



INTERNATIONAL PEACE INFORMATION SERVICE

WEEKLY BRIEFING 28TH MARCH - 3RD APRIL 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

Tuesday saw the United Nations General Assembly approve a [global arms trade treaty](#) after 6 years of inter-State deliberations on the issue. The consensus approach was abandoned after last Thursday, when unanimous agreement on a convention text was blocked at the conclusion of the Final UN Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty. The text nevertheless received overwhelming approval in the General Assembly on 2 April with 154 votes in favour. Three Member States – the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), Iran and Syria – voted against the resolution, while 23 countries abstained.

Whilst some concessions were made regarding issues such as ammunition, the treaty's adoption has been hailed a success by campaigners, who highlight its incorporation of human rights considerations into assessments on whether arms trading with particular states should be undertaken. The Convention will be opened for signature on 3 June 2013 and will come into force upon ratification by 50 States.

The UN Security Council's renewal of MONUSCO's mandate was also hailed as somewhat of a watershed this week with its incorporation of a 3,062 strong [intervention brigade](#) mandated to carry out offensive operations against armed groups – a controversial role extending beyond the UN's traditional peacekeeping model. The move has received a mixed response, though seems generally cautiously welcomed. Commentators have also highlighted the Security Council resolution's introduction of a bifurcated structure for the Addis Ababa peace process as well as the expansion of MONUSCO's role in State reform.

A visit to the DRC by the [UN Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict](#) has spotlighted the issue of rape in the DRC with the government entering into an agreement to combat sexual violence. It reports having begun to take action against two regiments accused of mass rapes during a retreat from M23 rebels in November 2012.

On the ground in [Province Orientale](#) Morgan's militia have been found to be responsible for 229 victims of atrocities in Mambasa, while rebels loyal to the leader have occupied a gold mining village. A joint mission in the province has highlighted 8 localities in which the security situation is "seriously worrying". In [North Kivu](#) the APCLS Mai-Mai have been in clashes with FARDC near Kitchanga, whilst the fallout from the Bataka Katanga Mai-Mai's raid on Lubumbashi continues to be felt in [Katanga](#). In [Equateur](#) soldiers loyal to ousted CAR president, Francois Bozize, are reported to have entered Zongo and be committing abuses against locals.

In the CAR, a post-coup government has been announced with a 34 member cabinet composed of Seleka and opposition party representatives. The former regime's [security apparatus](#) is reported to have pledged allegiance to the new regime and the security situation in Bangui appears to be stabilising. The country has been suspended from the African Union. Self-proclaimed president, Michel Djotodia, is reported to have announced an intention to [review mining contracts](#) made between Bozize's regime and foreign mining companies, whilst in South Africa the ANC has been under intense media scrutiny over the motives behind the country's troop presence in the CAR.

IPIS' News

IPIS Research is pleased to announce that further to the successful launch of its mapping project in 2012, from 1 April 2013 IPIS will be expanding the scope of that project in partnership with TripAdvisor to provide detailed mapping of good quality, low budget eateries in the Kivus, Katanga and Province Orientale.

[Gold and diamonds in the Central African Republic. The country's mining sector, and related social, economic and environmental issues](#) | 26 March 2013 | IPIS

Gold and diamonds in Central Africa easily conjure up images of conflict, rebel funding, human rights violations, and smuggling. As a country landlocked within an unstable region, neighbouring the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), and recently the scene of another coup, the Central African Republic (CAR) might be considered an appropriate candidate for analysis within the conflict-mineral perspective. Yet this framework would ignore the country's mining sector's very specific characteristics. The sector offers an essential livelihood to many households, represents the country's second most important export product, and is organised in a particular way. Nonetheless, a wide range of issues regarding the country's mining sector persist.

This report aims to analyse both the Central African Republic's gold and diamond mining sector and related environmental and socio-economic issues.

[Pinocchio Ltd. The NRA and its corporate partners: US shipments of small arms ammunition by sea](#) | 25 March 2013 | TA-R | IPIS

The National Rifle Association (NRA) claims to have monitored in the last 20 years all United Nations activities that could impact Second Amendment rights. Its latest target is the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), an international treaty to establish common international standards for the import, export, and transfer of conventional arms presently under discussion at the United Nations. The international community has been calling for the inclusion of ammunition and civilian arms within the scope of the ATT. This reasonable call is used by the NRA to claim that the ATT could restrict the lawful ownership of firearms in the United States.

[Major Powers Fuelling Atrocities. Why the world needs a robust Arms Trade Treaty](#) | March 2013 | Amnesty International

IPIS contributed to the research for this AI report.

Every year, thousands of people are killed, injured, raped and forced to flee from their homes as a result of abuses and atrocities committed with conventional arms and ammunition. Harrowing testimonies and images from conflict zones and human rights crises around the world underline the urgent need to end irresponsible arms transfers and illicit trafficking.

[The Arms Trade Treaty: Building a Path to Disarmament](#) | 19 March 2013 | Sergio Finardi, Brian Wood, Peter Danssaert, Ken Matthyssen

The goal of this article is to examine and suggest proposals that could enhance the role of the international Arms Trade Treaty—presently in discussion at the United Nations—in the regulation of the international arms trade and in addressing the role of the legal trade in: a) providing the bulk of the arms used in armed conflicts, armed violence and human rights abuses; b) the excessive arming of developing countries; and c) the continuous unsettling of power balances in sensitive world regions, not least because of competition amongst arms-exporting countries.

Arms Trade and Security in the Great Lakes Region

[Recent news on conflict, security and arms trade across the Great Lakes Region.](#)

Arms Trade Treaty

[We need an Arms Trade Treaty now](#) | 28 March 2013 | CNN

Article by Beninese-born actor Djimon Hounsou, discussing the current situation on the ground in South Sudan and highlighting the imperative of a strong Arms Trade Treaty to ameliorating the inter-communal bloodshed and conflicts raging in similar such countries.

[UN set to pass historic arms trade treaty](#) | 28 March 2013 | CNN

Despite potential opposition from Syria, Iran and India, the UN is reported to believe that an arms trade agreement on the \$70bn trade likely to be passed.

[Meeting Emerging Non-proliferation Challenges: U.S. Department of State Programs](#) | 29 March 2013 | US Department of State

Speech by Simon Limage, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Non-proliferation Programs, Bureau of International Security and Non-proliferation (ISN), on how ISN programs contribute to strengthening international non-proliferation norms and expanding multilateral strategic trade cooperation.

[Lack of consensus at the Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty \(March 29, 2013\)](#) | 29 March 2013 | France Diplomatie

French press statement on the pre-2 April deadlock over the adoption on an ATT.

[UN backs global arms trade treaty](#) | 2 April 2013 | Financial Times (requires subscription)

[UN adopts landmark arms treaty](#) | 3 April 2013 | Al Jazeera

[UN Overwhelmingly Approves Global Arms Trade Treaty](#) | 2 April 2013 | Voice of America

[UN Passes Landmark Arms Treaty](#) | 2 April 2013 | Voice of America

On Tuesday 2 April 2013 the UN General Assembly overwhelmingly approved the first-ever global arms trade treaty, with 154 countries voting in favour, three votes against and 23 abstentions. The treaty aims to link sales of weapons to a country's human rights record as well as its record on terrorism and organised crime. Campaigners state that despite the absence of an enforcement mechanism, reporting requirements will act as a significant restraint on State behaviour concerning the arms trade.

[Historic Arms Trade Treaty](#) | 2 April 2013 | US Department of State

US press statement on adoption of the ATT.

UN intervention brigade

[Security Council approves intervention force to target armed groups in DR Congo](#) | 28 March 2013 | UN News Centre

['Intervention Brigade' Authorized as Security Council Grants Mandate Renewal for United Nations Mission in Democratic Republic of Congo - Resolution 2098 \(2013\)](#) | 28 March 2013 | UN Security Council | Reliefweb

[RDC: l'ONU adopte la résolution sur la brigade d'intervention pour combattre les groupes armés](#) | 28 March 2013 | Radio Okapi

[U.N. sending 'offensive' brigade to Democratic Republic of Congo](#) | 28 March 2013 | CNN

[U.N. Approves New Force to Pursue Congo's Rebels](#) | 28 March 2013 | The New York Times

[UN Security Council Approves Special Force for DRC](#) | 28 March 2013 | Voice of America

[Adoption of Resolution 2098 \(March 29, 2013\)](#) | 29 March 2013 | France Diplomatie | Ministeres des Affaires Etrangeres

[UN approves DR Congo 'intervention brigade'](#) | 29 March 2013 | Al Jazeera

[RDC: la brigade d'intervention déployée dans l'Est d'ici fin avril, selon Kinshasa](#) | 1 April 2013 | Agence France-Presse | Reliefweb

[RDC : la brigade d'intervention de la Monusco dispose d'un mandat plus offensif](#) | 29 March 2013 | Radio Okapi

Extending MONUSCO's mandate for another year, the UN Security Council has integrated within its framework the deployment of a response brigade mandated to combat and neutralize armed groups in eastern DRC. This brigade, which will total 3,069 peacekeepers, will include three infantry battalions, an artillery company, and a special force reconnaissance company. The resolution unanimously adopted by the fifteen members of the Council will seek to reduce the threat posed by armed groups to State authority and civilian security, and make space for stabilization activities. This deployment responds to a recommendation by UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki Moon. The Council will decide on the continuation of the Brigade's presence based on the results of its deployment and the DRC's progress in creating a "rapid reaction force" to take over from the Brigade and implement the Addis Ababa Framework Agreement for Peace.

[Violences dans l'Est de la RDC : l'Onu soutient une démarche globale, selon Hervé Ladsous](#) | 1 April 2013 | Radio Okapi

The Assistant Secretary General of the United Nations in charge of peacekeeping operations, Herve Ladsous, has said that the vote on the resolution creating a MONUSCO intervention brigade is part of a more "holistic" approach that aims to end "the recurring cycle of violence" in the eastern DRC.

[La brigade d'intervention de la Monusco travaillera avec les FARDC, affirme le colonel Basse](#) | 4 April 2013 | Radio Okapi

Congolese security forces have confirmed that the MONUSCO intervention brigade will work with the FARDC, which is reported already to have units positioned on site. An advanced FARDC staff is said to have been deployed in Goma, where the Brigade is to be based, to coordinate field operations and facilitate the arrival of the response team.

Responses to intervention brigade deployment

[UN's New Solution for Congo Not Without Risk](#) | 28 March 2013 | Refugees International | Reliefweb

[Une brigade d'intervention au sein de la MONUSCO nécessiterait la mise en place de mécanismes supplémentaires de protection des droits humains](#) | 28 March 2013 | FIDH | Reliefweb

The UN Security Council resolution mandating an intervention force in the DRC was reportedly passed much scepticism from Council members, and it remains unclear whether the Council is prepared for the potential humanitarian fallout. Traditionally peacekeepers are not allowed to fire unless they are fired upon, but the intervention brigade is authorized to carry out offensive operations. In private, many Council members have reportedly expressed unease about departing from this central norm of peacekeeping. However, in the absence of other options, and in the face of strong African Union support, the Council ultimately adopted this new approach. Refugees International suggest that little thought appears to have been given to the potential risks this new deployment might pose to the civilian population, particularly in terms of the humanitarian situation. FIDH too has expressed concerns about the human rights implications for civilians, requesting the strengthening of human rights protections.

[MONUSCO's new mandate - some thoughts](#) | 29 March 2013 | Radio Okapi

Jason Stearns states that the most remarkable part of MONUSCO's renewed mandate is the deployment of an intervention brigade but that, whilst this appears to have been the principle press focus, there are other important parts to the Security Council's resolution text, which makes for an ambitious vision for the UN mission. These include a UN lead bifurcated structure for the Addis Ababa peace process and greater MONUSCO involvement in State reform.

[Matata Ponyo salue la création de la brigade d'intervention de la Monusco](#) | 29 March 2013 | Radio Okapi

Congolese Prime Minister, Augustin Matata Ponyo, has welcomed the establishment by the UN of an intervention brigade to neutralize armed groups operating in eastern DRC, hailing it as a turning point for the restoration of peace and security in the Kivus.

[RDC: la majorité et l'opposition satisfaites de la création de la Brigade spéciale](#) | 29 March 2013 | Radio Okapi

Both majority and opposition representative in the National Assembly have welcomed UN resolution 2098 with the presidential majority claiming it as a Congolese diplomatic victory and the opposition stating that it should not become a dead letter.

[Policy Alert: New U.N. brigade in Congo is an opportunity](#) | 1 April 2013 | Enough Project

The Enough Project has stated that the new intervention brigade presents an opportunity to significantly reduce the strength of illegal armed groups if paired with special forces training, a robust defections program, and a comprehensive peace process led by new U.N. Envoy Mary Robinson.

[DR Congo conflict: M23's Bisimwa reject UN force](#) | 1 April 2013 | BBC News

[RDC : le M23 désapprouve la création de la brigade d'intervention de la Monusco](#) | 1 April 2013 | Radio Okapi

M23 political leader, Bertrand Bisimwa, said the UN had chosen the "war option", rather than promoting dialogue to end the conflict in eastern DRC, in adopting the deployment of an international brigade.

[RDC : Raymond Tshibanda appelle le M23 à « cesser d'exister »](#) | 1 April 2013 | Radio Okapi

Congolese foreign minister, Raymond Tshibanda has stated that the only option left open to the M23 is to cease to exist as a politico-military movement, stating that if it does not reach political agreement with the Congolese State, the MONUSCO intervention brigade will end its existence.

[La Russie demande à la RDC de profiter de la présence de la brigade d'intervention pour renforcer son armée](#) | 2 April 2013 | Radio Okapi

The Russian Ambassador to the DRC has called upon the Congolese government to ensure that it benefits from the presence of the MONUSCO intervention brigade to strengthen its own security forces to allow it to solve its problems alone, without the assistance of the powers of the international community.

M23 and Kampala talks

[Uganda: M23 Appeals to Museveni Over Kampala Talks](#) | 2 April 2013 | The New Vision | AllAfrica

The political leader of the M23, Bertrand Bisimwa, has appealed to President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda to revive the Kampala peace talks. Delegations of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo and the M23 took a break from the talks two weeks ago to consult their respective leaders.

[RDC: la négociation de Kampala est «l'unique voie de résolution du conflit armé». estime le M23](#) | 2 April 2013 | Radio Okapi

M23's secretary for external relations, René Abandi, has said that the Kampala talks are the only way to resolve conflict in eastern DRC, reaffirming the M23's commitment to the talks and stating that alternatives risk bringing countless collateral damage.

M23 in Rwanda

[DR Congo rebels in Rwanda moved away from border](#) | 2 April 2013 | Agence France-Presse | Reliefweb

[Le Rwanda relocalise des rebelles du M23 à une centaine de kilomètres de Kigali](#) | 3 April 2013 | Radio Okapi

Rwanda has moved 682 M23 rebels who took refuge in the country to a detention centre in Ngoma district further from its border, reportedly due to an international obligation to site refugees 50 KM from their country of origin. The rebels crossed into Rwanda in mid-March, after coming off worse in clashes with a rival wing.

Surrender of Bosco Ntaganda

[Congo's "Terminator" surrenders, what next for peace?](#) | 29 March 2013 | CNN

Article discussing the implications of Ntaganda's surrender on peace and stability in eastern DRC stating that this will depend on the line taken on rebel reintegration into the national army, the extent of international support behind the peace process and the international community's backing of real governance reform in the DRC.

[Big Step for Justice, Small Step for Peace](#) | | Open Society Justice Initiative for Southern Africa | AllAfrica

The OSJI for Southern Africa highlight the importance of understanding Ntaganda as a Rwandan proxy, more than a "rebel". He has now been transferred to the ICC and many wonder what secrets he will reveal. OSJI state that the fate of this individual and the content of his testimony during the trial may divert attention from the real question at hand: will the global community allow the Rwanda-backed illicit network in the eastern provinces of the DRC to remain intact?

UN Group of experts on the DRC

[U.S. Foundation Faults UN Report On Congo](#) | 2 April 2013 | The New Times | AllAfrica

The Howard G. Buffett Foundation, an American private family foundation that has invested in DRC and the Great Lakes region since 1999, has commissioned an evaluation of a series of UN Group of Experts special reports on the DRC over the last few years. The New Times reports that the evaluation has concluded that the experts' 2012 report was particularly biased against Rwanda and lacked essential diplomacy to reach recommendations that would have helped to advance regional peace and stability.

ECOWAS response to the CAR coup d'état

[South Africa Hopes Summit Will Resolve CAR Situation](#) | 2 April 2013 | Voice of America

Regional leaders in the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) plan to meet Wednesday in Chad's capital, Ndjamena, to discuss the restoration of constitutional order in the Central African Republic. Analysts say the leaders will review the latest developments in the CAR after the Seleka rebel movement seized power from President Francois Bozize and named a named a new government.

Lord's Resistance Army

[28 released from LRA captivity](#) | 28 March 2013 | Resolve

Twenty-eight women and children have been released from LRA captivity, marking the largest return of long-term LRA members in at least three years. The event has been hailed as an encouraging achievement for efforts to incentivize LRA defections, which have been expanded in the past year.

[The never-ending pursuit of the Lord's Resistance Army: An analysis of the Regional Cooperative Initiative for the Elimination of the LRA](#) | 28 March 2013 | African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes | Reliefweb

This Policy & Practice Brief provides a reflective analysis of the existence of the LRA, exploring why the capture of LRA members has been elusive. It critiques current approaches employed to defeat the LRA and makes recommendations on how the proposed pursuit of the movement can be strengthened to increase chances of success. It also emphasises the relevance of the historical underpinnings and legacy of the LRA's cause, including the regional and international dynamics that inform the involvement of various actors towards ending and resolving the LRA dispute.

[Rights Groups Statement: Civilians Will Face Heightened Atrocities if Uganda and US End Operations to Counter Kony's LRA](#) | 3 April 2013 | Enough Project

Invisible Children, the Enough Project, and Resolve have released a statement on the implications of a premature conclusion to Ugandan and U.S. supported operations to counter the LRA in central and east Africa.

DRC

MI6 involvement in Lumumba assassination

[MI6 and the death of Patrice Lumumba](#) | 2 April 2013 | BBC News

[MI6 'arranged Cold War killing' of Congo prime minister](#) | 2 April 2013 | The Guardian

A member of the House of Lords, Lord Lea, has written to the London Review of Books saying that shortly before she died, fellow peer and former MI6 officer Daphne Park told him that Britain had “organised” the death of Patrice Lumumba, the elected leader of the DRC, in 1961. The article speculates that British complicity may have taken place through MI6’s influence over two prominent politicians sanctioning his hand over to a secessionist group who it was known would kill the leader, though states that the truth behind these events may remain elusive.

Sexual violence

[L'Onu lance un ultimatum à la RDC pour sanctionner des soldats accusés de viols à Minova](#) | 28 March 2013 | Radio Okapi

On Wednesday, March 27, the UN's Herve Ladsous issued the DRC with a one-week ultimatum to act against the soldiers of two FARDC battalions allegedly responsible for the commission of at least 126 rapes during a retreat from advancing M23 rebels in Minova last November.

[National leadership crucial for tackling sexual violence in DR Congo – UN envoy](#) | 28 March 2013 | UN News Centre

Conflict-related sexual violence is one of the most urgent challenges facing the DRC according to the UN Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict, who this week stressed that leadership and responsibility on the part of the Government is critical to tackling this issue.

[RDC: les poursuites judiciaires contre les militaires accusés de viols à Minova sont en cours, affirme Lambert Mende](#) | 28 March 2013 | Radio Okapi

DRC government spokesperson, Lambert Mende, said on Thursday 28 March that the Congolese justice system has already begun legal proceedings against soldiers accused of rape in Minova. Responding to the UN ultimatum regarding the prosecution of these men, Mende said that disciplinary action had been taken against the regiment and he did not think it wise for partners to interfere with the justice process.

[UN envoy and DR Congo sign agreement to tackle sexual violence in conflict](#) | 2 April 2013 | UN News Centre

[L'Onu et la RDC signent un accord pour lutter contre les violences sexuelles](#) | 3 April 2013 | Radio Okapi

The DRC has signed an agreement to combat conflict-related sexual violence with the UN Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict, Zainab Bangura. As part of the agreement the government has committed to working with partners, including State entities, donors, and NGOs to prevent sexual violence committed by armed men.

M23

[Don't be a negative force](#) | 29 March 2013 | Africa Confidential (requires subscription)

As Jean-Bosco Ntaganda begins his likely lengthy stay in the Hague, attention at home has turned to his former allies in what is left of the Rwandan-backed M23. Some 1,300 M23 fighters, now under the undisputed leadership of Sultani Makenga, have secured their positions in Rutshuru territory in North Kivu Province.

[Rebels everywhere](#) | 29 March 2013 | Africa Confidential (requires subscription)

Article stating that Kabila appears to have been granted some reprieve with the M23 decamping to Rwanda, Ntaganda's surrender and the UDPS's inability to mobilise mass opposition in Kinshasa but that difficulties nevertheless appear to be heightening in Katanga.

National assembly agendas on security

[Assemblées provinciales: la session de mars consacrée à la paix au Nord-Kivu et Katanga](#) | 31 March 2013 | Radio Okapi

Provincial assemblies in North Kivu and Katanga will devote their March sessions to discussing issues of peace and security in their provinces.

Demining in the DRC

[RDC : les efforts de déminage n'ont atteint que 30%](#) | 4 April 2013 | Radio Okapi

Several provinces of the DRC are affected by landmines with only 30% demined so far. The Centre for the Struggle against Landmines launched a survey for mines in numerous provinces on the 26 March, intending to deploy operators to collect mine information from 1 May 2013.

Province Orientale

[RDC: Cobra Matata promet de ne pas faire obstacle à l'exploitation pétrolière de Total](#) | 28 March 2012 | Radio Okapi

Leader of the FRPI, Cobra Matata has said that this militia will not constitute an obstacle to Total's exploitation of oil in block 3 Albertine Graben. Some are sceptical over whether Matata has sufficient control over certain elements of his militia to make such an assertion. Matata reiterated his request for his men to be pardoned and reintegrated into the FARDC. Petroleum exploration permits in block 3 of the Graben Albertine were issued to Total by the DRC in January 2012.

[Province Orientale : le chef milicien Morgan occupe à nouveau le village aurifère d'Elota](#) | 30 March 2013 | Radio Okapi

Nearly forty heavily armed men loyal to rebel leader Paul Sadala alias Morgan, have occupied the gold mining village of Elota, 150 km from Mambasa, since Wednesday, March 27. Inhabitants have been displaced to Beni in North Kivu, reporting that the militia have engaged in the extortion of gold and acts of torture against villagers during their incursion. The militiamen reportedly accuse the people of Elota of managing the gold without Morgan's approval.

[RDC: 229 victimes d'atrocités de la milice de Morgan identifiées à Mambasa](#) | 31 March 2013 | Radio Okapi

Forensic investigators from Bunia have identified 229 victims of rape, torture, murder and looting in Mambasa territory, over 160 km southwest of Bunia. Their survey aims to ascertain the atrocities committed against civilians by the militia leader Sadala alias Paul Morgan and his men since 12 March 2012. These judicial inquiries are being conducted by a joint commission composed of military prosecutors and police and directed by an auditor from Ituri military garrison with the support of the MONUSCO office in Bunia.

[Gold and poaching bring murder and misery to Congolese wildlife reserve](#) | 31 March 2013 | The Guardian

Article discussing last years attacks on the Epulu Okapi Park and highlighting the underlying land conflicts that rebel groups engaged in poaching, mining and violence engage in securing support from local inhabitants.

[RDC: la situation sécuritaire est préoccupante dans 8 territoires de la Province Orientale](#) | 2 April 2013 | Radio Okapi

A joint MONUSCO/provincial authority fact finding mission in Province Orientale has highlighted the security situation in the Dungu, Bafwasende, Ango, Faradje, Niangara, Irumu, Mambasa and Aru localities as very worrying, canvassing the issues in each. The two delegations have pledged to continue the same mission in the Kivu, Maniema and Katanga.

North Kivu

[RDC : les militaires et les miliciens APCLS s'affrontent à nouveau près de Kitshanga](#) | 29 March 2013 | Radio Okapi

The Alliance des Patriotes pour un Congo Libre et Souverain (APCLS) Mai-Mai was engaged in clashes with Congolese soldiers on two hills overlooking the city of Kitshanga near Goma on Friday. Both sides claim to have attacked first. Fire with heavy and light weapons were heard in the city throughout the morning. Local sources report that MONUSCO peacekeepers managed to get between the two forces to restore calm. Colonel Hamuli reported the death of one soldier and six militiamen. FARDC have recovered six weapons. Other sources speak of a captain of the Congolese army and a dozen other soldiers killed during the fighting.

[Nord-Kivu: les FARDC ont tué 17 miliciens APCLS à Kitobo](#) | 31 March 2013 | Radio Okapi

Around seventeen APCLS militia were killed during clashes with FARDC at Kitobo and Muhanga, say military sources. FARDC lost one of its officers during the fighting in which it managed to dislodge the militia from their positions around the city of Kitshanga. A Congolese military spokesman has said that the army has reinforced its position and continues to sweep around Kitshanga.

[DR Congo: UN peacekeepers protect civilians after fighting in Kitchanga](#) | 1 April 2013 | UN News Centre

MONUSCO provided protection to some 1,500 civilians after renewed clashes between FARDC and the APCLS on Friday killed 11 APCLS combatants and injured one FARDC soldier.

South Kivu

[Sud-Kivu: le chef milicien Yakutumba appelle ses hommes à rejoindre les FARDC à Fizi](#) | 1 April 2013 | Radio Okapi

Militia leader William Amuri alias Yakutumba continues to call upon his men to leave the bush and join the ranks of the FARDC, in Fizi. He is reported to have organized a popular meeting at Makobola II near Uvira. The militia leader had surrendered to FARDC last Sunday in the town of Sebele, 37 km south-east of Baraka (Fizi), with his wife and sixty of his men.

Katanga

[Entrée des Mai-Mai à Lubumbashi : Richard Muyej promet de poursuivre « les commanditaires »](#) | 30 March 2013 | Radio Okapi

The Interior Minister, Richard Muyej has said that the authors and sponsors of the Bakata Katanga raid on Lubumbashi last weekend will be prosecuted and punished. Announcing that an investigation will be opened into the matter, the minister also promised sanctions against police "who have failed in their mission."

[Lubumbashi : les blessés du 23 mars sont pris en charge par le gouvernement provincial](#) | 1 April 2013 | Radio Okapi

The Congolese Minister of Public Health, Felix Kabange Numbi has said that doctors and nurses in all hospitals in Lubumbashi are mobilized to provide the necessary care to the victims of last Saturday's events in the city. The provincial government has reportedly made food and medicines available to the injured, and care bills are to be paid by the Ministry of Social Affairs.

[Katanga: Richard Muyej annonce une campagne de sensibilisation sur la décentralisation](#) | 1 April 2013 | Radio Okapi

Interior Minister, Richard Muyej has announced that an awareness campaign on decentralization in Katanga will be launched from April to run into July. The announcement was made during a meeting with community leaders and provincial authorities regarding the Bakata Katanga entry into Lubumbashi on Saturday 23 March. At the meeting it was recognized that significant frustrations and conflicting positions with respect to political issues such as territorial division, decentralization and federalism provided a platform for the Mai-Mai insurrection in Lubumbashi.

[RDC: les affrontements de Lubumbashi ont fait 23 morts \(officiel\)](#) | 1 April 2013 | Agence France Presse | Reliefweb

It has now been confirmed by Congolese state authorities that the exchange of gunfire between FARDC and the Mai-Mai on 23 March near Lubumbashi left 23 dead. The fighting occurred after the secessionist Mai-Mai Bakata Katanga marched into Lubumbashi earlier last week. The death toll had variously been estimated at between 20 to 35 people.

[Le général John Numbi n'est pas impliqué dans l'affaire des Bakata Katanga, affirment ses avocats](#) | 2 April 2013 | Radio Okapi

Lawyers for General John Numbi - accused of involvement in the death of Floribert Chabeya - have stated that the suspended police general is not among those who have maintained the Bakata Katanga Mai-Mai group. The legal adviser to John Numbi, has requested the opening of a judicial inquiry to establish those responsible for the Bakata Katanga raid.

Equateur

[Equateur : des militaires fidèles à François Bozizé créent l'insécurité à Zongo](#) | 29 March 2013 | Radio Okapi

Two hundred soldiers loyal to deposed CAR president, Francois Bozize, have crossed the Ubangi River to Zongo creating insecurity in the city. These soldiers are part of the thousands of refugees who arrived last weekend from the Central African Republic. They are reported to be engaging in the extortion and torture of local inhabitants.

Central African Republic

Allegiance of security apparatus with new regime

[CAR Army Chiefs Pledge Allegiance to Coup Leader](#) | 28 March 2013 | Voice of America

Central African Republic's army chiefs pledged allegiance to the country's self-proclaimed president, Michel Djotodia, on Thursday as the ex-rebel leader consolidated control four days after his fighters seized the capital. Peacekeeping forces have reported that all former chiefs of police, gendarmes, the head of the armed forces and other senior officers arranged a meeting with Djotodia to express their support for him, described by sources as a "form of surrender".

[RDC: des militaires centrafricains installés à Bongo demandent d'être rapatriés](#) | 2 April 2013 | Radio Okapi

Seventy-four soldiers from the Armed Forces of Central Africa (FACA) – currently refugees in Province Orientale following the fall of President Bozizé's regime – have asked the Congolese authorities to repatriate them to the CAR. They reportedly seek to continue to act as soldiers, maintaining their current rank, under Djotodia's new leadership. FARDC officials believe that repatriation is not currently possible until an agreement between the governments of the two countries is signed.

Coup d'état

[Séléka takes power](#) | 29 March 2013 | Africa Confidential

Article outlining the immediate aftermath of the Seleka coup.

[Central African Republic Rebels Form New Govt](#) | 2 April 2013 | RFI | AllAfrica

The Central African Republic's Prime Minister has unveiled a post-coup government of Séléka rebels and the former opposition party. On Sunday, Prime Minister Nicolas Tiangaye named a 34-member cabinet. Eight ministers come from the former opposition, and one is close to ousted president François Bozizé, who has fled the country for Cameroon and sought asylum from Benin. Self-proclaimed president of the Central African Republic, Michel Djotodia, added the post of defence minister to his job titles.

[CAR's ousted leader Bozize says Chad aided rebels](#) | 3 April 2013 | BBC News

Francois Bozize, ousted CAR President, has told the BBC that it was "Chadian special forces" who led the final operation of the Seleka rebellion on the weekend of 23-24 March. Chad, which is hosting an emergency regional summit on CAR, has not commented on the allegations. Mr Bozize, who has fled to Cameroon, said he requested but was refused a seat at the meeting.

Security in Bangui

[Timide reprise de vie à Bangui. Bozizé toujours réfugié au Cameroun](#) | 28 March 2013 | Radio Ndeke Luka | Fondation Hirondelle

The inhabitants of Bangui timidly have resumed the normal course of their daily lives after rampant looting during CAR's coup d'etat.

[Aid agencies demand end to looting in CAR crisis](#) | 28 March 2013 | Alertnet

Humanitarian officials have called for an end to looting in the CAR after United Nations and aid groups' premises were robbed and damaged during the Seleka coup in Bangui on Sunday. The deterioration in security led some international agencies to withdraw foreign staff to Cameroon at the weekend. Conditions are calmer now, but the situation remains precarious.

[Central African Republic: Bodies Found in the Capital](#) | 29 March 2013 | The New York Times

Volunteers have collected 78 bodies from the streets of Bangui since rebel fighters seized control of the city last week. Many of the bodies lacked identification documents, and officials say that it is not immediately clear whether the dead were rebels, government soldiers, foreign soldiers or civilians.

[CAR Central Bank to Reopen After Coup](#) | 1 April 2013 | Voice of America

Central Africa's regional central bank said it would reopen its branch in Bangui on Tuesday, and urged commercial lenders to do the same, offering a financial lifeline to cash-starved businesses a week after a coup. The bank had been closed following looting triggered by the coup, though peacekeeper patrols have reportedly helped to stabilise the situation.

Review of mining deals

[CAR's Djotodia to Review Minerals Deals](#) | 29 March 2013 | Voice of America

[Rebel leader Michel Djotodia to review mining deals](#) | 30 March 2013 | BBC News (video)

As Boziza has requested asylum from Benin this week, Michel Djotodia has said the CAR's new authorities will reconsider any mining deals made by Boziza with South African and Chinese companies. He has also further outlined his hopes regarding aid to develop the country.

African Union response to coup

[African Union Rejects New Central African Republic Leader](#) | 1 April 2013 | Voice of America

The African Union has rejected Michel Djotodia as leader of the CAR and has suspended the country from the organization as well as having begun targeted sanctions against seven senior leaders of the Seleka rebel group, including Djotodia.

Humanitarian situation

[Central African Republic's capital calm but security and aid at risk in north, UN says](#) | 28 March 2013 | UN News Centre

[UN warns 2 million children without basic services in Central African Republic](#) | 29 March 2013 | UN News Centre

OCHA has said that the crisis in the CAR, including the seizure of power by the Séléka rebel coalition, has exacerbated an already difficult humanitarian situation, warning that tens of thousands of people could go hungry if safety and security throughout the country are not restored quickly. Two million children are reportedly without basic social services and are exposed to violence.

South African Troops in CAR

[Zuma tribute to South Africa troops killed in CAR](#) | 2 April 2013 | BBC News

[Row over South Africa's role in CAR's rebellion](#) | 2 April 2013 | BBC News

[Zuma defiant over sending troops to CAR](#) | 2 April 2013 | Financial Times (subscription required)

South Africa's President Jacob Zuma has paid tribute to 13 soldiers killed in the recent rebellion in the CAR, striking out at speculation about the motives behind their deployment. The deaths have led to unusually pointed and angry questions about why the soldiers were deployed and why they had not been pulled out when the security situation began to crumble. Allegations have been made by national daily, the Mail and Guardian, that far from taking part in a selfless training operation these soldiers were deployed as part of a murky business deal involving South Africa's governing African National Congress, and the now-toppled Bozize.

Lord's Resistance Army in CAR

[Joseph Kony toujours recherché après le coup d'État en RCA](#) | 28 March 2013 | IRIN

The authorities tracking down the LRA in the forests of CAR have said that they do not expect Bozize's overthrow by the Seleka rebels to interfere with their mission, unless all foreign troops are requested to leave. Nevertheless, some analysts have suggested that the African Union's decision to suspend the CAR from participation in the organisation following the coup could have negative implications for the troops as Uganda will now have to renegotiate the troop's presence on the CAR's soil with the new rebel government, slowing down operations.

Refugee and IDP Reports

[Non-comprehensive overview and selected articles on the status of refugees in the Great Lakes Region](#)

DRC

Humanitarian Bulletins and reports

[Bulletin d'information humanitaire - Province du Katanga N° 11/13 - 26 mars 2013](#) | 26 March 2013 | OCHA | Reliefweb

CAR Refugees

[Province Orientale : le HCR recense plus de 4 250 réfugiés centrafricains dans le Bas-Uele](#) | 29 March 2012 | Radio Okapi

The UNHCR has reported the presence of over 4,250 refugees from the CAR in the territories of Ango and Bondo.

Natural Resources in the Great Lakes Region

[Recent news on issues relating to natural resource extraction and governance in the Great Lakes Region.](#)

DRC

[Ituri: un creuseur d'or meurt dans un éboulement de terre à Plutomine](#) | 28 March 2013 | Radio Okapi

One person was killed and two others were reported missing since Wednesday, March 27 after a landslide occurred at Plutomine, a gold trading center located about 15 km north-east of the city of Mongbwalu in Ituri (Orientale Province). President of the NGO "Cooperative artisanal miners of gold," Papy Adiba, said the victims were artisanal miners in search of gold at the time of the accident.

[Petits mineurs – creuser avec des risques pour devenir légal](#) | 29 March 2013 | IPS

Reportage on harassment and conflicts regarding the legal status of artisanal miners mining diamonds in the DRC and Angola.

[Belgium in methane gas play](#) | 2 April 2013 | Africa Energy Intelligence (requires subscription)

With Rwanda already well on the way towards extracting gas from Lake Kivu, neighbouring DRC is still at the stage of wanting to peg out concessions.

Uganda

[30,000 at risk of missing out on oil money -report](#) | 28 March 2013 | Daily Monitor

A new survey conducted in the Albertine Graben has shown that scores of residents could miss out on compensation, particularly in the

area where a refinery has been proposed to be built. The study by the International Alert and Democratic Governance Facility, which was released yesterday, indicates that more than 30,000 residents in nine villages, where close to 29 square kilometres has been mapped for the construction of the refinery, could be affected.

Extractive Companies, Energy, Trade and Foreign Investment

Recent news on national and international extractive and energy companies and investment in the Great Lakes Region

[Glencore-Xstrata deal hit by fresh delays](#) | 2 April 2013 | Financial Times (subscription required)

Glencore has announced fresh delays to its \$76bn deal with miner Xstrata amid continuing regulatory issues in China. The latest extension of the completion date – its fifth – underscores the complexity of the deal, which requires clearance from a number of global regulators.

DRC

[Anhui Construction, Congo Plan to Take Diamond Company Public](#) | 28 March 2013 | Bloomberg

Anhui Foreign Economic Construction Group of China and the Democratic Republic of Congo have created a joint venture to mine diamonds in Eastern Kasai province and plan to make the company public.

[RDC: Cobra Matata promet de ne pas faire obstacle à l'exploitation pétrolière de Total](#) | 28 March 2012 | Radio Okapi

Leader of the FRPI, Cobra Matata has said that this militia will not constitute an obstacle to Total's exploitation of oil in block 3 Albertine Graben. Some are sceptical over whether Matata has sufficient control over certain elements of his militia to make such an assertion. Matata reiterated his request for his men to be pardoned and reintegrated into the FARDC. Petroleum exploration permits in block 3 of the Graben Albertine were issued to Total by the DRC in January 2012.

[Caprikat pushes up the price](#) | 2 April 2013 | Africa Energy Intelligence (requires subscription)

Two juniors based in the British Virgin Islands, Caprikat and Foxwhelp, began shooting new 2D seismic in March in what was seen as a fresh effort to raise the stakes on blocks 1 and 2 in the Congolese part of Lake Albert.

Uganda

[Tullow's Alleged Bribe to Museveni](#) | 28 March 2013 | The Independent (Kampala) | AllAfrica

Press reports that Tullow Oil discussed to bribe President Yoweri Museveni with a private cash payment of US\$50 million for his 2011 re-election campaign in order to circumvent paying capital gains tax worth US\$ 404 million have generated heated debate in the country. This analysis piece states that suggestions that the President actually took up the bribe are unlikely.

[Clash over who pays capital gains](#) | 2 April 2013 | Africa Energy Intelligence (requires subscription)

Heritage and Tullow clashed in court in London between 12-28 March, over who should pay the \$400 million in capital gains tax that the Uganda government is demanding.

[The cost of Lake Albert's oil](#) | 2 April 2013 | Africa Energy Intelligence (requires subscription)

The French major Total has worked out the cost of developing reserves in and around Lake Albert to the three companies involved in the project, Total, CNOOC and Tullow Oil.

IPIS Recent Publications

[Upstream Implementation of the OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains of Minerals from Conflict-Affected and High-Risk Areas. Final Report on one-year pilot implementation of the Supplement on Tin, Tantalum, and Tungsten](#) | January 2013 |

OECD - IPIS

This report is the final in a cycle of three reports on the pilot implementation by upstream companies of the "Supplement on Tin, Tantalum and Tungsten of the OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains of Minerals from Conflict-Affected and High-Risk Areas". The goal of the report is to provide an overall assessment of the progress and impact of the one-year pilot implementation phase of the OECD Guidance and its Supplement on Tin, Tantalum and Tungsten. The pilot implementation phase of the Guidance focused on Africa's Great Lakes region and was carried out during the period August 2011 – October 2012. Drawing on lessons from the ground, this final report identifies key trends and common approaches to overcome challenges as well as tools used by companies to implement the OECD Guidance.

[Exploitation minière industrielle et artisanale au Sud-Kivu. Possibilités d'une cohabitation pacifique ?](#) | December 2012 | Gabriel Kamundala Byemba

Le secteur minier en République Démocratique du Congo (RDC) en général et au Sud-Kivu en particulier alimente toujours les débats tant au niveau international qu'au niveau national. Présenté sous plusieurs facettes, ce secteur au Sud-Kivu a été dans le temps industriel, puis artisanal et aujourd'hui il est en même temps artisanal et industriel. Le retour en force, ces dernières années, des sociétés industrielles dans le paysage minier du Sud-Kivu coïncide avec l'accélération des dynamiques minières, grâce aux opportunités qu'offre la RDC en matière d'investissements privés et aux réformes amorcées du cadre législatif et réglementaire du secteur minier congolais. Ces réformes ont abouti à la mise en place du nouveau Code minier en 2002 et du Règlement minier en 2003.

[Cartographie des motivations derrière les conflits : le M23](#) | November 2012 | IPIS

À la lumière de la récente occupation de Goma par le M23 et eu égard à la recrudescence du risque de conflit armé à grande échelle en RDC, IPIS publie une brève mise à jour de sa série de rapports « Cartographie des motivations derrière les conflits » (2007-2010), en se focalisant spécifiquement sur les intentions du M23.

Ces rebelles affichent clairement une ambition politique et s'orientent vers l'instauration d'un contrôle politique sur le territoire, en contestant l'autorité de Kinshasa – intérêts stratégiques qu'ils pourraient partager avec le Rwanda.

[Mapping Conflict Motives: M23](#) | November 2012 | IPIS

In light of the recent occupation of Goma by M23 and the renewed risk of large-scale armed conflict in the DRC, IPIS publishes an update to its 2007-2010 'mapping conflict motives' report series focusing specifically on the intentions of M23.

The M23 rebels show a clear political ambition and a tendency to establish political control over territory and challenge Kinshasa's authority – strategic interests they might share with Rwanda.

[A Code of Conduct for Arms Transport by Air. Transport Services under an Arms Trade Treaty Series](#) | August 2012 | IPIS

This report is a discussion of some key considerations for the development of a Cargo Industry Voluntary Code of Conduct relating to the transport of arms, ammunition and other military equipment (ACI Code). The purpose of such a Code is to encourage as many aviation companies and other actors as possible in the air cargo industry to adhere to existing and new standards relating to the transport of arms, ammunition and other military equipment.

[Rough Seas. Maritime Transport and Arms Shipments](#) | July 2012 | IPIS

As stated by the authors in their report "Transparency and Accountability" (February 2012), the Chairman's Draft Paper (14 July 2011) presented by the Arms Trade Treaty's Preparatory Committee (ATT PrepCom), included within the ATT's scope certain "services", such as transport and brokering. However, no provision has been envisaged for the monitoring or ATT-related regulation of arms transport services. Monitoring transport services may be key to implementing and enforcing the Arms Trade Treaty. This report will demonstrate how arms shipments may be monitored and reported where there is a substantial risk that the shipments could contribute to fuelling conflict, repressive state practices, and other human rights abuses. The report provides examples of the monitoring of actual conventional arms shipments to Egypt and Syria in 2011 and 2012, and of suspected conventional arms shipments to Syria in 2012. It also shows that where there is an open society, or at least a fair degree of access to government activities, arms transfers can be monitored and discussed without jeopardizing legitimate security policies.

[Upstream Implementation of the OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains of Minerals from Conflict-Affected and High-Risk Areas. Cycle 2 Interim Progress Report on the Supplement on Tin, Tantalum, and Tungsten](#) | May 2012 | OECD – IPIS

The following report is the second in a cycle of three on upstream companies' implementation of the Supplement on Tin, Tantalum and Tungsten to the OECD's Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains of Minerals from Conflict-Affected and High-Risk Areas. The objective is to report on progress made by upstream companies in their implementation of due diligence, with a focus on current practices and experiences in developing systems and processes for the implementation of the Five-Step OECD Framework.

[Etat des lieux du développement socio-économique dans les zones minières au Nord-Kivu \(territoires de Walikale et Masisi\)](#) | March 2012 | ASSODIP | IPIS (editorial advice)

At a moment when the attention of both the national and international communities is focused on the reorganisation of the mining sector in the east of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the local civil society organisation ASSODIP considered it opportune to carry out a study of the impact of mining exploitation on the socio-economic development in North Kivu's Walikale and Masisi territories. These territories are among the richest in mineral resources of eastern DRC, with the exploitation and trade in minerals adding greatly to public revenues. Nonetheless, the concrete situations as presented in this paper sufficiently show that the development of the local mining communities has never been taken into due account.

[Assessment of existing practices regarding end-user certification](#) | February 2012 | UNODA | IPIS

Already, in 2002, the Security Council called upon States to establish an effective national end-user certificate system and to study the feasibility, as appropriate, of developing such a system at the regional and global levels, as well as information exchange and verification mechanisms. This study assesses existing practices regarding end-user certification in a wide range of countries. It examines concepts, documents and procedures relating to the regulation of end use and end users of conventional arms. It also endeavours to identify political and practical obstacles to the development of an international framework for authentication, reconciliation and standardization of end-user certificates. Finally, it proposes practical guidelines to assist States in the development of a reliable system of end-user certification.

[Transparency and Accountability. Monitoring and Reporting Methods Under An Arms Trade Treaty](#) | February 2012 | TransArms R | IPIS

Without an understanding of the existing practices of States regarding their commonly agreed standards for the monitoring and reporting of their international transfers of conventional arms, it will be very difficult to draft many of the basic provisions of the Treaty to ensure compliance and enforcement. This report therefore seeks to clarify and discuss existing terminology and reporting practices for State regulation of international transfers of goods and services and for international transfers of conventional arms. It is hoped that this will also help contribute to the development of common international standards for monitoring and reporting international transfers of conventional arms. Standardization of statistical requirements and reporting methods is of paramount importance for the ATT to be effective.

[Upstream Pilot Implementation of the OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains of Minerals from Conflict-Affected and High-Risk Areas. Baseline Report on the Supplement on Tin, Tantalum, and Tungsten](#) | November 2011 | OECD | IPIS

IPIS executed the research for and writing of this OECD report. The present baseline report is the first in a cycle of three reports on the implementation by upstream companies of the Supplement on Tin, Tantalum and Tungsten of the OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains of Minerals from Conflict-Affected and High-Risk Areas (hereafter "the Guidance"). The objective of this report is to understand where upstream companies currently stand with the implementation of due diligence.

[Violence against women in Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo. Whose responsibility? Whose complicity?](#) | November 2011 | ITUC | IPIS

IPIS contributed the research for and writing of this ITUC report. Summary: Eastern DRC has been ravaged by war and violence since the mid-1990s. Civilians carry the greatest burden of the conflict. Women and girls are especially vulnerable to such attacks.. Hundreds of women and girls get sexually violated in their homes and at their workplace. Fuelled and motivated by Congo's minerals, rebel and army forces are inclined to maintain an insecure environment that ensures the continuation of the status quo. Congo's conflict minerals go through a convoluted, yet manageable and traceable, supply chain and end up in industrialised consumer products. The introduction of transparency and governance into the mining sector is advancing, but still much has to be done.

[Bisie. A one-year snapshot of the DRC's principal cassiterite mine](#) | November 2011 | IPIS

Much has happened in the mining sector of Eastern DRC over the last year. President Kabila imposed a ban on all mining activities last fall, during which production fell considerably. As soon as the suspension was lifted in the spring of this year, the major global electronic companies stopped buying minerals from the region, provoking a de facto embargo on Congo's minerals with detrimental effects on the sector. At the same time, the Congolese government has taken major steps to restructure its army in the east of the country. These different decisions in the mining and security sectors have affected the nature and volume of minerals production and export and have reconfigured the security situation in the region. The consequences of these actions are discussed and illustrated with the use of the most important and well-known cassiterite mine in North Kivu called Bisie.

["Véhicules civils militarisables" and the EU arms embargo on Sudan](#) | September 2011 | IPIS | TA-R | ASER

In this case study we will focus on the use of European manufactured trucks in the Darfur region, and more specifically what the defence industry calls "véhicules civils militarisables" - commercial vehicles that can be militarized. All armed actors in the conflict require vehicles to transport combatants through the vast Darfur deserts. Japanese Toyota (Landcruisers) pick-up trucks are the most common vehicles that are spotted in the region. Usually they are mounted with machineguns, and as such compose an important assault instrument. Furthermore, a wide array of military trucks or civilian trucks modified for military purposes are being used in Darfur, e.g. anti-aircraft guns are mounted on a variety of trucks to function as support and/or attack vehicles. Some of these trucks are European models, assembled by a local company: GIAD Automotive Industry Company.

[Conflict motives in Kenya's North Rift region](#) | September 2011 | IPIS intern series

Kenya's North Rift Region continues to suffer from violent conflict in which a series of actors are involved. Armed groups perform widespread and devastating raids against neighbouring communities. The strength of these warrior groups varies regionally and from case to case. Security operations are often characterised by their disproportionate brutality. Power figures are known to instigate violence or organise and finance armed militias. Uasin Gishu and Trans-Nzoia bore the brunt of the post-election violence in 2007 and 2008. The violence mainly pitted Kalenjin warrior groups against Kikuyu communities in a struggle over political injustices and power but also over economic discrepancies and feelings of ethnic antagonism.

[Kenya's role in the trade of gold from Eastern DRC](#) | August 2011 | IPIS | Justice et paix

On 11 September 2010, the Congolese Ministry of Mines put out a statement in which it announced President Kabila's decision to suspend all exploitation and export of minerals from the provinces of North Kivu, South Kivu and Maniema. The aim of the mining ban was to break the link between mining and armed conflict in eastern DRC. This paper shows, however, that, even during the period of the embargo, Congolese minerals continued to find their way to the world market. The Kenyan capital of Nairobi appears to have served as an important hub for regional and international gold traders eyeing the mineral riches of eastern DRC.

[The Arms Flyers - Commercial Aviation, Human Rights, and the Business of War and Arms](#) | July 2011 | IPIS | Ta-R

In the last decades, the "business of war" has attracted thousands of civilian transport and logistics companies, especially in the aviation sector. State and non-State actors engaged in armed conflicts or in military operations that require substantial logistic support have increasingly resorted to the services of civilian transport operators to fulfil their transport and logistics needs. This report firstly presents a series of cases - that illustrate and document the continuous involvement of aviation companies in the business of war. The report then offers an analysis of international and national laws on the transport of weapons by air and a discussion of air safety regulations as enacted in the US and in Europe. The report also deals with the fundamentally flawed research that has sought to use air safety initiatives as a weapon in the fight against arms trafficking by air and has thus unfortunately constituted much of the basis for European Union projects to fight arms trafficking by air. An analysis of the present situation in air cargo markets and its influence on the logistics of wars and humanitarian operations concludes the report.

[From Kanga to Kitenge: exploring patterns of cultural change in the Kigoma region](#) | May 2011 | IPIS

The article discusses the current changes occurring in Kigoma, one of the poorest regions of Tanzania. For decades, the far-western corner and the point of convergence between Tanzania, Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is seen as peripheral within its national state. However, the steady move away from socialism to liberalism and the relative stability in the Great Lakes Region together with the associated reduction of refugee flows led to the gradual reevaluation of Kigoma as a strategically important (business) centre. The case of women's wear is used to explore whether and how recent national, regional and global social and economic changes affected Kigoma's cultural set-up.

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