



INTERNATIONAL PEACE INFORMATION SERVICE

WEEKLY BRIEFING 16TH - 22ND MAY 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

This week has seen much action on the ground with the resumption of hostilities between the Congolese army and the M23 in Mutaho, 10 km from Goma, [North Kivu](#). Three days of fighting, which commenced on Monday morning, have so far culminated in 4 deaths and many wounded as shells hit suburbs of Goma during heavy fighting between the two forces. Both parties have claimed the other attacked first and reports of military casualties have so far been contested.

Earlier on in the week rebel attacks on civilians had been reported in Mpeti, whilst the final death toll of last week's clashes between the FARDC and Mai-Mai in Beni were confirmed at 40. Congolese troops are reported to have dislodged newly formed FDDH rebels and Nyatura militia from Mbuyi and Kashanje hills. Meanwhile, Ugandan ADF-NALU fighters have been causing displacement through their activities in Beni, and fears of potential clashes between the FARDC and the FDLR in Masisi territory are reported. In [Province Orientale](#) the Congolese army have been accused of human rights abuses along Lake Albert.

UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon and World Bank president, Jim Yong Kim, commenced their [tour of the Great Lakes](#) in Kinshasa this week. The start of the tour, which is expected to see the pair make a series of pledges to restore stability to the region, saw the announcement of a US\$1 billion World bank investment package for the African Great Lakes. It was shortly preceded by the appointment of a new commander to head the UN's [MONUSCO](#) force.

As the [Central African Republic](#) struggles to contain the violence that has erupted at the hands of Seleka rebels, the Economic Community of Central African States has decided to more than double its troop deployment to the troubled country.

Finally, the DRC has taken prominence in news regarding the natural resource sector with a North Kivu [mine collapse](#) killing at least 20 artisanal coltan miners and a date finally set for the commencement of the construction of the controversial [Great Inga Dam](#).