



RESEAU D'ORGANISATIONS DES DROITS HUMAINS ET  
D'ÉDUCATION CIVIQUE D'INSPIRATION CHRÉTIENNE  
EN REPUBLIQUE DEMOCRATIQUE DU CONGO  
RODHECIC

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## PRESS REVIEW ON THE ARMED VIOLENCE IN DRC July-August 2008

### Palmarès of July 2, 2008 n°4269

#### ***FIZI: the population denounced exactions in the peninsula of Ubwari***

The chief of Babwari grouping, Mr Nilingita Mvano, has taken refuge with luck for 2 days with scores of households to flee the exactions perpetrated by May May, supposed Yakutumba group. Indeed, these villagers were visited with three recoveries in less than one week and since, nearly 80% of the populations of these 5 villages constituting the peninsula spend the night in the bush. Also let us note that four people were removed then slackened and several goods and of the money carried. The chief of grouping claims sends it of a force to make safe the population.

#### ***South-Kivu: Soldiers protest against the lack of food***

Soldiers of the 14th brigades of the FARDC drew from the shots in the air all the night of Thursday to Friday with Kabare to protest against the lack of food, one learned from the local sources. Indeed, after several days without food intakes, the soldiers started to draw towards 20:00 in Kabare. Part of the population had fled the place to take refuge in the commune of Bagira, about fifteen of kilometer of Kabare, testimony of the priest Emmanuel Musoda.

This brigade of more than 3000 men who fought in 2007 on the faces of the North-Kivu and which is positioned since the beginning of 2008 in regularly felt sorry for Kabare this of their living conditions and refuse to gain their new affection in the territory of Fizi as long as their situation will not improve. Let us note that on June 13, three soldiers had been killed during an exchange of shooting between the soldiers of the 14th brigade, divided on the question of their redeployment.

### The Prosperity of 07-07-2008

#### **Daniel Boteti assassination**

Too much, it is too. The insecurity reached its supreme stage with Kinshasa and in the principal nerve centres of the country. Daniel Boteti, Vice-president of the Provincial Parliament of Kinshasa, was assassinated, this Sunday July 6, in the fork

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from two to three o'clock in the morning. With the fact, the question of the insecurity remains a recurring business, in Kinshasa and in provinces.

Mr Daniel Boteti returned from the wedding of two children Endundo and Mokolo, on Saturday July 5. On its way of return, it fell into a ambush, around avenue of the Mountain between the avenues Nguma and High voltage, in the commune of Ngaliema. With approximately fifteen meters, it caught a ball which, finally, carried it in beyond. Already, in the car, it had boxed a first ball, with the arm, tells one.

### **Ndoole patient/Newspaper of the Citizen.**

Minembwe under the shock, of the killed civilians... In Minembwe, in the South-Kivu, the population is still under the shock.

1. 4 days ago, 2 moms of the village of MIKENKE accompanied by 2 children were wildly cut down with a few meters of a position of FARDC with RWITSANKUKU, whereas they returned from a marriage in the average plate. Their bodies were broken and the hearts tapped by their torturers. Let us specify that among these victims, there was a baby of 9 month and young boy of 10 year old. This information was confirmed and disseminated by radio operator Okapi and much of local organisations of human rights.

2. 2 weeks ago, Major Santos ordered to make a kidnapping of an young girl of the name of Yvette Sekanyuzi, for a forced marriage or by abduction which is other thing only one rape. Eight people took part in this operation with the head of which two captains with knowing, SEBAGABO and BISE TSA, and five soldiers : GATEZI, BIRORI, MUHOZI, GATUTSI and RUGARURA and a civilian of the name of MWIZERWA RUTABARA which, curiously would have drawn on the victim. The brother of the victim SEKANYUZI Pilote which wanted to help hir sister was mown by a gust of the balls which caused wounds mortals to him. He was conveyed at the hospital of reference of Uvira by the plane of Monuc, but he will died to the hospital, 2 days afterwards. What is astonishing is that neither the author of the crime, nor his chief major Santos who financed this act, nobody is worried, both circulate freely, whereas the business was made available of the authorities hierarchical and legal of the army, including the Military region of the South-Kivu.

3. 2 months ago, Pasteur GAHUNGU RUGABA of the village of MURAMBYA was loosely cut down by the same elements of the forces of the army, whereas it kept his herd a few kilometres from his village. Its sifted body of the balls was found 3 days later lying in the forest of GAFINDA.

4. In the village of KAHWERA, with nearly 10 kilometres of Minembwe, 2 young girls respectively of 8 and 10 years (NANGORE AND MUKESHA) were violated by the men in uniform. The authors of this wretched action in freedom of movement, although known and are identified.

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5. A young lady of the name of NABIKUNDWA was cruelly violated in the village of RUGEZI. Failing, it was conveyed at the health centre of Minembwe for first aid emergency, then in BUJUMBURA. The authors of this fixed price, instead of being stopped, were permuted of a position to another in the same medium. Revolted by the proliferation of these acts, the women of Minembwe organized a peaceful walk of protest to express their distress near the Commander of Brigade of the place; same major Santos making then function of Commandant of Brigade will order a violent repression against this walk. The women were seriously thrashings. Three of them were seriously wounded. Even the forces of Monuc of Minembwe attended this afflicting spectacle.

Such are the recent cases of the exactions and slaughters which the population of the high plateaus undergoes and which prove at which point MINEMBWE became intolerable. These cases come to be added to a long list of the degrading treatments that the populations who live in rural environments, precisely with MINEMBWE are victim.

### **Uncertainties of the future**

Of this table how much sinks, it is necessary to be asked a certain number of questions. : Until when impunity will be tolerated in this country? Where is the authority of the State in DRC, especially in Minembwe? Who protects these untouchable who causes dead and desolation within the populations? Is there an offence as strong as the murder?

It should be stressed that colonel Muheto and major Santos have been in Minembwe for soon 10 years and became irremovable as usual chiefs with the only difference which they kill, stops, violent one, judges and condemns and never passed by mixing.

A distress cry is launched by the population of Minembwe to the Government, more precisely with military justice so that all the authors of these acts are punished in accordance with the law.

### **Plundering of the herds by the NCDP**

Someone announced that the soldiers of the National congress for the Defense of People (NCDP) of Laurent Nkunda seized the pastures and the cattle of Masisi. Workers and owners do not have any more access and manage with unemployment. On the steps, the dairy products and the meat are increasingly expensive. With leaving the locality of Sake, ranges of hills overhang the muddy road, almost impassable, which goes from Gummed to Masisi. Long grasses push on the green areas which were used at one time as pastures to thousands of heads of cattle. Since last December, indeed, the war between the soldiers of the NCDP of Laurent Nkunda and the elements of National Forces of Démocratique Republic of Congo

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(FARDC) did not only move people. The soldiers of the two camps monopolized the cattle and plundered all harvests which they found in the plantations.

The men of Laurent Nkunda, who ended up taking the top, recovered the cows given up by their owners in the land. "They seized all the animals. Cows, goats, sheep, pigs all... were carried, tell Wetemwami Mwamba, activist of the Civil society in Sake. No land was saved, except those of the close relations of the movement of Laurent Nkunda.

Today, a great number of herds are concentrated in the localities of Kirolirwe and Kichanga, controlled by the NCDP. Few farm buildings which remain on their grounds were constrained of giving the remainder of their herds with Laurent Nkunda so that its men ensure the safety of it. In exchange, they must pay this guard in kind each week and silver at cost which varies according to the needs for this movement.

### **Soldiers to secure herds**

Arms with the hand, in military behaviour, Patrick B. sat on a trunk of tree at the entry of a farm with Kirolirwe. "We are here to ensure the guard of all these cows which you see", he says, although it does not know to which they belong. Inside the farm, tens of others soldiers, stick in hand, run derrière the cows to bring them to the river.

With about fifteen kilometres from there, five soldiers station at the entry of another farm. Inside, nearly ten people in civil behaviour lead the herd. "They are not civilians, affirms a witness which waits to be supplied out of milk. All are soldiers, in spite of their behaviour". In these pastures, only the men of Laurent Nkunda can make feed the herds.

In the region of Mushaki, nearly three hundred people didn't have employment. "Since December 2007, with twelve of my colleagues, we are without work the seven hundred cows and pigs which were kept in our land were carried partly by the FARDC, the remainder by the elements of the CNDP", testifies old to the farm of Matanda, on the Sake-Masisi road. "Today, he adds, I live in the camp of moved of Mugunga, I do not do anything any more and my children are not provided education for any more".

### **More expensive milk and meat**

Since these confrontations, dairy products and meat become increasingly rare on the markets of Sake and Mushaki. "The soldiers of Laurent Nkunda control and make rules, until the marketing of the meat and the dairy products. Very few butchers have access to this zone to buy meat. Only salesmen of CNDP can buy milk there and to resell it in Sake and Goma", tell Wetemwami Mwamba. The price of 5 liters fresh milk passed from 400 to 1.000 FC (from 0,72 to 1,82 \$) and a kilo of meat from 1.200 to 2.200 FC (from 2,2 to 4 \$). "Front, I bought 50 to 100 liters in fresh fact per day, affirms commercial Gummed. Today to find 40 liters became an exploit". At the

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Company of demolition of Gummed "Gabago", "the cows are rare". "Last year" one cut down some nearly a thousand by week. Today three times less", specify a butchers at the market of Goma.

### **Human Rights Watch**

#### **RD Congo: The peace agreement did not put an end to the murders civilians**

Six months after the agreement of Goma, murder, rapes and plundering continue

(Brussels, on July 21, 2008) - In the province of North-Kivu located in the east of the Democratic republic of Congo, the murders and the rapes of civilians continue at appalling intervals in spite of the signed peace agreement six months ago, declared Human Rights Watch. The agreement was supposed to put a term at these attacks.

At the time of a 10 days mission carried out recently in the most touched territories of Masisi and Rutshuru, in the east of Congo, the researchers of Human Rights Watch collected the information on more than 200 murders of civilians and the rape of hundreds of women and girls made since January by all the armed groups, including the soldiers of the Congolese army.

"Six months after the signature of the peace agreement, the situation of the human rights did not know any improvement and makes some in certain zones, it worsened", explained Anneke Van Woudenberg, enquiring principal with Africa division of Human Rights Watch. "Whereas the parts with the peace agreement attend the negotiations with Goma, their troops continue to kill rape and plunder the civilians"...

The agreement did not put an end to the engagements. The civil servant of the United Nations raised some 200 violations of the cease-fire since January 23. It is acted as majority of incidents opposing the forces of the National congress for Defense of People () of the general rebels Laurent Nkunda to an abstract coalition combatants coming from Mongolian May May, the Coalition Congolese resistant Patriots (PARECO) and from the Democratic forces of release of Rwanda (FDLR), a Rwandan armed group whose leaders took part in the genocide in Rwanda in 1994. The FDLR are not signatories of the agreement of Goma...

The majority of the most serious violations of the human rights were perpetrated inside or around the Bukombo grouping, in the western part of Rutshuru, where some 150 civilians were killed between February and May 2008. The combatants of the PARECO and Mongolian May May, of which much without drive and is badly equipped, controlled the zone from December to March, with the support of the combatants of the FDLR. According to tens of people questioned by Human Rights Watch, the combatants on several occasions operated incursions into villages in the search of cattle, goats and other goods, raping women and girls and killing the civilians who opposed their activities or which they showed to collaborate with their enemies...

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In March and April, combatants of the NCDP launched a military offensive in order to dislodge the combatants of the PARECO and Mongolian May May of the Bukombo grouping, killing a hundred civilians by making fire randomly on more than one dozen of villages. According to the information collected by Human Rights Watch, good number of killed were elderly or very young people who had not been able to flee before the attacks.

The combatants of the NCDP also summarily carried out civilians who they showed to be combatants of the PARECO. On April 20, in the village of Gashavu, of the combatants of the NCDP stopped and attached four men and boy a 12 year old and then beat them with died with blows of clubs. Six other civilians were removed, of which a woman and a 15 year old girl. Several were released thereafter. These confrontations and other more recent fixings with Kirumbu, Busoro and Busiye in the territory of Masisi, where the NCDP is opposed to the combatants of the PARECO and the FDLR, are responsible for the massive displacement of civilians since January and for the deterioration of the humane situation. In North-Kivu, nearly 100.000 people were forced to flee since the signature of the peace agreement, being added to 750.000 moved former combat.

In spite of the current confrontations, certain combatants answered the call launched to deposit the weapons. In May, hundreds of combatants of Mongolian May May went, including 334 in the town of Bambu, requiring to be built-in the Congolese army. But the Congolese governmental authorities omitted to answer their request quickly and at dated July 10, at least 94 combatants had left; some would be turned over to the combat.

Within the framework of the hostilities in progress, the armed groups continued to actively recruit combatants, of which some were forced to take the weapons.

The blue helmets of UNO - more than 5.000 are deployed in North-Kivu - tried to penetrate in the buffer zones between the belligerent factions but they were disseminated and wiped shootings. On April 23, at the time of attacks of the CNDP in the Bukombo grouping, a blue helmet of UNO was wounded, which led to their withdrawal of the zone. On June 11, without preventing too much, the gripping forces of the peace of UNO were withdrawn from Misinga, a crucial buffer zone between the combatants of the CNDP and those of the PARECO, leaving without protection of the hundreds of civilians who had sought to put at the shelter around the base UNO. Witnesses questioned by Human Rights Watch explained that the combatants of the FDLR and the PARECO had tackled the departure of the United Nations shortly after, killing at least a civilian and causing new displacements of the population.

Jean entrusted to Human Rights Watch that in April, he had fled his village of Machumbi, in the territory of Masisi, after combatants of the PARECO had killed his wife under her eyes. "They attached us and required all our money and our pigs." Jean remembers. "My wife refused to show them where it had hidden the pigs and

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they struck it with a club and blows until struck to him it dies.” Jean, whose father had been killed in January, managed to flee with his five children to the camp of Misinga, near to a base of the gripping forces of the peace of UNO, where he thought of being in safety. In June, UNO left the zone, forcing it to escape again.

The civil servant of UNO in load of the human rights collected information on a great number of these exactions but they neither published them, nor availability of the international facilitator of the United States, the European Union and the African Union which are responsible to facilitate the peace process. In June, the diplomats and the persons in charge of the Congolese government agreed to name a special adviser on the human rights for the East of Congo but this station was not provided yet.

“The peace process is stripped of direction if it failed to protect the civilians against the worst exactions”, underlined Anneke Van Woudenberg. “The parts with the peace agreement should be faithful to their commitment to protect the civilians and the diplomats should urgently name a special adviser on the human rights to make so that these engagements become reality.”

<http://hrw.org/english/docs/2008/07/18/congo19395.htm>

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