



INTERNATIONAL PEACE INFORMATION SERVICE

WEEKLY BRIEFING 7TH - 13TH MARCH 2013

IPIS is an independent research institute which focuses on Sub-Saharan Africa.

Our studies concern three core themes: arms trade, exploitation of natural resources and corporate social responsibility.

Content

Editorial

IPIS' Latest Publications

Arms Trade and Security in the Great Lakes Region

[DRC](#)

[Uganda](#)

[Rwanda](#)

Central African Republic

Refugee and IDP Reports

[DRC](#)

[Uganda](#)

[Rwanda](#)

Central African Republic

Justice and Tribunals

[DRC](#)

Extractive Companies, Energy, Trade and Foreign Investment

[DRC](#)

[Uganda](#)

[Rwanda](#)

Regulation, Compliance and Corporate Social Responsibility

[DRC](#)

Other

[IPIS' Recent publications](#)

EDITORIAL

From next Monday, 18 March, until 28 March, in New York the UN Final Conference on the [Arms Trade Treaty](#) will take place. The first round of negotiations was held in July 2012, but did not result in an agreement on a treaty text. Organizations and human rights activists are urging the international community to adopt robust rules on international transfers of conventional arms and ammunition.

In eastern DR Congo, fighting in Rutshuru territory, North Kivu, between the two rival factions within the [M23](#) rebel movement continued and intensified. Meanwhile the situation in Kampala at the peace talks with the Congolese Government remained unclear. The Government delegation drafted an agreement proposal, but Bertrand Bisimwa, the newly appointed president of the pro-Makenga faction, expected to be willing to sign an agreement with the Government, claimed he only learned of the proposal from the press. Still the Government said the Kampala talks will be finished this Friday 15 March in one way or another, with or without a signature.

Fighting in [Kitchanga](#), North Kivu, between the APCLS Mai-Mai militia and a FARDC regiment finally stopped. At the request of the population the army unit was replaced.

In northern North Kivu, the [ADF/Nalu](#) militia remained active, while in Ituri, Province Orientale, unidentified armed men occupied six villages in [Aru](#) territory. No violence by Mai-Mai in [Katanga](#) was reported over the past week, but the humanitarian situation remains critical.

MONUSCO, the United Nations mission in the DR Congo, called on the national army of the DRC to suspend two of its battalions which, according to investigations, have been involved last year in [mass rapes](#) and other human rights violations in the town of Minova, South Kivu, and surrounding villages.

In the [Central African Republic](#) (CAR), a dissident faction of the Seleka rebel coalition seized three towns in the southeast of the country, including Bangassou. Former Defence Minister and former rebel leader Jean-Jacques Demafouth fled to Chad fearing his arrest in Bangui.

While the President of [Burundi](#), Pierre Nkurunziza, was in France on a state visit, in Bujumbura the first political dialogue between the Government and the opposition since the 2000 Arusha Peace Agreement was held.