



INTERNATIONAL PEACE INFORMATION SERVICE

## WEEKLY BRIEFING 3RD - 9TH JANUARY 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.

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### EDITORIAL

In an offensive launched on 10 December, a coalition of rebel groups, named Seleka, in the past weeks has taken control of about one third of the [Central African Republic](#) (CAR), seriously threatening the regime of President Bozizé. [Multinational](#) troops of Central Africa, in the country since several years, were reinforced, and [South African](#) forces were sent to support the CAR's army. [France](#) said it will not intervene in its ex-colony, but sent additional troops to protect its nationals and French interests. The rebels halted their advance close to the town of [Damara](#), 75 km from the capital Bangui. Difficult negotiations started this week in [Libreville](#), Gabon.

In DR Congo, the town of [Mambasa](#) in Ituri, Province Orientale, was captured last week by a coalition of the Mai-Mai of chief Morgan and army deserters lead by a certain Hilaire Kombi, and retaken the day after by the Congolese army with the assistance of the UN peacekeeping mission MONUSCO.

The peace talks in [Kampala](#) between the Congolese Government and the M23 rebel movement were adjourned for the holidays on 21 December and resumed on 5 January, with the two parties having consultations with the Ugandan mediators separately. New on the negotiating team for M23 is controversial opposition parliamentarian Roger Lumbala. On 31 December, the [Sanctions Committee](#) of the UN Security Council added two leaders of M23, as well as the entities M23 and FDLR, to its sanctions list. UN peacekeeping chief Hervé Ladsous asked the Security Council to support deployment of surveillance [drones](#) in the east of the DRC.

Radio Okapi reports that about 3500 [FDLR](#) including their dependants have left the jungle in Kabare, South Kivu, and want to return to Rwanda.

The Congolese army clashed with the [Raja Mutomboki](#) militia in South Kivu, while various other armed groups remain active in North Kivu ([ADF-Nalu](#)), Province Orientale ([Ituri](#) and [Haut-Uele](#) districts) and [Katanga](#).

Canadian miner [AXMIN](#), one of the very few mining companies active in the mineral-rich Central African Republic, suspended its operations and delayed plans to open a gold mine due to the rebels' advance. Its operating camp was temporarily occupied and looted.

Legal practice Squire Sanders launched a '[conflict minerals compliance](#)' blog for US-listed companies using minerals originating from the DR Congo or adjoining countries.

### IPIS News

The current briefing covers the most important news of the last three weeks.