villages, where the population includes nearly 230,000 displaced persons.

DR Congo: Some 17,000 people return home in district of conflict-ravaged North Kivu.

(12/05/2009 – UNHCR – Reliefweb)

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

Around 17,000 internally displaced Congolese civilians who have returned home spontaneously in Masisi district, northwest of the provincial capital of Goma, since the government forged a peace agreement on March 23 with the CNDP. The site for displaced people at Kanyatsi village, where Aimable lived, is almost empty.

Situation in Democratic Republic of the Congo.

(8/05/2009 – UNHCR)

<http://www.unhcr.org/news/NEWS/4a0402092.html>

RDC : Le HCR transfère des déplacés pour décongestionner des camps.

(8/05/2009 – UN News Centre)

<http://www.un.org/apps/newsFr/storyF.asp?NewsID=19114&Cr=Congo&Cr1=d%E9plac%E9s>

UNHCR and its partners began moving some 1.000 internally displaced persons from Mugunga I and II to Mugunga III reception centres, west of Goma in North Kivu province. The aim is to reduce congestion and create more space for Congolese civilians fleeing the continuing violence and insecurity in the eastern DRC.

CNDP

Congo-Kinshasa: Gouvernement/ CNDP - Obligation de jouer franc jeu.

(6/05/2009 – Le Potentiel – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/200905060280.html>

Suivi des accords de paix de Goma : le CNDP négocie à Kinshasa son entrée au gouvernement.

(6/05/2009 – Le Potentiel – Digitalcongo.net)

<http://www.digitalcongo.net/article/57999>

Congo-Kinshasa: Le gouvernement et l'ex-rébellion évaluent l'accord de paix de Goma.

(6/05/2009 – AngolaPress – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/200905061060.html>

La libération des prisonniers CNDP envisagée aux pourparlers de Kinshasa sur les Accords de paix de Goma.

(9/05/2009 – Le Potentiel – Digitalcongo.net)

<http://www.digitalcongo.net/article/58058>

Delegations from CNDP and the Congolese government gathered in Kinshasa to evaluate the Goma peace agreement they signed at the end of March.

Congo-Kinshasa: Professeur Philippe Biyoya - « Le CNDP ne doit pas faire un forcing politique pour obtenir des postes »

(7/05/2009 – Le Potentiel – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/200905070225.html>

As Kinshasa and CNDP are gathering in Kinshasa to evaluate their peace agreement, Professor Biyoya is doing the same in this interview.

Congo-Kinshasa: La rencontre CNDP-Gouvernement crée des mécontents.

(8/05/2009 – Le Potentiel – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/200905080251.html>

As the Congolese government gathered with CNDP in Kinshasa, representatives from seven other former armed groups in the DRC gathered in Goma to express their dissatisfaction.

Le Cndp bloque 67 camions et exige 500 Usd par véhicule.

(7/05/2009 – L'Avenir – Digitalcongo.net)

<http://www.digitalcongo.net/article/58021>

Lorry drivers in North Kivu are testifying on the levy of US\$500 per lorry CNDP is demanding.

Congo warlord may await trial in 'neutral' country.

(6/05/2009 – Reuters)

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJOE54507120090506?feedType=RSS&feedName=topNews>

Congo-Kinshasa: Le Rwanda n'extradera pas Nkunda vers la RDC.

(7/05/2009 – Le Phare – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/200905070762.html>

Le Rwanda nomme un ambassadeur à Kinshasa mais cherche à transférer Nkunda ailleurs qu'en Rdc!

(7/05/2009 – Digitalcongo.net)

<http://www.digitalcongo.net/article/58017>

Congo's warlord Laurent Nkunda may be transferred from Rwanda to a third neutral country while the two African nations resolve outstanding legal issues regarding his fate, officials in the great lakes nations said.

DRC-Rwanda Justice Ministers meet to discuss Nkunda's fate.

(12/05/2009 – The New Times)

<http://www.newtimes.co.rw/index.php?issue=13887&article=15470>

The Justice Ministers, Rwanda's Tharcise Karugarama and his DRC counterpart Luzolo Bambi Lesa, yesterday met in Kigali over the pending issue of Gen. Laurent Nkunda's transfer to the DRC.

Rwanda: Région des Grands-Lacs : Noces rwando-congolaises sur le dos de N'Kunda.

(10/05/2009 – L'Observateur - allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/200905111173.html>

Article on the way Rwanda and the DRC are using Nkunda as a scapegoat to forget their history of the last ten years, to improve their relationship.

Rwanda: Nkunda - DRC Backs Reconciliatory Justice.

(6/05/2009 – The New Times – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200905070457.html>

DRC Justice Minister Luzolo Bambi Lessa Tuesday while discussing Gen. Laurent Nkunda's fate, said that sufficient progress was made in the quest for "a justice that reconciles, and not a justice of vengeance."

FDLR**Lourd bilan dans les rangs des FDLR des opérations de bouclage et ratissage au Nord-Kivu : 45 combattants tués et 21 arrêtés!**

(7/05/2009 – L'Observateur – Digitalcongo.net)

<http://www.digitalcongo.net/article/58022>

The joint FARDC-MONUC operation to fight the FDLR rebels have lead to the arrest of 21 rebels and killed 45 rebels last week.

Les rebelles rwandais FDLR poussés dans leurs derniers retranchements à l'Est de la Rdc continuent à résister désespérément!

(7/05/2009 – Digitalcongo.net)

<http://www.digitalcongo.net/article/58023>

The FDLR rebels are hard to combat. While they are enduring heavy losses by the latest military operations aimed against them, they are resisting and striking back.

Hutu Militia Rampages Across North Kivu.

(11/05/2009 – Institute for war and peace reporting)

http://www.iwpr.net/index.php?apc_state=hen&s=0&o=I=EN&p=acr&s=f&o=352422

Nord-Kivu : Viols et incendies, peines maximales infligées par les Fdlr à ceux qui ne les soutiennent pas.

(12/05/2009 – La Prospérité – Digitalcongo.net)

<http://www.digitalcongo.net/article/58117>

While some of the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda, FDLR, are being repatriated following a joint offensive earlier this year by the Congolese and Rwandan military, many have remained behind. The latter now appear to have turned on the local population in North Kivu province.

Top UN envoy deplors raid on Congolese village by Rwandan rebels.

(11/05/2009 – UN News Centre)

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=30760&Cr=democratic&Cr1=congo> (English)

<http://www.un.org/apps/newsFr/storyF.asp?NewsID=19122&Cr=Congo&Cr1=FDLR> (French)

Congo-Kinshasa: Les FARDC ramènent la sécurité à Butolonga.

(12/05/2009 – Le Phare – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/200905120764.html>

Congo-Kinshasa: La Monuc vient en appui aux FARDC pour sécuriser Butolonga.

(12/05/2009 – Le Potentiel – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/200905120593.html>

The top UN envoy in the DRC, Alan Doss, has condemned the raid carried out by the Rwandan FDLR rebels on Butolonga, a village in the north-eastern part of the country, which sent residents fleeing into the nearby bush.

LRA

Uganda Probes Alleged Supplies to LRA.

(5/05/2009 – Institute for war and peace reporting)

http://www.iwpr.net/index.php?apc_state=hen&s=0&o=l=EN&p=acr&s=f&o=352266

Uganda's military says it is investigating Belgian citizens suspected of supplying food and military aid to the LRA rebels in northeastern DRC. Spokesperson for the Uganda military, Major Felix Kulayigye, says the investigation follows last month's seizure of 13 trucks in the South Sudan town of Yambio.

Uganda: Finishing the Fight Against the Lord's Resistance Army in Congo.

(12/05/2009 – ENOUGH Project - allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200905121010.html>

“Operation Lightning Thunder” did not end the threat of the LRA and sparked harsh reprisals against civilians in the DRC. Yet, it would be an even greater tragedy for civilians if key states in this region of Africa and the international community lost their collective will to end the threat of the LRA for once and all. What is needed now is a second Ugandan-led operation against the LRA—with strong international backing and operational support, notes a strategy paper released here today by the Enough Project at the Center for American Progress.

UGANDA

Uganda: Too Many Guns in Too Many Hands.

(6/05/2009 – The Weekly Observer – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200905070628.html>

Article claiming that the Ugandan government needs to re-examine its policy on gun ownership with a view to withdrawing assault weapons from the public. There are simply too many guns in too many hands. For example, most MPs have them, political assistants, and even drivers of VIPs, carry guns.

Uganda: UPDF Gives Karamajong Ultimatum on Guns.

(5/05/2009 – New Vision - allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200905060728.html>

The UPDF has given residents of Loputuk parish in Nadunget sub-county, Moroto district one week to handover 11 guns that were used in a cattle raid in Kenya on Saturday night. UPDF spokesperson Lt. Caesar Olweny said a forceful cordon-and-search option may be taken if the residents do not hand over the arms.

BURUNDI

BURUNDI: Refugee camps in Tanzania to close.

(8/05/2009 – IRIN)

<http://www.irinnews.org/report.aspx?ReportId=84290>

The last camp for Burundians in western Tanzania will be closed after the repatriation of at least 50,000 refugees in June, UNHCR declared.

The past is a foreign country for some Burundian refugees.

(7/05/2009 – UNHCR)

<http://www.unhcr.org/news/NEWS/4a02ee332.html>

Ogeste Gelevasi feels at home in western Tanzania after almost 40 years as a refugee from neighbouring Burundi. For Ogeste, the country he fled aged two is a foreign country; that's why he, like an estimated 165,000 of the remaining so-called 1972 Burundians living in Mishamo and two other "old settlements," have decided to accept a landmark offer by the government to settle in Tanzania and apply for citizenship.

Comprehensive Solutions for Burundian Refugees in Tanzania's Old Settlements.

(May 2009 – UNHCR)

<http://10.9.35.107/partners/PARTNERS/47b1a2522.pdf>

In 2009, the Burundians who had fled the internal conflict of 1972 and sought refuge in Tanzania will reach their thirty-seventh anniversary as refugees. These people represent one of Africa's longest standing refugee populations. Today they have the opportunity finding a durable solution to their plight.

BURUNDI: A sharing approach to land disputes.

(7/05/2009 – IRIN)

<http://www.irinnews.org/report.aspx?ReportId=84272>

Burundi: Résoudre les querelles foncières par le partage.

(8/05/2009 – IRIN – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/200905081041.html>

Article on land disputes in Burundi as refugees are returning to their villages they left years ago.

The End of the Burundian Peace Process.

(6/05/2009 – Institute for Security Studies)

http://www.issafrica.org/index.php?link_id=5&mlink_id=7643&link_type=12&mlink_type=12&tmpl_id=3

"My demobilisation officially means the end of the war in Burundi. It is a sign that the country's peace process is progressing." That was how the Burundian rebel leader, Agathon Rwasa, aptly summed up the peace process as he handed in his AK-47 and rebel uniform at the April 18 ceremony marking the demobilisation of thousands of his FNL combatants.

Party warns of Burundi militia.

(6/05/2009 – The Times)

<http://www.thetimes.co.za/News/Article.aspx?id=993727>

Burundi's main opposition group accused President Pierre Nkurunziza's party of forming a militia and carrying out targeted assassinations. FRODEBU said the ruling CNDD-FDD party - a former Hutu rebel group - was re-arming former fighters.

RWANDA

Rwanda: RDF Refutes Uganda Media Claims That It Violated Border.

(6/05/2009 – The New Times – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200905070447.html>

Following reports in the Ugandan media alleging that members of Rwanda Defence Forces (RDF) cross into Ugandan territory with fire arms, the Military Spokesperson has come up to 'strongly deny these allegations.

Rwanda: Kigali to Host Regional Security Resources Management Dialogue.

(8/05/2009 – The New Times – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200905111006.html>

Regional security meet underway in Kigali.

(12/05/2009 – The New Times)

<http://www.newtimes.co.rw/index.php?issue=13893&article=15622>

Kigali will be the venue for this year's Africa Centre for Strategic Studies (ACSS) organized seminar that is expected to tackle security resource management. The five-day meeting that is expected to bring together mid-level military and civilian officials representing over ten Central and Eastern African countries responsible for resource management in Africa's security sector gets underway on Monday. According to a press release from the centre, the US Department of Defence-funded event will reinforce the link between effective resource management and the attainment of national security goals.

East Africa: Rwandan Refugees in Uganda Flee Camps.

(12/05/2009 – The New Times – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200905120003.html>

Some Rwandan refugees living in Nakivale and Nshungerezi camps in Uganda, are fleeing the camps to escape being repatriated back home.

Other

Great Lakes Echoes.

(May 2009 – EurAc)

For consultation at request.

Monthly publication of the European Network for Central Africa. Contains several interesting articles, this month among other things: Operation Kimya II and the FNL becoming a political party.

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