



INTERNATIONAL PEACE INFORMATION SERVICE

## WEEKLY BRIEFING 14TH - 20TH 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.

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### EDITORIAL

In a surprising development, ICC-indicted Congolese warlord [Bosco Ntaganda](#) showed up in the US Embassy in Kigali, Rwanda, on Monday, asking to be transferred to the International Criminal Court. Two days earlier, the faction of the [M23](#) rebel movement loyal to him had been chased from its stronghold in North Kivu by the rival pro-Makenga faction, and had fled into neighbouring Rwanda. Ntaganda is to be transferred to The Hague within the next days. He will stand trial for war crimes and crimes against humanity committed between 2002 and 2003 in Ituri. The charges include recruiting and deploying child soldiers, murder, rape and sexual slavery.

Also on Monday, former President of Ireland Mary Robinson was appointed [UN Envoy](#) for the Great Lakes Region. Her role will be to support the Framework agreement for the DRC and the Great Lakes Region that was signed in Addis Ababa in February.

Heavy fighting took place in [Walikale](#) territory, North Kivu, between the Raia Mutomboki militia and the Congolese army (FARDC).

In the Central African Republic (CAR) the situation is deteriorating again. While last week the [UN](#) envoy to CAR had cited reports of widespread rape, looting, recruitment of children and risk of starvation, on Sunday the Seleka rebel coalition gave the Government a 72-hour [ultimatum](#) to meet a series of demands, including the liberation of political prisoners and the departure of the South African troops in the capital Bangui. On Wednesday the rebels said they were ending the ceasefire that was agreed on in the January Libreville peace deal.

The [EU](#) failed to agree on a planned transparency law requiring oil, gas and mining companies to declare their payments to governments.

The DR Congo was ranked last, together with Niger, on the UNDP's [Human Development Index](#) for 2012.