



INTERNATIONAL PEACE INFORMATION SERVICE

WEEKLY BRIEFING 12TH - 18TH DECEMBER 2012

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 [Kampala](#), the only progress in the talks between the DR Congo Government and the M23 rebels was the agreement signed yesterday, 18 December, on the [rules of procedure](#) of the discussions to come.

On the ground, the residents of [Goma](#) live in fear of a new attack on the city. The M23 rebels are still close, and Rwandan soldiers have crossed the border; the Rwandans claim they want to chase the [FDLR](#), who are reported to mass troops in Masisi territory.

In his annual [State of the Nation](#) before parliament, President Kabila called the crisis a "war of aggression by Rwanda". US President [Obama](#) urged his Rwandan counterpart Kagame to end all assistance for rebel groups in the DRC.

While in the [north of North Kivu](#) province over 100 Mai-Mai surrendered to the Congolese army, in the neighbouring territory of [Mambasa](#) in Ituri in one week's time the army recaptured the gold-rich Pangoy area from Morgan's Mai-Mai and were chased again by 200 heavily armed FARDC deserters from North Kivu.

In the [Central African Republic](#), the new rebel coalition moved up and also took the northeastern towns of Bamingui and Bria, a diamond-mining hub. Chadian troops crossed the border to fight them.

The [International Criminal Court](#) in The Hague acquitted former Congolese militia leader Mathieu Ngudjolo of war crimes and crimes against humanity, saying prosecutors failed to prove his commanding role in the murder of 200 villagers in a 2003 attack in Ituri.

A Belgian court opened the way for a trial against Belgians accused of complicity in the 1961 killing of Congo's first Prime Minister, [Patrice Lumumba](#).

IPIS News

There will be no IPIS Briefing in the following two weeks.