

*U.N. Department of Humanitarian Affairs*

**Integrated Regional Information Network (IRIN)**

**RDC (Zaire)**

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## **Zaire: IRIN Situation Report on Idjwi Island, South Kivu 96.8.6**

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SITUATION REPORT ON IDJWI ISLAND, SOUTH KIVU, ZAIRE Researched: late July;  
Issued: 6 August 1996

### INTRODUCTION

This week the UNHCR and its humanitarian partners on Idjwi Island have begun to implement a plan to move 40,000 Rwandan refugees to two sites on the west of the island. This report follows a DHA/IRIN visit to Idjwi and describes the situation there today, the rationale for moving the refugees and the current plan of action for the transfer. It also looks at the significance of this development in humanitarian terms, particularly in the light of regional security and political issues.

### IDJWI TODAY

Idjwi Island lies in Lake Kivu in South Kivu, Zaire. At 40 kms in length, it is believed to be the largest inland island in Africa, and its hilly terrain is home to an estimated 112,000 Zairean people and some 46,000 Rwandan refugees. Idjwi is roughly equidistant between Zaire and Rwanda, with 10-15 kilometres separating its western shore from the Zairean mainland and its eastern shore from the coastline of Rwanda. The island's southern tip, however, lies only 1 kilometre from a promontory of the Rwandan coast.

The Rwandan refugees arrived on Idjwi during and after July 1994, following the genocide and the advance of the Rwandese Patriotic Army (RPA). They soon settled among the local population, and today the UNHCR identifies five main sites, centring on villages within which refugees have clustered. The following sites are located on the east of the island: Chondo (9,673 people), Bugarula (11,828 people), Kabingu (11,324 people) and Bwina (8,559 people). In addition, there is one western site, Karama, which is currently home to 5,263 people.

The refugees currently receive a lower level of service from the humanitarian agencies than their compatriots on the mainland. The food ration, at 1,400 Kcal per day, is the same as that of the refugee camps at Bukavu, and is supplied by WFP and distributed by CARE Canada. The water and sanitation services, however, are significantly less sophisticated than in the established camps on the mainland, as refugees rely on untreated water from springs and from the lake. Medical coverage, provided by Caritas, is also less comprehensive than on the mainland. The other agency with a significant presence on the island is the ICRC, which runs five centres for the reunification of unaccompanied minors.

The level of services reflects both the island location of the sites and difficulties associated with the intermingling of the refugees among the local population. Providing services to the refugees on Idjwi is also a politically sensitive issue, given the fact that Hutu insurgents are using the island as a base for hit-and-run attacks in western Rwanda. In this respect, the island sites are similar to other refugee camps in the region, yet Idjwi's position in the lake, its spread-out population, its lack of roads and its proximity to Rwanda make it an ideal base for guerilla activities. The level of insecurity in the Kibuye area of Rwanda reflects this uncomfortable fact.

"Idjwi was always a potential base [for guerilla activities]", says Patrick de Sousa, UNHCR's Head of Sub-Office in Bukavu. "Today it is said quite openly there are attacks. There are no denials and no defensiveness. It reflects the fact that the forces of extremism are gaining the upper hand. By this I mean those who say that all the Tutsis are oppressors and the only approach is to reclaim the homeland, and on the other side those who say that all the Hutus are killers who deserve to be killed."

The presence of the refugees on the eastern side of Idjwi has also been problematic for the security of bona fide refugees and that of the local population. Although as yet there has been no concerted counter-attack by the RPA, a number of incidents have taken place involving RPA troops shooting at Idjwi's shoreline from motorized inflatable boats in the lake.

## THE TRANSFER TO THE WEST

For the best part of two years, the UNHCR has made the case for moving the refugees from Idjwi to the mainland. By mid-1995, the proposal was being actively considered by the Zairean authorities, but, following the lifting of the UN arms embargo on Rwanda, the position of the Zairean Government changed to one of outright opposition, and today the issue is caught up with the increasingly strained relations between Kigali and Kinshasa. "I

would still ardently desire moving these refugees to the mainland," says Patrick de Sousa, while acknowledging that, for the foreseeable future, this appears unlikely.

The UNHCR has, however, secured the agreement of the Zairean authorities to transfer the refugees from the sites on the east of the island to two sites on the west. This will involve the establishment of two proper camps, one in the north and one in the south, which will house all of the island's 46,000 refugees. The northern camp will be established at Nyamuhiwa and will be made of up the 21,000 refugees currently in Chondo and Bugarula, while the southern site will be at Karama and will consist of the 20,000 refugees currently in Kabingu and Bwina as well as the 5,000 refugees already situated at Karama.

The transfer process for the two southern camps of Kabingu and Bwina began last week, following the last food distribution at Kabingu. The refugees will be expected to make their way to Karama on foot, and the UNHCR has worked out a detailed plan which seeks to ensure that the new camp is ready for them before they arrive and that their establishment there proceeds smoothly. The whole process is expected to take about one month, and will involve everything from transferring sick and injured refugees by boat, to a medical screening and the distribution of non-food items and food at the new camp. UNHCR has also requested the CZSC (the Zairean Security Contingent for the Camps) to establish bases at both the southern and northern sites. UNHCR's main implementing partner will be CARE Canada, while Caritas will be responsible for medical services.

While the planned northern camp of Nyamuhiwa is no more than a site in the minds of the planners, Karama today already bears all the signs of an established camp. Located on the southern side of a small inlet on the southwest of Idjwi, the homes of its 5,000 occupants currently cover two small hillsides. The mud huts, arranged in rows, extend from the waterfront to the top of each hill, and in-between spaces are being cultivated with maize and potatoes. The latrines and drainage systems have been constructed, water tanks have been put up, and areas demarcated for the homes of the 20,000 people who are expected.

Providing the process goes ahead smoothly, the UNHCR hopes to begin transferring the refugees in the northern sites later this month. Although the entire plan has been presented to the refugees and their approval secured, nobody is taking it for granted that the transfer process will be trouble-free. The June registration process in Bukavu, when groups of refugees attacked humanitarian workers and brought the process to a halt in several camps, is a reminder that some refugees may be uncooperative. Humanitarian agencies point out, however, that the registration on Idjwi went ahead without difficulties, and are hoping the same will prove true for the transfer.

## CONCLUSION

While Idjwi is probably best known for the insecurity associated with the presence of the refugees on the island, it is salutary to note that, according to the first breakdown figures from UNHCR's recent census, the vast majority of the refugees on Idjwi are women and children.

The island's reputation as a base for insurgents may in fact derive from the activities of a relatively small number of people.

While the long-term aim of moving all the refugees to the mainland continues to be an objective, the plan to move the refugees west will be of benefit to all bone fide refugees, enabling them to receive proper services for the first time and helping to ensure their security. It will help local people by relieving the pressures created by the presence of large numbers of refugees in their midst. It also has the potential to benefit both Zaire and Rwanda by improving security in the region and helping to relieve tensions between the two countries.

[IRIN Note: We wish to express our gratitude to the staff of the UNHCR in Bukavu for their invaluable assistance, without which the DHA/IRIN visit to Idjwi would not have been possible.]

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## **UN DHA IRIN Masisi Report of 23 August 1996 96.08.23**

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UPDATE ON MASISI, RUTSHURU AND LUBERO ZONES, NORTH KIVU, ZAIRE  
23 August 1996

### INTRODUCTION

This report describes developments in Masisi, Rutshuru and Lubero since mid-May 1996 and is based on research carried out in Goma in early August. The report updates IRIN's situation report on Masisi and Rutshuru of 10 May 1996 which also gave an account of the historical background to the conflict. Copies of the earlier report are available from IRIN.

### RELATIVE CALM IN SOUTHERN MASISI

The situation in the southern and central parts of Masisi zone, approximately the area along and around the main roads between Masisi town, Sake and Kichanga, is reported to be largely calm. A number of security incidents continue to take place however, which often relate to attempts to steal livestock by local Hutus and people believed to be Rwandan refugees.

The area as a whole has been depopulated as a result of previous rounds of fighting between Banyarwanda Hutu and 'autochtones'. This has seen the local Hunde fleeing to the margins of the zone, nearly all the Tutsis being expelled from the area altogether and the Hutus

establishing control over large areas which were once ethnically mixed. The Hunde population is concentrated in the camps for the displaced at Sake, Minova and Bobandana (a population totalling 30,000) as well as in Masisi town itself, while most of Masisi's former Tutsi population is living as refugees in Rwanda.

The area around Ngungu, which lies around 20km to the south-west of Sake, has been sufficiently calm to have enabled several thousand people, mostly from the Tembo ethnic group, to return to their homes from surrounding areas. Lt. Kasembe, a FAZ (Forces Armées Zairoises) commander based in Ngungu, has pursued an 'iron fist' policy, taking the fight to anyone who has threatened the area's stability. This has not, however, prevented security incidents altogether. During the night of 21 July there was an attack on Ngungu by a group of Hutus attempting to steal cattle. Two of these people were killed by the FAZ, while the rest of the group, estimated at 16 in number, are reported to have fled.

People from the Hunde ethnic group are reported to have returned to Masisi town from other parts of Masisi. Among their number are people believed to have fought as Bangilima in northern Masisi, Rutshuru and Lubero (see section on Operation Mbata). Masisi town is also home to a FAZ contingent from Operation Kimia, reported to consist of over 100 soldiers. The market in Masisi town is now functioning on Sundays, bringing in much-needed goods such as soap, salt, oil and sugar from Goma.

The market in nearby Lushebere also began to operate again in late May at the initiative of the local Commissionnaire de Zone. By drawing in Hunde from Masisi town and Hutus from east of Lushebere, the market has played a significant role in helping to defuse tensions in the area. The market has been protected by FAZ soldiers from Operation Kimia, who have enforced the rule that no one apart from themselves is allowed to bring along guns.

## OPERATION MBATA IN NORTHERN MASISI, RUTSHURU AND LUBERO

In late May the FAZ began a second operation in Masisi zone, this time known as Operation Mbata ('slap'). Troops from the operation have deployed to northern Masisi, particularly to the area north of Kichanga. Their arrival is reported to have been accompanied by looting and pillaging, but their presence has also prompted the Bangilima to flee to the hills. This has, for the time being, brought to a halt the large-scale population displacement which characterized April and early May.

Operation Mbata has also deployed to Rutshuru and Lubero, where between mid-May and the end of June troops from the operation engaged in intense fighting with the Bangilima. The Bangilima, who came from Walikale, had arrived with the self-professed aim of chasing away Banyarwanda, whom they accused of attempting to establish a 'Hutuland' in Masisi. The first fighting between Bangilima and the FAZ took place in mid-May in Rwindi National Park, Vitshumbi and Kiberizi. The Bangilima used Kanyabayonga and Kayna in southern Lubero as their base, and over subsequent weeks fighting took place in Kanyabayonga, Kayna, Kirumba and villages in the vicinity.

Kanyaboyonga was reportedly attacked by the FAZ between 6 and 8 June, with the military using rocket launchers and tanks. The FAZ subsequently established control over the area, while the Bangil-ima returned to Masisi. The fighting led tens of thousands of people to be displaced from their homes; many headed further north in the direction of Lubero, while others scattered to surrounding hills and villages. Both the Bangilima and the FAZ have looted towns in the area, while the military are reportedly charging local people to allow them to register and resettle in their home villages.

Operation Mbata in Masisi and Lubero operates under two separate military commands. The Masisi command is headed by Colonel Nsumbu and based in Goma with military from Goma, Shaba and Kinshasa, while the Lubero command is headed by Major Mutembe and based in Butembo with military from Kamina. The soldiers are drawn from different units - the DSP, SARM (Service d'Action et de Renseignement Militaire) and other parts of the FAZ.

### THE KICHANGA ENCLAVE

The Kichanga enclave, home to 19,000 displaced people according to the most recent survey, appears to be increasingly vulnerable. The vast majority of the people living there are from the Hunde ethnic group and Kichanga is therefore the largest single concentration of 'autochtones' in northern Masisi. As such, it has for many months been under attack from local Hutus, as well as providing a base for Hunde to attack surrounding villages.

On 22 June Hutus mounted perhaps their biggest offensive against Kichanga to date. This met with fierce resistance by Kichanga residents as well as FAZ soldiers from the DSP (Division Speciale Presidentielle) who are stationed there. The fighting resulted in 62 people reportedly losing their lives, 57 of whom were Hutu and 5 of whom were Hunde.

According to reports from local people who searched the bodies, the Hutus who had been killed carried ration cards from Mugunga refugee camp and ex-FAR identity cards from Lac Vert military camp. Other papers reportedly found on the bodies included maps and instructions for the attack. If these reports are true they are highly significant, representing some of the first hard evidence of the involvement of refugees in the Masisi conflict and suggesting that Hutu operations are being planned and carried out in an organized manner.

Kichanga is also vulnerable in terms of food security as it is increasingly difficult for women to go out in search of food without coming under attack. This has been an issue for several months, but recently there is evidence of Hutus cutting down banana trees in the vicinity of the town, suggesting the pursuit of a siege strategy. The result has been increasingly high levels of malnutrition among the displaced population, with the number of severely malnourished children in MSF's supplementary feeding centre having risen from 20 to more than 80 in the past month.

### FIGHTING BETWEEN MASISI HUTUS AND RWANDAN HUTU REFUGEES

In recent weeks fighting between Banyarwanda Hutus from Masisi and Rwandan refugees from the camps has been reported for the first time. In late June, 21 Hutus from the refugee

camps are reported to have been killed by local Hutus, after the refugees had mounted an attack near Nyakariba in an attempt to steal cattle. There have also been a number of recent accounts of refugees killing local Hutus while mounting raids upon their cattle herds.

It has long been suspected that refugees from the camps have played a major role in stealing cattle from Masisi, the number of which, according to ACOGENOKI (L'Association Cooperative des Groupements d'Eleveurs do Nord-Kivu), has fallen from 450,000 three years ago to less than 30,000 today. ACOGENOKI blames refugees from Mugunga camp for much of the cattle rustling in Masisi, but claims that until recently the refugees were working with local Hutus to steal cattle from Tutsis and Hundes. It appears that, with the dramatically diminished cattle stocks in the zone, the refugees are now resorting to stealing cattle from their former allies.

### THE MASISI TUTSIS

The future for the small number of Tutsis remaining in Masisi is precarious. Following the widely reported massacre at Mokoto on 14 May, many observers believed that all the Tutsis had left Masisi. It now appears that there are still a few pockets of Tutsis left, the largest known concentrations being in Mweso (400) and Oso (150). A privately organized convoy from Goma attempted to reach the Tutsis in Mweso in mid-July but was forced to turn back after being attacked on the road.

The total number of Tutsis still living in Masisi is estimated at between 1000 and 2000, but it remains possible that pockets may exist in inaccessible places which outsiders have not visited. It is also unclear how many of those that remain wish to leave at the present time. Given the trend of developments in Masisi, however, it seems likely that it is only a matter of time before these people are targeted.

Meanwhile, their predecessors continue to live as refugees in Gisenyi, Rwanda. According to UNHCR there are now 15,875 Zairean asylum seekers in Rwanda, of whom approximately 13,500 are living at the Petit Barriere/Umbano camp. Humanitarian agencies in Goma express concern about the location of the camp so close to the Rwanda-Zaire border, arguing that it could become a flashpoint for escalating conflict in the area.

### HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO MASISI

Since mid-May there have been two major initiatives to fund and provide humanitarian assistance in Masisi and Rutshuru. ECHO, which has been the leading donor to Masisi over the past year, has pledged an additional 1.5 million ecu (c. \$1,190,000) for humanitarian assistance in the region, bringing its total contribution over the past ten months to about 2 million ecu (c. \$1,500,000). The bulk of this money will go to the ICRC and MSF Holland, the leading humanitarian agencies operational in Masisi and Rutshuru.

UNICEF also launched an appeal on 10 June for \$863,000, to fund humanitarian assistance activities in Masisi over a six month period. This appeal has already received \$500,000 from the Danish Government. UNICEF plans to use this money both for its own programmes and

to fund NGOs working in Masisi, in the sectors of health, nutrition, water and sanitation, education and 'children in especially difficult circumstances.' The appeal follows a DHA-led mission on Masisi in early June, one of whose recommendations was a UN appeal for the region.

Both the ICRC and MSF Holland are planning to scale up their emergency assistance in the health sector in Masisi. ICRC and MSF Holland have agreed on a clear division of labour in which ICRC will take responsibility for secondary health care and MSF will take responsibility for primary health care. The ICRC plans to rehabilitate the hospital in Masisi town and Nyakariba health centre and is also looking into the possibility of similar assistance in Kiroche and Pinga. ICRC has almost rebuilt the bridge on the road between Mweso and Pinga, which will make the town accessible for the first time in many months.

MSF Holland are extending their support from 15 to 40 health centres. They are also carrying out nutritional evaluations and four emergency feeding programmes, upgrading Kibabi health centre in cooperation with the local NGO CEMUBAC and introducing a water and sanitation programme for the Mweso area. This will focus on four sites and cover an estimated population of 54,000 people, of whom 50 per cent are displaced. CEMUBAC has also helped to reinstall the Medecin Chef de Zone for Masisi, which is reported to have given a much-needed psychological boost to the population and health staff.

IOM has proposed to assist in the resettlement of 11,000 people from the Tembo ethnic group from Goma town to their home area to the south-west of Sake (roughly the area enclosed by a triangle whose three points are Ngungu, Mumba and Katoyi). IOM argues that this is necessary if they are to prepare for the next planting season but that it does not have the resources to move ahead on its proposal without additional funding.

The plan has, however, been strongly criticized by humanitarian agencies already working in Masisi. They argue that it is premature given the unpredictability of the situation in the area, that a large-scale organized movement may provoke conflict, and that those people who really want to return home have the means to do so without IOM's assistance. Thousands of people are reported to have made their way back to the area in the past few weeks, both from surrounding areas and further afield.

## CONCLUSION

Recent developments in Masisi, Rutshuru and Lubero underline the dangers presented by this conflict if it is allowed to continue unchecked. The activities of the Bangilima in Lubero, though quashed by the FAZ, are a reminder that the conflict has the potential to spread far beyond its original heartland of Masisi. At the same time, the possibility of renewed conflict in Masisi remains a major threat. The small Tutsi population still living in Masisi, and the enclave of Kichanga, are both vulnerable to future attack.

The reported fighting between Hutus from Masisi and from the camps has further heightened the complexity of the conflict, and may prove to have far-reaching consequences. Certainly, it is likely to make humanitarian work in the zone even more difficult and dangerous than it has

been until now. The growing evidence of the involvement of refugees from the camps in Masisi's troubles underscores yet again their highly destabilizing influence in the region and the fact that Masisi's future is inextricably linked to that of the Rwandan refugees.

While FAZ military initiatives may give the appearance of restoring a measure of stability to their fields of operation, they remain at best a temporary solution to the region's problems. The twin issues underpinning the violence are first and foremost the question of nationality for people of Banyarwanda expression and the insecurity caused by the involvement of Rwandan refugees. Unless and until these problems are addressed by a political initiative which has the support of both the Government and local people, the 'Masisi conflict' will continue to cause needless death and suffering in North Kivu.

#### FURTHER READING

The following reports on Masisi have been published since January and are available from IRIN:

UN DHA IRIN, Situation Report on Masisi, 26 February 1996.

UN DHA IRIN, Situation Report on Masisi and Rutshuru, 10 May 1996.

US Committee for Refugees, 'Masisi, Down the Road from Goma: Ethnic Cleansing and Displacement in Eastern Zaire', 7 June 1996.

L'ACOGENOKI, Incidence de la Presence des Refugies Rwandais sur les Elevages au Nord-Kivu depuis Juillet 1994. (L'ACOGENOKI - L'Association Cooperative des Groupements d'Eleveurs du Nord-Kivu)

UNICEF Special Appeal for Eastern Zaire, 9 July 1996.

Human Rights Watch/Federation Internationale des Ligues des Droits de l'Homme, 'Zaire: Forced to Flee - Violence Against the Tutsis in Zaire', 31 July 1996.

Date: Sat, 24 Aug 1996 19:41:07 +0300 (GMT+0300) From: UN DHA IRIN  
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## **Zaire: The Banyamulenge of South Kivu 96.6.15**

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[IRIN Note: The following article is one of two recently appearing in the Nairobi-based newsletter, Africanews <e-mail: africanews@freeworld.it>. The author can be contacted on telephone +254 2 715494. IRIN would be pleased to receive further information on the situation in South Kivu.]

THE AFTERMATH OF THE GENOCIDE  
by Rukundwa Sebitereko  
from Africanews, June 15, 1996

Two years after the (Human rights)  
genocide that claimed  
about 500 000 lives in  
Rwanda, many of those  
who escaped alive are  
busy reconstructing their  
lives. Whereas some  
seem to be making a head  
way, others still have a  
long way to go  
as our correspondent  
recently found out.

Beatrice Mutete's day of marriage in 1988 was "the happiest day" in her life. Coming after she had completed her secondary school education, her union with a young Presbyterian pastor was just the next natural step for the 1967 born, and was very much in line with her long-harboured dream of raising a happy family.

Six years down the line and the young Rwandese dreams were shattered. Senseless genocide struck her Kibuye Province home in 1994 following the death of former Rwandese President

Juvenal Habyarimana in a plane crash. The civil strife pitted the only two Rwandese ethnic groups, the Hutus and the Tutsis against each other, culminating into deaths of not less than 500 000 people, including Beatrice's husband.

As Beatrice, a widow and a mother of two daughters, struggles to reconstruct her life today, the sad memories of what she witnessed and went through during the murderous orgies remain fresh in her mind.

After her husband was murdered, she was left with no alternative but to attempt an escape in a bid to save her life and those of their two children. The escape bid, however, proved difficult as the rampaging militiamen had blocked all possible exits for Tutsis. Beside that, one gigantic question which begged for an immediate answer was where to go.

Full of confusion, sorrow and fear, mother and her little daughters sought refuge in a neighbour's house, but their attempt was repulsed. The next neighbour was welcoming, but hiding Beatrice proved a near-impossible task. Her children easily fitted in carton boxes, but nothing suitable was available in the house for her. Word soon went out about the presence of the trio in the house. At that time Beatrice was eight months pregnant.

Militiamen and other people thirsting for Tutsi blood sought to eliminate Beatrice and the children but were unsuccessful as the team of three vanished at night without a specific destination in mind.

Finally Beatrice decided to head for Gitarama where some of their relatives lived. The journey was conducted at night to avoid encountering their adversaries. All this time they lacked adequate food. Unable to comprehend their miseries, her four-year-old daughter sought an explanation. The mother could not readily offer one.

On reaching Gitarama Beatrice got the news about the death of more of her relatives, adding more sorrow to her life. Life started to losing meaning to her. In their state of abject poverty, Beatrice gave birth in early June, 1994. Due to lack of proper care, the baby died after one week.

A Hutu lady who saw Beatrice felt compassion and decided to invite the mourning mother to her home. However, the compassionate Hutu was soon accused of assisting an enemy, forcing her to ask Beatrice to move on. It was around that time that soldiers belonging to Rwandese Patriotic Front (RPF), started fighting in the Gitarama area. Beatrice and her daughters were taken to Kigali by RPF soldiers.

There she landed a job with a Christian organisation, and with her earnings she was able to take care of herself and her two children. She has also adopted two other children, a boy and a girl. She says she wants to play the roles of her late husband and her own and take care of her children.

Through prayers and fellowships, she feels encouraged in her new roles. She has decided to work with widows in looking for ways to solve their problems. But the big challenge for her,

like any other Rwandese, is the restoration of confidence and trust among Rwandese people. She appeals to the governments and international community to ensure that a similar tragedy does not occur anywhere in the world.

## PERSECUTION OF ZAIREANS OF TUTSI ORIGIN

But that is only as far as the story of one Tutsi victim of Rwandese genocide goes. Countless other victims are still wallowing in untold misery. Zaireans of Tutsi ethnic background in Kivu Provinces in Zaire are still facing death and eviction from their land in Northern Kivu.

According to refugees reaching Gisenyi, Rwanda (interviewed by BBC), some Zairean soldiers are paid money to fight along side Hutu militia to kill and evict Zairean Tutsis from their land. Others who have fallen victims to the war are Bahunde tribesmen.

There are also indications that the chain reaction is spreading to other parts of Zaire, particularly Southern Kivu where the Banyamulenge tribe lives. The Banyamulenge are now living in fear of being evicted from their ancestral land ostensibly because they are Rwandese and not Zaireans.

The Banyamulenge live in the province of South Kivu mainly in three zones: Uvira, Fizi and Mwenga. Their immediate neighbours are Bafullo, Babembe, Bavira and Banyindu. The latter are generally found in mountains of these zones which are rich in green pastures. There are many hypotheses attempting to explain when Banyamulenge occupied the area.

The presence of Banyamulenge in the present Southern Kivu and Banyabwisha in Northern Kivu, dates back to many centuries. It is believed that the migration of Banyamulenge to the area where they are settled at present, dates between 18th and 19th centuries.

The causes of these migrations are attributed to various hypotheses. Historian J. Vansina, thinks that it was due to kingdom wars. Others, however, think that it was just an expansion of their cattle pastures across the Ruzizi River. They later expanded their settlement at Mulange which became their center.

From the legal aspect, there is neither doubt nor ambiguity on the fact that Banyamulenge are Zaireans. During the Berlin Conference in 1885, people, tribes and families were divided and separated. This meant that each people remained in their areas although they assumed new names.

Regarding the matter of nationality, the constitutional law of Zaire says: "is a Zairean, at the date of 30th June 1960, every person whose one of the ascendants is or was member of one tribe established on the territory of the republic of Zaire, in the limits of 1st August 1885". Moreover, the law of nationality of 21st June 1904 stipulates: "every indigenous Congolese, so long as he resides on territory of the state keeps Congolese nationality."

## WHY THE TENSION?

It was during and after the 1964-65 civil war that tension started between Banyamulenge and their neighbours, who took different stands.

Government authorities finally armed Banyamulenge for their self defence and to fight along side with government forces in order to liberate areas occupied by rebels in Southern Kivu. Banyamulenge militants were later incorporated in the Zairean Army Forces (by the National Army of Congo). Today, they are found in many different barracks throughout the country.

Despite all the above, some Zairean politicians have allegedly been using every crisis and chaotic "opportunities" in the countries to insult, intimidate and harass Banyamulenge and other Zairean or Rwandan origin in Northern Kivu. They call them foreigners or refugees who came in 1959. According to the Catholic bishop, F. Ngabu of Goma, in a pastoral letter, these politicians do use lies to achieve their ill motives of evicting people in Northern Kivu. Is the Government incapable of identifying refugees and nationals? For many years and many times, the Banyamulenge grievances have been presented to the highest authorities of Zaire. But nothing much has been done, instead, the socio-political rift between Banyamulenge and their neighbours, continues to worsen. The people are actually worried that a persecution is on its way.

It is the law of the country which determines who is a national and who not. It is the law that proves these people's right to live peacefully in their land. Zaireans of Rwanda origin (but when Banyamulenge arrived in Zaire, Rwanda and Zaire did not exist) are Zaireans. According to the law, nationality is not acquired by morphological appearance, ethnicity or by their language.

The government of Zaire and the international community (OAU, UN), especially countries that participated in the division of Africa, have the responsibility of condemning politicians who sow hatred and tribalism in Kivu and of protecting the rights of the minorities.

[ENDS]

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R.S. Reporter  
Africanews  
Zaire

August 8, 1996

### TRIBALISM IN SOUTH KIVU

Divide and rule in the name of your people is the best device that politicians in the Great Lakes Region have so far found. For Zaireans it works systematically. From 1992-93, it was Shaba province. A word went around rapidly from Mr. Kyungu wa Kumwanza, the governor of the province that all non-native of Shaba must quit the province. He had in mind Kasai people. They were harassed, assaulted, killed and evicted from their homes. In North Kivu, Zaireans of Rwanda origin are victims. The question is now who is the next "prey?" Banyamulenge tribe in South Kivu province? Mr Anzuluni Mbembe, the Speaker of the Zairean Transitional Parliament, native of South Kivu is working around the clock.

The deployment of local authorities and army commanders in South Kivu has created fear. Initially the Zairean government had been civil servants in areas far from their home to curb tribalism. Nevertheless, now the Transitional Parliament led by Mr. Anzuluni, has decided that all local and army leaders must be natives of South Kivu. Due to the communication problem between Zaire and the outside world, little is known about the trouble that Banyamulenge go through in South Kivu. The situation is deteriorating from day to day.

On 4 August, 1996, Pastor Jonathan and his wife were coming from Church and were attacked in broad daylight with bayonets by "unkown people." Thank God who sent good Samaritans who saved them. They sustained severe injuries and today they are nursing their wounds in a hospital. In Sange, about 40 km from Uvira, Mr. Rudiguza was killed by Zairean soldiers.

"Make census of all plots and properties of Banyamulenge." These were words of "Commissaire de Zone" (District Commissioner) of Uvira Zone, Mr Shweka Mutabazi, in a letter to the chief of urban and habitat services in Uvira. Furthermore, local authorities in Bukavu and Uvira issued similar statements that people from other tribes should not rent nor buy houses, cattle and other properties owned by Banyamulenge. Next, they stopped all construction projects undertaken by Banyamulenge. They are often arrested without any justifiable cause. Early June, 96, one Munyamulenge was arrested in Bukavu simply because he had received a letter from a friend in Kigali. He had to pay US\$ 700 USA for his release.

Last month, Mr Miller Ruhimbika, director of a local NGO "Groupe Milima" narrowly escaped arrest by local authorities in Uvira. The authorities wanted to arrest him because of letters of protest to international community "Carter Centre", against acts of injustice and harrasment done to Banyamulenge in South Kivu.

Banyamulenge in Bukavu, Uvira and other parts of South Kivu Province are "prisoners." Travelling in the region has become a crime for them. It has become very hard for them to move freely from one place to another. Unlike their neighbours, Banyamulenge cannot cross to Rwanda or Burundi. Those who dare, do receive unhuman treatment such as confiscation of their identity cards, their pockets and belongings are ransacked.

Any valuable thing including clothes are taken from them. They are separated from their families and cannot come back to Zaire. These abuses are also done to them at every road traffic check point in the region.

Among many Banyamulenge people who have been expelled, is Mr Dugu wa Mulenge a former member of the Regional Assembly of South Kivu. Banyamulenge community in Kinshasa wrote a letter of protest to the Zairean Primer Minister Kengo wa Dondo. According to the letter, Mr Dugu was escorted by Zairean soldiers from his home in Bukavu to the border with Burundi. It is said that Mr Dugu had gone to visit a sick person in Bujumbura and he was intercepted on his return. Today, he is living in a forced exile in a neighbouring country.

## HORROR AND BRUTALITY

This act of expelling Banyamulenge force them to become stateless, because they do not know other nationality than Zaire.

Many Banyamulenge people tell of the horror and brutality they receive from local authorities. Anne is an old lady in her sixties who used to live in Tulambo village, Itombwe collectivite (location), Mwenga zone. She recounted her terrible experience. She was taken to

jail and the reason was that she visited Rwanda. Her husband had to pay a cow, equivalent of US\$ 300, before she was released. After few weeks another local leader, who also wanted his share, was on her neck. Amid fear and confusion, she, her husband and their last born decided to flee the area.

The other outrageous and shameful incident on Banyamulenge is about the secondary school students. From July 8 to 11, Zaire was holding Secondary School National Examination known as "Examen d'Etat." Banyamulenge children came from Minembwe, Bijombo and Tulambo villages to Uvira town to sit for the examination. Because of fear of intimidation and harassment, the students decided to come in a group. As they entered the town, local people started shouting at them and calling them "Inkotanyi" a name of the Rwandese Patriotic Army. The police hurried to the scene and started firing in the air to scare them.

For any psychologist and educationist, this was an act of demoralization and harassment. The poor children needed, instead maximum security both physically and psychologically to sit their examinations.

After the barbaric action of killings and evictions carried out in Masisi and Rutshuru districts in eastern Zaire, those who managed to escape the carnage, are sheltered in refugee camps in Gisenyi, Nasho (Rwanda) and Gisoro (Uganda) in pitiful conditions. At the end of July, Zairean officials visited the area to discuss the security problem in the region. The governor of North Kivu, payed an official visit to his counterpart the prefet (governor) of Gisenyi. In their meeting they discussed security measures on their borders and the return of refugees of both sides. In the same week, two Zairean ministers visited Kigali with the same message.

While such diplomatic talks are held, little is being done on the spot to assure the Zairean refugees of their security. This is because, during the killing and eviction, there was no reaction and effort from the Zairean government. At the same time, early July 96, Mr. Rwakabuba and Mr Mutiri, both Members of Parliament, were barred from entering the House for parliamentary sessions in Kinshasa following claims that they are Rwandan origin and thus are not "nationals." This was announced on Zairean national radio and television.

With the crisis in neighbouring Burundi, the tension in Uvira and Bukavu towns and repercussion on Banyamulenge are likely to go high. The influx of more refugees from Burundi to South Kivu may possibly create undesirable consequences on Banyamulenge and the region at large. The Zairean government still owes Zaireans in this region socio-political protection. Otherwise who should Banyamulenge run to for security?

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JAA08673; Tue, 17 Sep 1996 09:51:25 +0300 X-To: irinwire@sasa.unon.org

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\*\*\*     \*\*\*   News and Views on Africa from Africa     \*  
\*\*\*\*   \*\*\*   Issue 6 - September 1996       \*  
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AFRICANEWS 6-H ZAIRE\*\*  
The Banyamulenge of  
South Kivu still Persecuted

MALAWI  
The Banyamulenge of South Kivu still Persecuted Human Rights  
By Rukundwa Sebitereko  
(650 words)

----- While the general scenario in the  
Great Lakes region does not improve, the situation of the Banyamulenge in Eastern Zaire is  
deteriorating dramatically. AFRICANEWS has reported on them in the previous issue. -----  
-----

Five Banyamulenge people were killed from 6th to 8th September by Zairean soldiers.  
Bolinga Karema was beaten and stoned to death in Uvira, while the other four were killed in  
the villages. According to other reports a total of 35 Banyamulenge may have been killed in  
Uvira town, Mutarure, Sange and Luberizi villages.

An unspecified number of people were arrested in Uvira and others are held in Luberizi military camp. Among those held are Catholic priests and nuns from the Diocese of Uvira, and many Protestant pastors. Pastor Jonathan who was attacked with bayonets last month is one among 50 reportedly missing. The situation of those in jail is not known. Their family members would not dare to visit them because they are also "wanted." Panic, fear and grief overwhelm the Banyamulenge who last experienced persecution in the '60s.

At the beginning of September, the office of a local NGO, Groupe Milima (which was closed by the local authorities in July), was completely looted by security men. Its director, Mr Muller Ruhimbika, went hiding after an arrest warrant was issued against him. During the fracas, the office of the Catholic organisation CARITAS was also looted by soldiers.

In spite of all this the process of the first multi-party elections is under way. The 116 delegates of the National Electoral Commission started work on 30th August, 1996. They are from different political parties and they should to facilitate the voters' exercise.

But the National Electoral Commission has already been hit by a crisis when its deputy chairman resigned. According to AFP, Mr Nzongola Ntalaga resigned on 3rd September in protest of what he called a climate of "uncertainty and tension." He accused the government of a "lack of sincerity." Politically, he sees the work of the National Electoral Commission's task as "very difficult, if not impossible."

In the North and South Kivu provinces the work of the National Electoral Commission has to face the problem of nationality, because a number of powerful Zairean politicians want to withdraw the Zairean nationality from all Banyamulenge on the pretext that they are of Rwandan origin. This issue does not exist in other border provinces. For instance Shaba borders Zambia, Equateur borders Central Africa Republic, Haut-Zaire borders Sudan and Uganda, Bas-Zaire borders Congo Brazzaville but nobody has ever argued that members of tribes found in both countries should move to the other side of the border.

Meetings between Zairean, Rwandese and UNHCR authorities have been going on since 1995. These are to study the feasibility of returning refugees home to Rwanda. The Kengo government had one time given the 31st December 1995 as a deadline, for all refugees to go home. Few days later, President Mobutu revoked the decision. But again, during his visit to Rwanda, last August, Mr Kengo said that his government will ensure that all Rwandan refugees will have gone home, before the General Elections next May, 1997. But refugees seem to be reluctant to heed that decision.

The problem of nationality has become a serious talk in the Zairean Transitional Parliament. Victims are the Zairean with ethnic links in Rwanda. On 26 July, two Members of Parliament were barred to enter the house, on the pretence that they are of Rwandan origin. Their final dismissal came on 7th September. Interestingly, the Zairean constitution provides no section which specifies tribal origins which have right more than others to the Zairean nationality.

As much as the majority of Zaireans want peace and democracy, there is little political will by the present regime to bring about a solid and genuine democracy. For some politicians, the

negation of Banyamulenge's nationality may be seen as a reward to other local communities, whom the politicians look for a vote. Making Banyamulenge stateless before the General Election next year would also be a success for the politicians who thrive on chaos and misery for the majority.

----- AFRICANEWS -----

News & Views on Africa from Africa

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Koinonia Media Centre, P.O. Box 8034, Nairobi, Kenya.

Tel./Fax: 254.2.560385

<http://www.freeworld.it/peacelink/afrinews.html>

[ENDS]

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Date: Wed, 18 Sep 1996 16:59:25 +0300 (GMT+0300) From: UN DHA IRIN  
<irin@dha.unon.org>  
Subject:

## **Zaire: More background on South Kivu from Info-Zaire #118 96.8.23**

Sender: owner-irinwire@dha.unon.org  
To: irinwire@dha.unon.org  
MIME-version: 1.0  
Precedence: bulk  
>Received: (from majordom@localhost) by dha.unon.org (8.6.12/8.6.12) id  
RAA21026 for irinwire-outgoing; Wed, 18 Sep 1996 17:00:30 +0300

[IRIN Note: The following is extracted from Info-Zaire #118. The item reached IRIN courtesy of Hrnet.Africa, for which we express our appreciation. The full newsletter is available on request.]

----- Info-Zaire, Number 118 - August 23,  
1996 (translated from a document produced by Entraide Missionnaire - EMI - Montreal)

[...]

### Tensions in Kivu - Nord-Kivu

On July 10, the HCR spokesperson for the Kivu region confirmed that the previous weekend, Zairian soldiers had killed five Rwandan refugees and wounded about 20 others on the Zairian island of Idjwi, in the centre of Lake Kivu. The island is situated 10 to 15 kilometres from both the Rwandan and Zairian coastlines and is home to 112,000 people. The population shelters close to 46,000 Rwandan refugees divided into five camps which face the Rwandan border. Several times, the island has served as a base of operations for the Rwandan militia in launching attacks on Rwanda. It has been proposed that the refugees be reorganised into two camps - but on the west side of the island, facing Zaire.

>From July 6 through July 13, Roberto Garreton, Special Rapporteur to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights undertook a mission to the refugee camps at Gisenyi, in Rwanda where more than 13,000 Tutsis from the area around Nord-Kivu are presently packed into refugee camps. They had been chased out during what appears to have been a campaign of ethnic cleansing. The Special Rapporteur wanted to look into the possible implication of the Zairian authorities in the events leading up to the exodus of these Zairian rwandaphones from their region; whether in directly inciting the local population against the rwandaphone community, or by refusing to offer them any protection. His request for representatives of the Zairian government to travel to the region in question remains unanswered.

Last January, Roberto Garreton had already alerted the Human Rights Commission to the situation in Kivu in a previous report in which he denounced the refusal of the authorities to recognise Zairian nationality for those who had already been established in the country for several generations.

Elsewhere on July 31, two organisations: Human Rights Watch and the Federation internationale des droits de l'homme, accused the Zairian government of complicity in the veritable war now raging in Nord-Kivu. In a document titled, *Forces de fuir: violence contre les Tutsis au Zaïre*, these organisations describe the inter-ethnic violence which has existed in the region since 1993. They also dwell upon the most recent wave of attacks against the Tutsis since the beginning of 1996. This escalation of violence originates mainly from the Hutu militia and the Hunde groups, sometimes with the participation of Zairian soldiers. Hundreds have been killed. Close to 250,000 have been displaced. Most Zairian Tutsis (around 13,000) have been forced to seek refuge in Rwanda. The consequences for Zaïre and for the region around the Grands Lacs are potentially disastrous.

The report released by these two organisations cites numerous witnesses who accuse both the political and military authorities at the local, provincial, and national levels of complicity in violence against the Tutsis. Some are even said to have participated in attacks against them. Neither the provincial, nor the national authorities have done anything to stop the violence, nor even to publicly denounce it. According to these two NGOs, the Zairian government must consequently be held responsible for the cruelty and injustice being endured by both the Tutsis and the people of the region.

However, the international community has remained indifferent to this conflict. It was last April when, even as people were being killed every day, and after thousands had been displaced, France announced a renewal of bilateral aid with Zaïre.

#### Tensions in Kivu - Sud-Kivu

#### The MILIMA Group Is Banned

On August 9, Commissioner Shweka Mutabazi of the rural zone of Uvira in Sud-Kivu ordered the suspension of activities by the development NGO, the MILIMA group, after having issued an arrest warrant against its Secretary-General, Muller Ruhimbika. The Commissioner condemned the group for, political lobbying in seeking Zairian citizenship, and its Secretary-General for, coming and going between Uvira and Europe without travel papers issued by the politico-administrative authorities. Even more serious is the charge of having addressed a letter, dated November 15, 1995 to the Carter Centre... the purpose of which was to call for the acquisition of Zairian citizenship for his brothers, all members of the self-proclaimed Banyamulenge community, and finally the charge of having publicly confirmed, the increasing movement of weapons of war in the Hauts Plateaux with the intent of causing harm to the native population if Zairian citizenship is not conferred upon the community to which he belongs.

What the MILIMA group and its secretary general are actually being criticised for is the fact that they have drawn international attention to ethnic tensions being stirred up by politicians in Sud-Kivu and by some politicians in Kinshasa, who are thereby trying to create a crisis similar to the one currently raging in Nord-Kivu. In fact, Muller Ruhimbika was one of the people who supplied information to the Special Rapporteur on Zaire of the United Nations Human Rights Commission. The Rapporteur devoted an entire chapter of his report to the question of the Nord- and Sud-Kivu rwandaphone populations right to Zairian citizenship. Currently, attempts are being made to stir up the native populations against the rwandaphone community, who call themselves the Banyamulenge, by grouping them in with the current Rwandan and Burundian refugees whose presence is placing an enormous burden on the entire region.

The stage is being set for an uprising in Sud-Kivu: weapons available in large quantities; more than 200,000 refugees in and around the city; the movement in the region of armed bands of Leonard Nyangomas Front pour la defense de la democratie (FDD), headed for Burundi; the subtle balance of alliances and ethnic solidarity in an environment dominated by violence; inflammatory speeches by politicians; and more recently, the arrival of Zairian Red and Green Berets in Uvira.

[...]

Contributors to this issue: Roland Rivard, Denis Tougas and Kadari Mwene Kabyana.

----- Translated into English for the Division of  
World Outreach of the United Church of Canada, 3250 Bloor Street West, Etobicoke, Ontario  
M4T1M8 Tel. (416) 231-7680 Fax (416) 232-6005.

Translated by L. and J. Lazazzera - Toronto.

Info-Zaire is also available in the original French version from Entraide Missionnaire, 15 de  
Castelnau St. West, Montreal, Quebec H2R 2W3 Tel. (514) 270-6089 Fax (514) 270-6156.

[ENDS]

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Date: Fri, 20 Sep 1996 17:44:24 +0300 (GMT+0300) From: UN DHA IRIN  
<irin@dha.unon.org>  
Subject:

## **Zaire: UNSG sending special envoy to Zaire 96.9.19**

Sender: owner-irinwire@dha.unon.org  
To: irinwire@dha.unon.org  
MIME-version: 1.0  
Precedence: bulk  
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RAA00495 for irinwire-outgoing; Fri, 20 Sep 1996 17:48:04 +0300 X-Authentication-  
warning: unigigiri.unep.org: usasa set sender to  
dha.unon.org!owner-irinwire using -f

UNITED NATIONS

DAILY HIGHLIGHTS

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 1996

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This document is prepared by the Central News Section of the Department of Public Information and is updated every week-day at approximately 6:00 PM.

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\* Secretary-General sends special envoy to Zaire to clarify misunderstandings on UN High Commissioner for Refugees operations.

[...]

\* \* \* \*

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has decided to send to Kinshasa, Zaire his Assistant Secretary-General Ibrahima Fall, Spokesman for the Secretary-General Sylvana Foa said. Mr. Fall, based in Geneva, has been asked to hold discussions with the Zairian authorities to clarify misunderstandings on the role and operations of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Zaire, the Spokesman stated.

Last week, the Secretary-General expressed concern about the accusations made by the government of Zaire that the UNHCR had provided logistic support to armed groups infiltrating Zaire from Rwanda and Burundi, the Spokesman said. The mission, prepared to

leave as soon as possible, includes representatives of UNHCR and International Migration Organization (IOM), she added.

\* \* \* \*

[Via the UN DHA Integrated Regional Information Network "Wire" mailing list. The material contained in this communication may not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its agencies. UN DHA IRIN Tel: +254 2 441125 Fax: +254 2 448816 e-mail: [irin@dha.unon.org](mailto:irin@dha.unon.org) for more information. If you re-print, copy, archive or re-post this item, please retain this credit and disclaimer.]

Date: Fri, 20 Sep 1996 17:47:46 +0300 (GMT+0300) From: UN DHA IRIN  
<irin@dha.unon.org>  
Subject:

## **Zaire: UN Secretary-General calls President Mobutu 96.9.18**

Sender: owner-irinwire@dha.unon.org  
To: irinwire@dha.unon.org  
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RAA00507 for irinwire-outgoing; Fri, 20 Sep 1996 17:48:21 +0300 X-Authentication-  
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dha.unon.org!owner-irinwire using -f

UNITED NATIONS

18 September 1996

Press Briefing

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DAILY PRESS BRIEFING OF OFFICE OF SPOKESMAN FOR SECRETARY-GENERAL

---

FOR INFORMATION OF UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT ONLY

The Spokesman for the Secretary-General Sylvana Foa began today's noon briefing by announcing that the Secretary-General had called Switzerland to speak with Zairian President Mobutu Sese Seko to inquire about his health following recent medical treatment. The President assured the Secretary-General that he was in excellent health and intended to return "very, very quickly" to Zaire. The Secretary-General offered his best wishes and they had a good talk.

[...]

To a question regarding whether or not the Secretary-General had asked President Mobutu of Zaire about the situation of staff members of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in his country, Ms. Foa said that the conversation had been confined to Mr. Mobutu's health. Discussions were under way between United Nations agencies in Zaire and that Government, she added. The incidents in question were being taken very seriously.

She had heard of several minor incidents recently, including incidents with staff of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) riding in a vehicle of the World Food Programme (WFP). As the incidents had taken place in a very remote region, information was taking up to five days to reach Headquarters.

[...]

\* \* \* \* \*

[Via the UN DHA Integrated Regional Information Network "Wire" mailing list. The material contained in this communication may not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its agencies. UN DHA IRIN Tel: +254 2 441125 Fax: +254 2 448816 e-mail: [irin@dha.unon.org](mailto:irin@dha.unon.org) for more information. If you re-print, copy, archive or re-post this item, please retain this credit and disclaimer.]

Date: Mon, 23 Sep 1996 12:06:12 +0300 (GMT+0300) From: UN DHA IRIN  
<irin@dha.unon.org>

**Subject: Zaire: UN Special Rapporteur on South Kivu January 1996  
96.1.29**

Sender: owner-irinwire@dha.unon.org  
To: irinwire@dha.unon.org  
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MAA10671 for irinwire-outgoing; Mon, 23 Sep 1996 12:06:55 +0300 X-Authentication-  
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[IRIN Note: The following is an extract from the January 1996 report of the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Zaire. Although it is several months old, IRIN is distributing this item as background information on current events in South Kivu.]

UNITED NATIONS  
Economic and Social Council

Distr. General  
E/CN.4/1996/66  
29 January 1996  
English.  
Original: Spanish

Commission on Human rights  
Fifty-second session  
Item 10 of the provisional agenda

Question of the violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms in any part of the world, with particular reference to colonial and other dependent countries and territories.

"Report on the situation of human rights in Zaire, prepared by the Special Rapporteur, Mr. Roberto Garreton, in accordance with Commission resolution 1995/96".

[...]

**NEW CONFLICT WITH THE BANYAMULENGUE IN SOUTHERN KIVU**

33. Ever since 1797, under the rule of Yuhi IV Gahindiro, Rwandan Tutsis have emigrated to the Congo (Zaire), settling in Kakamba, in the plain of Ruzizi and in the higher regions (Mulengue Hills), because of the climate and to feed their cattle. They are now to be found in

Uvira, Mwenga and Fizi, where they have set up villages (Galye, Kishenbwe, Munanira, Majaga, Shangi, Katoki and Lutabula). They speak a variation of Kinyarwanda, although they do not share the same history or customs as other Zairians speaking the same language. As a political factor, they existed before colonization, continued under colonial rule and have still been present since independence. They lived in harmony with indigenous peoples (some Banyamulengue were elected in the first elections), until the bloody Mulehe rebellion occurred in 1964, opposing farmers and Banyamulengue cattlemen. During the Rwandan Tutsi refugee crises of 1959 and 1970, some political sectors began to identify the Banyamulengue as Rwandans. Since 1982, they have not succeeded in electing anyone to public office. They number some 400,000 individuals, all claiming to be Zairian.

34. They have suffered many injustices. The nationality law was not applied to them when it came into force. They are identified only by the origin of their names and by their physical appearance. They are discriminated against at work, etc. It is reported that political sectors exacerbate tribal conflicts in order to defend their own interests. The conflicts in Rwanda and Burundi have made their situation worse. They have been investigated on account of the death of President Ndadaye of Burundi (Hutu) and whenever any conflict has a Rwandan origin.

35. It has been announced that they are to be expelled from Zaire together with all Rwandan refugees, in accordance with the HRC-PT resolution of 28 April, despite the fact that they are Zairian. Some have already been expelled and others are under an expulsion order. The Special Rapporteur interviewed Muller Ruhimbika, who with others signed a petition to the authorities and confirmed the facts. Muller and other signatories of the petition were detained on 21 November (48 hours after the interview) and then released again. A report of 19 October 1995 (No.5072/515/C.71/95), signed by a top Uvira official, refers to an "ethnic group unknown in Zaire called the Banyamulengue", and goes on to state that its leaders "will all be expelled from the country together with their Catholic prelate", meaning the Bishop of Uvira, Mgr. Gapangwa Jerome.

36. The only formal explanation for these abuses is that the Banyamulengue are Rwandan, except for the members of 14 families, which are considered Zairian.

37. The Special Rapporteur was informed that local tribes were arming in readiness for a struggle against the Banyamulengue, forcing the latter to do the same.

[...]

[End of extract.]

[Transcribed by UN DHA IRIN, Nairobi.]

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Date: Wed, 25 Sep 1996 09:15:54 +0300 (GMT+0300) From: UN DHA IRIN  
<irin@dha.unon.org>  
Subject:

**Zaire: UN SG statement on allegations by Government of Zaire 96.9.17**

Sender: owner-irinwire@dha.unon.org  
To: irinwire@dha.unon.org  
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dha.unon.org!owner-irinwire using -f

UNITED NATIONS

Subject:  
SG statement on allegations by Government of Zaire against UNHCR

SG/SM/6055  
17 September 1996

**SECRETARY-GENERAL REJECTS ALLEGATIONS  
BY GOVERNMENT OF ZAIRE AGAINST UNHCR**

The following was issued by the Spokesman for Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali:

The Secretary-General has learned with deep concern about accusations made by the Government of Zaire that the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has been providing logistical support to armed groups infiltrating Zaire from Rwanda and Burundi with the deliberate intention of destabilizing Zaire.

These accusations have been carried on local television and have caused serious security problems for United Nations personnel working in the region.

The Secretary-General categorically rejects these allegations as completely unfounded and urges the Government of Zaire to take steps to clarify the situation.

Date: Mon, 30 Sep 1996 10:54:22 +0300 (GMT+0300) From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes  
<irin@dha.unon.org>  
Subject:

## **Zaire: Amnesty International Condemns HR Violations 96.9.20**

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dha.unon.org!owner-irinwire using -f

News Service 164/96  
AI INDEX: AFR 62/13/96  
20 SEPTEMBER 1996  
ZAIRE: AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL CONDEMNS HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS  
AGAINST TUTSI

Amnesty International strongly condemns the atrocities committed over the past month by the Zairian security forces and government officials against members of the Banyamulenge Tutsi ethnic group in South-Kivu region.

The organization urgently appeals to Zairian Prime Minister, Leon Kengo wa Dondo, and armed forces Chief of Staff, General Eluki Monga, to take immediate measures to prevent these human rights violations and ensure that perpetrators of any abuses are brought to justice.

"An entire ethnic group cannot be held responsible or persecuted for the alleged violent actions of some of its members," Amnesty International said today.

"We understand the Zairian authorities' right to take action against armed opponents, but there is no justification for this calculated abuse of human rights -- including unlawful killings, "disappearances", severe beatings and deportation or refoulement to another country."

The human rights situation has significantly deteriorated since the start of September, following reports of clashes between the Forces armées zairoises (FAZ), Zairian Armed Forces, and members of a Tutsi armed group in Uvira district (zone). On 8 September members of the Zairian armed forces reportedly extrajudicially executed four Banyamulenge civilians in Uvira district in front of a crowd at Luberizi village.

Amnesty International is investigating allegations that more than 35 Banyamulenge were extrajudicially executed and more than 50 others "disappeared" by government troops at the start of the month.

Members of the FAZ have subjected Tutsi civilians to severe beatings. Very often, civilians arrested by soldiers are held in military detention centres where they are subjected to severe torture, sometimes resulting in death. On 16 September two United Nations (UN) staff were beaten by FAZ soldiers, after earlier accusations by the Zairian authorities that UN personnel had assisted the Tutsi armed group.

As many as 70 people, mostly Tutsi, were reportedly arrested and held without charge in Uvira town. Those detained included two Roman Catholic priests, Joseph Sibomana and Andre Semusambi, and two Rwandese Hutu seminarians, Jeremie Habyarimana and Pierre-Claver Nzeyimana. It is unclear how many of those arrested remain in custody. Some Tutsi were released after paying bribes to the security forces.

Political parties and newspapers have issued statements calling for violence against Tutsi.

Amnesty International is disturbed by accounts that Uvira District Commissioner (Commissaire de zone), Shweka Mutabazi, is alleged to have said that he would sack any local officials who sold land to Tutsi, and that houses vacated by Tutsi would be given to army officers. He has reportedly authorized the enrolment of youths into the armed forces to fight the Tutsi armed group.

"At the best of times the FAZ are an undisciplined and poorly paid force. However, the enrolment of youths who are known to have been holding demonstrations against Tutsi and looting or destroying their property will only serve to exacerbate the situation for unarmed Tutsi civilians," Amnesty International said.

The human rights organization is calling on Prime Minister Kengo wa Dondo to publicly condemn any statements or actions likely to incite violence against Tutsi. Also, such perpetrators should be immediately removed from positions in which they might have influence to cause, condone or encourage abuses, and measures taken to bring them to justice.

Commanders of the security forces in the region should be held personally responsible for any violations by their troops, and given instructions to prevent attacks and other human rights abuses against unarmed civilians by members of the security forces or civilians.

The authorities have claimed that the armed group is receiving training and logistical support from Uganda and the Tutsi-dominated armies of Burundi and Rwanda. Burundi and Rwanda have denied any links with the group. The group's objectives remain unclear. The Zairian authorities have claimed that Banyamulenge are Rwandese nationals and supporters of the armed group.

More than 400 Tutsi, many of whom are reportedly Zairian nationals, have been rounded up by members of the FAZ and forcibly deported to neighbouring Rwanda and Burundi. In

related persecution of Tutsi, many Tutsi in North-Kivu region have been killed and more than 18,000 have fled or have been deported in recent months to Rwanda where they live as refugees.

Several demonstrations organized by political leaders have taken place in recent days in Uvira and South-Kivu's capital, Bukavu, to protest against what they call "aggression by Rwandese Tutsi". Members of other ethnic groups have severely beaten many unarmed civilians suspected or known to be Tutsi, often in the presence of government or security officials who have not taken any action against the attackers. The authorities have banned organizations composed of Banyamulenge whose leaders have fled the country fearing arbitrary arrest and other human rights violations.

ENDS\

[ENDS]

[Via the UN DHA Integrated Regional Information Network "Wire" mailing list. The material contained in this communication may not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its agencies. UN DHA IRIN Tel: +254 2 441125 Fax: +254 2 448816 e-mail: [irin@dha.unon.org](mailto:irin@dha.unon.org) for more information. If you re-print, copy, archive or re-post this item, please retain this credit and disclaimer.]

Date: Mon, 07 Oct 1996 14:43:51 +0300 (GMT+0300) From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes  
<irin@dha.unon.org>  
Subject:

## **Zaire: ICRC steps up emergency aid in North and South Kivu 96.10.6**

Sender: owner-irinwire@dha.unon.org  
To: irinwire@dha.unon.org  
MIME-version: 1.0  
Precedence: list  
>Received: (from majordom@localhost) by dha.unon.org (8.6.12/8.6.12) id  
OAA03886; Mon, 7 Oct 1996 14:45:05 +0300

ICRC  
IN EASTERN AFRICA

INFORMATION

NEWS RELEASE  
06 OCTOBER 1996

**DIRE SITUATION OF MEDICAL FACILITIES IN EASTERN ZAIRE... ICRC STEPS UP  
EMERGENCY AID  
IN NORTH AND SOUTH KIVU**

A consignment of medical equipment and materials was flown into eastern Zaire today (Sunday) as part of a stepped-up emergency operation by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to assist thousands of people suffering because of conflict in the region.

A C-130 Hercules, provided by the Netherlands government, flew to Goma from Nairobi carrying equipment to upgrade the hospital at the town of Uvira, in southern Kivu province, where local medical facilities are under increasing strain because of inter-ethnic fighting and the influx of war-wounded from neighbouring Burundi. The supplies were provided by the German Red Cross, which is sending a five-member surgical team to reinforce the casualty unit at Uvira hospital, while the Belgian Red Cross is to support the hospital's public health activities. The new assistance comes in addition to existing ICRC support for hospitals and health centres in the region.

Meanwhile a survey in north Kivu has revealed that many medical centres have been abandoned, looted or damaged during the ethnic conflict in the area. Under the new ICRC initiative six hospitals and 30 health centres will receive support. ICRC water and sanitation teams are to carry out emergency work to restore supplies in villages where water distribution systems have been destroyed.

On 2 October the ICRC launches an urgent appeal to governments for more than 11 million US dollars to finance the expanded aid operation.

For further information contact Nic Sommer, Regional Information Office, ICRC Nairobi - tel: (+2542) 713 367/8/9 or pager: 717 717 code 205

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## **Zaire: IRIN Briefing on the conflict in South Kivu 96.10.7**

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7 October 1996

### **IRIN BRIEFING: THE CONFLICT IN SOUTH KIVU, ZAIRE AND ITS REGIONAL IMPLICATIONS**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

During September 1996 a growing number of reports testified to human rights abuses against Zairean Tutsis, known as Banyamulenge, by the army and local people in and around Uvira in South Kivu, Zaire. It soon became clear that at the same time a conflict between the Banyamulenge and the army was taking place, and as refugees began to arrive in Rwanda and Burundi, the Governments of Zaire and Rwanda traded accusations over responsibilities for the escalating crisis. As tensions between the two countries mounted, mortar fire was exchanged between Bukavu, Zaire and Cyangugu in Rwanda over several days.

This briefing describes developments in September and seeks to put them in their historical context. It gives an account of the immigration of Banyamulenge into Zaire, examines their claims to Zairean nationality and describes how they have been stripped of their nationality and targeted by the local authorities, army and local people since April 1995. Drawing parallels between this crisis and developments in Masisi and Rutshuru over the past year, it examines the accusations of both Zaire and Rwanda, as well as the humanitarian and regional implications of the crisis.

## DEVELOPMENTS DURING SEPTEMBER 1996

On 9 September local people in Uvira town mounted a demonstration against Banyamulenge, declaring Uvira a 'ville morte', calling on the 'foreigners' to leave the country and attacking their homes and property. The demonstration followed a weekend in which soldiers from the Zairean Army had broken into several religious establishments in the town, arresting local church members and missionaries and seizing vehicles, documents and communications equipment. The events prompted the German arm of Caritas to announce it had suspended its activities in the town.

Reports soon emerged that during the weekend of 6 - 8 September, five Banyamulenge had been killed by Zairean soldiers. One man, Bolingo Karema, was allegedly beaten and stoned to death in Uvira town, while four others were killed in surrounding villages. The offices of a local Banyamulenge NGO, Groupe Milima, had allegedly been looted by soldiers, while its director, Muller Ruhimbika, was in hiding after a warrant had been issued for his arrest. Mr Ruhimbika had played a prominent role in drawing attention to the situation in Uvira during 1995 and the first half of 1996 (see the following section), and is currently living in exile.

Over subsequent days the army sought out Banyamulenge, arresting men while allowing women and children to go free. The arrests were reportedly carried out at the instruction of the District Commissioner of Uvira, Shweka Mutabazi. Amnesty International singled Mr Mutabazi out for criticism, citing reports that he had encouraged the takeover of Tutsi property and authorized the enrolment of youths into the armed forces to fight the 'Tutsi armed group'. Amnesty also undertook to investigate reports that more than 35 Banyamulenge had been 'extrajudicially executed' by the Zairean authorities and more than 50 others 'disappeared' at the start of the month.(1)

Reports of fighting between Banyamulenge militia and Zairean soldiers also began to emerge, with three soldiers reported killed during the week beginning 9 September. The Zairean Army declared the Uvira area a 'military zone' and was reported to be reinforcing its presence with troops from Goma, Bukavu, Shaba and Kinshasa. On 13 September the Zairean Government accused Rwanda of having enrolled 3,000 Banyamulenge in its army and of training and infiltrating them to destabilize eastern Zaire, with Burundi providing them with rear bases. Both Governments categorically rejected the charges.

At the same time Banyamulenge, some of whom had been held in detention, were refouled or fled the country and began entering Rwanda and Burundi. Several hundred refugees were reported as having reached Cyangugu in Rwanda and others as having gone to Cibitoke and Bubanza provinces in Burundi. At the end of the month UNHCR estimates put the number of recent Banyamulenge arrivals at over 500 in Rwanda and over 400 in Burundi. Of this number 535 people had been 'refouled' by the Zairean authorities and the rest had left Zaire spontaneously.

During the weekend of 14 and 15 September Zairean television reported accusations by the authorities that the UNHCR and IOM (International Organisation of Migration) had been assisting armed groups to infiltrate Zaire from Rwanda and Burundi with the aim of

destabilizing Kivu. Following these accusations two UNHCR staff were beaten up by Zairean soldiers. On 17 September the claims were dismissed by the UN Secretary-General, as being 'completely unfounded'. The Secretary-General subsequently sent Ibrahima Fall as a UN Special Envoy to Zaire to seek clarification on the allegations. The Zairean authorities, meanwhile, confirmed that the activities of IOM throughout Zaire had been suspended.

On Sunday 22 September the growing tension between Rwanda and Zaire manifested itself in an exchange of mortar fire between the two countries. This was repeated during the following two days, killing one Zairean and injuring five others. It also prompted the United Nations to relocate 23 'non-essential' expatriate aid agency personnel to Nairobi and the International Federation of the Red Cross to evacuate three of its delegates, after two shells landed in the garden of a hotel where IFRC staff had been staying.

Rwanda and Zaire accused each other of having started the exchanges of fire. On 23 September the Government of Rwanda released a statement detailing its version of events. It accused the Government of Zaire of targeting Kabembe town in Cyangugu prefecture with automatic weapons fire and artillery shelling between 6pm and 11pm on 22 September. These attacks were said to have caused neither injuries nor material damage.

The Rwandan Government linked this alleged 'act of aggression' with an attack in mid-September on the prison in the neighbouring commune of Gishoma, in which a group of infiltrators had sought to free prisoners. According to the statement, the RPA 'repulsed the attackers, who fled under cover of automatic weapons fire from the Panzi camp in Zairean territory.'<sup>(2)</sup> The dispute over who had started the attacks continued, however, although a ceasefire was agreed on 25 September. Zaire alleged that Rwanda broke the ceasefire on 26 and 29 September, a claim denied by Rwanda.

At the same time a Banyamulenge spokesman in exile reported that on 22 September the Zairean authorities had executed 40 Banyamulenge being held in detention. They had been arrested by the authorities the previous week at Baraka in Fizi zone. The summary executions were said to have been in retaliation for the killings of Zairean soldiers by Banyamulenge militia. Independent confirmation of this incident has yet to be obtained.

On 22 September the Zairean authorities also repeated allegations that soldiers were infiltrating into Kivu from Rwanda and Burundi in order to support the Banyamulenge militia. Government spokesman Oscar Lugendo was quoted in the press as saying that Zairean troops killed three 'Rwandan' soldiers and captured five others at Kiringye in Uvira region on 31 August. He claimed that the infiltrators were being commanded by Banyamulenge who had been officers in the Zairean Army but had gone to Rwanda after the victory of the RPA in July 1994. <sup>(3)</sup> The authorities said the soldiers had infiltrated Uvira via Cyangugu in Rwanda and Cibitoke in Burundi.

## BACKGROUND

Different historians give different dates for the migrations of Tutsi pastoralists from the historic kingdom of Rwanda to what is now Zaire. All of the estimates, however, date the migrations between the 16th and 19th centuries (4). The atlas of the Republic of Zaire produced by Jeune Afrique in 1978 provides a map showing the routes of the major historical population movements into and within what is now Zaire, and dates the movement of pastoralists from Rwanda into Kivu between the 17th and 18th centuries. This was part of the migration which also brought Rwandan Tutsis to Masisi and Rutshuru zones in what is now North Kivu.

The United Nations Special Rapporteur on human rights in Zaire states with confidence that 'ever since 1797, under the rule of Yuhi IV Gahindiro, Rwandan Tutsis have emigrated to the Congo, settling in Kakamba, in the plain of Ruzizi and in the higher regions (Mulenge Hills), because of the climate and to feed their cattle.' (5)

These Tutsis established their first settlement at Mulenge and became known as Banyamulenge (people of Mulenge). They settled in Uvira, Mwenga and Fizi zones, where they are to be found to this day (although there are now Banyamulenge living further south, in Shaba, and in major towns around the country). Establishing their own settlements they lived side-by-side with indigenous Bantu ethnic groups - the Babembe, Bafulero, Banyindu, Barega, Barundi and Bashi. They speak a variant of Kinyarwanda (the language of Rwanda), recognized as a separate dialect by linguistic authorities (6). Today estimates of their number range from 250,000 to 400,000 people, roughly comparable with other ethnic groups in the area (the Barega have been estimated at 400,000, the Babembe at 252,000 and the Bafulero at 275,000).(7)

The Banyamulenge lived in relative peace and harmony with their neighbours for most of this century. It was not until the Mulele rebellion in Kivu in 1964 that Banyamulenge found themselves in opposition to other local people. The Mulelists, espousing a variant of communist philosophy in which property, land and cattle were to be shared among local people, drew support from other ethnic groups in South Kivu. The Banyamulenge, however, did not share their neighbour's enthusiasm for these goals and helped the then Congolese National Army to crush the movement in South Kivu. This episode instilled a deep and lingering resentment against the Banyamulenge within other ethnic groups in the area.

The Banyamulenge, however, continued to prosper economically and also succeeded in securing political representation at both the local and national levels. In 1980 however, Mr Gisaro, the sole Banyamulenge MP in the Zairean Parliament, died in a car crash. In 1981 the Zairean Parliament passed new legislation relating to Zairean nationality. This sought to nullify the 1972 legislation under which all persons of Rwandese origin who established their residence in the Kivu province before 1 January 1950 and who had continued to reside in Zaire were collectively granted Zairean nationality as of 30 June 1961.

Henceforth nationality would be acquired on an individual basis only and any other mode of acquisition of Zairean nationality was null and void. In effect, people of Rwandese origin in

Zaire were rendered stateless persons. According to informed legal opinion, however, the 1981 law was arbitrary and discriminatory and therefore unlawful under international conventions to which Zaire is a party. If this analysis is accepted, the Banyamulenge retained a strong claim to Zairean citizenship.

They were, however, refused permission to stand as candidates or to vote in the 1982 Parliamentary elections. Banyamulenge in Mwenga zone protested against the decision by burning ballot boxes being used in the elections. The same was true for the 1987 Parliamentary elections, when again the Banyamulenge could neither stand for office nor cast a vote. This time there were protests in Uvira and Fizi and again ballot boxes were burnt.

The tensions aroused by these disputes were further exacerbated by the refugee crises of 1993 and 1994, when Hutu refugees first from Burundi and then from Rwanda, flooded into the area. Local people are said to identify themselves with Hutus and to hold Tutsis responsible for heaping the refugee problem upon them through the coup of October 1993 in Burundi and their struggle for power in Rwanda after the RPF invasion of 1990. In this analysis the genocide of 1994 was characterized as the culmination of a war rather than the planned and purposeful extermination of Rwanda's Tutsi minority.

On 28 April 1995 the High Council of the Transitional Parliament passed a Resolution in order, ostensibly, to prevent Rwandan and Burundian refugees from acquiring Zairean nationality. The Resolution followed a visit to Kivu by the Vangu commission of inquiry, which had been established to look into these questions. The most surprising aspect of the Resolution was that it treated the Banyamulenge as recent refugees. The Resolution included a list of people to be arrested and expelled, the cancellation of any sale or transfer of assets which benefited 'immigrants who have acquired Zairean nationality fraudulently', the replacement of existing governors and commanders with new officials, and the banning of Tutsis from all administrative and other posts. (8) The Resolution was signed by the Speaker of the Parliament, Anzuluni Bembe Isilonyonyi, who claims to come from Uvira and have Babembe ancestry.

It wasn't long before the Resolution was put into action. On 19 September the District Commissioner of Uvira, Shweka Mutabazi, wrote to the official responsible for urban planning in Uvira telling him to make a list of the properties and land owned by Banyamulenge, that all building work by Banyamulenge was to be brought to a halt and that all abandoned Banyamulenge houses should be identified and itemized. He also charged the same official with informing the head of the Banyamulenge community about these developments.

During late 1995 and early 1996 acts of harassment as well as evictions of Banyamulenge were an increasingly common occurrence. On November 21 1995 the authors of a petition to the authorities were detained, shortly after one of their number, Muller Ruhimbika, had been interviewed by the UN Special Rapporteur on human rights in Zaire, Roberto Garreton. During his January 1996 report Mr Garreton noted that some Banyamulenge had already been expelled from Zaire while others were under an expulsion order. The Special Rapporteur also

reported that he had been informed that 'local tribes were arming in readiness for a struggle against the Banyamulenge, forcing the latter to do the same.'(9)

The immediate precursor to the events of September was the banning of Groupe Milima, the non-governmental organization run by Mr Ruhimbika, on 9 August, again at the instigation of the District Commissioner for Uvira. Groupe Milima, a rural development organization which had lobbied for the nationality rights of Banyamulenge to be recognized, was clearly proving to be a thorn in the side for the authorities. The letter announcing the ban accused Mr Ruhimbika of political lobbying, travelling without the permission of the authorities and drawing the nationality issue to the attention of the Carter Centre. It also alleged that Mr Ruhimbika had been trafficking arms to the Banyamulenge.

## CONCLUSION

In many respects recent developments in Uvira bear an uncanny resemblance to developments in Masisi since November 1995. There too, Zairean Tutsis have been targeted by the local authorities, army and local people and forced to flee their country. In the case of Masisi there is substantial evidence that Rwandan Hutu refugees, in particular members of the interahamwe militia and the former Rwandan Army, have fuelled the conflict by bringing arms and hatred to an already volatile situation (10). In the case of Uvira the alleged involvement of Hutu refugees in targeting the Banyamulenge remains just that - an allegation. With Masisi as with Uvira, the conflicts have resulted in mutual recriminations between Zaire and Rwanda.

Yet the obvious difference between the two conflicts is that in the case of Masisi the Tutsis were forced out of their country without putting up a fight. This is not proving to be the case in Uvira, where the Banyamulenge have been arming and preparing themselves for the current confrontation. As one Banyamulenge spokesman in exile explained, "They have seen what has happened in Shaba with the Kasai who were unarmed. They saw what happened to their 'brothers' in Masisi and Rutshuru, who were defenceless and were killed and evicted. The Zairean authorities say the Banyamulenge must go. The only option they had was to get arms. They are saying, 'we're not going to allow this to happen to us'."

How the conflict will evolve is a matter of speculation. While reports from the area do support claims that Rwandan Hutu refugees are assisting the Zairean Army, it is unclear to what extent local people from other ethnic groups in South Kivu are willing to take up arms against their neighbours. In the case of Masisi, it was the involvement of local Hutus in league with refugees and occasionally the army that really made the position of the Tutsis untenable and forced them to flee.

Again, there is evidence to support the claim by the Zairean authorities that the Banyamulenge are receiving military support from Rwanda and Burundi. This allegation is not entirely improbable in terms of the interests of Rwanda and Burundi in avoiding a major inflow of refugees and coordinating actions to hinder attempts to destabilize their own countries. The more nebulous claims of Tutsi ethnic solidarity may also have a role to play. Unless the status of the Banyamulenge can be peacefully resolved, and tensions between

Rwanda and Zaire reduced, South Kivu will continue to be a potential flashpoint in an already volatile region.

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[ENDS]

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**Zaire: UN Secretary-General on Eastern Zaire 96.10.10**

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UNITED NATIONS

SG/SM/6074  
10 October 1996

**SECRETARY-GENERAL CALLS ON INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO WORK  
TOWARDS DEFUSING TENSION IN EASTERN ZAIRE**

Following is the text of a statement issued today by the Spokesman for Secretary-General  
Boutros Boutros-Ghali:

The situation in eastern Zaire has been deteriorating in recent days and remains explosive. Violence continues to plague the area, with dozens of people reported killed or injured. The refugee problem remains unresolved. I call on the parties to do everything in their power to keep the situation calm and under control while solutions are being sought for both the immediate and underlying problems. I also call on the international community to work towards defusing tension in eastern Zaire, and to assist in the resolution of the refugee problem in the area.

\* \* \* \* \*

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**Zaire: IRIN Update on the conflict in South Kivu 11 Oct 96.10.11**

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11 October 1996

IRIN UPDATE ON THE CONFLICT IN SOUTH KIVU, ZAIRE

This update attempts to give an account of recent events in the South Kivu crisis. Sources include UN agencies, NGOs, international organizations and media reports. IRIN accepts no responsibility for the accuracy of the original sources.

IRIN's "Briefing on the Conflict in South Kivu, Zaire and its Regional Implications", distributed on 7 October, offers an overview of the background to the conflict in South Kivu, and describes events in September. The events described below have occurred since the report was compiled.

Chronology:

30 September - 5 October:

Skirmishes between Zairian troops and Banyamulenge militia result in a reported 100 casualties - mainly soldiers - reaching Uvira hospital.

A Banyamulenge spokesman in Nairobi alleges joint attacks by people of the Babembe ethnic group and Interahamwe militia on Banyamulenge villages in the following areas: in Fizi: Bibogobogo and in Mwenga: Itombwe, Tulambo, Muramvya, Nyabihoma and Nazareth.

October 6:

ICRC delivers extra medical supplies from Nairobi to Goma by air for use in Uvira hospital. ICRC also announces that the German Red Cross is to send a surgical team in support.

In the early hours of Sunday morning, Lemera hospital was attacked - allegedly by Banyamulenge militia. Eyewitnesses report that 3 nurses were killed and 34 patients were shot dead. In addition, one child is reported killed during the attack. At Kidote, 2 priests and 10 other civilians were reported killed. Five vehicles, offices and the pharmacy were burnt. Twelve houses were damaged and/or looted. The electrical system was damaged and a communication radio stolen.

October 7:

In a speech to the UNHCR Executive Committee in Geneva, UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Sadako Ogata, mentions the situation in South Kivu as one of the "dangerous security implications" in the Rwandan refugee crisis. "Cross-border raids, the targeting of survivors of the genocide and attacks on Tutsi residents in the Kivu region of Zaire, resulting in armed resistance, are causing more deaths and are undermining prospects for reconciliation," she said.

October 8:

Zairian troops go on a "looting rampage" in Uvira for about four hours, starting at 7.30am. Cars belonging to CARE were seized, and staff of the agency were robbed.

Soldiers in Bukavu also shoot in the air for an hour when the bodies of a Zairian Army colonel and seven soldiers, killed in fighting with Banyamulenge forces, arrived in town.

South Kivu Deputy Governor Lwasi Ngabo Lwabanji gives Banyamulenge residents of South Kivu seven days to leave the area through a "corridor" (perhaps towards Rwanda, or to camps inside Zaire) or be treated as rebels and face all-out war. His press conference follows a meeting with military authorities.

October 9:

The UN Humanitarian Situation Report from Burundi states that UNHCR reports about 800 Banyamulenge in Burundi, with 300 of them in Cibitoke province. A camp for Banyamulenge has been established at Gihanga, near Bujumbura airport. The humanitarian agencies are preparing for a further influx.

Eighteen UN and NGO staff relocated from Uvira due to the deteriorating situation.

October 10:

Zairian State Radio confirms that Chief of Staff General Eluki Monga Aundu and senior aides have travelled to the region "to assess the situation prevailing there".

A Zairian government spokesman plays down the seven day ultimatum. Speaking in Kinshasa, Boguo Makeli said: "There has not been a formal government declaration in this regard. To my knowledge the government has not yet issued an ultimatum to the Banyamulenge... It's true that we all want the Banyamulenge to leave, but up to now the government has not spoken of one week."

The UN Secretary-General calls on Zaire authorities and Tutsi residents of Kivu to "do everything in their power to keep the situation calm and under control while solutions are being sought for both the immediate and underlying problems."

The Rwandan President, Pasteur Bizimungu, says that Rwanda will allow Banyamulenge women and children into the country, but will block the arrival of Banyamulenge men. "Zaire needs to accept that the Banyamulenge are also Zairians", the President added in a speech given in Cyangugu. In his speech to a rally, he adds "The point of my visit here is to assure protection of Rwanda territory, and to demonstrate that an attack on Cyangugu would mean an attack on Rwanda."

Roadblocks are set up in Bukavu, as troops and crowds of civilians sought Banyamulenge, some of whom are thrown into detention.

October 11:

Bukavu is reported calm, and relief agencies are reportedly able to travel to the camps.

Pascal-Firmin Ndimira, Burundi's current Prime Minister, denied that Burundi had any role in the past month's fighting. Burundi is "not at all involved", Ndimira said. "Burundi is deeply concerned by the deterioration of the situation in the South Kivu region, which shows that what is at issue is the propagation of an ideology of exclusion and extermination," he added. "There is a danger this could become a real powderkeg for the region," he added.

The Zairean army chief, General Eluki Monga Aundu, has declared a state of war in South Kivu. "Zaire is at war in South Kivu", Eluki told a press conference at Goma in North Kivu on Thursday, following a five-day tour of both provinces. He said the country faced aggression by the Banyamulenge.

Eluki repeated allegations that the Banyamulenge militia were supported by soldiers of the Tutsi-dominated Rwandan Patriotic Army (RPA) and had infiltrated Zaire via Burundi "with the complicity of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), whose vehicles they used." "Thus Rwanda, with the complicity of Burundi and the UNHCR, has carried out aggression against Zaire," he alleged. Both Rwanda and Burundi have strongly denied previous such claims. The UN Secretary-General categorically rejected the claims against UNHCR on 17 September.

In Geneva, the UNHCR announces that it would be relocating some expatriate aid personnel from the Uvira region by air because of the "very, very dangerous" situation.

UNHCR Nairobi says that a total of 1100 Banyamulenge people have taken refuge in Rwanda since the conflict began in early September.

[ENDS]

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**Zaire: UN S-G Calls for Withdrawal of "Baseless" Allegations 96.10.11**

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UNITED NATIONS

SG/SM/6076  
11 October 1996

SECRETARY-GENERAL CALLS FOR UNEQUIVOCAL WITHDRAWAL OF  
'BASELESS' ALLEGATIONS  
MADE AGAINST UNHCR IN ZAIRE

The following was issued today by the Spokesman for Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali:

Further to his statement of yesterday, the Secretary-General is concerned that the situation in eastern Zaire, especially in South Kivu, is deteriorating still further, with serious fighting having been reported between Zairian authorities and groups of Banyamulenge. He urges all sides to show restraint and to exercise the utmost caution in protecting the civilian population of the affected areas.

He is also concerned to learn that a senior Zairian military official, General Eluki Monga Aundu, is reported in the press to have accused the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) of being actively involved in what he is said to have called "aggression against Zaire".

It is to be recalled that similar accusations led the Secretary-General, in the second half of September, to dispatch a special envoy, Ibrahima Fall, to the region. Following this mission, the Government of Zaire admitted that the UNHCR had not been involved in any such activities. Given the grave threat to the security of United Nations staff in the area that such accusations can pose, the Secretary-General calls on the Zairian authorities to withdraw unequivocally these baseless and outdated allegations.

\* \* \* \* \*

[ENDS]

[Via the UN DHA Integrated Regional Information Network "Wire" mailing list. The material contained in this communication may not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its agencies. UN DHA IRIN Tel: +254 2 441125 Fax: +254 2 448816 e-mail: [irin@dha.unon.org](mailto:irin@dha.unon.org) for more information. If you re-print, copy, archive or re-post this item, please retain this credit and disclaimer.]

Date: Thu, 17 Oct 1996 11:09:03 +0300 (GMT+0300) From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes  
<irin@dha.unon.org>  
Subject:

## **Zaire: UN Special Rapporteur begins two-week mission 96.10.14**

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To: irinwire@dha.unon.org  
MIME-version: 1.0  
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UNITED NATIONS

DPI-RELEASES

HR/96/59

14 October 1996

### **SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON SITUATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN ZAIRE BEGINS TWO-WEEK MISSION TO COUNTRY**

Roberto Garreton, the Commission on Human Rights' Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Zaire, began today a new visit to the country. Over the course of the two-week mission he will meet with several officials of the Zairean Government and query them on human-matters and on the ethnic conflict in the region of Kivu. He also will meet with humanitarian organizations, human-rights groups, and various representatives of civil society. In addition, he will travel to the interior of the country, notably to Lubumbashi, Goma, and Bukavu.

The latest report of Mr. Garreton, officially released this week, focuses on the situation in the northern Kivu region (E/CN.4/1997/6/Add.1). In this study, which followed a mission he carried out in July 1996 and included a trip to bordering Rwanda, he outlines the aggravation of ethnic conflicts in Kivu, in particular in the area of Masisi and Rutshuru. The Special Rapporteur reviews in the document the state of ethnic tension between Tutsis and Hutus installed in Zairean refugee camps which resulted in numerous cases of violence, pillaging, and the setting of fires in which the armed security forces of Zaire had participated.

Deploring the violence which had led to a great number of victims, injuries, breaches of security and damage to property, to violations of other rights, and to population displacements, and for which he cites as partly responsible the Zairean State, the Zairean political class, certain ethnic leaders, certain human-rights organizations, and the international community, the Special Rapporteur exhorts the State and the people of Zaire to show

tolerance for Rwandan ethnic groups seeking sanctuary in Zaire, to find an adequate solution to the problem of nationality, and asks the international community not to ignore a situation which could worsen into an tragedy with results as grave as those encountered in Rwanda and Burundi.

The Special Rapporteur adds that he is concerned by a deterioration of ethnic relations in the south of Kivu and warns of a worsening of the human- rights situation in the east of Zaire. He further recommends that the Commission on Human Rights consider holding a special session to find solutions to ethnic tensions prevailing in the Great Lakes region of Africa.

\* \* \* \* \*

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Date: Fri, 18 Oct 1996 16:50:53 +0300 (GMT+0300) From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes  
<irin@dha.unon.org>  
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## **Zaire: ICRC Communication to the press on South Kivu 96.10.18**

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QAA00890; Fri, 18 Oct 1996 16:52:28 +0300

ICRC Communication to the press No 96/32 Geneva, 18 October 1996

### **SOUTH KIVU: ICRC CALLS FOR RESTRAINT**

Geneva (ICRC) - South Kivu and the border areas of Zaire are the scene of growing violence, and the current escalation in warlike rhetoric is fuelling hatred, intolerance and a trend towards exclusion. Unruly behaviour on the part of those bearing weapons, excesses and abuses, including an incident involving a medical facility, are creating a climate of fear and dangerously increasing tension in this troubled area, rife with unresolved and highly explosive political issues.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is concerned to note that this radical turn of events is linked to the question of ethnic identity, which has already caused large-scale disaster in the Great Lakes region. The ICRC consequently calls on all the parties concerned to ensure that moderation and restraint prevail.

The ICRC moreover wants to remind all those bearing arms and military and political leaders of the basic and universally recognized rules that demand respect for civilians, the wounded and captured combatants, as well as for the staff of humanitarian organizations and of the ICRC in particular.

The ICRC is currently sending medical personnel and the equipment required to set up a surgical unit at the Uvira hospital. It also plans to extend its activities in aid of all the victims, in accordance with its principles of neutrality and impartiality, and needs the support of all involved if its staff are to be able to work and travel throughout the area in safety.

ICRC Head of Delegation, Vincent Nicod, can be reached today in Goma, between 3:30 and 5:00 p.m. Geneva time. Tel. Sat. : 00 871 682 284 230

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[ENDS]

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Date: Fri, 18 Oct 1996 17:40:36 +0300 (GMT+0300) From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes  
<irin@dha.unon.org>  
Subject:

**Zaire: International Alert report on Eastern Zaire 15 Oct 96.10.15**

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To: irinwire@dha.unon.org  
MIME-version: 1.0  
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>Received: (from majordom@localhost) by dha.unon.org (8.6.12/8.6.12) id  
RAA01246; Fri, 18 Oct 1996 17:41:19 +0300

International Alert  
Fax: +44 171 793 7975  
Tel: +44 171 793 8383

Dear Sir \ Madam,

International Alert Report: Eastern Zaire

As you know the situation in eastern Zaire has worsened considerably over the past month.

The attached report from one of our Field Officers demonstrates how explosive the current position is and the dangers of further degradation. There is a clear need for the international community to take swift action to prevent further fighting and potential regional escalation.

Developments in the last 48 hours

Since the receipt of the report there have been further important developments.

The Zairean Prime Minister has acknowledged at a press conference that the Banyamulenge are Zairean citizens and it is reported that President Mobutu has made a similar declaration. The political significance of these statements is as yet unclear. Frankly, the extent to which the writ of central government actually runs in the province of Kivu is extremely uncertain.

Despite such reported declarations, the people and administrations of north and south Kivu are saying they are ready to fight the Banyamulenge at all costs. There are reports that other groups around Uvira have asked the Zairean government for arms to fight the Banyamulenge.

It appears increasingly that among the key political figures in Zaire who have influence are the President of the Zaire National Assembly (Anzeluni), the Minister of Foreign Affairs (Kititwa), the Minister of the Interior (Kamanda wa Kamanda), the Governor of south Kivu (Pasteur Kyembwa) and the Commissaire de Zone d'Uvira (Shweka Mutabazi). These political leaders need to make clear statements about the Banyamulenge right to nationality.

In conclusion, may I draw your attention to the recommendations appended to the report.

Yours faithfully,

Kumar Rupesinghe  
Secretary-General International Alert

TOUR REPORT - KIVU, ZAIRE  
8-12 October  
by Karen Twining of International Alert

Purpose of visit

1. To find out more about the Banyamulenge crisis in South Kivu.
2. To make contact with NGOs/civil society working in Eastern Zaire on conflict-related issues.

Introduction

Following discussions in London on 25/9/96 about the Banyamulenge crisis and its implications for regional stability, I arranged to travel to South Kivu in Eastern Zaire with Hassan Ba of Synergy Africa and a representative from IRED/PREFED/PRECOPA. We flew from Kigali to Goma and took an internal flight to Bukavu. On return we spent a night in Goma.

The presence of the Rwandese refugees and the escalating conflict in South Kivu have contributed to deteriorating security. The situation in South Kivu is tense and explosive. We arrived to the sound of gun-shots and the sight of people fleeing from the army, who were looting to express their anger at the killing of a colonel and seven soldiers by the Banyamulenge. Our movements were restricted by the prevailing insecurity.

In this context, we were able to meet with different Bukavu NGO leaders and local journalists, but were not able to travel to the main conflict zone. Hassan Ba met the Vice Governor (since suspended) to discuss the Toure diplomatic initiative. In Kigali we maintained contact with a Banyamulenge leader, and members of the Rwandan Government. As expected in any conflict situation views are highly polarised and inconsistent. I have therefore tried to present the public perspectives of individuals representing different stake-holder groups to give a flavour of their discourse, while being aware that the reality is far more complex.

A quick chronology

Please also refer to the IRIN Briefing: The Conflict in South Kivu, Zaire and its Regional Implications, 7 October 1996.

Key dates include:

1600-1900, First migrations of Tutsi pastoralists to High Plateau of South Kivu  
1885 Berlin Conference  
1910 Brussels Convention (Zaire/Rwanda border changes) 1959 Influx of Tutsi refugees to Zaire - creates anti-Tutsi feelings  
1965 Banyamulenge armed against Mulele rebels 1972 & 1977 Election of Gisaro, 1st Banyamulenge MP, causes rifts. Nationality Law gives rights to those resident before 1950  
1980 Gisaro killed in car crash  
1981 New nationality law confuses Banyamulenge with recent refugees and questions their right to citizenship. 1987 Elections. Banyamulenge refused candidate. Destroyed ballot boxes.  
1990 Mobutu denies political action to those without nationality. RPF invade Rwanda. Zairois Tutsis leave to join RPF.  
1993 Death of Ndadaye in Burundi and increasing tension between Banyamulenge & other groups.  
1994 Genocide. Influx of Hutu refugees. Exodus of Tutsis to Rwanda.  
1995 Zaire Parliament votes to apply 1981 Nationality Law. Increasing harassment & expulsions of Banyamulenge. 1996 Tutsis chased from Masisi, North Kivu. Banning of Groupe Milima, Banyamulenge NGO. Detention and killings of Banyamulenge. Refugees to Rwanda and Burundi. Armed Banyamulenge youth start fighting back...

Positions and perspectives

NB. Please note that the following perspectives represent summaries of common views expressed to us by different stake-holders within the last week and are not opinions or judgements of mine.

Within certain groups, (particularly South Kivu Civil Society), there was more nuance and divergence of opinion, but these were the dominant sentiments.

Views expressed by Banyamulenge

The Banyamulenge are fighting for their right to Zairois citizenship and to live peacefully with their neighbours and nothing else. They are discriminated against on the basis of language and morphology and now are being massacred by GOZ.

The Banyamulenge left Rwanda for Zaire at the end of the 18th century: some have been in Zaire for over 10 generations, a fact corroborated by written sources and oral history. During the 1965 Mulele rebellion, Mobutu armed the Banyamulenge to fight against the rebels. There have been Banyamulenge MPs, Chiefs and very senior civil servants.

GOZ exerted maximum harassment to force the Banyamulenge to flee to Rwanda. This has now become wholesale massacre.

The Lamera Hospital attack (6 October) was a response to a number of incidents in which Banyamulenge have been tortured and killed (eg 49 men killed by burning tyre necklaces at Kamanola, 5 men killed at Uvira, 5 priests at Luberizi, 202 at Bibokoboko, 80 at Itombwe and others). The hospital was targeted to obtain drugs and to block the road to the High Plateau. Prior to the Lamera Hospital attack the Banyamulenge had not touched any civilians and will not attack without provocation.

Banyamulenge took up arms as a last resort, after the arrival of the 1994 refugees and increasing threats from the Zairois authorities and politicians. Their arms were bought from several Zaire Army Colonels and from the Interahamwe (\$130 pre 1996, now \$200 for an AK47). 50 Banyamulenge Officers deserted the Military Training College at Kananga and have trained their troops.

The RPF/GOR have not provided arms to Banyamulenge. Their support is restricted to accepting refugees and informing the international community about their plight.

None of South Kivu civil society accept that Banyamulenge has right to citizenship, due to economic jealousy and hypocrisy.

The Banyamulenge are willing to consider anything that will bring about peace, and they are ready to stop fighting immediately and lay down arms in exchange for nationality.

Views expressed by South Kivu Civil Society/NGOs The Banyamulenge are rebels, saboteurs and disloyal serpents, who have abused Zairois hospitality and are making false claims to nationality and land.

Rwandese both Tutsi and Hutu have brought nothing but trouble to Kivu and should all be returned to Rwanda, where they come from.

Banyamulenge are the aggressors who have been attacking innocent civilians. (No acknowledgement of harassment and massacres of Banyamulenge).

Kagame is using the Banyamulenge to destabilise Zaire and consolidate Tutsiland.

The international community have abandoned Zaire and favour Rwandese Tutsis.

The people of South Kivu are ready to take up arms to fight against the Banyamulenge.

It is now too late for a peaceful solution or for the Banyamulenge to be able to stay in Kivu.

Views expressed by South Kivu Politicians (Taken from Declarations of the South Kivu Group of MPs dated 18 & 27 September 1996)

The Banyamulenge problem is part of an international conspiracy to support the expansionist ambitions of Rwanda and Burundi to create a Hima Empire.

Rwandese Tutsis started arriving in Zaire only since 1934 and have no right to Zairois nationality. There is no record of any `Banyamulenge' ethnic group in colonial times: the name was fabricated by pretenders to citizenship.

The Banyamulenge, along with other Tutsis resident in Zaire, left in large numbers to join the RPF and to live in Rwanda. They have been supported by Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda, Somalia and Ethiopia to conquer South and North Kivu, and destabilise Zaire.

GOZ should apply the Nationality Law rigorously, expel all people of Rwandese and Burundi origin and relieve them of public and political office.

The MPs support the efforts of the local people to defend their territory and demand the expulsion of NGOs involved in destabilising the region (Oxfam, CARE, ICRC, UNHCR etc).

Views expressed by South Kivu Vice-Governor (suspended on 11 October)  
Rwanda has declared war on Zaire. GOZ has made efforts to discuss situation with GOR but they have refused dialogue.

Banyamulenge have 6 days to leave the High Plateau (`couloir humanitaire') or be identified with the rebels.

Views expressed by Rwandan Government  
Banyamulenge are Zairois citizens who have the right to stay in Zaire. They are victims of genocide, carried out by the Zairian army with the help of the ex-FAR and the Interahamwe.

The Government of Rwanda has no claim to Zairois territory and is bound by the 1963 OAU Declaration respecting colonial boundaries.

On the military front, GOR will not cross the border but it will defend its own territory. GOR cannot sit and watch the Banyamulenge being massacred.

If the Banyamulenge return to Rwanda, they should bring their land with them.

The President said Rwanda can receive Banyamulenge women and children but the men should go and fight for their rights.

GOZ is trying to destabilise Rwanda in order to distract attention away from its own internal crises and leadership vacuum.

The French Government are behind the attempts to destabilise Rwanda. The mercenary Bob Denard is now in Kinshasa.

GOR wants a diplomatic solution to convince GOZ to stop the killings and establish the claims to nationality of the Banyamulenge. They will approach the Belgians, British and Germans, who were involved in the Brussels Convention of 1910 to press for a Security Council resolution.

Reported statement by Aldo Ajello, EU special representative for Great Lakes region  
The situation of the Banyamulenge is potentially more serious than Burundi.

#### Our Conclusions

1. The Banyamulenge crisis in south Kivu has serious implications for regional stability and extends far beyond the quest for nationality rights by the Banyamulenge, who are likely to be the victims of larger political interests.
2. Events of the past few months in South Kivu appear to repeat the flight of Tutsis from Masisi and Rutshuru in 1995-6 with the difference being that the Banyamulenge have been preparing themselves to fight.
3. Currently the Banyamulenge are well-armed and occupy a strategic position on the Haut Plateau, a terrain they know well. It is reported that they are receiving support from the RPF, although this is denied by both parties. Their advantages over the FAZ (Zaire Army Forces) from outside the region will not last long if other local groups (Babembe, Barega Bafulero, Bashi) decide to take up arms against the Banyamulenge. This would result in massive bloodshed.
4. The ex-FAR/Interahamwe appear to be involved in the killings of the Banyamulenge, in league with FAZ and the local people.
5. The conflict in South Kivu cannot be resolved without addressing the refugee problem. Rwanda will not feel safe with armed refugees on its borders, and the presence of CNDD headquarters in Uvira adds to the perceived threat.
6. The Banyamulenge's right to Zairoise nationality must be sorted out by legal means, rather than by fighting. They are ready to negotiate. However the strong anti-Tutsi feelings prevalent in Eastern Zaire have been exacerbated by the one-sided accounts of atrocities committed by the Banyamulenge, making a peaceful solution more difficult.
7. The international community must put pressure on the Zaire Government to recognise the nationality rights of the Banyamulenge and stop the blood-shed.

#### Our Recommendations

1. The UN security council should study the situation in Kivu and request the government of Zaire to suspend immediately any action of its forces against Banyamulenge.

2. Equally, the security council should request the Rwandan government to refrain from any action that could inflame the situation.

3. The UN and the OAU should urgently convene a summit between GOZ and GOR to formulate concrete plans to deal adequately with the Banyamulenge crisis.

4. UNHCR should co-ordinate safe passage and organise reception if evacuation is the only immediate way of saving life.

5. Escorts should monitor and protect the movement of Banyamulenge from eastern Zaire; OAU and other forces should be prepared to mobilise immediately.

6. All concerned NGOs should:

- a. make every effort to inform and lobby the international community about the current situation in south Kivu in order to prevent escalation of the war and widespread bloodshed.
- b. encourage and provide support to a diplomatic initiative to resolve the problems.
- c. consider different ways of working with civil society in south Kivu to change the strong anti-Tutsi sentiments and consolidate a peace process.

Karen Twining  
15 October, 1996.

[ENDS]

[Via the UN DHA Integrated Regional Information Network "Wire" mailing list. The material contained in this communication may not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its agencies. UN DHA IRIN Tel: +254 2 441125 Fax: +254 2 448816 e-mail: [irin@dha.unon.org](mailto:irin@dha.unon.org) for more information. If you re-print, copy, archive or re-post this item, please retain this credit and disclaimer.]

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## **Zaire: Amnesty International Information on South Kivu 96.10.15**

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SAA12845; Mon, 21 Oct 1996 18:13:54 +0300

15 October 1996

### AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL INFORMATION

- Fear of torture / Possible prisoners of conscience

ZAIRE            Kabande, local chief  
Rugazura, local chief  
Pasteur Muzizi  
Pasteur Bugunzu  
Pasteur Semutobo

There has been no news about the five elderly men named above, arrested by members of the Forces armées zairois (FAZ) Zairian Armed Forces, on 20 August 1996 in the Lemera area of Uvira Zone in Zaire's South-Kivu region. Amnesty International fears that they are still being held incommunicado in the nearby military camp at Luberizi, and that they therefore remain at risk of torture and beatings, or even death in custody. A further round of urgent appeals on their behalf is requested before this case transfers to another part of the AI membership for action.

The situation in South-Kivu is extremely tense, and Amnesty International is alarmed at reports that mass human rights violations are occurring in the region .

Amnesty International is:

- seeking information about the current situation of those named above, who appear to have been arbitrarily arrested and illegally detained at Luberizi camp;
- asking what steps the authorities took in response to earlier appeals on this case;
- calling for the men, if still in custody, to be released or their case transferred to the parquet (public prosecutor's office) immediately, and seeking assurances that they are not being tortured, and that they will be allowed immediate and continuing access to lawyers, doctors and family members.

Date: Mon, 21 Oct 1996 20:07:41 +0300 (GMT+0300) From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes  
<irin@dha.unon.org>  
Subject:

**Zaire: Amnesty International EX157/96 ZAIRE Violations fear 96.10.11**

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## author : ritchellai@gn.apc.org  
## date : 11.10.96

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EXTERNAL AI Index: AFR 62/16/96  
11 October 1996

EXTRA 157/96 Fear of mass human rights violations

ZAIRE Members of the Tutsi ethnic group and other civilians

The deputy governor of Zaire's South-Kivu region announced on 8 October 1996 that all  
Zairian Tutsi in the region must leave their homes and relocate to temporary camps within one  
week. Amnesty International is concerned that mass arrests, severe ill-treatment,  
"disappearances", or even killings will increase and that anyone of Tutsi appearance will be  
victimized.

In recent weeks, Amnesty International has received numerous reports of arrests, torture,  
"disappearances" and extrajudicial executions of Tutsi in South-Kivu. Roadblocks have been  
set up in the region's capital, Bukavu, and crowds of non-Tutsi civilians have been hunting for  
suspected Tutsi, before handing them over to members of the security forces. On 10 October  
Matthew Bigg, a British journalist reporting from Bukavu for Reuters news agency, was  
detained for several hours by members of the armed forces apparently because of his alleged

Tutsi appearance. He was released after representatives of the United Nations in Zaire intervened on his behalf. Amnesty International has received many other accounts of such arrests in Bukavu and other parts of South-Kivu.

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Armed conflict between members of the Forcees armees zairoises (FAZ) Zairian Armed Forces and armed Tutsi groups in South-Kivu broke out in September 1996. Amnesty International has received numerous allegations of human rights violations perpetrated by the FAZ, including arbitrary arrests, "disappearances" and extrajudicial executions, as well as reports of abuses against unarmed civilians, such as killings, perpetrated by members of armed groups.

The Tutsi community in South-Kivu, known as the Banyamulenge, have been suffering increasing harassment from political, military and administrative authorities in Zaire, especially since relations between Zaire and Rwanda deteriorated after the arrival of about one million Hutu refugees from Rwanda in 1994. The Banyamulenge trace their origins to Rwanda, although they have lived in Zaire for many generations and have thus acquired Zairian nationality and today consider themselves Zairians.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express/airmail letters in French or your own language:

- expressing concern that members of the armed forces and civilians are subjecting Banyamulenge and other people to human rights abuses on the basis of their ethnic origins or their physical appearance;
- urging the authorities to instruct the armed forces to respect the rule of law and to ensure that no one is arbitrarily arrested or subjected to any human rights abuses, and that all suspects are transferred to the civilian Procuracy within 48 hours of their arrest, as required by Zairian law;
- seeking assurances that no-one will be held incommunicado, or subjected to beatings and other forms of cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment, "disappearance" or extrajudicial executions.

## APPEALS TO:

Prime Minister:

Monsieur Leon KENGO Wa Dondo  
[Salutation: Monsieur le Premier Ministre.] Premier Ministre  
Hotel du Conseil Executif  
Avenue des 3Z  
Kinshasa - Gombe, ZAIRE  
Faxes: + 243 88 42062

Telegrams: Premier Ministre, Kinshasa, Zaire

Armed Forces Chief of Staff:

Grand Amiral ELUKI Monga

[Salutation: Monsieur le Chef d'Etat-major / Dear Chief of Staff] Chef d'Etat-major general des Forces armees zairoises (FAZ) Ministere de la Defense nationale

Kinshasa-Ngaliema

Republique du Zaire

Telegrams: Chef d'Etat-major, FAZ, Ministere Defense, Kinshasa, Zaire

South-Kivu Governor:

Pasteur KYEMBWA Wa Lumona

[Salutation: Monsieur le Gouverneur / Dear Governor] Gouverneur

Region du Sud-Kivu

Hotel de ville

Bukavu, Republique du Zaire

Telegrams: Gouverneur Kyembwa, Bukavu, Zaire

PLEASE SEND COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO: Embassy of Zaire, 26 Chesham Place, London SW1X 8HH. Fax: 0171 235 9048

AND, IF POSSIBLE, TO THE FOLLOWING:

Minister of Justice:

Monsieur Joseph Nsinga Udju

Ministre de la Justice et Garde des sceaux Ministere de la Justice

BP 3137

Kinshasa - Gombe, ZAIRE

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Please do not send appeals after 12 November 1996.

+-----+ + If you have any queries about this  
Urgent Action or about + + the UA scheme in general, please contact: +  
+ Ray Mitchell +  
+ Amnesty International UK Section +  
+ 99 - 119 Rosebery Avenue+  
+ London EC1R 4REemail: rmittchellai@gn.apc.org +  
+-----+

Date: Mon, 21 Oct 1996 22:44:40 +0300 (GMT+0300) From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes  
<irin@dha.unon.org>  
Subject:

## **Zaire: Action by Churches Together (ACT) Alert 96.10.21**

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To: irinwire@dha.unon.org  
MIME-version: 1.0  
Precedence: list  
>Received: (from majordom@localhost) by dha.unon.org (8.6.12/8.6.12) id  
WAA00930; Mon, 21 Oct 1996 22:46:53 +0300

Action by Churches Together (ACT)  
A L E R T  
Great Lakes Region: 250.000

Refugees Fleeing Camps in Eastern Zaire  
Geneva, 21.10.96

While awaiting last details and revision of appeals (in the magnitude of 1.3 million US dollars) from partners in Great Lakes Region some news relating to unrest and serious displacement in South Kivu, Eastern Zaire.

According to news agencies up to 250.000 refugees have fled 12 camps near Uvira in South Kivu. The refugees are originally Hutus from Rwanda and Burundi and they are now said to be heading north on the road toward Bukavu. The situation in Bukavu itself has been tense over several weeks with increasing Za?rian military presence and road blocks in the streets. A large scale influx of refugees to the Bukavu area is likely to increase tension and will put heavy strain on all available resources there.

The flight of refugees from Uvira started yesterday (Sunday) and has been on the increase today. It follows recent fights between Za?rian army units and local Tutsi groups, Banyamulenge, including attacks at refugee camps and a hospital in the Uvira area.

Fighting around Goma (further north) on Saturday only increased tension and may be a warning of further unrest and displacement. Should more fights break out in larger parts of Eastern Zaire (involving forces across the border to Rwanda) the amount of displaced refugees could double or triple on a short notice. This situation has led ACT related partners in the region to start working on contingency plans in case of a worsening situation.

The ACT Co-ordination Office will return to you with further information and an appeal as soon as necessary information is made available to us. This will be within days.

----- Action by Churches Together (ACT)  
is a worldwide network of churches and their related agencies meeting human need through co-ordinated emergency response and common identity. The ACT network is organizationally based in the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) and the World Council of Churches (WCC) and is a co-ordinating rather than an operational office. -----  
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Date: Wed, 23 Oct 1996 00:14:49 +0300 (GMT+0300) From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes  
<irin@dha.unon.org>  
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## **Zaire: Alert by Action by Churches Together (ACT) 96.10.22**

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To: irinwire@dha.unon.org  
MIME-version: 1.0  
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AAA04233; Wed, 23 Oct 1996 00:19:52 +0300

Action by Churches Together (ACT)  
Alert  
Great Lakes (Eastern Zaire)  
Refugees  
Geneva, 22.10.96

Uvira refugees approaching Bukavu at a rate of 700 per hour Geneva, 22. October, 96: Aid workers at a field hospital in Nyangezi, Eastern Zaire, report that approximately 700 refugees per hour are passing their hospital. The refugees are mainly Hutus originally from Burundi and Rwanda and they are heading north, fleeing fighting around their previous camps in Uvira, Zaire. The field hospital at Nyangezi is operated by ACT (Action by churches together), Norwegian Church Aid and local agency CEPZa/CELPa. Despite a very difficult security and supply situation in the area the hospital staff is trying to provide basic medical assistance to the refugees.

Nyangezi hospital is just 22 kilometers south of the town Bukavu where the majority of the refugees seem headed for. Only 1.500 - 2.000 refugees out of potentially 250.000 refugees from Uvira have so far reached Bukavu. ACT staff present in Bukavu express great concern for the supply situation in the area. Bukavu is practically cut off from overland routes and only holds food and medicine for a few days. Based on what is available preparations are being made by ACT, UNHCR and other NGOs to cover basic needs of the refugees as they reach Bukavu.

The fighting at Uvira is between Zairian forces and a local Tutsi militia mainly composed of Banyamulenge. This group has been residing in Eastern Zaire long before the influx of Hutu refugees from Rwanda started in 1994. The earliest records of Banyamulenge in Zaire dates several centuries back, but recently their relations to the Zairian Army and the Hutu refugees in the area have developed into armed confrontations and attacks on civilians on both sides of the conflicts. Sunday and Monday the fighting intensified apparently sending the Zairian Army forces on the retreat and prompting up to 250.000 Hutu refugees to flee ahead of the attacking Banyamulenge militia. Because of insecurity on the road linking Uvira and Bukavu

very little is known about the situation of these refugees. The Banyamulenge militia now seems to be only 50 kilometer south of Bukavu, a major center for humanitarian aid operations in the area. If the armed conflict should spread further into the Bukavu area the humanitarian consequences and related needs are frightening.

Further north in Eastern Zaire armed conflict and deteriorating security situation has been reported over the last days with a focus on fighting in the border region between Zaire, Uganda and Rwanda cutting off the main supply road for humanitarian assistance to the camps near Goma. ACT staff present in the area reports Goma town quiet but roads impassable because of landmines. There have been recent attacks at villages and camps at Kibumba and Katale. Food distributions have been suspended for so far two days. All in all the situation in Eastern Zaire gives reason for great concern. ACT and its partners and in Bukavu (Norwegian Church Aid and CEPZa/CELPa) are working toward meeting immediate medical needs while planning further emergency measures. In Goma (ACT/Lutheran World Federation) is monitoring the situation closely in cooperation with UNHCR. These agencies along with other ACT partners in the region (Rwanda, Burundi and Tanzania) are currently drawing up contingency plans for a number of crisis scenarios in the region.

The ACT Co-ordination Office in Geneva will be putting out one or more appeals on the Greater Lakes Region shortly.

For further information, please contact the ACT Communications Officer, Mr Nils Carstensen (Direct phone +41 22 791 6039).

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Date: Wed, 23 Oct 1996 00:38:39 +0300 (GMT+0300) From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes  
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Subject:

## **Zaire: Ogata warns of looming humanitarian crisis 96.10.22**

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AAA04555; Wed, 23 Oct 1996 00:39:13 +0300

UNHCR

Press releases

22 October 1996

OGATA WARNS OF LOOMING HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN GREAT LAKES

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on Tuesday expressed deep concern over the plight of Burundi and Rwandan refugees forced to flee their camps in eastern Zaire in the face of intensified ethnic fighting.

"I am deeply worried by the widening scale of violence in eastern Zaire in recent weeks that has once again sent tens of thousands of refugees -- women, children, sick and elderly -- fleeing for their lives," High Commissioner Sadako Ogata said in a statement. "Unless all parties to this conflict step back, we are, I am afraid, heading toward a humanitarian catastrophe."

Ogata also expressed concern for the safety of humanitarian staff who have been unable to carry out their work because of the fighting between Zairian troops and the Banyamulenge, people of Rwandan origin. As of Tuesday morning, more than 50 international staff members of UNHCR, other U.N. agencies and non-governmental organizations were trapped in UNHCR's office in Uvira. Over the last 24 hours, the staff reported they could hear sound of gunfire outside.

"After all our efforts the past few years to provide help and some sense of stability in the Uvira camps in almost impossible conditions, we are once again facing an emergency operation. The refugees and humanitarian workers are at the mercy of a very unstable and dangerous security situation, and it is impossible at this time to predict the outcome. I thus appeal to all sides to halt the violence immediately and avoid another humanitarian disaster in a region that has already suffered enough."

Zairian military authorities report that all 12 camps in the Uvira region have been abandoned because of the fighting. The 220,000 refugees from the camps -- 143,000 Burundi and 75,000 Rwandan -- are reported to be either hiding in the surrounding hills or are heading toward Bukavu, about 75 kms north of Uvira. UNHCR field officers have also observed hundreds of local Zaireans moving towards Uvira town, fleeing the conflict.

Some 3,000 refugees have arrived in the Nyengezi-Mulwa camp in the Bukavu region and scores are in Bukavu town itself. UNHCR is preparing existing camps in Bukavu to receive refugee arrivals from Uvira.

UNHCR field officers expect the Burundi refugees will remain in the Uvira region. Rwandan refugees wishing to return to Rwanda will be assisted.

In the Goma region on Sunday, there were military reports of fighting in the vicinity of three camps, leaving one officer dead and another soldier wounded. Reports on the ground indicate that fighting was continuing on Tuesday in at least one area north of Goma.

Zaire hosts 1 million of the 1.6 million Rwandan refugees. The rest are in Tanzania.

[ENDS]

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Date: Thu, 24 Oct 1996 16:02:56 +0300 (GMT+0300) From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes  
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## **Zaire: WFP press release on looming food crisis 96.10.23**

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>Received: (from majordom@localhost) by dha.unon.org (8.6.12/8.6.12) id  
QAA14776; Thu, 24 Oct 1996 16:04:08 +0300

News Release

23 October 1996

### **WFP WARNS OF LOOMING FOOD CRISIS IN EASTERN ZAIRE APPEALS FOR INTERNATIONAL ACTION**

The World Food Programme today warned that intensified armed fighting and the worsening security situation in eastern Zaire has led to a cut-off in humanitarian supplies which could result in a major hunger crisis affecting over one million Rwandan and Burundian refugees. "Unless supply lines to the refugee camps are opened immediately, the humanitarian consequences in coming weeks could be devastating," said Trevor Rowe, WFP chief spokesman.

"Our window of opportunity is quickly diminishing as events spiral out of control," Rowe added. "We appeal to the international community to exert maximum pressure to ensure the free movement of humanitarian relief."

WFP has the capability to deliver food stocks from neighboring Uganda and Tanzania for the refugees in eastern Zaire for the next two months. However, delivering the food to the camps has become virtually impossible because of worsening security conditions.

"Until we can move the food into eastern Zaire, we face a situation that is daily growing more tense and more desperate," Rowe said. "The situation is made more difficult by the fact that thousands of refugees are now on the move and we are unable to reach them."

Since the weekend 75 WFP trucks with more than 2,200 metric tons of food destined for Goma and Bukavu have been halted at the Zaire/Uganda border for security reasons by Zairian authorities.

In Bukavu, WFP already distributed food supplies to the refugees which will last until the end of the month. The Programme now has only enough additional food stocks to feed the 300,000 refugees for an extra week.

In Goma, WFP has 7,200 tonnes of food in stock. However, while these supplies are enough to feed 727,000 people for three weeks, delivery has been blocked by continued fighting in the north where an estimated 500,000 refugees are camped. Zairian authorities have not allowed relief personnel to enter the area where food warehouses are located. To the west of Goma, where there are some 220,000 refugees, there are no food stocks.

In order to prevent a major crisis in Goma, WFP intends to cut rations in half in order to extend supplies by an additional week. Nonetheless, with the current influx of refugees the amounts of supplies available will be reduced.

The main route for delivering food to Goma and Bukavu is from Kampala, Uganda. Food for Bukavu had also been arriving via the now strife-torn Uvira region.

In Uvira, where up to 250,000 refugees had been living in camps but where most are reported to be on the move, there are no significant food supplies. Fighting at Uvira between Zairian forces and the Banyamulenge militia has forced a suspension of relief operations. International aid workers from the town were evacuated on a WFP-chartered aircraft on Tuesday.

WFP is monitoring the situation closely in cooperation with other aid agencies. The Programme is drawing up contingency plans for a number of crisis scenarios in the region.

The World Food Programme is the largest international food agency. Last year it fed more than 50 million people, including half of the world's refugees and internally displaced people.

For more information please contact:

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679-6565 (home)

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Date: Sat, 26 Oct 1996 14:01:16 +0300 (GMT+0300) From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes  
<irin@dha.unon.org>  
Subject:

## **Zaire: IRIN Update on South Kivu, 26 October 1996 96.10.26**

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MIME-version: 1.0  
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OAA26038; Sat, 26 Oct 1996 14:07:26 +0300

UNITED NATIONS  
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### **IRIN UPDATE ON SOUTH KIVU - 26 OCTOBER 1996**

The information in this report is current as of early this morning (26 October 1996). An evacuation of international aid staff from Bukavu is likely today. The situation is very fluid, and events may overtake this report over the next hours.

#### **1. THE WIDENING CONFLICT**

1.1 The conflict in South Kivu is reaching a peak as the provincial capital, Bukavu, is squeezed by military advances from the south and land routes for aid and trade are blocked. An attack on Bukavu is regarded by the Zairean Camp Security Contingent as within the capacity of the Banyamulenge-dominated forces at any time.

1.2 Despite urgings (and even appeals for contributions for the war effort) from the Zairean Prime Minister and President, it appears clear that the FAZ are losing territory and retreating, sometimes even before engaging the rebels. Zairean forces have been pushed back beyond Nyangezi, less than 30 kms south of Bukavu, where some 10 Zairean Camp Security Contingent soldiers were captured mid-week. The Banyamulenge-dominated forces opposing them now control most of the area between Uvira and Buakvu, including Kamanyola and part, if not all of the border with Rwanda. Zairean forces occupying Uvira have apparently been defeated by the rebels during Friday night and Saturday morning after shelling was reported on the night of the 24th October and in the morning of the 25th. BBC carried an interview with a

spokesman for the "Alliance of Forces for Democracy and Liberation of Congo-Zaire", who claimed to be in Uvira, having won the town with a force of 400 fighters.

1.3 The FAZ have mounted roadblocks in Bukavu city for checking identification papers and the number of car-jackings by Zairean soldiers is high - 10-15 UN and NGO vehicles were seized on Tuesday alone. While the Governor declared himself "serene" earlier in the week, the FAZ have reportedly set up defensive positions around the city. A 8pm to 6am curfew was enforced on Wednesday.

1.4 While the Banyamulenge forces control most of the Rusizi plain and probably parts of the Haut Plateaux in the west, some observers expressed surprise that they had climbed the escarpment road and taken highland areas around Nyangezi on Wednesday.

1.5 The ultimate objective of the Banyamulenge-dominated forces is unclear, as the conflict ostensibly began as an exercise in self-defence. The possibility of some kind of "master-plan" linking attacks in North Kivu and the South Kivu conflict is hard to discount entirely.

1.6 Zairean state radio announced that military aircraft are to be deployed in the South Kivu conflict. Further ammunition was supplied to the FAZ during the week. Accusations and denials continue to fly between Kinshasa and Kigali as to the alleged involvement of Rwandan Patriotic Army forces in the fighting. Zaire has also protested to the UN Security Council. There remains no conclusive evidence of RPA involvement nor of Burundian forces taking part. Other allegations include reports of anti-Zairean forces using Burundian and Rwandan territory in the campaign.

1.7 Prompt diplomatic initiatives by the EU, UN and OAU have yet to bear fruit but talks hosted by Belgium have started in an attempt to broker a meeting between Zairean Prime Minister Kengo wa Dondo and either Rwandan Prime Minister Pierre Celestin Rwigema or Vice President and Minister of Defence, Paul Kagame. The US, France and EU Special Envoy have lent weight to Belgian efforts. The UN Secretary-General and the Chairman of the OAU, have lent their support to the idea of a regional Conference for Peace, Security and Development in the Great Lakes Region. UN Special Envoy, Ibrahima Fall, is reported to have made progress in persuading Uganda and Rwanda of the usefulness of the Conference. The UN Secretary-General has further proposed a mediator to negotiate a ceasefire. Zairean President Mobutu is reported to remain in very poor health in Switzerland, adding to the general uncertainty.

1.8 Opposition groups from Rwanda (the RDR) and Burundi (CNDD) have weighed in with statements alleging an over-arching plan for a "Tutsiland" beyond the borders of Rwanda and Burundi. Muller Ruhimbika, exiled Banyamulenge leader of the newly-named Democratic Alliance for the People, said that Shaba and Kasai-based Zairean opposition groups now support the Tutsi rebels. This raises the possibility of an even broader conflict within Zaire. Also the Banyamulenge were ready for talks, he said in a BBC interview on Thursday. On Friday, he upped the stakes by saying to "We are not fighting for the Kivu region, but for the whole of Zaire...Mobutu must go."

1.9 The widening conflict in North Kivu includes border areas between Uganda and Zaire. Uganda's Major-General Salim Saleh, Special Presidential Advisor on Military and Political Affairs in the North has asked parliament to allow government Ugandan People's Defence Forces to pursue and assault bases of Ugandan rebels in Zaire and Sudan.

## 2. HUMANITARIAN IMPACT

2.1 As the crisis broke, all 220,000 refugees grouped in the Uvira camps were reported to all have fled. Now, however, it appears that some camps remain more or less intact and the refugees are still in residence. Those that were abandoned have since reportedly been burnt. As far as anyone can tell, four or five camps to the north of Uvira are the ones which have been abandoned. Figures being used by the humanitarian community in Bukavu indicate that there are up to 80,000 mainly Rwandan refugees from the Uvira camps on the move. But some refugees from the Uvira camps have reportedly fled westwards - and some may have returned to Burundi. Since the deterioration in security and the evacuation of relief workers, as many as 140,000 refugees may remain around Uvira and are unlikely to receive any supplies in the near future.

2.2 The second group of affected people are the refugees of the southern Bukavu camps, in particular the two at Nyangezi. A total of 37,000 refugees from those two camps left beginning Tuesday 22 October. In addition, it appears that Nyantende camp may also be abandoned (approximately 9,000 more "displaced refugees" may have moved out).

2.3 The third group of affected people are local Zairean populations displaced by the fighting. In the whole of South Kivu, a current "guesstimate" of the numbers suggests 15,000 displaced in Fizi Zone, south of Uvira, 30,000 between Uvira and Bukavu and 10,000 in the environs of Bukavu. Some urban Zaireans in Uvira and Bukavu are also leaving town to seek sanctuary in the countryside. These figures are little better than guesses, and needs among this group are likely to be taken care of by relatives. However, the strain of accommodating displaced family members will, in the medium term, begin to take a toll on local services in health and other sectors.

The hospital in Bukavu is full, with wounded soldiers still armed, causing disruption.

## 3. BREAKDOWN OF POPULATION IN NEED

### 3.1 Table of current population estimates

Displaced refugees (from Uvira): 80,000

Displaced refugees (from Bukavu): 46,000 Remaining refugees (at Bukavu): 264,000

Remaining refugees (at Uvira): 140,000

Total: 530,000

3.2 Additional non-food needs are likely for Zairean displaced in the mid-term.

3.3 Up to 16,000 of the estimated displaced refugees from both areas listed above have re-appeared at other Bukavu camps.

3.4 These figures should of course be treated with caution, as they are "best available" estimates.

#### 4. HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

4.1 The activities of humanitarian agencies are severely restricted by looting of vehicles in the town, the possibility of ambushes outside and the threat of a rebel assault on the town. WFP had a warehouse looted on Wednesday and a staff member assaulted on Thursday. It is questionable whether the current level of insecurity can be tolerated by the majority of aid agencies, and a planned pull-out is being reviewed constantly. Within these limitations, aid agencies are trying to assist the displaced refugees on arrival at the Bukavu camps, continue services to established refugees and give some support to local structures.

4.2 The displaced refugees are beginning to arrive in westerly Bukavu camps, guided by Zairean soldiers along the route. This group are - in general - prevented from entering Bukavu by Zairean security forces. As many of the Bukavu camps are effectively "full" (no unused or suitable land is adjacent), UNHCR is encouraging those who wish to stay, to move to emptier camps, and Chimanga in particular.

4.3 Chimanga, managed by CARE, is the most westerly of the Bukavu camps, and had a population of about 18,000 before the crisis broke. So far, about 2,000 displaced refugees have arrived there. Larger numbers of refugees (7,000-14,000) have arrived at camps along the route, but protest at having to move further. They are building shelters on the edges of the current camps, and are accepted by the other refugees. Aid agencies are planning to provide water and high-protein biscuits along the road if security permits.

4.4 The UNHCR, however, has urged the Rwandan refugees to seriously consider returning home in a message from Ms Ogata broadcast to the region on 25 October.

#### 5. HUMANITARIAN IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The current land routes to Bukavu seem likely to be closed or unreliable for the near future. If the roads to Uganda, north of Goma become safer, Bukavu could then be supplied by barge from Goma. The road between the two provincial capitals is unsuitable for any truck carrying more than 10 metric tonnes, and even then it is a rough road.

5.2 The southern route through Uvira (itself supplied either by barge from Kigoma, Tanzania, or in the past, overland through Burundi) seems likely to be closed for some time unless there is a resolution to the fighting one way or the other. There are alternative land routes - through

Rwanda, but since April 1995, the Rwandan Government has blocked the transit of refugee relief supplies through its territory. On its past record, it would be surprising if Rwanda were to relent now.

5.3 Monthly food requirements for the 310,000 refugees of the Bukavu caseload plus the additional displaced refugees from Uvira could be over 6,000 metric tonnes per month. The World Food Programme intends to operate an airlift from Uganda to Bukavu, using a C-130 transport aircraft. The first flight of food was planned for Saturday, carrying nutritional biscuits or CSB. However, the supply of the current caseload in South Kivu with a general ration would be prohibitively expensive. An attempt to supply even a half ration by air could cost well over \$100,000 per day. A single C-130 flight from Entebbe to Bukavu costs between \$12,000 to \$15,000.

5.4 Other relief items may be deliverable by barge from stock in Goma, but in general, further supplies will have to come by air. However, Bukavu airport is a 40-minute drive north of the town and so is vulnerable to being cut off too.

5.5 The delivery of food and other relief items to Bukavu is only one part of the story. If Bukavu remains cut off, the effects of a de facto blockade will begin to show in fuel shortages, inflation and perhaps additional population displacement and looting. Diesel is already in very short supply.

5.6 The contortions required to "classify" the affected populations in South Kivu are one aspect of the humanitarian system's sometimes overlapping mandates: refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs) and recipients of "development aid".

5.7 The UNHCR message urges Rwandan refugees to make a virtue of a necessity, and go home where their security and dignity are assured by the Rwandan government and attested to by the international community. While reassuring them that the choice is theirs, in a "terrible" situation, UNHCR urges them to ignore "malicious rumours" when deciding where to go. If the rebels control the southern land border between Rwanda and Zaire, however, there may not presently be a safe corridor for refugees willing to return.

## 6. CONCLUSIONS

6.1 Reliable information on the number and location of the displaced and refugees of all groups is very scarce. Also, details of the progress of the fighting is almost non-existent. The few foreign journalists in Bukavu are constantly harassed and asked for bribes. A foreign correspondent (with a valid visa) leaving Bukavu on Friday had to pay a total of \$500 in bribes at seven checkpoints along the airport road and at the airport itself. Another journalist, fully accredited with Kinshasa was locked up overnight earlier in the week.

6.2 The size, composition and location of rebel forces is also hard to confirm. Even displaced refugees interviewed at Nyamirangwe could not report actually seeing rebel troops. Several camp populations made decisions to move on hearing shooting or after the Zairean troops

pulled out. They do not seem to have fled in panic in disarray, but rather with trepidation, planning and forethought.

6.3 While the situation for the displaced refugees appears precarious, the needs of the remaining Uvira caseload (mainly Burundian Hutus) may in fact be greater and more urgent, given their location near the centre of the conflict, and the complete absence of international aid or monitoring.

6.4 Insecurity may increase in Bukavu, either from a direct attack, or a breakdown in discipline by already jumpy Zairean troops, and trigger an evacuation of aid workers. Already, armed soldiers are paid by agencies when moving around the city, but car-jackings continue. Soldiers are sometimes reported to want the cars to move themselves and their families out of the area.

6.5 Humanitarian agencies should continue to seek access to populations in need, and insist on their impartiality, and state their intentions and modus operandi clearly and publicly. However, given the experience of aid agencies in Uvira, it may be impossible in the short term to deliver even basic life-saving services in South Kivu. The principle of maintaining a joint approach to evacuation and/or suspension of activities among the UN agencies and partners seems well-established. External assessment missions (a two-man French team arrived Friday from Paris) will no doubt proliferate.

6.6 Options open to humanitarian agencies are extremely limited. The current crisis is a "litmus test" of the willingness of Rwandan refugees to return home. The humanitarian community may wish to consider ways to guarantee safe corridors for the refugees to reach Rwanda. For the displaced refugees in South Kivu, there is no easy route to the Rwandan border.

6.7 The real crisis is not about refugees - they, in the widening conflict, are both a symptom and a cause of the problems of the Great Lakes. The status of the Banyamulenge has been an issue for at least 200 years, but the arrival of Burundian and Rwandan refugees over the last three years - caused by internal conflicts - has brought the Banyamulenge's predicament to a climax, and potentially drawn others into the conflict.

6.8 Eastern Zaire - lush, fertile and well-watered, is now the theatre of many unresolved regional political problems. The widening conflict, unless cooled by talks, external military intervention or ceasefire has the potential to generate a new spiral of crises, putting more and more civilian populations at risk, and at worst, breaking into full-scale war.

[ENDS]

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<irin@dha.unon.org>  
Subject:

**Zaire: Fondation Hirondelle - Radio Agatashya communique 96.10.27**

Sender: owner-irinwire@dha.unon.org  
To: irinwire@dha.unon.org  
MIME-version: 1.0  
Precedence: list  
>Received: (from majordom@localhost) by dha.unon.org (8.6.12/8.6.12) id  
JAA04276; Mon, 28 Oct 1996 09:05:23 +0300

27 October 1996

Fondation Hirondelle  
COMMUNIQUE

Radio Agatashya empechee d'emettre

Radio Agatashya, la radio indepentante a vocation humanitaire geree par la Fondation Hirondelle, n'a pas pu diffuser ses emissions ce dimanche matin 27 octobre dans la region du Kivu. Certains emetteurs, situes en zone de combat, sont momentanement hors service. L'equipe de redaction et le responsable suisse de l'antenne sont a Bukavu. Ils se sont efforces jusqu'a la diffusion du bulletin de samedi soir 18h00 de donner a la population zairoise, ainsi qu'a l'ensemble des populations de la region, le maximum d'informations a caractere humanitaire et sur la situation reelle. Ils continueront s'ils le peuvent, le desarroi de ces populations etant plus grand que jamais. Des delegues du CICR, de la Federation internationale des Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge, et un medecin suisse de l'OMS restent actifs a Bukavu. Ils n'ont pu prendre aucune disposition humanitaire ce matin, en raison de l'insecurite. Un groupe de huit journalistes etrangers est egalement sur place. Quelques residents etrangers s'y trouvent aussi, soit une cinquantaine de personnes en tout. L'on a entendu ce matin des tirs a une dizaine de kilometres au Sud de Bukavu, ainsi que des rafales d'armes automatiques a proximite de la ville. L'insecurite est tres grande en ville de Bukavu meme. C'est la premiere fois que la Radio Agatashya est empechee d'emettre, apres 26 mois d'emissions ininterrompues.

Lausanne, 27 octobre 1996

Pour des renseignements complementaires, appeler la Fondation Hirondelle, ++41-21-647 28 05 e-mail: fondhi@atge.automail.com

Date: Mon, 28 Oct 1996 18:12:35 +0300 (GMT+0300) From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes <irin@dha.unon.org>  
Subject:

## **Zaire: UNHCR population statistics as of 26 September 1996 96.9.26**

Sender: owner-irinwire@dha.unon.org  
To: irinwire@dha.unon.org  
MIME-version: 1.0  
Precedence: list  
>Received: (from majordom@localhost) by dha.unon.org (8.6.12/8.6.12) id SAA09317; Mon, 28 Oct 1996 18:13:43 +0300

UNHCR Refugee Population Statistics as of 26 September 1996 96.9.26

Source: UNHCR Regional Special Envoy's Office, Kigali, Rwanda.

RWANDESE BURUNDESE TOTAL

### GOMA - STATISTICS 31 MARCH

TOTAL GOMA	715,991	2,000	717,991
KATALE	202,566	202,566	
KIBUMBA	194,986	194,986	
KAHINDO	112,875	112,875	
MUGUNGA	156,115	156,115	
LACVERT	49,449	49,449	

### BUKAVU - STATISTICS 30 AUGUST

TOTAL

BUKAVU	305,499	2,000	307,499
BIDEKA	1,000	1,000	
CHIMENGA	16,071	16,071	
BUGARULA	10,800	10,800	
CHONDO	6,300	6,300	
KARAMA	24,300	24,300	
IZIRANGABO	1,266	1,266	
KALEHE	17,310	17,310	
KATANA	4,154	4,154	
MUKU	2,721	2,721	

MUSHWESHWE	1,324	1,324
INERA	54,555	54,555
MURHALA	6,912	6,912
NYANGEZI	9,956	9,956
NYANTENDE	8,875	8,875
KABIRA	28,759	28,759
KASHUSHA	37,000	37,000
NYMIRANGWE	20,783	20,783
NYANGEZI-	27,179	27,179
MULWA		
ADI KIVU	6,683	6,683
NYAKAVOGO	6,337	6,337
SHABARABE	5,294	5,294
U.A.M. SITES	623	623
PANZI	7,297	7,297

#### UVIRA - STATISTICS 6 SEPTEMBER

TOTAL UVIRA	75,948	143,518	219,466
KAMANYOLA	15,426	3,388	18,814
KANGANIRO	23,063	2,702	25,765
LUBARIKA	5,781	2,714	8,495
LUVUNGI	7,993	20,990	28,983
LUBERIZI	6,120	19,579	25,699
RWENENA	88	10,820	10,905
KIBOGOYE	1,016	12,942	13,958
KAJEMBO	5,535	28,402	33,937
BIRIBA	10	2,791	2,801
RUNINGO	9,140	10,851	18,991
KAGUNGA	2,411	24,363	26,774
KAHANDA	31	3,899	3,930
VULNE/UVIRA	334	77	411

[Transcribed by UN DHA IRIN, Nairobi, October 28 1996.]

[Via the UN DHA Integrated Regional Information Network "Wire" mailing list. The material contained in this communication may not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its agencies. UN DHA IRIN Tel: +254 2 622123 Fax: +254 2 622129 e-mail: [irin@dha.unon.org](mailto:irin@dha.unon.org) for more information. If you re-print, copy, archive or re-post this item, please retain this credit and disclaimer.]

Date: Tue, 29 Oct 1996 18:13:31 +0300 (GMT+0300) From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes <irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

## **Zaire: ICRC Communication to the press No. 96/33 96.10.28**

Sender: owner-irinwire@dha.unon.org

To: irinwire@dha.unon.org

MIME-version: 1.0

Precedence: list

>Received: (from majordom@localhost) by dha.unon.org (8.6.12/8.6.12) id

SAA16812; Tue, 29 Oct 1996 18:35:46 +0300

ICRC

Communication to the press No. 96/33

28 October 1996

### **KIVU: A MAJOR HUMAN TRAGEDY IN THE MAKING**

Geneva (ICRC) - The situation in the Kivu province of Zaire has deteriorated even further. Apart from the actual fighting, excesses resulting from undisciplined behaviour on the part of those bearing weapons, intolerance and terror are giving rise to the worst fears for the Zairian civilian population and the hundreds of thousands of refugees in the area. Now that the humanitarian organizations have withdrawn from South Kivu, there is no way of knowing what is happening to the Zairian civilians and the refugees, who are left without any humanitarian presence.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), which was forced to suspend its activities in Uvira on 22 October, today withdrew its last two delegates from Bukavu, where they were trying to bring medical aid to the wounded. Security conditions in the town have degenerated to the point where any movement is extremely dangerous. In the last few days several hospitals have been attacked and looted, Red Cross vehicles have been stolen and humanitarian workers harassed.

Near Goma (North Kivu), where seven delegates are still working, the ICRC has managed to distribute emergency aid to some 12,000 Zairians who fled their villages to escape the recent days' fighting. Hospitals in Goma which are treating casualties received medicines and other medical supplies on 27 October. The ICRC also delivered assistance to the dispensary in Mugunga, where more than 150,000 refugees from the Kibumba camp have now arrived.

The ICRC calls once again on all political and military leaders to respect and ensure respect for the basic and universally recognized rules which protect civilians, the wounded and captured combatants, as well as the staff of humanitarian organizations, the ICRC in particular.

++++

[ENDS]

[Via the UN DHA Integrated Regional Information Network "Wire" mailing list. The material contained in this communication may not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its agencies. UN DHA IRIN Tel: +254 2 622123 Fax: +254 2 622129 e-mail: [irin@dha.unon.org](mailto:irin@dha.unon.org) for more information. If you re-print, copy, archive or re-post this item, please retain this credit and disclaimer.]

Date: Tue, 29 Oct 1996 18:27:21 +0300 (GMT+0300) From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes <irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

## **Zaire: Statement of Humanitarian Agencies on the Kivu Crisis 96.10.29**

Sender: owner-irinwire@dha.unon.org

To: irinwire@dha.unon.org

MIME-version: 1.0

Precedence: list

>Received: (from majordom@localhost) by dha.unon.org (8.6.12/8.6.12) id

SAA16626; Tue, 29 Oct 1996 18:28:47 +0300

### Statement of Humanitarian Agencies on the Kivu Crisis in Zaire

Nairobi, 29 October, 1996

The following statement reflects the views of participants from UN agencies and NGOs present at a meeting in Nairobi on 28 and 29 October 1996 which convened in order to agree on actions required in North and South Kivu, Zaire. The UN Department of Humanitarian Affairs (DHA) called the meeting to review the present crisis and share information on humanitarian strategies, operational plans and constraints.

As the UN Secretary-General noted in his 24 October letter to the Security Council, the situation in North and South Kivu is already a grave political and humanitarian crisis for both Zaireans and refugee populations in the area, as well as for the stability of the region. During the last week, military activity in border areas has escalated, and an estimated 500,000 people are on the move throughout the Kivu sub-region.

The major effects of the conflict have been to disperse refugee populations, as well as to displace large numbers of Zaireans from their homes. At present it appears that the majority of refugees are remaining within Zaire, as large return movements to Rwanda and Burundi have not occurred.

Certain areas of North and South Kivu are war zones, and conflict and insecurity make the delivery of humanitarian assistance virtually impossible. Humanitarian personnel seeking to work in the area have been subjected to death threats, have experienced acts of violence against their staff, had their vehicles stolen and property taken. Humanitarian organizations have had no positive responses to their demands for guarantees of security and access to vulnerable populations.

Despite these constraints, humanitarian organizations are ready to return to the region as soon as practically possible. The major constraints of lack of security and access must be addressed by discussions with the authorities in Kinshasa as well as local leaders. In order for humanitarian organizations to recommence work in Uvira, negotiations with local leaders will be necessary, while at the national level it must be made clear that these are for the purposes

of humanitarian access only, and do not amount to political recognition of any local forces or put into question the territorial integrity of Zaire.

It may also be necessary to undertake negotiations in areas held by rebel forces to allow safe passage for those refugees seeking to return to their country of origin. Discussions with other regional governments will also be needed to allow aid to be transported to these affected areas in Zaire, when that becomes possible. Humanitarian agencies will do all they can to impartially assist members of all vulnerable groups. Humanitarian organizations will also send the unequivocal message to the international community that a lasting political solution is vital, and will only be achieved once the nationality question, and other underlying issues including the presence of refugees, are addressed.

The following agencies attended the meeting. Those in brackets were not present when this document was finalized:

ACTIONAID  
CARE INTERNATIONAL  
(CHRISTIAN AID)  
MSF  
(MDM)  
(NORWEGIAN CHURCH AID)  
(OXFAM UK AND IRELAND)  
SAVE THE CHILDREN UK  
(UMCOR)  
(ICRC)  
(IFRC)  
DHA  
UNICEF  
WFP  
(WHO)

[ENDS]

[Via the UN DHA Integrated Regional Information Network "Wire" mailing list. The material contained in this communication may not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its agencies. UN DHA IRIN Tel: +254 2 622123 Fax: +254 2 622129 e-mail: [irin@dha.unon.org](mailto:irin@dha.unon.org) for more information. If you re-print, copy, archive or re-post this item, please retain this credit and disclaimer.]

Date: Tue, 29 Oct 1996 18:27:21 +0300 (GMT+0300) From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes <irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

## **Zaire: Statement of Humanitarian Agencies on the Kivu Crisis 96.10.29**

Sender: owner-irinlist@dha.unon.org

To: irinlist@dha.unon.org

MIME-version: 1.0

Precedence: list

>Received: (from majordom@localhost) by dha.unon.org (8.6.12/8.6.12) id SAA16913; Tue, 29 Oct 1996 18:42:45 +0300

Statement of Humanitarian Agencies on the Kivu Crisis in Zaire  
Nairobi, 29 October, 1996

The following statement reflects the views of participants from UN agencies and NGOs present at a meeting in Nairobi on 28 and 29 October 1996 which convened in order to agree on actions required in North and South Kivu, Zaire. The UN Department of Humanitarian Affairs (DHA) called the meeting to review the present crisis and share information on humanitarian strategies, operational plans and constraints.

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(NORWEGIAN CHURCH AID)  
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SAVE THE CHILDREN UK  
(UMCOR)  
(ICRC)  
(IFRC)  
DHA  
UNICEF  
WFP  
(WHO)

[ENDS]

[Via the UN DHA Integrated Regional Information Network. The material contained in this communication may not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its agencies. UN DHA IRIN Tel: +254 2 622123 Fax: +254 2 622129 e-mail: [irin@dha.unon.org](mailto:irin@dha.unon.org) for more information. If you re-print, copy, archive or re-post this item, please retain this credit and disclaimer.]

Date: Wed, 30 Oct 1996 15:35:09 +0300 (GMT+0300) From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes  
<irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

## **Zaire: World Food Programme Situation Report #1 96.10.30**

Sender: owner-irinwire@dha.unon.org

To: irinwire@dha.unon.org

MIME-version: 1.0

Precedence: list

>Received: (from majordom@localhost) by dha.unon.org (8.6.12/8.6.12) id  
PAA24189; Wed, 30 Oct 1996 15:37:09 +0300

WFP Situation Report #1

[Received 30 October 1996.]

This is the first situation report of a daily report.

GOMA:

Government of Zaire issued a decree imposing the closure of Uganda-Goma road (northern axis) to all commercial and humanitarian traffic. Three camps, with a total population of 517,000, are located on the northern axis.

UNHCR recommends reducing all movement to camps west of Goma (western axis) (200,000 refugees located in these camps). Curfew was enforced from 18:00 on 23/10 to 06:00 on 24/10.

Security situation remains extremely tense. Airport is open. Two commercial flights landed yesterday afternoon.

BUKAVU:

Population Movement: 40,000 refugees from camps south of Bukavu town,

40,000 refugees from Uvira camps, and some 20,000 Zairian nationals. Most of this population is heading in direction of camp of Nyamirange, 28 km west of Bukavu. 8,000 people have arrived in Bukavu town. Night of 23/10, rumours of attack by Banyamulenge on Bukavu town led UNHCR to congregate all international staff in their compound. Rumours were dismissed at 04:00 on 24/10.

UVIRA:

Fighting between Banyamulenge and Zairian forces has blocked movement of people at the Luvungu camp axis (some 40 km north of Uvira). As a consequence, refugees presently north of this camp (some 40,000) are moving towards Bukavu with the remaining refugees located south of Luvungu (some 180,000) moving towards Uvira. Shooting and looting have been reported in Uvira town.

#### FOOD STOCK SITUATION:

Although overall food availability in the region is secure, the immediate problem is access to Eastern Zaire.

GOMA: 7,200 mt are stored in warehouses along the northern axis, representing for 20 days of distribution at the current population level (727,000). For the time being, these stocks are inaccessible as the access road is officially closed.

BUKAVU: 1,100 mt are stored in warehouses in Bukavu town, representing 6 days of distribution at the current population level (302,000). Although movement has been restricted, WFP has access to these warehouses and distribution to refugees in Bukavu camps is for the moment possible. However, in view of the possible major influx as well as difficulties in supplying food, WFP is planning on distributing half-rations.

UVIRA: 1,500 mt should be at WFP warehouses at Uvira port. Due to the security situation, WFP has no access presently to this area.

#### PREPAREDNESS:

In view of the serious Bukavu situation, WFP is presently planning a limited airlift operation ex-Entebbe. Measures are being taken to position the aircraft in the next 24 hours. WFP is in discussion with other agencies on the possibility of airlifting priority non-food items.

Negotiations are currently being carried out in Goma to enable the opening up of the corridor for humanitarian assistance. WFP has 5,000 rations (each one representing a two month ration per person) prepositioned at transit centres across Rwanda. A further 32,000 rations are being prepositioned in Kigali. WFP is prepositioning food in Kampala from Mombasa. Food availability in the region amounts to some 35,000 mt.

e-mail contact: [Ezair@wfp.org](mailto:Ezair@wfp.org)

[ENDS]

Date: Wed, 30 Oct 1996 15:58:33 +0300 (GMT+0300) From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes  
<irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

## **Zaire: WFP Eastern Zaire Situation Report #8, 30 Oct 1996 96.10.30**

Sender: owner-irinwire@dha.unon.org

To: irinwire@dha.unon.org

MIME-version: 1.0

Precedence: list

>Received: (from majordom@localhost) by dha.unon.org (8.6.12/8.6.12) id

PAA24566; Wed, 30 Oct 1996 15:59:00 +0300

WFP Eastern Zaire Situation Report #8, 30 October 1996

### **GOMA:**

Food distribution in Kahindo camp successfully completed on 29/10. Distribution in Katale camp (northern axis) and Mugunga and Lac Vert camps (western axis) is being carried out today 30/10. WFP is implementing airlift operation to establish emergency relief stockpile. First flight is planned 31/10. Movement of people coming from Bukavu are reported. People are still far from Goma and their number/nationality is unknown.

### **BUKAVU:**

No communication with Bukavu today. Heavy artillery exchanges across the border occurred during the night and early this morning. Several casualties have been reported in Cyangugu (Rwanda border). Access to airport seems still possible under military escort, however no flights were seen as of this morning.

### **UVIRA**

One WFP national staff arrived in Kigoma, Tanzania. Still no contact with Uvira.

### **RWANDA:**

WFP is continuing to build-up food stocks in Kampala and Isaka close to the Rwandan border. Cyangugu border (see Bukavu). 20 international staff assembled to security concentration point just outside town. UNHCR at request of Government started moving refugee caseload from Umubano camp (Gisenyi) to Karonje camp (Kibuye). Refugee/Returnee influx to Rwanda remains low.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT WFP EASTERN ZAIRE CRISIS SUPPORT FACILITY (CSF):**

International Fax Line: 39 6 5228-2828

International Telephone Line: 39 6 5228-2535

Electronic Mail Address: ezaire@wfp.unicc.org

[ENDS]

Date: Wed, 30 Oct 1996 15:58:33 +0300 (GMT+0300) From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes  
<irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

## **Zaire: WFP Eastern Zaire Situation Report #8, 30 Oct 1996 96.10.30**

Sender: owner-irinwire@dha.unon.org

To: irinwire@dha.unon.org

MIME-version: 1.0

Precedence: list

>Received: (from majordom@localhost) by dha.unon.org (8.6.12/8.6.12) id  
QAA24734; Wed, 30 Oct 1996 16:05:46 +0300

WFP Eastern Zaire Situation Report #8, 30 October 1996

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**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT WFP EASTERN ZAIRE CRISIS SUPPORT FACILITY (CSF):**

International Fax Line: 39 6 5228-2828

International Telephone Line: 39 6 5228-2535

Electronic Mail Address: ezaire@wfp.unicc.org

Date: Wed, 30 Oct 1996 16:38:37 +0300 (GMT+0300) From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes  
<irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

## **Zaire: UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights reports 96.10.28**

Sender: owner-irinwire@dha.unon.org

To: irinwire@dha.unon.org

MIME-version: 1.0

Precedence: list

>Received: (from majordom@localhost) by dha.unon.org (8.6.12/8.6.12) id  
QAA25110; Wed, 30 Oct 1996 16:39:43 +0300

UNITED NATIONS

28 October 1996

Press Release

HR/4305

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### **SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN ZAIRE REPORTS ON LATEST MISSION TO COUNTRY**

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Information Gathered Tells of Continuing Summary Executions, Arbitrary Arrests, Torture  
and Persistent Impunity

GENEVA, 26 October (UN Information Service) -- The Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Zaire has received no testimony or other information indicating that there has been any improvement in the human rights situation in there, according to the preliminary observations issued by Special Rapporteur Roberto Garretsn last Saturday upon returning from his latest mission to Zaire.

During the 13 to 25 October mission, which took him to Kinshasa, the north Kivu city of Goma, and the south Kivu city of Bukavu, the Special Rapporteur met with representatives of the Zairian Government and with local authorities. In the three cities, he also heard from several non-governmental organizations and institutions representing civil society and from persons who had requested to meet with him. He was unable to go to Uvira due to the conflict raging there.

The information Mr. Garretsn gathered told of extrajudicial, arbitrary or summary executions; arbitrary arrests and detention; and torture and ill-treatment of prisoners, all practices facilitated by the persistence of impunity. Moreover, the Special Rapporteur received no response concerning the dozens of cases of human rights violations brought to his knowledge by Zairian citizens and made known to the authorities beforehand.

With regard to the democratization process, the Special Rapporteur observed some progress, as reflected in, among other things, the establishment of a National Electoral Commission, the adoption of a text of a Constitution to be submitted to a referendum, and the adoption and promulgation of a law on referendums. But progress in that field has been accomplished slowly, while the time limits set for the institutions of the Third Republic to begin functioning are repeatedly pushed back; the Special Rapporteur fears another postponement.

Mr. Garretsn does not share the view of the authorities that pursuing the electoral process and the establishment of democratic institutions depended now on support from the international community. In effect, he observes, the establishment of the rule of law in a democratic State respectful of human rights and fundamental freedoms was an obligation, not a duty before presumed foreign pressure. International cooperation is certainly important for the realization of such a process, but the lack of it could not justify keeping in place an authoritarian regime. In addition, there are indispensable conditions for a transparent democratic process which did not depend on international cooperation, but which were not being fulfilled because of a lack of political will. Such is the case particularly in the failure to give effect to a real pluralism in the public media, as well as in the lack of effective guarantees for the exercise of the freedoms of expression, demonstration and assembly.

The visit of the Special Rapporteur took place as the armed conflict raged in Uvira, in the east of the country. A number of elements have contributed to the aggravation of tension and to the so-called "conflict of the Banyamulenge", a Tutsi community living in the high plateaus of the south Kivu region, writes the Special Rapporteur. He mentions in that regard the contribution, in the form of men and financial resources, of the Tutsis settled in Zaire to the war effort of the Rwandese Patriotic Front (RPF).

While expressing concern over the question of the nationality of the Banyamulenge -- which he hopes the Zairian authorities would settle with equity and humanity -- the Special Rapporteur regrets that the Banyamulenge have chosen violence to claim their rights. That violence has already claimed a number of victims. The Special Rapporteur also condemns the recourse to foreign support. In that respect, the Zairian authorities have informed him of material evidence of the participation of armed Rwandan and Burundian citizens, with the consent of their respective Governments, in the violent actions and attacks perpetrated in Zairian territory.

The Special Rapporteur says he is also extremely concerned by incitations to hate and war on the part of the highest Rwandan authorities, as well as by the response of Zairian military and civilian authorities, whether at the national or regional level. Mr. Garretsn encourages the responsible and moderate attitude of the Prime Minister of Zaire, who has abstained until now from making inflammatory statements. He calls on the Rwandan, Burundian and Zairian

authorities to refrain from any act or statement that could lead to an escalation in the murderous violence and confrontation that has already caused dozens of dead and wounded and led to the flight and dispersion of Rwandans, Burundians and local populations.

\* \* \* \* \*

[Via the UN DHA Integrated Regional Information Network "Wire" mailing list. The material contained in this communication may not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its agencies. UN DHA IRIN Tel: +254 2 622123 Fax: +254 2 622129 e-mail: [irin@dha.unon.org](mailto:irin@dha.unon.org) for more information. If you re-print, copy, archive or re-post this item, please retain this credit and disclaimer.]

Date: Wed, 30 Oct 1996 21:32:02 +0300 (GMT+0300) From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes  
<irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

## **Zaire: IRIN Update on Eastern Zaire for 29 and 30 October 96.10.30**

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MIME-version: 1.0

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VAA27987; Wed, 30 Oct 1996 21:33:43 +0300

### UNITED NATIONS

Department of Humanitarian Affairs

Integrated Regional Information Network

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IRIN Emergency Update No. 1 on Kivu, Zaire (30 October 1996)

Areas around the abandoned site of Kibumba camp, north of Goma, are the scene of fresh fighting. Kibumba had allegedly been taken back under Zairean military control, after fighting there yesterday in which two Zairean soldiers were killed and 29 injured. Today, however, reports from Goma suggested that clashes continue in the Kibumba area, particularly at Rumangabo.

As long as the road towards Uganda remains closed by fighting, it will be impossible for humanitarian agencies to reach the 325,000 refugees at the two northern camps beyond Kibumba with further supplies. A Zairean town close to the point at which Uganda, Zaire and Rwanda meet, Bunagana, has allegedly been taken by Zairean Tutsi rebels. The BBC reports local Ugandan officials confirming the capture, and saying thousands of refugees have arrived in Uganda. The two remaining northern camps are cut off from relief supplies arriving either from the north or south.

Humanitarian agencies today carried out a food distribution for up to 400,000 refugees at Mugunga and Lac Vert camps near Goma town. The operation by CARE Australia and the Zairean Red Cross distributed food provided by WFP to 350,000 refugees at Mugunga camp and 50,000 refugees at Lac Vert. The numbers of refugees at the two camps have been swelled by about 195,000 refugees who fled Kibumba camp over the weekend. Some 10,000 displaced Zaireans were also assisted in the distribution. Zairean staff of WFP carried out a food distribution of remaining stocks to refugees at Kahindo camp (population 115,000) and Katale camp (population 210,000) on Monday. WFP is to begin an airlift to Goma from Entebbe tomorrow, 31 October to replenish food stocks in North Kivu. Extensive work by UN and

other aid agencies has gone into providing water and sanitation facilities at "Mugunga II" to prevent the outbreak of disease.

The airport at Goma remains open at the current time, although the Zairean authorities have announced that flights into Goma and Bukavu will require special authorization. Authorities in Kinshasa have also announced the appointment of military governors for North and South Kivu. They are Brigadier Ngwala Pabnzuzi and General Ellesse Yomtembole, respectively.

The number of Rwandan refugees who have returned to Rwanda over the last three days is reported by UNHCR to be 900 at the Mutura crossing point into Gisenyi and up to 400 into Cyangugu prefecture. At least 20,000 Zaireans are displaced in the Goma area, and probably tens of thousands more have been uprooted in North and South Kivu over recent days. In addition 4,400 Zaireans have entered Gisenyi, Rwanda, as refugees. Meanwhile, at least 2,500 Burundians are reported to have returned to Burundi after their camps around Uvira were dispersed last week and are now being assisted at Gatumba, 15 kms west of Bujumbura. It is believed that their home communes are in Cibitoke and Bubanza. Bringing their possessions with them, they reported being escorted to the border by Banyamulenge rebels. Further returns are expected.

There is an acute lack of information about Bukavu and Uvira, although there have been unconfirmed reports that Zairean Army contingents have been pulling out of Bukavu town. BBC carried reports of the takeover of some of Bukavu late Wednesday. Uvira town is known to be under the control of Banyamulenge rebels. The Foreign Correspondents' Association of East Africa today highlighted the risks being undertaken by reporters trying to cover the story and stated that 'Zaire's side of the story cannot [be told]' unless the Kinshasa authorities clamp down on harassment of journalists by Zairean soldiers, as well as allowing reporters with visas to enter the east of country.

Rwandan Vice-President Paul Kagame today confirmed that Rwanda and Zaire have exchanged mortar fire intermittently since Tuesday evening up to Wednesday morning, at the Cyangugu-Bukavu border. He blamed Zairean forces for starting the clash. While denying that Rwandan Patriotic Army troops have been fighting in Zaire until now, Kagame admitted that some Banyamulenge who joined the RPA may have returned to Zaire to fight alongside the rebels. The RPA has admitted that Rwandan troops had crossed temporarily into Zaire during the clashes overnight. Kagame also pronounced Rwanda ready to "fight a war" if necessary.

International diplomatic efforts to resolve the crisis are continuing, with EU Special Envoy, Aldo Ajello, travelling to Zaire from Kigali today in a bid to foster talks between Rwanda and Zaire. The UN has also announced the appointment of Raymond Chretien, Canada's ambassador to Washington, as the UN mediator who will try to negotiate a ceasefire and undertake preparations for an international conference on the Great Lakes. Belgium has offered to host a regional conference under the auspices of the EU. Humanitarian agencies, meanwhile, have met in Geneva and Nairobi to make plans for relief assistance as well as to highlight the need for a political response to the crisis on the part of regional and world powers.

Date: Thu, 31 Oct 1996 10:45:08 +0300 (GMT+0300) From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes  
<irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

## **Zaire: Ogata appeals to combatants 96.10.27**

Sender: owner-irinwire@dha.unon.org

To: irinwire@dha.unon.org

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UNHCR

27 October 1996

### **OGATA APPEALS TO COMBATANTS IN ZAIRE TO SPARE REFUGEES AND CIVILIANS**

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees called Sunday on combatants in eastern Zaire to stop attacking refugees and civilians and to open humanitarian corridors for those caught in the fighting.

#I have received reports from UNHCR's field officers that our worst fears are again upon us. Fighting has spread to the camps in the Goma region and refugees are on the move in the area, # High Commissioner Sadako Ogata said in a statement.

#What hurts me most are reports that women and children are again caught in this terrible tragedy. The first refugees to reach the hospital in Goma after the attacks this weekend were 36 women and children -- all of them suffering from shrapnel wounds. There was one report of a woman giving birth along the road to Goma, # Ogata said.

#We are now facing a situation similar to what we had in July 1994 when the Rwandan refugees first arrived in Goma. What's worse, relief workers now are at risk, making it more difficult for us. A catastrophe greater than the one we knew in 1994 is what worries me most.

#I appeal to the combatants: please spare the refugees and local populations. While I have stressed that UNHCR will continue to help refugees wherever they are in Zaire, I also urge officials in the region to open humanitarian corridors for the civilians and the safe passage of the refugees wishing to return home to Rwanda and we will do everything to help them. #

Kibumba camp, the second largest in the Goma region, was hit by a barrage of artillery and mortar fire between 9 p.m. Friday and 6 a.m. Saturday, forcing its 194,000 Rwandan refugees to flee. Joining them was about 20,000 Zairians from a nearby village. Kibumba is located 25 kms north of Goma.

More than 4,000 Rwandan refugees and Zairians were reported to have entered Rwanda through Mutura, which faces Kibumba. UNHCR has

dispatched 30 trucks and buses to transport the arrivals to a transit center in nearby Gisenyi, where a two-month food ration will be given to them before they are transported to their home communes.

About 20,000 of the Kibumba refugees have arrived in Mugunga and Lac Vert camps in western Goma, where medical facilities and water tankers have been brought to help them. UNHCR is also assisting the displaced Zairians.

At least four refugees were confirmed to have died and another 100 wounded in the attack on Kibumba. One mortar round hit the Kibumba hospital. Eyewitnesses reported many more refugees died in Kibumba, but this could not be confirmed immediately.

In Katale camp, 35 kms farther north of Kibumba, an attack by armed men Saturday night left one Zairian soldier dead and three others wounded. Katale, with 202,000 refugees, is the biggest camp in eastern Zaire, home to one million of the 1.6 million Rwandan refugees in the Great Lakes region. Goma alone has 715,000 Rwandan refugees.

UNHCR's local staff in the Uvira and Bukavu regions report continuing fighting. In Bukavu, a camp just north of the town was reported burning on Sunday. At Makobla village in the outskirts of Uvira, a local staff member said refugees and displaced people badly need food and medicine.

Fighting over a broad area in eastern Zaire has prevented refugees from moving toward the Rwandan and Burundi frontiers, which are officially closed.

\*\*\*\*\*

[ENDS]

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Date: Thu, 31 Oct 1996 11:55:07 +0300 (GMT+0300) From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes  
<irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

## **Zaire: ICRC News 43 - Assistance in Goma 96.10.30**

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>Received: (from majordom@localhost) by dha.unon.org (8.6.12/8.6.12) id  
LAA00625; Thu, 31 Oct 1996 11:56:08 +0300

ICRC NEWS 43

### **GREAT LAKES REGION ASSISTANCE IN GOMA**

Following the evacuation of its remaining delegates from Bukavu on 28 October, the ICRC is now concentrating its activities in the Goma area. At the new Mugunga II camp, where some 200,000 Rwandan refugees have arrived from the Kibumba camp further north, it has set up a meeting point to restore contact between members of families split up in the confusion. The names of persons being sought are called out over megaphones by local employees walking through the camp. Once again, hundreds of small children have become separated from their parents. The ICRC has also installed a health centre in the new camp.

In Kanyaruchina, a few kilometres north of Goma, material assistance (blankets, soap, kitchen utensils, jerrycans) has been provided to more than 12,000 displaced Zairians forced to flee their homes when fighting broke out near the Kibumba camp.

Further information: Rolin Wavre, ICRC Geneva, tel. ++ 4122 730 2876 Josui Anselmo, ICRC Nairobi, tel. ++ 25 42 716 339

### **TRIBUTE TO ZAIRIAN RED CROSS VOLUNTEERS**

Anarchy, chaos and terror have taken hold of Bukavu, forcing UNHCR and most other humanitarian organizations to start withdrawing their staff on 26 October.

Expatriates working for the ICRC and for the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies attempted at first to pursue their humanitarian activities alone, but on 28 October, in the face of insurmountable difficulties, they also left the city. Some 300,000 Rwandan refugees and thousands of displaced Zairians are now abandoned to their own fate. In Bukavu, armed groups are fighting over whatever goods can still be found. In the midst of this horror, volunteers from the Red Cross Society of Zaire are showing admirable courage and

determination. Every morning, wearing Red Cross tabards and protective gloves and masks, they bury dozens of men, women and children killed during the night throughout the city, risking their own lives to ward off epidemics.

Further information: Josui Anselmo, ICRC Nairobi, tel. ++25 42 716 339

[...]

[ENDS]

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Date: Thu, 31 Oct 1996 17:01:36 +0300 (GMT+0300) From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes <irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

## **Zaire: WFP Eastern Zaire Situation Report #9, 31 Oct 1996 96.10.31**

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To: irinwire@dha.unon.org

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RAA03879; Thu, 31 Oct 1996 17:03:20 +0300 X-Authentication-warning: unigiri.unep.org:

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WFP Eastern Zaire Situation Report #9, 31 October 1996

### **GOMA:**

Security situation has worsened in the last hours. Heavy fighting is reported in and around Goma town. The area particularly affected is around the village of Muingi (some 10 km north of Goma). All international staff (107 out of which 5 WFP) are confined to their residences and/or compounds.

The airport area is reported to be highly insecure. The airlift planned for today to establish emergency relief stockpile has been cancelled. The Kahindo camp (some 35 km north of Goma) is reported empty with refugees moving towards Goma.

In close collaboration with UNHCR Geneva and UNSECOORD New-York, WFP is activating contingency planning for a possible rapid evacuation of the international staff.

### **BUKAVU:**

No communication with Bukavu today. Reports from Cyangugu indicate that the town has most probably fallen under the control of the Banyamulenge. People are moving from Bukavu town towards Kashusha and Inera camps (some 30 km north of Bukavu). The airport is reported to still be under the control of the Zairian army.

### **UVIRA:**

Still no contact with Uvira.

### **RWANDA:**

Fighting across the border in Gisenyi (see Goma above). Zairian refugees in Umubano camp (which is very close to the border) have been relocated to the local stadium for security reasons. As of yesterday, the refugee and returnee influx has been low. In Cyangugu the situation has been calm and activities have resumed. WFP continues to build-up food stocks in Kampala and Isaka close to the Rwandan border.

### **BURUNDI:**

Some 3,000 returnees from Eastern Zaire have arrived in Burundi. WFP is currently distributing seven-day full rations to the returnees. WFP is increasing the number of deliveries from Tanzania, now that the sanction committee has allowed humanitarian aid to be delivered into the country. WFP is currently despatching 1,870 mt to Bujumbura. Stocks in the country are sufficient for one month.

**FOOD PROGRAMMING:**

Stocks in the region, as at 30 October, stand at 65,000 mt, sufficient to meet the regional food needs for 6 weeks.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT WFP EASTERN ZAIRE CRISIS SUPPORT FACILITY (CSF):**

International Fax Line: 39 6 5228-2828

International Telephone Line: 39 6 5228-2535

Electronic Mail Address: [ezaire@wfp.unicc.org](mailto:ezaire@wfp.unicc.org)

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<irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

## **Zaire: IRIN Update on Eastern Zaire for 31 October 96.10.31**

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### UNITED NATIONS

Department of Humanitarian Affairs

Integrated Regional Information Network

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### IRIN Emergency Update No. 2 on Eastern Zaire (31 October 1996)

Fighting in and around Goma, the capital of North Kivu, intensified during the morning, having started around 3 am local time. Aid agencies reported escalating artillery shelling throughout Thursday morning and Zairean soldiers and Tutsi-dominated rebels battled for control of Goma airport. Aid workers and local people kept off the street as insecurity increased. Aid agencies have had some 35 cars looted during the day.

The airport is one of the most strategic assets in the Kivu region, and its security will be crucial for delivering humanitarian aid. Although some reports said Zairean authorities had lost control of the airport earlier in the day, by late afternoon it appeared to be under Zairean military control. AFP reported Zairean troops on the runways and around the airport's perimeter. WFP had hoped to use the airport today to begin an emergency airlift of food supplies but the effort has been postponed. It appears that the airport is unlikely to be accessible even for an evacuation of foreign workers in the immediate future.

With Goma airport closed, and relief activities almost completely halted due to insecurity, UN officials are considering an evacuation by road of 107 international humanitarian aid staff trapped in the city. Of this number, 42 are UN staff and the rest work with NGOs. The UN is seeking safe passage and escort to the border from Zairean authorities and also is pursuing other options for a rapid exit. The Rwandan side of the border is open.

UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali on Wednesday appealed to Zairean President Mobutu and Prime Minister Kengo wa Dondo to allow the staff members to leave. International staff are generally confined to their offices and houses. Zairean soldiers raided the UNICEF compound several times, looted and drove away three utility vehicles and a truck. ICRC also report looting of their offices.

To the north, aid workers said that all 113,000 residents of Kahindo camp north of Goma fled the camp, starting in the middle of the night. Many of Kahindo's residents appear to be headed for Mugunga camp. Mugunga camp is already one of the world's largest refugee camps with over 350,000 residents. But UNHCR officials now say the camp is dangerously overcrowded with limited water and sanitation facilities. The BBC quoted a UNHCR spokesman saying inhabitants of the camp faced an "apocalyptic" future. Camp residents have reportedly already taken to drinking lake water and health officials fear cholera and dysentery epidemics may soon hit the camp. Mugunga camp was already trying to accommodate 195,000 new arrivals from Kibumba who arrived during the last few days. There is also a severe shortage of wood with which to build shelters or cook food. The potential conglomeration of over half a million people without clean water or sanitation - let alone food and medical care - is a recipe for disaster. Local Zairean people continue to take refuge in Mugunga.

The last remaining camp on the northern axis, Katale, has a population of 202,000, but its position is precarious, as it is hemmed in by fighting to the north and south. Further north, the number of recently-arrived refugees in southwestern Uganda is estimated to be 7,000. Despite the worsening situation, only a trickle of Rwandan refugees are choosing to return home, where aid agencies and the Rwandan government are prepared for a major influx.

In South Kivu, Roman Catholic Archbishop Munzihirwa was killed during an ambush in Bukavu on Tuesday. He had been an outspoken critic of the rebellion. His body was found on 30 October. Two European priests are also being held captive by rebels. The Banyamulenge-dominated forces have yet to exert complete control over Bukavu, according to accounts of some of the 424 refugees reported to have arrived in southwestern Rwanda. The rebels now claim to comprise four political groups, including parties from Shaba and Kasai, gathered under a multi-ethnic umbrella party called the Alliance des Forces Democratiques pour la Liberation du Congo-Zaire.

UNHCR reported earlier today that some of their local staff may have been killed and injured during an attempt to flee from Bukavu. No further details are available. Local Zairean relief workers have played a key role in maintaining life-saving services and communication links after the evacuation of international staff in many parts of eastern Zaire.

Reports indicate that bodies are washing up on the Burundian side of Lake Tanganyika, probably having been dumped in the Rusizi river, which marks much of the border between Burundi and Zaire. The number of victims and their identities have not been established, but a Reuter report mentions sighting 13 bodies and hearing of 50 more buried by local fishermen.

About 5,500 Burundians have so far returned home and are at the Gatumba camp near Bujmubura. Two thousand of these arrived today. UNHCR and Burundian authorities are planning to start a relocation back to home communes beginning Monday. Thousands more returnees are expected over the coming days.

International journalists have entered rebel-held South Kivu from Rwanda today for the first time, and report relative stability on the road north of Uvira.

Diplomatic efforts continue to attempt to forestall a worsening of the crisis. UN Special Mediator, Raymond Chretien, should arrive in Kinshasa next week, and the OAU's Conflict Resolution Organ today issued a statement in Addis Ababa appealing for a cessation of hostilities and urging respect for the territorial integrity of Rwanda and Zaire. Zaire's Prime Minister, Kengo wa Dondo today said Zaire would not negotiate while "the enemy" holds part of Zairean territory. President Daniel arap Moi of Kenya announced plans to convene a regional summit on Zaire next Tuesday.

Nairobi, 21:00 GMT

[ENDS]

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Date: Fri, 01 Nov 1996 08:59:09 +0300 (GMT+0300) From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes  
<irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

## **Zaire: Amnesty International News Service 96.10.31**

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To: irinwire@dha.unon.org

MIME-version: 1.0

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>Received: (from majordom@localhost) by dha.unon.org (8.6.12/8.6.12) id

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\*\*\*\*\* [..]

News Service 200/96

AI INDEX: AFR 62/22/96

31 OCTOBER 1996

### **ZAIRE: CRISIS FACING RWANDESE REFUGEES CANNOT BE SOLVED IN ISOLATION**

At a time when Rwandese refugees are under attack in Eastern Zaire, the plight of other victims continues to be ignored by the international community, Amnesty International said today.

~More attention should be paid to the scale of human rights abuses that have given rise and continue to fuel the crisis in Eastern Zaire. Violations in Zaire affect not only refugees -- they also affect civilians who are Zairian nationals, and local and foreign humanitarian workers,~ the human rights organization said.

~The United Nations (UN) and others have been appealing to Rwandese refugees to return home and have behaved as if several hundred Burundi refugees and displaced Zairians do not also deserve protection. The fact that the refugees fear human rights violations if they return to Rwanda and Burundi is being ignored, as are the abuses they and unarmed civilians in Zaire face.~

Amnesty International is disturbed by reports that attacks on unarmed civilians have, in addition to causing loss of hundreds of lives since September 1996, forced humanitarian workers to abandon refugees to their uncertain fate.

~Attacks by Zairian government troops and members of the Banyamulenge Tutsi armed group deserve no less than the condemnation of the whole world,~ Amnesty International said.

Amnesty International is calling on the Tutsi armed group leaders immediately to instruct their fighters not to attack any civilians.

World governments and inter-governmental organizations should seek guarantees that the parties to the conflict will respect human rights and the impartiality of humanitarian workers. Amnesty International is calling on the international community to ensure the provision of adequate humanitarian assistance for refugees and internally displaced civilians as a matter of urgency.

Hundreds of unarmed civilians were reportedly arbitrarily and deliberately killed in recent weeks during fighting between Zairian government troops and the Tutsi-led armed group in South-Kivu region. Hundreds of thousands of Rwandese and Burundi refugees are fleeing from camps in the region. Fighting has resumed in North-Kivu region where more than 10,000 people have been killed by armed groups and government forces, and hundreds of thousands displaced during the past three years. Nearly 20,000 Zairian people have fled to Rwanda.

Amnesty International is appealing to the Zairian Government to end the long-standing impunity of members of its armed forces and local government officials who are responsible for human rights violations against unarmed civilians, local non-governmental organisations and members of various ethnic groups.

Amnesty International fears that members of the Zairian armed forces are likely to carry out further attacks on civilians, judging from their past record of involvement in human rights violations, their lack of discipline and the fact that many are not even paid.

~The government should make it clear to its forces and officials that human rights abuses, including disturbing reports of deportations of Zairian and Tutsi refugees, will not be tolerated,~ Amnesty International said. ~Officials known to have ordered or incited human rights abuses should immediately be brought to justice -- only then will the cycle of impunity end.~

Indeed, there should be an international condemnation of those who, like the former deputy governor of South-Kivu, have made public statements that incite ethnic hatred.

The organization is also calling on all armed opposition groups to honour their obligations under international humanitarian law not to harm civilians.

Incitements to racial or national hatred violate Zaire's legally binding obligations under human rights treaties it has ratified.

~Reports that Rwandese government officials have said that they will not allow Zairian Tutsi men to seek refuge in Rwanda, but that the men should rather stay in Zaire to fight, are likely

to encourage further killings and other human rights abuses in Zaire,~ Amnesty International said.

Amnesty International believes that this is a violation of regional and international conventions for the protection of refugees.

~The Rwandese authorities should resist from making statements likely to exacerbate tensions,~ Amnesty International said. ~Statements suggesting that the Rwandese Government will only accept the refugees if the Zairian Government also gives them the Zairian territories they occupied, are likely to exacerbate the tensions.~

The organization released a report today that documents gross human rights violations by government forces that have been a persistent feature of both North and South-Kivu.

ENDS\

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[...]

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<irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

## **Zaire: IRIN Update on Eastern Zaire for 1 November 96.11.1**

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To: irinlist@dha.unon.org

MIME-version: 1.0

Precedence: list

>Received: (from majordom@localhost) by dha.unon.org (8.6.12/8.6.12) id  
SAA06321; Fri, 1 Nov 1996 18:41:13 +0300

### UNITED NATIONS

Department of Humanitarian Affairs

Integrated Regional Information Network

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### IRIN Emergency Update No. 3 on Eastern Zaire (1 November 1996)

By mid-afternoon, there were reports of large-scale cross border shelling between Rwanda and Zaire at the border close to Gisenyi and Goma. Rwandan senior advisor Claude Dusaidi said that sixteen mortars fell on Gisenyi, including hits on the site of the former Petite Barriere Zairean Tutsi refugee camp, which had previously been evacuated. "We are being aggressed", he said in a BBC interview. Some reports say Rwandan forces were seen firing towards the Goma area from boats on Lake Kivu. Rwandan authorities allege that ex-Rwandan Government Forces and Interahamwe are getting involved in the fighting on the Zairean side.

Goma remained tense. Although aid agencies reported only limited fighting around the city during Thursday night, looting continued and armed youths were reported roaming the streets of some sections of the city. Both IFRC and UNICEF reported that armed individuals confiscated a large number of their vehicles. As efforts continued to evacuate a portion of the international humanitarian staff in the city, aid agencies took advantage of the lull in fighting Friday morning to congregate their staff at the UNHCR compound and other designated evacuation points. However, this operation was interrupted when fighting was again heard in the city late morning. It is still undecided when or how an evacuation will take place, if all international humanitarian staff would be evacuated, or if a skeleton humanitarian staff will remain behind.

Early in the day, there were reports that all 210,000 Rwandan Hutu refugees in the Katale camp north of Goma were fleeing Friday, caught in cross fire between Tutsi rebels and Zairean troops. The refugees were said to be moving southwest, possibly towards Muganga camp. However, late Friday afternoon, a UNHCR spokesman said the reports were incorrect and

that the refugees were just moving into the interior of the camp. Katale is the northernmost camp and is 54km from Goma. The location of another 113,000 refugees who fled Kahindo camp yesterday is still unclear.

In the first international press reports from rebel-held South Kivu since the crisis began, Reuter reports from Uvira that thousands of heavily-armed Banyamulenge fighters were visible on the road from the town of Kamanyola, near Bukavu, to the town of Uvira, about 100 km south. The dispatch said that inhabitants of the town were returning on foot to their homes which were largely intact.

In a speech delivered in Uvira, Laurent Kabila, chief coordinator of the newly formed Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire, told a crowd of thousands of cheering people that "we must move Mobutu and throw him into the dustbin of history."

The BBC reported that up to 100 foreigners, mostly European missionaries, were trapped by fighting in the Roman Catholic cathedral in Bukavu.

In Burundi, another 2,000 Burundians have returned from Zaire to the Gatumba camp.

Three leading Zairean human rights activists have been detained for making inquiries into the plight of Tutsis detained by military authorities. A statement from The Voice of the Voiceless Organization said that their president and two other members of the organization were being denied both food and the right to receive visitors. According to Amnesty International, hundreds of unarmed civilians were arbitrarily and deliberately killed in fighting in South Kivu.

French Foreign Minister Herve de Charette on Thursday accused Rwanda of intervening militarily in eastern Zaire. The accusations were made in a foreign policy debate in the French Senate. There are persistent rumours that France intends to intervene in the eastern Zaire but the French government has denied any such plans. French Defence Minister Charles Millon that "France wants a clear reaction on the part of the United Nations", but that France did not want to be put in the "same position" as two years ago, when its Operation Turquoise in southwestern Rwanda was widely criticized.

MSF on Thursday called for the creation of a protected zone for refugees caught up in the fighting in eastern Zaire. MSF urged that a protected area be set up in Rwanda "at a reasonable distance from the conflict zone", through which refugees could pass and humanitarian agencies could safely operate.

International calls for a ceasefire continue. In a speech to UN delegates, Raymond Chretien, who was named UN Special Mediator on Wednesday, said his first priority would be to attempt to arrange a ceasefire. He is expected to arrive in the region on November 8. South African President Nelson Mandela said he too was ready to play a role in the region but did not specify what form this might take.

The Steering Committee for Humanitarian Response, a coalition of seven of the largest international NGOs has also released a statement calling on the international community to

intensify diplomatic efforts to bring about a political settlement as well as to develop adequate contingency plans for a humanitarian response in the event of a widening war.

Zaire's Prime Minister Kengo wa Dondo said his country would refuse to negotiate over the fighting and refugee crisis while the "enemy" holds Zairean territory. On Thursday, the Zairean Transitional National Assembly called for the severing of Zaire's relations with Rwanda, Burundi and Uganda and the called upon the government to halt debt service payments to the IMF to pay for the military effort in the east. Tutsis in Kinshasa allege increasing harassment.

The Dutch government announced that it would provide WFP with \$3.5 million to help the agency in its efforts to address the crisis in eastern Zaire. The bulk of the cash will go towards the transport and distribution of food in the region but money will also be set aside for the reconstruction - as soon there is sufficient security - of port facilities needed for the off-loading of aid in Bukavu.

Radio Rwanda reported that Bangilima fighters, a North Kivu militia group, stormed a church early Wednesday morning and released some 500 mainly Tutsi prisoners who had been held for several days. The raid enabled the "hostages" to cross the border into Gisenyi. The report did not specify who had been holding the people prisoners.

Nairobi, 15:45 GMT, 1 November 1996

[ENDS]

[Via the UN DHA Integrated Regional Information Network. The material contained in this communication may not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its agencies. UN DHA IRIN Tel: +254 2 622123 Fax: +254 2 622129 e-mail: [irin@dha.unon.org](mailto:irin@dha.unon.org) for more information. If you re-print, copy, archive or re-post this item, please retain this credit and disclaimer.]

Date: Fri, 01 Nov 1996 22:13:14 +0300 (GMT+0300) From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes <irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

**Zaire: ICRC: "Breaking the Humanitarian Deadlock in Kivu" 96.11.1**

Sender: owner-irinwire@dha.unon.org

To: irinwire@dha.unon.org

MIME-version: 1.0

Precedence: list

>Received: (from majordom@localhost) by dha.unon.org (8.6.12/8.6.12) id

WAA07849; Fri, 1 Nov 1996 22:13:42 +0300 X-Authentication-warning: unigiri.unep.org:

usasa set sender to

dha.unon.org!owner-irinwire using -f

Communication to the press No. 96/34

1 November 1996

**BREAKING THE HUMANITARIAN DEADLOCK IN KIVU**

Geneva (ICRC) - Hundreds of thousands of victims - both Zairians and refugees - of the wanton violence raging in Kivu are now left without any form of protection or assistance. It has become impossible to help them, not only because of the fighting but also because in the prevailing anarchy facilities have been looted, and vehicles and relief supplies have been stolen. The number of casualties among the civilian population is already running high, and there is growing fear that the current violence may escalate into a massacre.

In view of the grave humanitarian implications of the present situation, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) appeals to the belligerents to ensure that the rules of international humanitarian law are applied, the civilian population is respected, the wounded are cared for and prisoners are spared.

The ICRC has taken all necessary measures with a view to resuming its activities in Kivu, on the basis of its mandate under the Geneva Conventions and Additional Protocol I, so that the victims can receive the protection and assistance to which they are entitled. To that end, the international community must take urgent diplomatic steps to create the conditions required for ICRC operations and for humanitarian action in general.

The ICRC solemnly appeals to the belligerents to facilitate its humanitarian mission so that it can come to the aid of the victims of the conflict without delay.

++++

Date: Sat, 02 Nov 1996 13:04:05 +0300 (GMT+0300) From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes  
<irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

**Zaire: AI EX171/96 ZAIRE Fear for safety 96.11.1**

Sender: owner-irinwire@dha.unon.org

To: irinwire@dha.unon.org

MIME-version: 1.0

Precedence: list

>Received: (from majordom@localhost) by dha.unon.org (8.6.12/8.6.12) id

NAA12118; Sat, 2 Nov 1996 13:07:49 +0300 X-Authentication-warning: unigiri.unep.org:

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+-----+

EXTERNAL AI Index: AFR 62/23/96

EXTRA 171/96 Fear for safety 1 November 1996

ZAIRE Floribert Chebeya Bahizire, human rights activist

Harouna Mbongo, human rights activist

Bashi Nabukili, human rights activist

Members of the Tutsi ethnic group

Three human rights activists in the Zairian capital, Kinshasa, are reported to have been arrested in recent days by the Zairian authorities because they were inquiring about human rights abuses against members of the Tutsi ethnic group. One of the activists, Floribert Chebeya Bahizire, is the President of a human rights group La voix des sans voix (VSV), Voice of the Voiceless. Amnesty International has not been able to establish their place of detention, and fears that they may be ill-treated.

Amnesty International has also learned that an unspecified number of Tutsi families have been removed from their homes and are being held in Kinshasa by members of the Zairian security forces. It has been reported that the Zairian authorities intend to expel the families from Zaire on the grounds that they are not Zairian nationals. It is feared that these Tutsi and other Tutsi living in Zaire may be subjected to human rights violations, including extrajudicial executions, "disappearance", torture and other forms of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment.

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

There is growing hostility and violence against members of the Tutsi ethnic group, and to a lesser extent those of the Hutu ethnic group, since fighting began in eastern Zaire in September 1996 between Tutsi known as Banyamulenge and Zairian armed forces. The hostility on the part of the Zairian authorities and sectors of the civilian population is also extended to anyone suspected of sympathizing with the Tutsi. Hundreds of Tutsi have already been deported by the Zairian authorities to Rwanda and Burundi.

Banyamulenge claim that they are fighting for their right to Zairian nationality which they have been denied by the Zairian authorities. Banyamulenge have already captured several towns in eastern Zaire's North and South-Kivu regions. The Zairian authorities have accused Rwanda, Burundi and Uganda of supporting the Banyamulenge armed group, a claim denied by the governments of those countries.

It has been reported that on 31 October 1996, the Zairian parliament overwhelmingly voted to demand that Zaire severs diplomatic relations with Rwanda, Burundi and Uganda. The parliament also demanded the removal of Tutsi from government jobs, including the security forces. Many Tutsi have already fled the country fearing for their lives.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Please send telegrams/faxes/express/airmail letters in French or your own language:

- expressing concern at the arrest of Floribert Chebeya Bahizire, Harouna Mbongo and Bashi Nabukili, simply because they inquired about human rights abuses against Tutsi;
- expressing concern at the removal of Tutsi from their homes in Kinshasa and the threat to expel them from Zaire;
- pointing out that the human rights activists and members of the Tutsi families who have been arrested are prisoners of conscience and demanding their immediate and unconditional release;
- seeking guarantees that the detainees will be protected from any form of torture or ill-treatment.

**APPEALS TO:**

Prime Minister:

Monsieur Leon KENGO Wa Dondo

[Salutation: Monsieur le Premier Ministre / Dear Prime Minister] Premier Ministre

Hotel du Conseil Executif

Avenue des 3Z

Kinshasa - Gombe, ZAIRE

FAX: +243 88 42062

Telegrams: Premier Ministre, Kinshasa, Zaire

Minister of Justice:

Monsieur Joseph Nsinga Udju

[Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre]

Ministre de la Justice et Garde des sceaux Ministère de la Justice

BP 3137

Kinshasa- Gombe, ZAIRE

Telegrams: Ministre Nsinga, Kinshasa, Zaire Faxes: +243 88 43778

PLEASE SEND COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO: Embassy of Zaire, 26 Chesham Place, London SW1X 8HH. Fax: 0171 235 9048

AND, IF POSSIBLE, TO THE FOLLOWING:

Armed Forces Chief of Staff:

Grand amiral ELUKI Monga

Chef d'Etat-major general des

Forces armees zairoises (FAZ)

Ministere de la Defense nationale

Kinshasa-Ngaliema

Republique du Zaire

Minster of Interior:

Monsieur Gerard KAMANDA WA KAMANDA

Ministre de l'Interieur

Hotel du Conseil executif

Kinshasa-Gombe

Republique de Zaire

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Please do not send appeals after 1 December 1996.

+-----+

+ If you have any queries about this Urgent Action or about + + the UA scheme in general, please contact: +

+ Ray Mitchell +

+ Amnesty International UK Section +

+ 99 - 119 Rosebery Avenue+

+ London EC1R 4REemail: [rmitchel@amnesty.org.uk](mailto:rmitchel@amnesty.org.uk) +

+-----+

Date: Sat, 02 Nov 1996 21:38:03 +0300 (GMT+0300) From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes  
<irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

## **Zaire: IRIN Update on Eastern Zaire for 2 November 96.11.2**

Sender: owner-irinlist@dha.unon.org

To: irinlist@dha.unon.org

MIME-version: 1.0

Precedence: list

>Received: (from majordom@localhost) by dha.unon.org (8.6.12/8.6.12) id

VAA15117; Sat, 2 Nov 1996 21:42:25 +0300 X-Authentication-warning: unigiri.unep.org:

usasa set sender to

dha.unon.org!owner-irinlist using -f

### UNITED NATIONS

Department of Humanitarian Affairs

Integrated Regional Information Network

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### IRIN Emergency Update No. 4 on Eastern Zaire (2 November 1996)

Heavy fighting continued in and around Goma, easing late afternoon with persistent press reports that Rwandan troops have entered the town in support of rebel forces and in response to Zairean shelling. The Rwanda Foreign Minister did not challenge allegations of a Rwandan incursion during an interview this evening. The BBC reported late Saturday afternoon that there were indications that the most of Goma had fallen to Tutsi rebels and that Zairean troops had fled the town. 108 aid workers and 11 foreign journalists were evacuated by road to the Rwandan border town of Gisenyi and were granted transit status by Rwanda. They should arrive in Nairobi on a WFP chartered Hercules today (Saturday). Local Zairean aid workers did not join the evacuation, and had continued limited relief activities on Friday. In terms of the looming humanitarian crisis - which has been described as "apocalyptic" - Goma is critical, holding the largest concentration of Rwandan refugees (estimated by the UNHCR at 717,000).

Zairean armed forces Chief of Staff Eluki Monga Aundu criticized the central government for not giving his troops the means to fight the on-going war. He added that his troops would continue to fight and would not stop at the Rwandan border but would continue beyond in a counter-offensive. He also claimed that Bukavu and Goma airports were still in Zairean army control.

Fighting has dispersed most of the refugees on the "northern axis" of Goma. There were more reports today that Katale camp (202,000 Rwanda refugees) had dispersed. This has not been

officially confirmed by UNHCR. Territorial gains by the rebels now include most of the border between Zaire, Rwanda and Burundi, and a border post on the Ugandan frontier. Far to the south, PANA reports the arrival by boat of 1,000 refugees in Zambia.

Rwanda's ambassador to Zaire, Antoine Nyilinkindi, resigned Saturday, saying he disagreed with his government's position regarding Zaire, adding that Zaire was a victim of Rwanda's aggression.

The President of the UN General Assembly, Razali Ismail (Malaysia) issued a statement rebuking the international community for its impotence in the regional crisis, saying he felt guilt at the "feeble" response. He said the United Nations "should be in mourning" not only for the "enormous human catastrophe" unfolding in the Great Lakes but also for the "evaporation of the international community's ability to respond effectively". Other critical reactions included British aid agency Oxfam which said (Friday) that the regional crisis was more than a humanitarian disaster - "it is the tearing up of the Geneva Convention" - and that refugees and the displaced were being denied protection by the international community as well as the warring parties.

On Friday, the Security Council called for a ceasefire and an end to "trans-border incursions" saying they were "a serious threat to the stability of the Great Lakes region". The statement made no reference to international military intervention, but supported a UN political presence. Those calling for foreign intervention now appear to include South Africa, voiced by Foreign Minister Alfred Nzo (Friday) - "it is no doubt our unanimous view that the international community must take urgent measures, through the UN and regional organisations, to ensure peace and calm is restored". Moreover, South Africa is "reviewing" an \$18 million arms deal with Rwanda due to the current crisis, according to Deputy Foreign Minister Aziz Pahad.

US State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said on Friday that the UN "is in the lead politically and from the humanitarian point of view", but said a State Department official would visit the region next week. He said that the US is "working very cooperatively with France" for a regional African conference. European Union ministers have been invited to meet in Brussels next Thursday to discuss emergency humanitarian support.

UN Special Mediator Raymond Chretien's trip to the region will not take place until after US presidential elections (November 5) - he is expected to arrive in Kinshasa on November 8 and Kigali November 11, having said his first priority is to arrange a ceasefire. Chretien told reporters he would also stop in Lausanne to see President Mobutu before leaving for the region. According to the French daily Le Monde (Friday) Mobutu is unable to return to Zaire because of the effects of radiotherapy, and quoted medical aides saying that cancer had spread to his bones. This has not been officially confirmed by Lausanne's University Hospital.

There are reports of increasing political discontent in Kinshasa - BBC reported looting of property belonging to Tutsis. Reuter reported several hundred protesters marching to Prime Minister Kengo wa Dondo's offices and calling for his dismissal. Kengo (whom opposition groups are associating with the eastern Zairean crisis by virtue of his being part Tutsi)

defended the Zairean army as having "the means" to defend the country and publicly complained of being made a "scapegoat". Amnesty International has released a report expressing concern for human rights abuses against ethnic Tutsis in Kinshasa - reporting families removed from their homes by the Zairean security forces - and detailing the arrest of three human rights activists. The report says there is growing violence against and forced deportations of those associated with the crisis in eastern Zaire - primarily ethnic Tutsis, but also ethnic Hutus, and other sympathisers.

The Tutsi rebels are fighting as part of the Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire, a political alliance of four opposition parties (Democratic Alliance of the People; Popular Revolutionary Party; National Resistance Council for Democracy; Revolutionary Movement for the Liberation of Zaire). In a letter, attached to the ADFL (Congo-Zaire) manifesto, spokesman Laurent Kabila describes the party as "an instrument of radical change". The ADFL declares there are "no longer solid, stable or credible institutions in Zaire" and says it decided "to put an end to this state of affairs".

On Friday the Zairean government said it had decided to deport Rwandan and Burundian refugees "progressively and by force". In a statement issued after a cabinet meeting it declared it would not take part in any meeting on the crisis in eastern Zaire "so long as the aggressor has not left Zairean soil". Calls by the transitional parliament to sever diplomatic links with Uganda as well as with Rwanda and Burundi has widened the international dimensions of the conflict. Uganda denied any involvement today.

Nairobi, 18:45 GMT 2 November 1996  
[ENDS]

[Via the UN DHA Integrated Regional Information Network. The material contained in this communication may not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its agencies. UN DHA IRIN Tel: +254 2 622123 Fax: +254 2 622129 e-mail: [irin@dha.unon.org](mailto:irin@dha.unon.org) for more information. If you re-print, copy, archive or re-post this item, please retain this credit and disclaimer.]

Date: Mon, 04 Nov 1996 12:52:26 +0300 (GMT+0300) From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes  
<irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

## **Zaire: IRIN Update on Eastern Zaire for 3-4 November 96.11.4**

Sender: owner-irinlist@dha.unon.org

To: irinlist@dha.unon.org

MIME-version: 1.0

Precedence: list

>Received: (from majordom@localhost) by dha.unon.org (8.6.12/8.6.12) id

MAA23207; Mon, 4 Nov 1996 12:52:52 +0300 X-Authentication-warning: unigiri.unep.org:

usasa set sender to

dha.unon.org!owner-irinlist using -f

### UNITED NATIONS

Department of Humanitarian Affairs

Integrated Regional Information Network

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e-mail: irin@dha.unon.org

>From today, IRIN will try to provide twice-daily updates on the evolving situation in Eastern Zaire. Feedback is welcome.

### IRIN Emergency Update No. 5 on Eastern Zaire (4 November 1996)

UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Sadako Ogata, called on Sunday for humanitarian aid corridors to be set up between Zaire and Rwanda to enable refugees to return to Rwanda and Burundi. She said there were tens of thousands of displaced Zaireans as well as the mainly Hutu refugees from Burundi and Rwanda in need; the UN estimates more than one million civilians are fleeing fighting. Most are cut off from humanitarian aid - although local Zairean aid workers reportedly continue rudimentary relief in some areas.

According to Ogata, UNHCR has lost contact with 520,000 Burundi and Rwandan refugees since fighting broke out in the Uvira and Bukavu regions, and the vast majority of 715,000 refugees in the Goma region have fled over the last few days. She said 400,000 refugees in Mugunga and Lac Vert camps near Goma appeared to be heading for Sake (west of Goma on the northwest tip of Lake Kivu). French Consul Patrick Lumes, Goma, was reported (Sunday) as saying more than a million people were huddled in one Lake Kivu bay in "appalling conditions".

Ogata said Assistant High Commissioner Sergio Vieira de Mello would leave Monday (today) for Rwanda and Zaire to discuss with officials how to ease the crisis. She emphasised "this may be a final appeal to all those involved in this terrible conflict or it will be too late".

UN officials, diplomats and NGOs met in Kigali on Sunday to discuss emergency strategies, including humanitarian corridors. A key issue is whether the corridors will be supply or repatriation corridors - depending on the stance of Rwanda (who wants Hutu "exiles" back inside Rwanda) and Zaire (who may consider it "support" to the rebels, or a violation of sovereignty). Corridors may be established with different functions, for example, those with a repatriation function may allow rudimentary supplies or be exclusively for refugee movement.

There are continuing contacts between the Rwandan government, aid agencies, donors, UN officials and diplomats on ways to mitigate the humanitarian crisis and facilitate aid. Further discussions will take place today. In Nairobi (Sunday) NGOs and UN representatives met to discuss emergency relief strategies, and individual agencies are planning to establish emergency offices in Nairobi and elsewhere to coordinate response and set up programmes. UNHCR says it has requested satellite images to assist in identifying the whereabouts and situation of the refugees.

Groups of Burundian returnees have been arriving back in their country of origin. About 11,000 have arrived at Gatumba during the course of last week, displaced when the Uvira camps were taken by rebels early on in the fighting. Another 12,000 returnees arrived over the weekend, who have been registered by the Burundian army as having returned to the northwestern province of Cibitoke (which is mainly controlled by Hutu Burundian rebels). Of the 11,000, 700 have moved back to their home areas with the assistance of the government and aid agencies; 400 went to Gatumba town; and 300 moved to Bujumbura-Rurale. Action Contre le Faim (ACF) reports 17% severe malnutrition among 600 under 5s at Gatumba. This is one of the first indications that some of the dispersed refugees are arriving in a state of malnourishment - under 80% weight for height is classified as moderate by aid agencies).

DHA IRIN was informed that stocks of food already available in the region are estimated to be 78 days' worth, using half rations for two million people. UNICEF said a plane (arranged through DHA's Military and Civil Defense Unit) carrying 30 tonnes of medical supplies was leaving Copenhagen for Uganda's Entebbe airport, and more supplies would follow. Access points for emergency supplies are Kigali (previous stocks exist in anticipation of refugees returning), Uganda, Tanzania and Kenya. Burundi is also a possible access point, although presently gripped by regional sanctions following the July coup. The Regional Sanctions Coordinating Committee had refused the passage of any food aid through or to Burundi, but relaxed conditions on October 21st to allow for displaced Burundians - it therefore stands as a possible land route. The Rwandan government has refused since April 1995 to allow food to pass through Rwanda to refugee camps in eastern Zaire, which held many of those implicated in the 1994 Rwandan genocide.

Aid workers in the region have noted the following impediments to operations: aid vehicles and logistical equipment have been looted and commandeered; the relief structures have been destroyed; air drops are impracticable because refugees are scattered; chronic fuel shortages and poor road access and continued fighting. Refugees are faced with hostile geographical terrain as well as fighting - mountains, volcanic ground and forests, often in torrential rain. There are continued reports of bodies washed up on the shores of Lake Tanganika.

Laurent-Desire Kabila, identified as head of the rebel coordinating committee, called on Sunday for aid organisations to return to eastern Zaire. He declared Bukavu and Goma, the two main towns of eastern Zaire, under rebel control, and said they planned to re-open Goma airport. Kabila said on the BBC (Monday) that Kiliba airstrip, servicing Uvira, was available. He said there was famine and continued population movement.

Nairobi, 09:55 GMT, 4 November 1995

[ENDS]

[Via the UN DHA Integrated Regional Information Network. The material contained in this communication may not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its agencies. UN DHA IRIN Tel: +254 2 622123 Fax: +254 2 622129 e-mail: [irin@dha.unon.org](mailto:irin@dha.unon.org) for more information. If you re-print, copy, archive or re-post this item, please retain this credit and disclaimer.]

Date: Mon, 04 Nov 1996 19:02:03 +0300 (GMT+0300) From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes  
<irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

## **Zaire: IRIN Update 6 on Eastern Zaire 4 November 1996 96.11.4**

Sender: owner-irinlist@dha.unon.org

To: irinlist@dha.unon.org

MIME-version: 1.0

Precedence: list

>Received: (from majordom@localhost) by dha.unon.org (8.6.12/8.6.12) id

TAA01086; Mon, 4 Nov 1996 19:05:14 +0300 X-Authentication-warning: unigiri.unep.org:

usasa set sender to

dha.unon.org!owner-irinlist using -f

### UNITED NATIONS

Department of Humanitarian Affairs

Integrated Regional Information Network

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e-mail: irin@dha.unon.org

### IRIN Emergency Update No. 6 on Eastern Zaire (4 November 1996)

A three week ceasefire has been announced by the rebel Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire (ADFL) to allow international aid agencies to repatriate 1.2 million refugees. Laurent-Desire Kaliba, ADFL spokesman speaking from Bukavu, said the unilaterally-declared ceasefire would take effect from 5pm local time. According to a BBC report, he said that the rebels would not hesitate to strike back if attacked - but that the three towns controlled by the ADFL (Bukavu, Goma and Uvira) were "calm" because Zairean soldiers and government officials had fled. If the ceasefire holds, refugees have been given three weeks to repatriate to their country of origin; Kabila said those who refused to leave would be "re-grouped" and put in camps away from "exiled" Hutu extremists implicated in the Rwandan 1994 genocide.

Late reports from Swiss media say that Mobutu left Switzerland today aboard a private plane to an undisclosed location.

A UN official reported after visiting a feeding centre in Gatumba (Burundi) for returnees from Eastern Zaire that some of the children were "skin and bone". He told IRIN that severe malnourishment in the under 5s was probably because "some children were not in great shape before they had to spend five or more days in the bush".

The rebel announcement of a ceasefire will be welcomed by the international community, though there will be pressure to secure a mutually agreed one. UN Special Mediator Raymond

Chretien is seeking an immediate ceasefire - but will not be in the region until after November 5 (US presidential elections). European Union's Irish presidency today also issued an appeal for a ceasefire, from Irish Foreign Minister Dick Spring. Officials of the European Union and international humanitarian organisations will meet in Brussels on Thursday. UNHCR Assistant High Commissioner Sergio Vieira de Mello is anticipated to arrive in Kigali today. The UNDP resident coordinator in Kigali held a meeting of representatives today (4pm local time) from NGOs, UN, donors and diplomats to further discuss the setting up of humanitarian corridors. An Organisation of African Unity (OAU) peace mission arrived in Rwanda on Sunday, and Rwanda's president visited Uganda.

France has issued a number of statements, including calls for an immediate ceasefire. French presidential spokeswoman Catherine Colonna said today that France had "increased diplomatic and humanitarian efforts" in search of a solution. France's secretary of state for humanitarian aid, Xavier Emmanuelli, said on Saturday that France was ready to "put everything into a humanitarian operation coordinated with Europe and United Nations agencies", and were studying access routes. The French NGO Medecins Sans Frontieres issued a statement from Paris today calling for immediate international military intervention, to create safe havens and disarm the fighting forces - which is what the French military did in 1994 in Rwanda. The MSF statement said, however, that "by calling for international intervention, MSF does not call for a repeat of Operation Turquoise which was politically biased and inadequate".

Speculation continues about the willingness of France to militarily intervene in the conflict - Reuters and AFP both report today that France has "implied" it is ready to send in troops, possibly dependent on the outcome of the regional head of states meeting in Nairobi tomorrow (Tuesday). Spain said on Monday it would support any UN-approved military intervention in Zaire and "would consider the possibility" of sending troops. Italy has also called for "suitable measures of protection".

Reports of fighting have diminished. This morning Goma was reported as quiet, but other reports suggest sporadic fighting around Bukavu airport - expected to effect three more refugee camps. Of the two largest camps Kashusha 37,000, and Inera 54,555, Kashusha camp was reported on Friday as still being controlled by the Interahamwe. There are different opinions on whether dispersed refugees are moving predominantly north or west; according to Paul Stronber, regional spokesman for UNHCR, most are heading west, but there are also reports from NGOs of movement north, into the Zairean hills. BBC reported that rebels had taken control of Ishasha border post on the Ugandan border.

Statements from Kinshasa continue to accuse both Rwanda and Burundi - whose governments are Tutsi-dominated - of sending forces in to help rebels in Zaire. Zairean Prime Minister Kengo Wa Dondo said on Saturday that negotiations to end the fighting can only proceed once Rwandan troops had withdrawn from the area. Rwanda rejects persistent reports by journalists and diplomats that its forces entered Goma (Zaire) to support Tutsi rebels, but Rwandan President Pasteur Bizimungu called last week for a revision of borders agreed during the colonial era - referring to "natural borders". In response, the Zairean Prime Minister has said he is willing to discuss frontiers; but pointed out that colonial borders were revised in

1910 when Zaire (during a meeting between Belgium, Germany and Britain) was obliged to cede land to Rwanda and Uganda (including the border town of Gisenyi). He said the portion of territory ceded should be "returned".

Both Uganda and Rwanda have offered to "help" resolve the conflict. Rwanda says it will work with the international community to solve the "internal crisis" in Zaire. Rwanda is reportedly insisting that negotiated humanitarian corridors must be for repatriation purposes only, and not to support "exile Hutu extremists". So far, returning refugees to Rwanda are very few.

Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi is due to host a regional summit on the crisis on Tuesday (heads of state from Cameroon, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia were anticipated). Foreign ministers are meeting in Nairobi today (Monday) in preparation - Zaire is boycotting the meeting. The Rwandan Foreign minister is in Nairobi for the pre-summit meeting; the Minister for Rehabilitation and Social Integration will represent Rwanda at the summit on Tuesday (November 5). Kenyan state radio reported on Sunday that President Daniel Arap Moi had told President Nelson Mandela (South Africa) by telephone that it would be "prudent" for him to suspend all arms sales to Rwanda (referring to a recent 18 million dollars arms sale agreed, but subsequently reconsidered by South Africa). Regional meetings like tomorrow's summit have gained new weight since regional sanctions were effectively imposed for the first time, following the July Burundi coup.

Zaire radio reported on Sunday that presidential advisor Ngbanda Nzambo ko Atume had left Kinshasa to carry personal messages from President Mobutu to the presidents of Zambia, Kenya, Tanzania and South Africa. Rebel spokesman Kabila said in a BBC interview on Monday (today) that Zaire was "leaderless".

Other countries touched by the regional crisis are: Zambia, which has reported the arrival of more than 1,000 Rwandan refugees since the fighting started; Sudan, which claims that fighting may affect some 145,000 Sudanese refugees in Zaire - Sudan's commissioner general for refugees, Mohammad Ahmad Hussein Abdul Aleim, said in the same statement that Sudan is expecting Hutu refugees; and Uganda, which said in a statement from the foreign ministry that it was assisting displaced Zaireans by providing safe passage. A WFP report (WFP Eastern Zaire Situation Report 4 November) says that people continue arriving at Kigoma, Tanzania and other ports - "unconfirmed reports put arrivals at about 2,000". World Vision on Monday put the number at 4,500 over the last five days. WFP also reports 10,000 people arriving at Ishasha and 6,800 at Kisoro in Uganda - WFP and World Vision say the vast majority of these people are Zairean nationals - often Hutu. Peter Kessler, UNHCR Nairobi, told IRIN there were a total of 9,000 refugees on the Ugandan border at Kisoro, Ishasha and Butogota.

Eye-witnesses to the fighting report a reluctance of Zairean troops to fight, as well as ill-discipline. Laurent-Desire Kabila, rebel spokesman, claims the Zairean army is "in disarray", leaving weapons behind as they flee. The Zairean armed forces chief General Eluki Monga Aunda has complained (Saturday) that the government is failing to provide the national army with the means to resist. The press reports executions of civilians in the fighting zones by

unidentified soldiers/militia - and eccentric behavior (stripping naked) by armed men has been televised.

Nairobi, 4 November 1996, 16:10 GMT

[ENDS]

[Via the UN DHA Integrated Regional Information Network. The material contained in this communication may not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its agencies. UN DHA IRIN Tel: +254 2 622123 Fax: +254 2 622129 e-mail: [irin@dha.unon.org](mailto:irin@dha.unon.org) for more information. If you re-print, copy, archive or re-post this item, please retain this credit and disclaimer.]

Date: Tue, 05 Nov 1996 08:59:46 +0300 (GMT+0300) From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes <irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

**Zaire: Refugees International Report #5 4 NOVember 1996 96.11.4**

Sender: owner-irinwire@dha.unon.org  
To: irinwire@dha.unon.org  
MIME-version: 1.0  
Precedence: list  
>Received: (from majordom@localhost) by dha.unon.org (8.6.12/8.6.12) id JAA05738; Tue, 5 Nov 1996 09:13:47 +0300 X-Authentication-warning: unigiri.unep.org: usasa set sender to dha.unon.org!owner-irinwire using -f

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REFUGEES INTERNATIONAL  
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Report #5      Contact: Kirk Day  
November 4, 1996      (202) 828-0110

**CEASE-FIRE PROVIDES OPPORTUNITY TO ACT**

A million Rwandan refugees in eastern Zaire are now without international protection and assistance as a result of the withdrawal of all humanitarian NGOs and UN agencies from Goma. Will the international community come to their aid in time to avert the deaths of tens of thousands?

Today, with the announcement by Tutsi rebels of a unilateral three-week cease-fire the international community may have its best opportunity to ensure that thousands of lives are not unnecessarily lost.

Ideally, an international military force would secure humanitarian corridors in Zaire, but realistically this will not happen quickly. Meanwhile, what can be done is to organize a civilian operation along the Zaire-Rwanda border to deliver short-term emergency assistance and access for refugees to return to Rwanda.

To staff such an effort, the UNHCR should rely on a combination of its staff, volunteers drawn from humanitarian NGOs, Rwandan civil servants seconded from the ranks of border prefectures, and paid contract workers--including former camp residents. Teams composed of individuals from the aforementioned groups could be posted at regular intervals along the route to provide emergency assistance, information, and, most of all, moral support to those heading home.

Assuming that the cease-fire holds, this plan could be implemented within days, and it will have to be, since by all accounts the supplies of food and water available to the displaced camp residents will last no longer than a week. The virtue of this plan is that it is quick, but it should not detract from efforts to organize and deploy an international security force.

Persuading the refugees to return home will not be easy. Their leaders, who exercise a great deal of influence over refugee decision making, have long decreed that it is too dangerous to go home and that many will be arrested or killed. The voices of Hutu refugees who have returned home safely need to be heard. Perhaps a credible Hutu spokesperson will step forward to break the deadlock.

Indeed, human rights abuses persist in Rwanda and immediate corrective measures should be taken. But the bottom line is that the only way for most refugees to avoid life-threatening peril will be to return home before disease, lack of food and fighting result in tens of thousands of deaths. For most refugees, repatriation is the best available choice.

For some time, the international community has been pressing Rwanda to begin trials for those accused of human rights abuses and to relieve inhumane overcrowding in the prisons. In a good faith gesture, it would be especially helpful if Rwanda started civilian trials and military court proceedings for Rwandan military officials charged with human rights violations. Similarly, the international community should also insist that the international tribunal seated in Arusha begin trials immediately.

If massive repatriation does occur, the Government of Rwanda will require more financial and humanitarian assistance. Though much reconstruction has taken place during the last two years, much more remains to be done to accommodate new returnees.

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Refugees International -- 2639 Conn. Ave, NW, Washington, DC 20008 Phone: 202-828-0110  
Fax: 202-828-0819 www: <http://www.clark.net/pub/ri>  
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[Via the UN DHA Integrated Regional Information Network "Wire" mailing list. The material contained in this communication may not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its agencies. UN DHA IRIN Tel: +254 2 622123 Fax: +254 2 622129 e-mail: [irin@dha.unon.org](mailto:irin@dha.unon.org) for more information. If you re-print, copy, archive or re-post this item, please retain this credit and disclaimer.]

Date: Tue, 05 Nov 1996 11:56:22 +0300 (GMT+0300) From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes <irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

## **Zaire: Security Council Calls for Immediate End to Fighting 96.11.1**

Sender: owner-irinwire@dha.unon.org

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>Received: (from majordom@localhost) by dha.unon.org (8.6.12/8.6.12) id

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UNITED NATIONS

1 November 1996

Press Release

SC/6285

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### **SECURITY COUNCIL CALLS FOR IMMEDIATE END TO ZAIRE FIGHTING; URGES INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE TO AVERT ESCALATION OF CRISIS**

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Statement Stresses Humanitarian Needs, Urges Robust Relief Effort from United Nations Agencies, Non-Governmental Organizations

Expressing grave concern at the deteriorating situation in the Great Lakes region of Africa, in particular in eastern Zaire, the Security Council this afternoon called for an immediate cease-fire and a complete cessation of all fighting in the region.

In a statement read out on its behalf by the President of the Council, Nugroho Wisnumurti (Indonesia), the Council called on all States to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of neighbouring States in accordance with their obligations under the Charter. In that connection the Council urged all parties to refrain from the use of force as well as cross-border incursions and to engage in the process of negotiations.

It noted the effect which the continued fighting was having on the inhabitants of the region and condemned all acts of violence, and spoke of the urgent need for a comprehensive and

coordinated response by the international community to prevent any further escalation of the crisis.

By the text of the statement, the Council supported the Secretary- General's initiative to dispatch to the Great Lakes region a Special Envoy to consult with all concerned in order to establish the facts relating to the present conflict; to develop a plan to defuse tension and establish a cease- fire; to promote a process of negotiation; and to submit advice on the mandate to be given to a United Nations Special Representative including on the size and structure of a possible United Nations political presence in the region.

The Special Envoy should be provided with adequate staff and logistic resources, according to the statement. The Council called on all concerned to cooperate fully with the Special Envoy and expressed the hope that he would travel to the region as soon as possible.

The Security Council urged governments of the region to pursue early and substantive dialogue without further delay and welcomed all regional efforts aimed at defusing the tension in the region. It also stated that the situation in eastern Zaire had underlined the need to organize a conference on peace, security and development in the Great Lakes region under the auspices of the United Nations. To that end, it called on the Secretary-General to ask the Special Envoy to promote the convening of a conference on an urgent basis.

The Council, particularly concerned at the humanitarian situation and resulting large-scale movements of refugees and displaced persons, called on all parties in the region to allow humanitarian agencies and non-governmental organizations to deliver humanitarian assistance to those in need and to ensure the safety of all refugees, as well as that of international humanitarian personnel.

The meeting, which began at 3:50 p.m., was adjourned at 3:59 p.m.

The full text of the Presidential Statement, which will be issued as document S/PRST/1996/44, reads as follows:

"The Security Council is gravely concerned at the deteriorating situation in the Great Lakes region, in particular eastern Zaire, and at the effect which the continued fighting is having on the inhabitants of the region and condemns all acts of violence. It underlines the urgent need for a comprehensive and coordinated response by the international community to prevent any further escalation of the crisis there.

"The Security Council calls for an immediate cease-fire and a complete cessation of all fighting in the region. The Council calls on all States to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of neighbouring States in accordance with their obligations under the United Nations Charter. In this connection, it urges all parties to refrain from the use of force as well as cross-border incursions and to engage in a process of negotiation.

"The Security Council, in the light of the letters of the Secretary- General to the President of the Council (S/1996/875 and S/1996/878), and the information received from the High

Commissioner for Refugees and the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights regarding the situation in eastern Zaire, is particularly concerned at the humanitarian situation and the resulting large-scale movements of refugees and displaced persons. It fully supports the efforts of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and humanitarian agencies to alleviate the suffering. It calls on all parties in the region to allow humanitarian agencies and non-governmental organizations to deliver humanitarian assistance to those in need and to ensure the safety of all refugees as well as the security and freedom of movement of all international humanitarian personnel. It underlines the urgent need for the orderly voluntary repatriation and resettlement of refugees, and the return of displaced persons, which are crucial elements for the stability of the region.

"The Security Council agrees with the Secretary-General that the situation in eastern Zaire constitutes a serious threat to the stability of the Great Lakes region. It is convinced that the complex problems at issue can be resolved only through early and substantive dialogue. The Council urges the governments of the region to pursue such a dialogue without further delay in order to defuse the tension. The Council calls upon all States in the region to create the conditions necessary for the speedy and peaceful resolution of the conflict, and to desist from any acts that may further exacerbate the situation. In this context, the Council welcomes all regional efforts aimed at defusing tension in the region, in particular the announcement of the meeting of regional leaders scheduled for 5 November 1996 in Nairobi, Kenya.

"The Security Council fully supports the initiative of the Secretary-General to dispatch to the Great Lakes region a Special Envoy to consult with all concerned in order to establish the facts relating to the present conflict; to develop as a matter of urgency a plan to defuse tension and establish a cease-fire; to promote a process of negotiation; and to submit advice on the mandate to be given to a United Nations Special Representative including on the size and structure of a United Nations political presence which, in consultation with the governments and parties concerned, will be established in the Great Lakes region. The Council also considers that the Special Envoy should be provided with adequate staff and logistic resources in order to carry out his mission. The Council also expresses the hope that the mediation efforts of the Organization of African Unity and the European Union will complement those of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General. The Council calls upon all governments and parties concerned to cooperate fully with the mission of the Special Envoy, and to contribute to the search for a comprehensive solution to the problems facing the people of the Great Lakes region. Given the urgency of the situation, the Council expresses the hope that the Special Envoy will travel as soon as possible to the region and provide early information on the situation there.

"The Security Council reiterates that the present situation in eastern Zaire underlines the need to organize a conference on peace, security and development in the Great Lakes region under the auspices of the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity. To this end, it calls on the Secretary-General to ask his Special Envoy to promote the convening and to encourage the adequate preparation of such a conference on an urgent basis.

"The Security Council will remain seized of the matter."

## Documents before Council

As it met this afternoon to consider the situation in eastern Zaire, the Council had before it letters from the Secretary-General to the President of the Council dated 14 October (document S/1996/875) and 24 October (document S/1996/878). In the first letter, the Secretary-General states that the deteriorating situation in Zaire required him to offer his good offices to assist the Government of Zaire in addressing the political and security aspects of the problems in the eastern part of the country, not only because of the threat they presented to peace and the security of the region but also because of the negative impact on the United Nations efforts to provide assistance to the elections planned for 1997.

In his second letter, reporting on the escalating military activity within Zaire and across its borders, the Secretary-General says that the failure to address the root causes of the conflicts in the region of the Great Lakes, in political and economic as well as security terms, had once again unleashed a spiral of violence and human suffering that may spin out of control unless urgent measures were taken immediately to contain the situation.

\* \* \* \* \*

[ENDS]

[Via the UN DHA Integrated Regional Information Network "Wire" mailing list. The material contained in this communication may not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its agencies. UN DHA IRIN Tel: +254 2 622123 Fax: +254 2 622129 e-mail: [irin@dha.unon.org](mailto:irin@dha.unon.org) for more information. If you re-print, copy, archive or re-post this item, please retain this credit and disclaimer.]

Date: Tue, 05 Nov 1996 13:37:36 +0300 (GMT+0300) From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes <irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

## **Zaire: Oxfam International Position Paper Eastern Zaire 96.11.4**

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Please find the following Position Paper by Oxfam International on the Crisis in Eastern Zaire.

For further information please contact Justin Forsyth or Quynh Tran at (202)783-3331.

Oxfam International

Position Paper

The Crisis in Eastern Zaire

November 4, 1996

### Background

A human catastrophe is unfolding in eastern Zaire where up to a million Rwandan and Burundian refugees and Zairians have fled intensive fighting. These people are without protection, food, shelter or water, and may be joined soon by an even greater number if the war continues. Women are especially vulnerable to the present violence and insecurity. Despite the enormity of the tragedy in Eastern Zaire, it is only one aspect of a wider crisis of poverty, suffering and insecurity across Central Africa. There is imminent danger of a wider war unless the regional governments and rebel movements, with decisive assistance from the international community, act to reduce tensions and attack the root causes of the conflict.

Along with the International Red Cross, Oxfam has evacuated from Bukavu, South Kivu, as the fighting is preventing any relief work. The lack of humanitarian activity and particularly the absence of the Red Cross leaves the people of this region without any form of protection. No humanitarian agencies have received replies to demands for guarantees of security and access to vulnerable populations. Aid agencies have lost contact with over a half million refugees. In North Kivu, the UNHCR has reported that 715,000 refugees in the region have fled westward as Tutsi rebels have taken over the town of Goma.

Oxfam is painfully aware that the situation across the region is extremely complex, and that no simple solutions to the crisis exist. However, the scale of the unfolding suffering demands a

rapid but considered response. This short briefing outlines what, from our experience across the region, we believe are the urgent steps which need to be taken to re-establish protection and humanitarian assistance for the victims of violence. The briefing also suggests ways in which the root causes of the crisis across the region have to be addressed if attempts are to be made to avert a far greater human calamity.

#### Our Ability to Meet Humanitarian Needs (Access)

There are an estimated 700,000 people displaced by the current fighting. There is now genuine concern that over one million lives are at risk.

Policy Recommendations: - UN Special Envoy Chretien with the backing of the UN and OAU should undertake immediate negotiations with all parties to the conflict including the Zairian government and army, the Zairian provincial authorities, and the Banyamulenge and Banyarwanda, to establish a ceasefire, security for humanitarian activity in the region and safe corridors to help with the delivery of aid and the voluntary repatriation of refugees. All efforts should be made to convince the parties to the conflict of the need to uphold the Geneva Convention, and crucially to guarantee full access of the ICRC to assist the victims of war.

- Currently the Zairians displaced in North and South Kivu have no assistance or protection. The UN Secretary General must extend the mandate of the UNHCR to cover the displaced Zairian people who are suffering alongside refugees in Eastern Zaire.

- To ensure humanitarian efforts are effective, the UN Secretary General should appoint a regional humanitarian coordinator, with a strong support team, to guarantee the collaboration and coordination of humanitarian activities to maximize its benefit for the victims of violence. The regional humanitarian coordinator should coordinate with the

UN Special Envoy to ensure humanitarian assistance is a part of a wider political strategy.

**The Primacy of a Regional Political Settlement** The international policy vacuum which exists around the Great Lakes region is a major contributor to the current crisis. Humanitarian aid has masked the systematic neglect of the international community to assist the regional governments in reaching a regional political settlement. Oxfam has long advocated sustained and concerted action by the international community to promote a political settlement between the governments of the region. We have been persistently disappointed with the response.

While the governments of the region made dramatic progress on preventing an escalation of the crisis in Burundi, they now face the momentous task of creating a long term regional political settlement which will have to address the underlying causes of the region's instability including:

- The need for justice and an end to impunity in the aftermath of genocide and atrocities across the region. This will include strengthening the Rwandan judicial system and the International Tribunal.
- Tackling poverty through economic rehabilitation and regeneration as a first step to returning security and a livelihood to the people's of the region.
- Dealing with repatriation as a political issue requiring the arrest of the authors of genocide and the intimidators of refugees in the camps, funds for secure repatriation and an acceptance that a small number of refugees may never return.
- Developing regional agreements on nationality, citizenship, residence status and economic migration which is a permanent feature of the region.
- Moving to prevent the build up of arms and the tolerance, by governments, of bases of armed organizations determined to destabilise neighboring territories.
- Building responsive and accountable governments which reject the traditional politics of exclusion and seeks to represent the whole of society including the interests of minorities.
- Maintaining emergency preparedness and humanitarian assistance and protection of people's basic rights.

(For further details see Rwanda: Never Again, The Search for Durable Solutions in the Great Lakes Region, Oxfam International, April 1996).

Reaching a regional political settlement becomes ever more urgent as the threat of further political disintegration increases, and with it, identifiable and credible negotiators.

**Policy Recommendations:** - The UN and OAU should use all the diplomatic opportunities available to them to support Ambassador Chretien, the new UN special envoy, to assist the parties to

the current conflict to achieve an end to the fighting and to assist governments of the region to establish a process to reach a regional political settlement over the next year.

- The UN and OAU must make a public commitment to provide the resources and political will to sustain their cooperation and collaboration with this negotiation over the next year, and the implementation of the negotiated settlement well into the next decade.

Without the security of long term cooperation by the international community there can be no hope of sustaining the slow and arduous climb back from calamity in the region.

- The momentum built by the regional governments for dialogue between all political parties in Burundi must be maintained and supported by the international community. This process not only represents a vital precedent of regional political cooperation for mutual security, but also, if successful will take considerable pressure off eastern Zaire where currently Burundian armed opposition operate.

The Role of Development Assistance and Donors This latest war is a further indication that economic and developmental assistance to the region will only be effective and sustainable if it assists a regional political settlement. Donors must act in concert to design their co-operation to encourage regional actors to find a negotiated regional political settlement.

Policy Recommendations:

- Call an urgent conference of donors, with the OAU, to establish common goals and strategies for assistance to design programmes which promote a regional political settlement between the governments in the Great Lakes. Aid and trade cooperation should be designed to promote a common material interest in stability and conflict resolution in the region.

- The principle donors should instruct their executive directors to the IMF and World Bank to seek an approach by these two institutions which is coherent with donors' common strategy to promote a

regional political settlement.

#### Plans for Repatriation

Although, at this time, there is every indication that Rwandan refugees in Zaire are not repatriating even when they are caught in intense fighting and have no access to humanitarian relief supplies, it is important the international community provides every opportunity for them to return to Rwanda. The establishment of a cease-fire and safe corridors will be important in doing this.

#### Policy Recommendation:

- Establish safe corridors for refugee return. Help break the hold of the former regime on the refugees by detaining those implicated in the genocide. In addition it will be important to ensure the refugees have access to accurate information about their home communities, and funds are provided for rehabilitation and reconstruction in Rwanda to create the conditions for return.

[ENDS]

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Date: Tue, 05 Nov 1996 13:49:14 +0300 (GMT+0300) From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes  
<irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

## **Zaire: IRIN Update 7 on Eastern Zaire for 5 Nov 1996 96.11.5**

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To: irinlist@dha.unon.org

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NAA07570; Tue, 5 Nov 1996 13:49:40 +0300 X-Authentication-warning: unigigiri.unep.org:

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### UNITED NATIONS

Department of Humanitarian Affairs

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IRIN Emergency Update No. 7 on Eastern Zaire (5 November 1996)

Despite diplomatic efforts, the Kenyan government appears to have failed to convince Zaire to participate in today's regional summit on eastern Zaire. Early hopes that Zaire Prime Minister Kengo wa Dondo would attend have proved false, which undermines the potential of the meeting. Zaire state-run radio said today that Zaire will not attend - on Monday it reiterated that its leaders will not attend any meetings on the crisis until "the aggressor" (Rwanda) has left the country. Kenyan government diplomatic efforts to persuade Kengo to attend were reflected in a statement by Foreign Affairs Minister Stephen Kalonzo Musyoka that Kenya expected representation even if the meeting began without Zairean representation. Musyoka acknowledged today that Kengo would not be attending (Reuters).

Despite fears of on-going fighting, the unilateral ceasefire declared yesterday by the rebel Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire (ADFL) is reportedly holding. BBC reports indicated that journalists and aid workers have begun taking advantage of the ceasefire to cross the Zairean border. Negotiations have not yet extended to the rebel ADFL. The BBC reported UNHCR's Ray Wilkinson as saying that aid agencies needed more than the ceasefire to cope with the humanitarian crisis.

Rwandan President Pasteur Bizimungu is attending the heads of state meeting, along with host president Daniel arap Moi of Kenya. Tanzania's Benjamin Mkapa, Ethiopia's Meles Zenawi, and Eritrea's Issyas Aferworki had arrived by 12.00 noon (local time). Others expected are Uganda's Yoweri Museveni, Zambia's Frederick Chiluba, and Cameroon's Paul Biya - the

current chairman of the Organisation of African Unity. Mediator in Burundi's civil war, former Tanzanian president Julius Nyerere has also arrived.

The failure of Kengo to attend is as likely to be interpreted as further evidence of his difficult political situation, as a reflection of Zaire's refusal to negotiate. Kengo is under pressure to resign, with opponents focusing on his part-Tutsi origin to associate him with the eastern Zaire crisis. The transitional parliament last week summoned Kengo to explain his conduct of the war publicly, and recommended that anyone of Tutsi origin be expelled from public service employment. (There have also been attacks on ethnic Tutsis living in Kinshasa). Kengo was voted into office in 1994 as a "compromise candidate" by the transitional assembly, after seven other prime ministers fell from grace during domestic and international pressure for a "democratic transition" in 1990. Kengo's attempts to reform Zaire's economy stirred domestic resentment but blunted international criticism - and he continued to command sufficient backing from President Mobutu Sese Seko. President Mobutu still enjoys a majority in the transitional national assembly, and is described by many journalists and analysts as "the sole symbol of national unity". Successful regional and international negotiations will depend on who Kengo is seen to represent and whether he has sufficient political power to influence the crisis.

Rwandan representative, President Pasteur Bizimungu, is Rwanda's official head of state. Rwanda continues to deny reports that Rwandan soldiers crossed the border into Zaire during the fighting; Zaire accuses Rwanda of supporting rebels and crossing the border. Rwanda insists on describing the crisis as an "internal Zairean crisis". This was underlined by initially choosing Rwandan Minister for Rehabilitation and Social Integration to attend the summit (with the Rwandan Foreign Minister attending the pre-summit meeting on Monday). Both Rwanda and Zaire have said the issue of borders and colonial territorial boundaries should be discussed.

The Zairean government acknowledged in a statement released on Monday in Kinshasa that it was no longer in control of Goma and Bukavu in eastern Zaire. An anti-government student demonstration scheduled for today has been banned, and state radio on Monday said that troops had been ordered to open fire if it went ahead.

There are a number of UN and international diplomatic initiatives planned and in action, including: UNHCR's Assistant High Commissioner Sergio Vieira de Mello dispatched to Kigali; an Organisation of African Unity peace mission (arrived in Kigali from Kinshasa yesterday); UN Special Mediator Raymond Chretien due in France tomorrow; and a scheduled meeting of the European Union and international humanitarian organisations in Brussels on Thursday (November 7th). The United States State Department has pointed to the UN to "take the lead", but no UN organisation has been appointed to date to lead and coordinate humanitarian initiatives. There was hope that today's regional summit would be one of the first productive initiatives in the crisis.

Apart from the concern over disputed territory, the conflict includes crucial issues relating to the Rwandan genocide of 1994. In a paper issued November 4, Oxfam states a long term political settlement must include "an end to impunity in the aftermath of genocide and

atrocities across the region". Many of the refugees now fleeing fighting were either directly implicated in the genocide, or have been under the control of armed Interahamwe militia and former Rwandan army ("exiled" Hutu extremists). Failure of the international community to stop the genocide remains an issue with the Rwandan government; and sharp divisions of opinion relating to events in Rwanda will be a factor in the regional and international response - as well as the conflict itself. One UN official told IRIN that there were fundamentally two different policies being advocated - one focusing on providing assistance to those in need in Zaire, and the other as getting the refugees back to Rwanda. The humanitarian players in Nairobi are mainly focused on needs, and the Rwandan government lead the "return" approach. According to the UN official, those who feel the conflict arises from the failure to resolve the 1994 genocide situation, generally feel that the loss of significant numbers of lives to fighting and lack of assistance is "inevitable" and possibly "the price to pay for a resolution".

There is also considerable difficulty for aid organisations, journalists and diplomats to match information from Rwanda with information from Zaire - which suffers from poor communications and is relatively inaccessible.

There are reports that two personnel from a Medecins Sans Frontieres (Holland) mission are stuck on board a boat on the eastern shore of Lake Tanganyika. They were unable to reach their destination, travelling to Kalemie (Zaire).

[ENDS]

[Via the UN DHA Integrated Regional Information Network. The material contained in this communication may not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its agencies. UN DHA IRIN Tel: +254 2 622123 Fax: +254 2 622129 e-mail: [irin@dha.unon.org](mailto:irin@dha.unon.org) for more information. If you re-print, copy, archive or re-post this item, please retain this credit and disclaimer.]

Date: Tue, 05 Nov 1996 18:31:28 +0300 (GMT+0300) From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes  
<irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

## **Zaire: IRIN Update 8 on Eastern Zaire for 5 November 96.11.5**

Sender: owner-irinlist@dha.unon.org

To: irinlist@dha.unon.org

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SAA10456; Tue, 5 Nov 1996 18:32:41 +0300 X-Authentication-warning: unigiri.unep.org:

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### UNITED NATIONS

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### IRIN Emergency Update No. 8 on Eastern Zaire (5 November 1996)

Details of killings are emerging as journalists take advantage of the first day of the ceasefire declared by the rebel Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire (ADFL). Journalists in Goma report that local members of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies have collected more than 400 bodies and are burying them in mass graves near the airport. Most are believed to be civilians, although some are described as wearing items of military uniforms. The dead include women and children. Local aid workers are reportedly prevented from moving out of town to get to refugees - and sporadic gun fire has been heard (although the ceasefire is described as "largely holding").

Reports concerning the condition of Burundian returnees arriving in Gatumba from eastern Zaire include 52 non-accompanied minors handed into the care of UNICEF and UNHCR. In a camp of approximately 12,000, there have been ten deaths, and MDM reported on Saturday that 95% of their medical consultations have severe bloody diarrhoea.

A UN official confirmed to IRIN that bodies continue to be washed up on the shores of Lake Tanganyika (near Bujumbura), and said he found two bodies yesterday (Monday) - a man and a woman. He said the woman's hands and feet had been bound and twine or hemp was still tied to her wrist and ankles. According to the UN official, local people say they have buried many bodies over the last week. Reuters also reports evidence of violent deaths on corpses washed up at the mouth of the Rusizi River (running into Lake Tanganyika).

The following leaders attended the regional summit today: President Benjamin Mpaka (Tanzania), Prime Minister Meles Zenawi (Ethiopia), President Issayas Afewerki (Eritrea), President Frederick Chiluba (Zambia), President Yoweri Museveni (Uganda) and Secretary-General of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) Dr Salim Ahmed Salim. President Pasteur Bizimungu of Rwanda attended - but there was no representation from Zaire or from the rebel Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire (ADFL). The summit began with an informal lunch at President Moi's official residence in Nairobi.

In a press conference given by Bizimungu on Monday, he said there were three fundamental issues to be sorted out - the legal and political programme of Zaire and the denial of citizenship to the Banyamulenge; the former Rwandan government army and militia who he said were armed and fighting alongside the Zairean troops, and should be denied refugee status; and, thirdly, the humanitarian crisis of scattered refugees threatened by starvation. He called on all Rwandan refugees to come back to Rwanda. Rwandan Foreign Minister Anastase Gasana said today that Rwanda was opposed to any military intervention for humanitarian purposes.

In Burundi, state-run radio carried an interview with Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Leonidas Havyarimana, on Monday, who complained that Burundi had not been invited to the regional meeting in Nairobi (today). He said Burundi, as a neighbour and an affected country, should have attended if a regional solution was to be found (Burundi remains under regional sanctions, imposed after the July coup). Burundi says it is concerned about the implications of opening corridors. Rwandan opposition group Rally for the Return of Refugees and Democracy in Rwanda (RDR) sent a memorandum to the regional summit saying that fighting in eastern Zaire is backed by Rwanda, Burundi and Uganda and is aimed at the Hutu refugees.

President Mobutu of Zaire is in France and says he will return to Zaire "in a few days". Press sources claim he was forced to leave Switzerland when, embarrassed by his presence, the Swiss government refused to allow him to act in an official capacity or issue statements. UN Special Envoy Raymond Chretien will meet Mobutu on Wednesday in his French Riviera villa. Mobutu has ruled Zaire for 31 years.

BBC reported that President Moi is believed to have received a communication from Kengo wa Dondo as to why he could not attend, and also reported that President Mobutu has been in direct contact with a number of African leaders since arriving in France.

An anti-government student demonstration went ahead in Kinshasa today despite threats by the government that troops would open fire. A BBC reporter in Kinshasa described the capital as "tense and chaotic" with groups of soldiers in the streets; and speculated that Mobutu would return to his home rather than directly to the capital in the next few days.

The Zaire Government says it has sent the presidential special advisor on security matters, Mbanda Nzamboko Atumba, on an African diplomatic tour to explain its position on the conflict (state-run radio, Monday). Also by radio, the government accused the USA of assisting "aggressors", alleging US patrol boats supplied to Rwanda and Uganda for non-military purposes were used in the fighting. In Zaire, there are reports of tension in other

regions of the country. Reuters report that troops have been moved into Mbuji-Mayi, the centre of Zaire's Kasai diamond mining region (diamonds have become Zaire's main foreign currency earner). Kasai (west of the disputed eastern Zairean region) has used different currency from the rest of the country since 1993 and is considered a "hotbed of opposition". Regions such as copper-producing Shaba and Kasai are described as enjoying de facto autonomy.

The UN Security Council is due to hold consultations today (Tuesday) about the humanitarian crisis, but is not expected to discuss plans for military intervention. Britain, France, Belgium and Italy all support the idea of humanitarian corridors; France is reported to have called for an urgent security meeting to be held between its African, North American and European partners to set up corridors that would guarantee the provision of aid under the eye of foreign troops. France and Spain have called for the use of military intervention. The British government on Monday said it was cautious about the creation of a multinational force to protect civilians, said to be advocated by France. French Foreign Minister Herve De Charette has called for "security forces" to channel aid through humanitarian corridors. A British foreign office spokesman said London was seeking more details about the French proposal, and said it would be essential for any military deployment to be under UN auspices. German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel said today that Germany would find it "very difficult" to deploy troops in Zaire, but said foreign involvement was necessary. He called on the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) to act (OAU is generally seen as not having the capacity to influence conflicts).

South Africa reports it is under increasing pressure to take an active role in resolving regional conflicts, and asked for observer status at today's regional summit in Nairobi. The South African government is reportedly split over the arms contract with Kigali - with Mandela insisting that Rwanda has a right to defend itself against the continuing threat of exile Hutu extremists - and has decided to wait for the outcome of today's summit. Mandela was quoted today as saying he would scrap arms sales to Rwanda if so appealed by leaders at today's regional summit; but tacitly rejected appeals from the international community (notably Amnesty International) to stop the deal, by saying he would only listen to those "involved in the situation".

Other diplomatic initiatives include a US envoy, Ambassador Bogosian who will travel to Rwanda and Zaire to hold talks with both governments (Monday) and US State Department said US envoy Howard Wolpe would be attending today's regional summit.

Eye-witness accounts from journalists crossing the border into the rebel-held towns in Zaire report incidents of ill-discipline and violence by the rebel ADFL. Ten western clergymen were taken hostage on the outskirts of Bukavu, in rebel-held eastern Zaire, according to the Belgian foreign ministry. There is no information on who is holding the clergymen (Canadian, French, German and Belgian).

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies launched an appeal today for \$10.4 million to assist 500,000 refugees. "The only thing we are sure of is the enormity of the crisis and the grave potential risks for refugees," said East Africa Delegate

Christer Aqvist. The IFRC said that 1,300 Zairean Red Cross volunteers are still working in Eastern Zaire under very difficult conditions.

Nairobi, 5 November 1996, 15:35 GMT

[ENDS]

[Via the UN DHA Integrated Regional Information Network. The material contained in this communication may not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its agencies. UN DHA IRIN Tel: +254 2 622123 Fax: +254 2 622129 e-mail: [irin@dha.unon.org](mailto:irin@dha.unon.org) for more information. If you re-print, copy, archive or re-post this item, please retain this credit and disclaimer.]

Date: Tue, 05 Nov 1996 22:42:43 +0300 (GMT+0300) From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes <irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

## **Zaire: Press Statement by the Regional Summit 5 Nov 1996 96.11.5**

Sender: owner-irinwire@dha.unon.org

To: irinwire@dha.unon.org

MIME-version: 1.0

Precedence: list

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WAA11949; Tue, 5 Nov 1996 22:45:23 +0300 X-Authentication-warning: ungigiri.unep.org:

usasa set sender to

dha.unon.org!owner-irinwire using -f

Press Statement by the Regional Summit on the Crisis in Eastern Zaire

1. At the invitation of President Daniel T. arap Moi, Presidents Yoweri Museveni of Uganda, Frederick Chiluba of Zambia, Pasteur Bizimungu of Rwanda, Isaias Afewerki of Eritrea, Benjamin Mkapa of Tanzania, Prime Minister Meles Zenawi of Ethiopia and Ferdinand Oyono, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Cameroon, representing HE Paul Biya, Chairman of OAU met on 5th November, 1996, in Nairobi, to deliberate on the conflict in Eastern Zaire.

2. Also participating in the summit were the Secretary General OAU, Dr. Salim Ahmed Salim and Mwalimu Julius Nyerere, Facilitator of the Peace Process.

3. The Summit examined recent developments in Eastern Zaire, resulting in armed confrontation and expressed its grave concern at the deteriorating situation in that area and the threat posed to peace and stability in the entire Great Lake's region, border incursions and the threat posed to peace and stability in the entire Great Lakes' region.

4. The Summit reaffirmed the commitment and solidarity of the countries in the region for the concern about the escalation of the conflict and agreed that an immediate cease-fire should be effected and strictly observed to enable the intensification of diplomatic efforts to achieve lasting peace.

5. The Summit reaffirmed its commitment to the territorial integrity of Zaire in accordance with the OAU Charter and in particular, the Cairo Declaration of 1964 on territorial integrity and inviolability of national boundaries as inherited at independence and called for non-intervention and an end to cross- border incursions.

6. The Summit further reaffirmed the inalienable rights of all people within the internationally recognized territorial boundaries as stipulated in the OAU Charter on Human and People's Rights and other international conventions relevant to the right of citizenship and nationality.

7. Taking cognisance of the plight of the refugees in Eastern Zaire, the regional Summit called for the immediate setting up of safe corridors and temporary sanctuaries inside Zaire to facilitate humanitarian assistance and the repatriation of refugees.

8. The Summit called for the intensification of efforts towards voluntary repatriation of refugees to Rwanda, to enable the success of this effort the Summit called for the implementation of the long standing decision to separate the intimidators and bonafide refugees.

9. The Summit requested the UN Security Council to take urgent measures to ensure the establishment of the safe corridors and temporary sanctuaries by deploying a neutral force. In this connection, the Summit called upon the UN Secretary General to work closely with the OAU Secretary General towards the realisation of this objective, the Summit requested the Secretary General of the OAU to closely follow up the implementation of this decision. The Summit affirmed the readiness of the sub-region to make its own contribution to that effect.

10. The Summit directed their ministers for Foreign Affairs of Kenya, Tanzania, Ethiopia and the representative of OAU Chairman to closely follow up the decisions of the Summit.

11. The Summit mandated the foreign ministers to visit Zaire to convey the decisions of this summit.

12. The regional Summit expressed its appreciation to President Daniel T. arap Moi for playing host to the Summit on the crisis in Zaire, in Nairobi and to the Government and people of the Republic of Kenya, for the warm welcome and hospitality accorded to the delegations.

Done at Nairobi, Kenya on 5th November, 1996

[Transcribed verbatim by UN DHA IRIN, Nairobi.]

[Via the UN DHA Integrated Regional Information Network "Wire" mailing list. The material contained in this communication may not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its agencies. UN DHA IRIN Tel: +254 2 622123 Fax: +254 2 622129 e-mail: [irin@dha.unon.org](mailto:irin@dha.unon.org) for more information. If you re-print, copy, archive or re-post this item, please retain this credit and disclaimer.]

Date: Wed, 06 Nov 1996 12:51:33 +0300 (GMT+0300) From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes  
<irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

## **Zaire: IRIN Update 9 on Eastern Zaire for 5-6 Nov 96 96.11.6**

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To: irinlist@dha.unon.org

MIME-version: 1.0

Precedence: list

>Received: (from majordom@localhost) by dha.unon.org (8.6.12/8.6.12) id  
MAA02913; Wed, 6 Nov 1996 12:52:47 +0300

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### IRIN Emergency Update No. 9 on Eastern Zaire (5-6 November 1996)

Regional leaders on Tuesday called for the UN Security Council to take urgent measures to ensure the establishment of safe corridors in Eastern Zaire, and create temporary sanctuaries by deploying a neutral force. The Summit expressed "grave concern" at the deteriorating situation and the threat posed to peace and stability in the entire Great Lakes region. Immediate needs were listed as a strictly observed ceasefire; commitment to the territorial integrity of Zaire, national boundaries and an end to cross-border incursions; and commitment to the inalienable rights of all people within internationally recognised territorial boundaries. This has been interpreted to refer in particular to the Banyamulenge's right to Zairean nationality. The leaders also called for intensification of efforts towards voluntary repatriation of refugees to Rwanda, and separation of "the intimidators and bonafide refugees", referring to the exiled extremist Hutus from the Interahamwe militia and the former Rwandan army, who have controlled refugee camps since perpetrating the 1994 genocide.

Attending the summit hosted by President Daniel arap Moi of Kenya, were: Presidents Yoweri Museveni of Uganda, Frederick Chiluba of Zambia, Pasteur Bizimungu of Rwanda, Isaias Afewerki of Eritrea, Benjamin Mkapa of Tanzania, Prime Minister Meles Zenawi of Ethiopia and Ferdinand Oyono, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Cameroon, representing President Paul Biya, current Chairman of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU). The talks were also attended by OAU Secretary-General Salim Ahmed Salim and former Tanzanian president, Julius Nyerere, mediator for the Burundi peace process. Burundi complained it was not invited even though it is an affected neighbour. There was no representative from Zaire.

The decisions of the regional summit are seen by many as significant as they represent a regional consensus - excluding Zaire - in favour of military intervention. President Daniel arap Moi said it was important to get international backing for the decisions. Response from the Zairean government will be critical to implement the decisions. There was also no representation from the rebel Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire (AFDL). Until yesterday, Rwanda rejected any sort of military intervention - and points still have to be clarified on the type of corridors created.

There will be important clarifications to be made on how some of the decisions are implemented - like temporary sanctuaries, and how to separate bonafide refugees and the intimidators. Previous resolutions undertaken on separation have failed to take effect. Resolutions to intensify efforts towards voluntary repatriation to Rwanda must also be seen in the context that an extremely small number of the refugees have returned voluntarily to Rwanda to date, despite the considerable dangers and hardships now faced inside Zaire. The OAU has been asked by the leaders to "closely follow up the implementation" of the decisions, and work with the UN Secretary General.

Some international aid workers are seeking to take advantage of the ceasefire and cross into rebel-held towns of Goma, Bukavu and Uvira. Yesterday (Tuesday) journalists were allowed across the border at Goma but given restricted access by the rebel ADFL. Some aid agencies are today seeking access to Eastern Zaire and in particular to the huge numbers of refugees who are believed to have gone west of Goma, into the interior (there were about 700,000 around Goma before fighting dispersed them). Efforts will be made to gain access to Mugunga camp, west of Goma town. One aid agency reports that Mugunga has been calm over the last couple of days, that there are still supplies of medicine left at the hospital, local aid workers are trying to distribute existing food supplies, and there is no fuel left for the hospital generator.

Local aid workers have continued to operate to the best of their ability, and some aid organisations believe that if the ceasefire holds they can make contact with local staff and begin assessment and rudimentary operations in affected areas. Aid workers in Nairobi say they are "unclear" about whether it is possible to successfully negotiate access with permission from Kinshasa - evacuated aid workers are hoping to return to Zaire through Rwanda. Nairobi is being used as a temporary meeting and coordination centre for some humanitarian organisations involved in the crisis, but Rwanda is a key operational base. No food has been delivered for more than a week to eastern Zaire, and existing stocks are believed to have been distributed by local staff - or looted. Agencies believe that although much (if not all) has been looted - like vehicles, radios, generators etc - the equipment is likely to remain in the area because of fuel shortages and rebel restrictions. There have been contradictory reports about the level of discipline among the rebels, and is mostly speculative or incidental because contact has been so limited. Access to Uvira and Bukavu is also limited, and information is mainly emanating from press reports in Goma.

UN Special Envoy Raymond Chretien has arrived in Nice, France, and plans to meet President Mobutu of Zaire - said to be recuperating from cancer treatment and due to return to Zaire "in

the next few days". UNHCR's Assistant High Commissioner Sergio Vieira de Mello is expected to hold talks in Kinshasa today.

The World Food programme says it is providing food to an emergency shelter in Kigoma, Tanzania, for the 4,600 refugees (mainly Zairean nationals) who have arrived since the weekend - and say thousands more are reportedly on their way. It says it has enough food in northern Tanzania to feed some 20,000 refugees for one month. WFP say the refugees are arriving in "relatively good condition". However, Action Contre le Faim (ACF) has reported 14% severe malnutrition among under fives at Gatumba (Burundi).

Nairobi, 6 November 1996, 09:50 GMT

[ENDS]

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Date: Wed, 06 Nov 1996 18:44:06 +0300 (GMT+0300) From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes  
<irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

## **Zaire: IRIN Update 10 on Eastern Zaire for 6 November 1996 96.11.6**

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SAA06869; Wed, 6 Nov 1996 18:45:39 +0300 X-Authentication-warning: unigiri.unep.org:

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### IRIN Emergency Update No. 10 on Eastern Zaire (6 November 1996)

European Union Special Envoy for the Great Lakes, Aldo Ajello, said today that three regional foreign ministers and a representative from the Organisation of African Unity will go to Kinshasa "as soon as possible" to present the Zairean government with the decisions of yesterday's regional summit. He said they would leave tomorrow (Thursday) at the latest. Diplomatic efforts concentrate on securing Zaire's agreement to the resolutions, which include calls for neutral military intervention, the establishment of humanitarian corridors and temporary sanctuaries, and an immediate ceasefire. Neither the Zairean government or the rebel Alliance of Democratic Forces (ADFL) were present at the heads of state meeting. The ADFL declared a unilateral three week ceasefire on Monday.

The regional ministers will be trying to get Zaire to agree on a ceasefire and the need for international intervention. On Tuesday evening, Zaire's Information Minister and government spokesman, Boguo Makeli, denied there was rebellion on Zaire territory, saying that Burundi, Rwanda and Uganda were the aggressors. The Zairean government has acknowledged that it no longer controls Bukavu and Goma, but has not acknowledged the civil war. It has said it will not attend any regional meetings about the eastern Zaire crisis until the "aggressors" (referring to the alleged presence of Rwandan troops) are off Zairean territory.

According to a BBC report, a government spokesman in Kinshasa today said that Zaire would not take a position on military intervention until it was fully aware of the proposals made by the Nairobi summit. The spokesman said that Hutu refugees should return to their country of

origin and territory should be restored to Zaire (implying foreign rather than domestic involvement). On the humanitarian aspect, the spokesman said Zaire was no longer prepared to accept assistance for the refugees on its own side of the border, and that aid should now be provided within Rwanda and Burundi and that refugees could pass through the proposed corridors out of Zaire.

Rwandan President Pasteur Bizimungu of Rwanda said today (Wednesday) that it was not necessary to wait for the approval of Zaire to go ahead with a proposed international force. He said it was up to the United Nations to call on Zaire to abide by the resolutions of yesterday's regional heads of states summit, and said the United Nations had the right to send in a force "with or without the agreement of the country concerned". Rwanda insists on regarding the eastern Zairean conflict as an "internal Zairean crisis". In an interview on the BBC, Claude Dusaidi, advisor to the Rwandan government, welcomed the Nairobi proposals, particularly the decision to assist separation of intimidators from the bona fide refugees. On the issue of corridors, he acknowledged the need to use them to initially feed the refugees, but said the aim should be to repatriate as soon as possible. He said an intervention force must be neutral.

Both Rwanda and Zaire seem to have accepted - to some extent - the idea of humanitarian corridors.

South African deputy Foreign Minister Aziz Pahad said today that the South African government has temporarily suspended the sale of arms to Rwanda. President Mandela was quoted yesterday - after a personal appeal from Kenyan President Moi to suspend an 18 million arms deal - that he would suspend arms sales to Rwanda if requested by regional leaders.

International responses to the regional summit have focused on the call for military intervention. US Special Envoy Howard Wolpe called the notion of an international presence "helpful", but said the type of force envisaged needed to be discussed. British Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind welcomed the idea of a multinational force and said it would be discussed at a summit on Friday with France. European Union officials also met on Tuesday in Brussels for talks on possible intervention in Eastern Zaire, and, according to Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Aldo Ajello, will meet on Thursday (tomorrow) to "harmonise the position". He said European reaction had been very fast. Germany has raised the possibility of deploying UN military observers, particularly in the Zaire-Rwanda border. President Nelson Mandela has pledged South African support for a peacekeeping force, saying he would respond very positively to any request from the United Nations. The Johannesburg Star reports that South Africa has two fully-trained battalions ready to join any multinational peacekeeping force organised by the UN or the OAU. This is the first time South Africa has expressed a willingness to send troops on peace keeping missions. Togo has proposed a four-point ceasefire plan, saying it would prevent a "second genocide"; it is essentially the same as the decisions taken by the regional summit, incorporating a ceasefire, an neutral intervention force, territorial integrity and further talks.

French Foreign Minister Herve de Charette said that a multinational force could be deployed "in a very short time" - France has led calls for military intervention since the weekend, along with UN High Commissioner for Refugees Sadako Ogata. Spain and France have said they are prepared to participate in a force for Zaire. President Jacques Chirac - whose government is now host to the ailing Zairean president - underlined French support for Mobutu by saying the president was "the man best placed to represent Zaire and find a solution to this problem". He says the force proposed by France and Spain needs the approval of the UN Security Council, would include US, European and African troops and could later be replaced by an African force with US and European backing. French support for Mobutu will be an issue for other actors in the conflict - particularly the rebels.

Other reactions include plans for a special session of the conflict prevention team in the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) next week in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (the Central Organ of the OAU Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution is composed of Cameroon, Algeria, Comoros, Congo, Ethiopia, Gabon, Guinea, Malawi, Mauritania, Mozambique, Nigeria, the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic, Tanzania, Togo, Sudan, Zambia and Zimbabwe). The OAU says the meeting will be attended by the countries of the Great Lakes region, and other neighbours. Former French cooperation minister Bernard Debre proposed in an interview in a French newspaper the creation of a Hutu state, comprising "a small part of Rwanda, Burundi, and also part of Kivu". Previously, proponents of creating separate ethnic states included President Moi of Kenya. An exclusively ethnic analysis of the regional conflict, including the 1994 genocide, is generally rejected by political players in the arena, who point to the fact that political groups and geographical areas are not ethnically "pure" (for example, rebel spokesman for the Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire (ADFL), Laurent-Desire Kabila is perceived as one of those leading the "Tutsi revolt", but is from the mineral-rich Shaba region in southern Zaire).

Action by Churches Together (ACT) has issued an appeal for the Eastern Zaire emergency for \$4,757,947 to stockpile and deliver emergency relief supplies in Rwanda, Uganda and Kenya, from 1 November 1996 to 31 December 1997.

Eight hundred Zairean soldiers who fled to Uganda early this week returned home, according to Ugandan security sources. They reportedly commandeered canoes on Lake Edward to get back into Zaire. There is a slow trickle of refugees into Uganda, mostly women and children; UNHCR put the number at around 9,500 and say the rate of arrival has decreased this week.

An unpublished UN report on regional arms supply accusing Zaire of playing "a central role" in helping Rwandan and Burundi Hutu rebels to rearm on its territory, has been leaked to the press. According to press reports, Zaire was accused of playing a major role in "huge webs" of arms trafficking - "Zaire, or elements within Zaire, appear to continue to play a central role as a conduit for arms supplies to and military training of Rwandan and Burundese insurgents on its soil", the report says. The report, likely to be that of the UN Commission of Inquiry formed in 1995, is also quoted as saying that Hutu militia in refugee camps of Zaire, Tanzania and (previously) Burundi were funding arms purchases from "the sale of relief goods donated by international humanitarian organisations". The Zairean government denied these allegations on Tuesday night. After the 1994 Rwandan genocide, international human rights organisations

drew attention to arms supplies to fugitive Hutu extremist groups in neighbouring countries. Paradoxically, at the time of declaring a ceasefire, the rebel groups - reportedly well armed - had managed to seize up to 300 kilometres of border territory in two weeks and resistance from ex-FAR and Interahamwe militia appears to have been minimal.

[ENDS]

[Via the UN DHA Integrated Regional Information Network. The material contained in this communication may not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its agencies. UN DHA IRIN Tel: +254 2 622123 Fax: +254 2 622129 e-mail: [irin@dha.unon.org](mailto:irin@dha.unon.org) for more information. If you re-print, copy, archive or re-post this item, please retain this credit and disclaimer.]

Date: Thu, 07 Nov 1996 12:45:26 +0300 (GMT+0300) From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes  
<irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

## **Zaire: IRIN Update 11 on Eastern Zaire for 6-7 Nov 1996 96.11.7**

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To: irinlist@dha.unon.org

MIME-version: 1.0

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MAA12910; Thu, 7 Nov 1996 12:46:09 +0300 X-Authentication-warning: unigiri.unep.org:

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### UNITED NATIONS

Department of Humanitarian Affairs

Integrated Regional Information Network

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### IRIN Emergency Update No. 11 on Eastern Zaire (6-7 November 1996)

Reports coming in from the press this morning indicate that the ceasefire may not be hold. CNN reported rebel soldiers preparing to attack a refugee camp (presumed to be Mugunga-Lac Vert), described as defended by Hutu militia. Mugunga, the largest refugee camp, was thought to be controlled by former Rwandan officials and the Interahamwe Hutu extremists. What little information exists about Mugunga indicates that there has not been significant dispersal - the hospital, for example, is still functioning.

Journalists and aid personnel in Goma town say rebel troops are preventing access to Mugunga camp (400,000 refugees); one journalists told IRIN that the front line beyond the town was tense and that there is "insecurity" on the western road. The other main road, north, is also inaccessible (where two camps, Katale 115,000, and Kahindo, 210,000, have reportedly dispersed, perhaps westwards). Skirmishes are reported as close as "the outskirts" of Goma. Eye-witnesses in Goma say there is no information on the whereabouts of Zairean troops and armed Hutu extremists - who could now be engaged in combined fighting on a front line west of Goma. International press reports continue to allege a strong presence of Rwandan soldiers; some say they constitute over 50% of the armed presence in Goma. Rebels of the ADFL are described by journalists as considerably less disciplined than the Rwandan soldiers.

Local aid workers continue to bury bodies continue to be buried in Goma town, and in Bukavu town on a lesser scale. Many of the dead are civilians. CNN quoted a Zairean surgeon in

Goma hospital saying that most were killed or wounded by the fleeing Zairean troops. There are 53 wounded in Goma hospital and the hospital in Goma is functioning without electricity, anaesthetics, food and water.

An international journalist told IRIN this morning (Thursday) that local residents gather around town warehouses - sometimes in hundreds, sometimes in thousands - where relief food stocks remain. UN-supplied food is being handed out by rebel soldiers in what the journalist described as "a fairly orderly manner". Pictures on CNN today showed a form of "organized looting" of relief food. The food is reportedly being distributed to civilians only. Civilians in Goma and Bukavu are described as "getting hungry".

Relatively small numbers of refugees are recorded as fleeing into Uganda, Rwanda, Tanzania, Burundi, Angola and Zambia. There are no figures from Southern Sudan (also bordering Zaire), suffering from civil war. According to WFP, refugees are recorded in the following locations:

UGANDA Kisoro 4,800 (unknown origin), Ishasha 7,000 (Zairean) RWANDA Gisenyi 6,600 (4,876 Zairean, 1,880 Rwandan) Cyangugu 1,500 (82 Zairean, 1,400 Rwandan)  
TANZANIA Kigoma 4,800 (3,800 Zairean, 800 Rwandan/Burundian) BURUNDI Gatumba 11,000 returnees (Burundi government says many more have returned spontaneously and gone back to homes) ANGOLA preparing to receive refugees from Zaire ZAMBIA about 1,000 reported to have arrived ZAIRE Still at least 1,000,000 Rwandan and Burundian refugees

Aid agencies, led by UNHCR, have asked donors to provide remote sensing data (satellite images) on the precise whereabouts of refugees inside Zaire, and there are signs that the donors may soon respond despite the "sensitive nature" of the request.

On plans for international intervention, rebel spokesman Laurent Kabila is reported as opposing French-led intervention. Zaire's President Mobutu has lent backing to calls for a multinational force. Rwanda's President Pasteur Bizimungu supports the proposal and said yesterday it was not necessary to secure the agreement of Zaire to proceed.

French Foreign Minister said on French television that the response of the international community is "spineless". US officials are considering sending some US troops to Central Africa for logistical support in an international force to protect and feed up to 1.4 million refugees, senior US and European officials say. Differences in approach include the fact that the French, who are urging immediate intervention, would be willing to return the refugees to the existing camps in Zaire, but that the US (along with many international relief officials) are more insistent on obtaining a solution leading to repatriation.

European Union aid ministers and senior UN relief officials (including Sadako Ogata and Under-Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs Yasushi Akashi) are in an emergency meeting in Brussels today to plan for a massive relief effort; the BBC reported that it was expected to call for an international presence on the ground before the effort could go ahead.

France, Spain and Ethiopia have pledged troops, and South Africa has declared itself willing to join an international force.

The United Nations announced yesterday it had appointed a coordinator for the eastern Zaire emergency, Mr Sergio Vieira di Mello, Assistant High Commissioner for Refugees, with immediate effect. He will be assisted by Mr Martin Griffiths, Director, Department of Humanitarian Affairs. In a press statement, the UN Emergency Relief Coordinator, Yasushi Akashi, said the immediate need was to secure access to those affected by the current conflict, establish safe corridors, temporary sanctuaries and to ensure that relief agencies can provide emergency humanitarian assistance and support repatriation programmes in a well coordinated manner.

Nairobi, 6 November 1996, 09:50 GMT

[ENDS]

[Via the UN DHA Integrated Regional Information Network. The material contained in this communication may not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its agencies. UN DHA IRIN Tel: +254 2 622123 Fax: +254 2 622129 e-mail: [irin@dha.unon.org](mailto:irin@dha.unon.org) for more information. If you re-print, copy, archive or re-post this item, please retain this credit and disclaimer.]

Date: Thu, 07 Nov 1996 13:19:19 +0300 (GMT+0300) From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes <irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

## **Zaire: Oxfam press release - Action needed now 6 Nov 1996 96.11.6**

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MIME-version: 1.0

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>Received: (from majordom@localhost) by dha.unon.org (8.6.12/8.6.12) id

NAA13393; Thu, 7 Nov 1996 13:20:52 +0300 X-Authentication-warning: ungitiri.unep.org:

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For immediate release

6 November, 1996

Crisis in Eastern Zaire

Action needed now - don't wait for them to starve

+The growing international consensus that the refugees could be starved back to Rwanda is simplistic and dangerous. Not only would countless Rwandese women and children be sacrificed, but also too the lives of thousands of innocent Zairians. How many lives will be lost before action is taken?+ said David Bryer, Director, Oxfam UK and Ireland.

Oxfam appealed to all EU development aid ministers meeting in Brussels and the foreign ministers meeting at the Anglo-French summit tomorrow to act decisively to protect the lives of over a million refugees and displaced in Eastern Zaire.

Oxfam called on the EU ministers to agree immediate action to:

- o secure a cease-fire between parties to the conflict in Eastern Zaire
- o resolve the refugee question
- o help proceed with regional negotiations to address the underlying causes of the conflict

Any humanitarian corridor must be two way - allowing aid in and refugees out. But warned that a long term solution to the refugee crisis must deal with the underlying causes of the conflict in the region.

+Two years of international indifference has left the world impaled on the horns of a moral dilemma. Only +least-worst+ options are available. The +least-worst+ option is that the UN, EU and OAU immediately organise and deploy a military force to enable the delivery of humanitarian aid. Doing nothing is the worse option,+ added Mr Bryer.

Oxfam believes any force must:

- o ensure the creation of humanitarian space to allow the delivery of relief assistance to those in need in Eastern Zaire
- o enable those refugees who wish to return to do so voluntarily, in safety and dignity
- o disarm the former Rwandan government army (FAR) and the Interahamwe militia
- o protect civilians from violence, with particular attention to the protection needs of women and children
- o contribute to the application of due judicial procedure for the perpetrators of genocide.

Oxfam believes that if such a force was to be deployed, it should:

- o be fully accountable to the UN
- o ensure that its short term aims are coherent with the longer term process of a regional political settlement
- o have the support of the governments of the region

For more information contact: Ian Bray 01865 312498/311311

[Via the UN DHA Integrated Regional Information Network "Wire" mailing list. The material contained in this communication may not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its agencies. UN DHA IRIN Tel: +254 2 622123 Fax: +254 2 622129 e-mail: [irin@dha.unon.org](mailto:irin@dha.unon.org) for more information. If you re-print, copy, archive or re-post this item, please retain this credit and disclaimer.]

Date: Thu, 07 Nov 1996 18:23:38 +0300 (GMT+0300) From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes  
<irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

## **Zaire: IRIN Update 12 on Eastern Zaire for 7 Nov 1996 96.11.7**

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To: irinlist@dha.unon.org

MIME-version: 1.0

Precedence: list

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SAA16592; Thu, 7 Nov 1996 18:24:49 +0300 X-Authentication-warning: unigiri.unep.org:

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### UNITED NATIONS

Department of Humanitarian Affairs

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IRIN Emergency Update No. 12 on Eastern Zaire (7 November 1996)

Fleeing Zairean soldiers are reportedly arriving in Kisangani, the first major town about 500 kilometres northwest of Bukavu and Goma and looting has taken place. Many uniformed soldiers have made their way to Kisangani from the war front, driving up to fifty vehicles - including commandeered UN cars. Some Zairean soldiers have fled into Uganda. There have been reports of rising food prices and health problems in Kisangani. Hundreds of students burned "Rwandan-owned" property in the town yesterday protesting the government handling of the rebellion.

Thousands of students in Kinshasa have taken over the parliament building during a planned debate on prime minister Kengo wa Dondo.

The rebel Alliance des Forces Democratiques pour la Liberation du Congo-Zaire (AFDL) is reportedly faced by Zairean troops and Hutu militia, west of Goma. Hutu militia - possibly with Zairean troops - are said to be defending Mugunga camp.

A special European Union meeting is discussing plans for emergency action in Eastern Zaire. The EU plan calls for protection of both refugees and aid workers. Experts are studying the practical means of large-scale intervention, with an inventory of available food and medical supplies and a survey of access roads and airports in the region. Aldo Ajello, EU Special Envoy to the Great Lakes region strongly backs the resolutions of the Nairobi heads of state Summit (Tuesday) and stressed the importance and future role of the grouping of regional

states - sometimes known as the "Arusha Club". Ajello also said the quick reaction of regional leaders was a precedent.

France has proposed to send in about 1,000 troops as part of the proposed force, while Spain has said it would send fewer than 1,000. A minimum of 5,000 troops is said to be needed. Ethiopia has also pledged troops, and South Africa says it is willing to assist. France proposes that a multinational force would eventually be replaced by African troops. British Development Minister Lynda Chalker responded angrily to French Foreign Minister Herve de Charette's comment that the international community's response so far was "spineless". Chalker said there could be a need to send international observers to the region.

Cameroon's President Paul Biya, currently chairman of the OAU, implicitly blamed Rwanda in a radio interview (Wednesday) for stirring up the conflict in Zaire. He did not mention Rwanda by name, but said "when you respect the sovereignty of a state, you don't invade it. You don't even infiltrate it".

There have been no overt negotiations with the rebel Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire (ADFL) over proposed intervention. Laurent Kabila, ADFL spokesman, rejects French involvement. Rebel leader Andre Ngandu Kassasse in Goma said the international community had misunderstood the rebellion, which he described as a popular uprising against Mobutu. He dismissed speculation that the rebels wanted to secede from Zaire, or that there was an ethnic objective to create a "Tutsi land".

Responses to the proposal of intervention seem to differ between the Rwandan government and the rebels, and contradict reports that the rebels are simply proteges of the Rwandan army. There is a new concern about a front line west of Goma town, where fighting reportedly continues. The Zairean government has responded to diplomatic efforts concerning the international conflict between Rwanda and Zaire, but has so far not acknowledged a civil war. Refugees are possibly behind the front line, with refugee camps reportedly being defended by Hutu militia. The rebel ADFL announced on Wednesday plans to push on with an offensive, despite declaring a unilateral three week ceasefire - journalists today reported preparations in Goma to attack Mugunga camp. The Zairean army and the Rwandan Hutu militias are blamed for the killing and wounding of civilians as they flee west into the interior.

Kigoma in Tanzania increased its caseload of refugees (mainly Zaireans) from 4,800 to 7,000 as of today. World Vision International have set up a temporary centre for the refugees and say about 30 of the incoming refugees have suffered gunshot wounds, many of which are infected. Tanzania already hosts 650,000 Hutu refugees in camps along its borders.

UNICEF has been able to reach its local staff in Goma and report no epidemics, but looted medical supplies.

There is growing criticism that international response is too slow, and that it has been limited to meetings and diplomacy. Reuters quoted a UN official saying "A blur of international meetings and words is masking the fact that no power capable of saving 1.2 million refugees scattered in eastern Zaire has given them a single cup of water, let alone a

foreign protection force". Oxfam director, David Bryer, said in a statement yesterday that it seemed there was a growing international consensus that refugees could be starved back to Rwanda, and said it was a dangerous and simplistic assumption. He said that two years of international indifference (following the Rwandan genocide) had left the world "impaled on the horns of a moral dilemma". Oxfam called on the EU ministerial meeting in Brussels to endeavour to secure a ceasefire, resolve the refugee question and help regional negotiations to address the underlying causes of the conflict.

Civilian airlift companies say the lack of a ceasefire and firm information on the state of local airports was holding up the chartering of cargo aircraft to airlift relief supplies. Reuters quoted one air cargo charter broker saying there had been many requests for flights to Zaire.

The leader of the Roman Catholic Church in Zaire has called for urgent international humanitarian and political action in eastern Zaire. Cardinal Frederic Etsou-Nzabi-Bamungwabi said he was in favour of any attempt to open humanitarian corridors, and warned that "the longer the delay, the more inhuman the damage".

Martin Griffiths, Director, Department of Humanitarian Affairs, who is assisting Special Coordinator Assistant High Commissioner for Refugees, Mr Sergio Vieira di Mello (appointment announced yesterday, Wednesday) left Nairobi today to join both Ambassador Raymond Chretien and Mr di Mello in Kigali tomorrow. He told IRIN that "As the days go by both the condition of the refugees and internally displaced inevitably get worse, and the political and security context is becoming more complicated. Our job now is to ensure that coordination mechanisms are in place for when we get the green light to go ahead. One of the first priorities is to make sure there is a prompt and coordinated response once circumstances allow humanitarian agencies in Kigali to return to Kivu." US Special Envoy Ambassador Bogosian met with aid agencies in Nairobi to discuss the emergency today. Jose Ayala-Lasso, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights said on Monday that at least 200 observers were needed in Rwanda, and another 35 in neighbouring Burundi, and urged his staff to step up the monitoring of Hutu returnees fleeing the Zairean conflict. The UN human rights body made an urgent appeal to Western donors to find funding to boost the numbers of observers in the field and encourage the refugees to come home.

Nairobi, 7 November 1996, 15:30 GMT

[ENDS]

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Date: Fri, 08 Nov 1996 00:12:36 +0300 (GMT+0300) From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes <irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

## **Zaire: HRW Calls for Protection of Refugees in eastern Zair96.11.7**

Sender: owner-irinwire@dha.unon.org

To: irinwire@dha.unon.org

MIME-version: 1.0

Precedence: list

>Received: (from majordom@localhost) by dha.unon.org (8.6.12/8.6.12) id

AAA18887; Fri, 8 Nov 1996 00:13:32 +0300 X-Authentication-warning: unigiri.unep.org:

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[HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH]

(New York, 7 Nov 1996)--Human Rights Watch/Africa today called upon the international community to guarantee protection to the refugees in eastern Zaire. The human rights organization stated that to coerce them to return to unsafe situations in their home countries amounts to refoulement, which is a clear violation of international refugee law. "The international community cannot solve the humanitarian crisis in eastern Zaire by sacrificing the basic rights of refugees to avoid being forcibly returned to countries where they have cause to fear persecution," according to Peter Takirambudde, Executive Director of Human Rights Watch/Africa. "At the same time, those persons suspected of involvement in the 1994 genocide in Rwanda as well as those now engaged in armed attacks against Rwanda and Burundi must be excluded from the protection afforded to legitimate refugees."

Donor governments, the UNHCR, and some aid organizations hope that the current desperate conditions in Zaire will drive most refugees to return, thus ending the problem of the refugee camps. The camps have been a source of insecurity because the former Rwandan army and militia have used them as bases from which to launch armed incursions into Rwanda. Those responsible for the genocide continue to control the camps, spurring hopes for a return to Rwanda by force and using terror and intimidation to discourage voluntary repatriation. One of the strategies currently being proposed by the United States and the UNHCR is to provide food and medical services within the refugees' home countries so as to attract the refugees back. While repatriation is an appropriate option for some of the refugees, it must be a voluntary process. Although migrants can be forcibly returned to their home countries, international law prohibits forcibly returning genuine refugees. Many of those who fled Rwanda and Burundi have legitimate grounds to fear persecution, given the nonfunctioning judicial systems and continuing military attacks on civilians, as described below. Given this, and in the absence of screening procedures to determine which of the migrants formally qualify as refugees, the presumption must be that all are refugees -- that is, that no forcible return is permitted.

Positive steps by Rwanda and Burundi to improve respect for human rights and ensure that the killing of civilians stops and that those responsible for past and present killings of civilians are investigated, tried with full respect for due process, and punished would certainly persuade more refugees to return voluntarily. Assurances that the international community would provide long-term monitoring of their situations should they return would also increase the likelihood of substantial numbers of people returning of their own volition.

Those suspected of genocide and crimes against humanity, like those involved in military activity against the governments of the home countries, have no right to the status of refugee and should be excluded from such status. Despite the difficulties in identifying the killers, mechanisms must be put in place to screen out those suspected of genocide from genuine refugees.

There are thousands of legitimate refugees in Zaire and many of them fear returning to Rwanda or Burundi because of insecurity: assassinations, disappearances, and attacks by military or militia on civilians. Those slaughtered by the Burundian army and militia affiliated with it number in the thousands this year, while some 600 civilians have been killed this year by Rwandan soldiers. In general, military authorities in Rwanda and Burundi refuse to acknowledge abuses on the part of their soldiers, often falsely asserting that the civilians were in fact infiltrators or their accomplices or that they were accidentally slain in an exchange of fire with infiltrators. In a rare and welcome departure from this policy, in late October a military officer in Burundi admitted that soldiers in the southern province of Bururi had massacred some fifty civilians and said that soldiers responsible would be punished.

Refugees also fear arbitrary arrest to be followed by an apparently limitless period of detention without trial -- as is the case in Rwanda, where 83,000 languish in inhumane conditions -- or by trial under conditions that fail to meet international standards of justice, as was recently the case in Burundi, where eighty-nine persons were sentenced to death and thirty-nine to life imprisonment without having had access to defense counsel. Initially lacking both the money and the personnel needed to begin trials, the Rwandan government is now adequately supplied with the necessary resources to start proceedings. A law adopted on September 1 divides perpetrators of genocide into different categories and assigns punishments for each. The government is conducting an information campaign to inform prisoners of the details of the law and to give them opportunities to confess, in return for which some may receive reduced sentences. This procedure should finish by the end of the year and the Rwandan government should be ready to begin trials by early January at the latest. Implementing the genocide law in a manner that ensures trials or release for all detainees within a reasonable time is essential to avoid creating legitimate fears of arbitrary detention among refugees.

In order to guard against arbitrary detention based on false or unsupported allegations of complicity in the genocide, the Rwandan government should establish prompt judicial review of all detentions. In addition, to assure that those detained face trial within the near future, the government should announce the date when the trials of those accused of genocide will begin, and provide concrete information about the proceedings and provisions being made for defense counsel. To address the refugees' fears of attacks by the Rwandan military once they return to

their home communes, the government must acknowledge and condemn killings by the military and begin investigation and prosecution of those responsible. Since the military courts are functioning, these trials should begin immediately.

Many Rwandan refugees also fear that they will have no home or no fields to plant if they return; they fear that if they find their property occupied and attempt to regain it, they may be imprisoned on false charges of genocide. Soon after the establishment of the current government, it set up property commissions to resolve conflicts between returned refugees and squatters who had occupied their property, but such commissions have been unable to resolve most such disputes. The Rwandan government should increase the resources and authority of such commissions so that they are able to guarantee the rights of the returned refugees.

To help assure the security of those who return, the international community must commit itself to engage in long-term monitoring of refugees in their home communes. The most appropriate mechanism available to conduct such monitoring would be the United Nations Human Rights Field Operation in Rwanda, which has a mandate "to monitor the ongoing human rights situation, and through their presence help redress existing problems and prevent possible human rights violations from occurring." Deploying the additional human rights officers needed to monitor the return of the refugees will require significant new resources, but this cost is far less than what would be needed to provide continuing assistance for people too fearful of persecution to return home.

Those legitimate refugees who choose to remain in Zaire, however, must not be deprived of the essentials of life in order to force them to repatriate; to engage in a program of selective feeding and offer them food only if they return to Rwanda would be the equivalent of refoulement, a practice prohibited by international refugee law. The international community did nothing to stop Burundi from forcibly returning some 80,000 refugees to Rwanda in July and August. Those refugees have been generally well-received in Rwanda, but their relatively trouble-free return does not excuse the practice or make it acceptable as a model for the current situation. Nor does it eliminate grounds for fear among the refugees now in Zaire. In the absence of the establishment of the rule of law through a denunciation of arbitrary killing, the investigation and prosecution of those responsible, and the creation of a mechanism to avoid arbitrary detention, there is nothing to prevent the Rwandan authorities from persecuting returning refugees.

In delivering assistance to those who decide to stay in Zaire, the UNHCR and aid organizations must exclude those suspected of genocide or crimes against humanity and those involved in military activity against their home governments. Despite the inherent difficulties in identifying the killers and conducting effective screening, the international community should seize the opportunity provided by the movement of large numbers of the refugees and the possibility that international troops might be deployed in the region to attempt to separate the killers from the general refugee population. Those indicted by international or national courts, and those who held command responsibility in either the civilian or military structures of the former Rwandan government or in the militia should not receive aid and they must not be able to take control again of refugee camps. At a minimum, arms should not be

permitted in any camp where humanitarian aid is going to be provided. If new camps are established, they should be located a sufficient distance away from the international borders to prevent them posing a threat to neighboring countries.

The international community has thus far failed in its obligation to bring to justice persons charged with genocide. It was slow in providing the needed resources for the International Tribunal for Rwanda to begin its work. It has allowed Cameroon to delay for months in delivering Col. Theonest Bagosora, the most important leader indicted, to the custody of the Tribunal in Arusha. It has done nothing about establishing an international tribunal to investigate and try cases of genocide and crimes against humanity in Burundi, although the United Nations Commission of Inquiry found that acts of genocide had been committed there. The international community, including neighboring states, must be reminded of the importance of cooperating with the Tribunal.

If the UNHCR, donor governments, and aid organizations determine that an armed force is necessary to permit delivery of humanitarian assistance, such a force must include the protection of human rights in its mandate. At the very least, any such force must have the authority to locate and detain persons suspected of leading the genocide in order to deliver them to the International Tribunal or national courts. The lesson of UNPROFOR in Bosnia clearly demonstrates the futility of an international force with a mandate only to feed people but not to protect them from violence. Thus, if a force is deployed, it should be mandated and adequately equipped to protect and promote human rights within its zone, including protecting the civilians from attack.

The international community has not taken seriously its efforts to control the flow of arms to this region. Although the UN established a commission to investigate allegations that arms were being delivered to the forces of the former Rwandan government in violation of a UN arms embargo, it has done nothing to act on the findings of the commission. In fact, the Security Council is currently deciding whether or not to release the commission's report, which deals with arms transfers as well as issues directly relating to the genocide and the current crisis.

The presence of former Rwandan soldiers and militia in eastern Zaire has exacerbated pre-existing hostility against Zairians ethnically related to the Tutsi of Rwanda and Burundi. Former Rwandan soldiers and militia reportedly joined in attacks on Zairian Tutsi in North Kivu six months ago as well as in more recent attacks on the Banyamulenge of South Kivu. The actions of the Zairian parliament in declaring that Tutsi should be removed from government employment, the statement of the Deputy Governor of South Kivu that all Tutsi must leave within one week or face attack, and the participation of Zairian military in attacks on Tutsi or their failure to stop such violence by civilians have created fears that the government will permit or itself engage in large-scale killings of Tutsi. Bands of civilians, sometimes with official support, have already driven Tutsi from their homes and pillaged their property in Kinshasa as well as in eastern Zaire. Zairian political leaders and interest groups maintain that the people attacked are transplanted Rwandans, although they were born in Zaire and some of them descend from families that have lived there for centuries. The government of Zaire must recognize the right to nationality and must cease denationalizing

Banyamulenge and other people ethnically related to Tutsi who qualify for Zairian citizenship. The government of Zaire is responsible for the safety of all civilians within its borders, regardless of their citizenship, and must take measures to ensure that military and civilian authorities provide such protection.

Recommendations:

To the Security Council, UNHCR, international donor countries and international aid agencies:

1. Guarantee the right of legitimate refugees to protection from forcible repatriation and ensure that humanitarian supplies are provided in Zaire for those legitimate refugees who decide not to return to their home countries.
2. Institute screening procedures in Zaire to exclude from refugee status those suspected of genocide or crimes against humanity and armed combatants. At a minimum, prohibit arms from any camp where humanitarian assistance is being provided.
3. Publish immediately the UN Commission of Inquiry's report on arms flows, and undertake to act on its conclusions.
4. Put pressure on the governments of Rwanda and Burundi to ensure that returning refugees are protected from killing, arbitrary arrest, and harassment. Work with these governments to see that immediate steps are taken to encourage voluntary repatriation.
5. Pressure the government of Rwanda to begin trials of those accused of genocide by the first of the year.
6. Pressure the government of Burundi to institute immediate reforms of its judicial system to comply with international standards of due process and fairness.
7. Pressure the governments of Rwanda and Burundi to bring to trial those soldiers responsible for serious human rights abuses.
8. Ensure that if camps are re-opened, that they be situated a reasonable distance from the Rwandan and Burundian borders.

To the Zairian government:

1. The government of Zaire should officially restore the citizenship of the Banyamulenge and other persons said to be "Tutsi" who qualified for citizenship prior to the 1981 law.
2. Zairian civilian and military authorities from the highest levels down must acknowledge and condemn all attacks against civilians. Zairian soldiers and civilians responsible for attacks and looting throughout Zaire, as well as all those responsible for attacks against Tutsi throughout the country, should be investigated and brought to justice.

To the Rwandan government:

1. The government should announce the date when the trials of those accused of genocide will begin, and provide concrete information about the proceedings and provisions being made for defense counsel.
2. The government must acknowledge and condemn killings by the military and immediately begin investigation and prosecution of those responsible.
3. The government should increase the resources and authority of property commissions so that they are able to guarantee the rights of the returned refugees.

To the Burundi government:

1. The government must acknowledge and condemn killings by the military and immediately begin investigation and prosecution of those responsible.
2. The government should institute reforms of the judicial system to comply with international standards of due process and fairness.

To the United Nations:

1. Publish immediately the report of the commission's reports on arms flows.
2. Provide additional human and material resources for the UN Human Rights Field Operations in Rwanda and Burundi, so they are able to conduct long-term monitoring of the situation of returning refugees.
3. Create an ad hoc tribunal to try genocide and crimes against humanity in Burundi, since it is highly unlikely that domestic courts would conduct fair trials for those individuals on both sides who have been responsible for gross human rights abuses. Because the continuing conflict in Burundi results in large part from mutual fear between the majority Hutu and the minority Tutsi, prosecutions are especially important as a way to eradicate impunity and end the cycles of violence that have plagued Burundi for so many years.

Human Rights Watch/Africa

Human Rights Watch is a nongovernmental organization established in 1978 to monitor and promote the observance of internationally recognized human rights in Africa, the Americas, Asia, the Middle East and among the signatories of the Helsinki accords. It is supported by contributions from private individuals and foundations worldwide. Kenneth Roth is the Executive Director and Robert L. Bernstein is the Chair of the Board. Its Africa division was established in 1988 to monitor and promote the observance of internationally recognized human rights in sub-Saharan Africa. Peter Takirambudde is the executive director; Janet Fleischman is the Washington director; Suliman Ali Baldo is the senior researcher; Alex Vines is the research associate; Bronwen Manby and Binaifer Nowrojee are counsels; Alison

DesForges is a consultant; Ariana Pearlroth is an associate. William Carmichael is the chair of the advisory committee and Alice Brown is the vice chair.

Website Address: <http://www.hrw.org>

Gopher Address: <gopher://gopher.humanrights.org:5000/11/int/hrw> Listserv instructions: To subscribe to the general HRW e-mail list (to receive press releases and public letters concerning all regions of the world), send an e-mail message to [majordomo@igc.apc.org](mailto:majordomo@igc.apc.org) with "subscribe hrw-news" in the body of the message (leave the subject line blank). To subscribe to the sub-Saharan Africa-specific list (to receive press releases and public letters only on sub-Saharan Africa), send a message to [majordomo@igc.apc.org](mailto:majordomo@igc.apc.org) with "subscribe hrw-news-africa" in the body of the message (leave the subject line blank).

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[Via the UN DHA Integrated Regional Information Network "Wire" mailing list. The material contained in this communication may not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its agencies. UN DHA IRIN Tel: +254 2 622123 Fax: +254 2 622129 e-mail: [irin@dha.unon.org](mailto:irin@dha.unon.org) for more information. If you re-print, copy, archive or re-post this item, please retain this credit and disclaimer.]

Date: Fri, 08 Nov 1996 10:54:13 +0300 (GMT+0300) From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes <irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

**Zaire: Refugees International Report #6 7 November 1996 96.11.7**

Sender: owner-irinwire@dha.unon.org  
To: irinwire@dha.unon.org  
MIME-version: 1.0  
Precedence: list  
>Received: (from majordom@localhost) by dha.unon.org (8.6.12/8.6.12) id LAA21251; Fri, 8 Nov 1996 11:03:35 +0300 X-Authentication-warning: unigiri.unep.org: usasa set sender to dha.unon.org!owner-irinwire using -f

=====  
REFUGEES INTERNATIONAL  
=====

Report #6      Contact: Kirk Day  
November 7, 1996      (202) 828-0110

**PRESIDENTIAL  
LEADERSHIP NEEDED TO SAVE ONE MILLION REFUGEES**

The crisis in eastern Zaire confronts President Clinton with one of the gravest humanitarian emergencies in recent years. On the heels of his re-election, the President has a chance to galvanize the international community to save tens of thousands of civilian lives that will otherwise surely be lost in the days ahead.

A million refugees are spreading across the Zaire countryside, having lost their UN lifeline to clean water and food. Already the weak are beginning to perish--infants, nursing mothers and the old.

Deaths will almost certainly soon mount to the tens of thousands and will spiral higher than that, when cholera takes hold.

The initial hope is gone that the cease-fire in eastern Rwanda might provide enough security for UN relief agencies and NGOs to open emergency assistance/repatriation corridors. It is now clear that bringing in emergency aid to the refugees will require extraordinary actions by governments to immediately dispatch a security force to enable the resumption of life-sustaining aid and to repatriate those who wish to return to Rwanda. This will only happen

with the direct involvement and leadership of the President, to build on the work already being done by senior Administration officials.

Recommendations:

1. The U.S. should take the lead in galvanizing the immediate deployment of an international force to provide life-sustaining emergency aid to the million lost refugees. The force need not be purely American, but it will require top-level American leadership to form and deploy. Quibbling about the modalities of such a force should end, and deployment of such a force must begin immediately.

2. The President should give top priority to providing the best photos from satellite and other sources with complete transparency to enable the best emergency response from the UN and other relief agencies and to focus the international community on the need for urgent action.

President Clinton is faced with a major foreign policy issue which may well define his entire second term. The President has an opportunity to save tens of thousands of refugee civilians wandering the scrub of eastern Zaire. Only President Clinton can mobilize the international and U.S. resources necessary to address this crisis with the immediacy it requires.

=====  
Refugees International -- 2639 Conn. Ave, NW, Washington, DC 20008 Phone: 202-828-0110  
Fax: 202-828-0819 www: <http://www.clark.net/pub/ri>  
=====

[Via the UN DHA Integrated Regional Information Network "Wire" mailing list. The material contained in this communication may not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its agencies. UN DHA IRIN Tel: +254 2 622123 Fax: +254 2 622129 e-mail: [irin@dha.unon.org](mailto:irin@dha.unon.org) for more information. If you re-print, copy, archive or re-post this item, please retain this credit and disclaimer.]

Date: Fri, 08 Nov 1996 12:23:18 +0300 (GMT+0300) From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes  
<irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

## **Zaire: IRIN Update 13 on Eastern Zaire for 7-8 Nov 1996 96.11.8**

Sender: owner-irinlist@dha.unon.org

To: irinlist@dha.unon.org

MIME-version: 1.0

Precedence: list

>Received: (from majordom@localhost) by dha.unon.org (8.6.12/8.6.12) id

MAA22221; Fri, 8 Nov 1996 12:25:36 +0300 X-Authentication-warning: unigiri.unep.org:

usasa set sender to

dha.unon.org!owner-irinlist using -f

### UNITED NATIONS

Department of Humanitarian Affairs

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### IRIN Emergency Update No. 13 on Eastern Zaire (8 November 1996)

A caravan of an estimated 175,000 refugees who last week dispersed from Kahindo and Katale camps (total population 314,000) on the northern axis of Goma, fled westwards through lava fields. A staff member of Medecins du Monde, trapped north of the Goma area until Wednesday, says that members of aid agencies joined the massive caravan carrying radios, but there has been no contact since the signal died last week. Medecins du Monde reported three or four different caravans of people who left the camps, but the smaller groups took different routes, avoiding the widest expanse of lava fields.

The aid worker says that the refugees are dying on the lava fields, which emit dangerous gasses, have no water and no food. Other refugees avoided the widest expanse of lava and headed for bush and forest, and are reportedly heading for the Goma area. This aid worker and other eye witnesses also report a significant problem of internally displaced Zaireans. According to the trapped aid worker from Medecins du Monde, all small villages were completely empty on a 35 kilometer stretch of road between Rutshuru and Bunangana on the Ugandan border. There is "a high state of tension" reported between the Zairean displaced and the Rwandan Hutu refugees.

Refugees broke into food warehouses before leaving the Katale and Kahindo camps and took away what they were able to carry. All warehouses were emptied within four hours of Kahindo camp dispersing, including up to 3,000 tons of food from the largest WFP store in the area. Medecins du Monde report three or four different caravans of people who left the

Katale and Kahindo camps. He said "we were amazed to see some of them climb up the mountains; we could see the camp fires at night".

The aid worker ended up walking barefoot for 25 kilometres at the end of a terrifying odyssey in the conflict zone. He said competing armed groups of Zairean soldiers of various divisions, Interahamwe and refugees totally looted camps and villages; he was twice threatened with execution by a group of former Rwandan soldiers. The Zairean Camp Security Contingent - Zairean soldiers paid by UNHCR to guard the camps and relief operations - also fled. Some were reported killed.

Another eye-witness from ACT (Action for Churches Together) reports from a aerial survey this week that there is a high concentration of people in the jungle area between Hombo and Walikale, who have been surviving in the jungle for about three weeks and are described as being in "very bad condition". The mass consists of both refugees and internally displaced people, who are in "a state of high tension, robbing each other". ACT also reports empty villages, empty schools, empty markets and no work going on the fields. On a 200 kilometer stretch of road from Lubutu, only one car was seen, and all villages appeared empty.

Fleeing Zairean soldiers are retreating and looting their way towards Kisangani. Some reports say soldiers arriving in Kisangani are fighting with Zairean soldiers stationed in Kisangani. All aircraft in Kisangani have reportedly been flown out, leaving concentrated numbers of soldiers with no easy escape route. Flight observations say there are no visible concentration of refugees in the Masisi area, as previously speculated.

The press have reported the recommendation of military intervention in a draft resolution presented to the Security Council, including the option of "Chapter VII" which allows for intervention without assent from the parties in conflict. Military intervention aims to establish protected zones and ensure the safe delivery of aid. The resolution recommends that a mission be limited to a period of two months.

A statement issued by the Special Meeting of European Union Development and Humanitarian Aid Ministers in Brussels yesterday (November 7 Thursday) expressed full support for the United Nations, regional leaders and the Organisation of African Unity to facilitate a resolution to the conflict, and underlined support for the regional heads of state Summit held in Nairobi on Tuesday November 5. The draft resolution given to the Security Council yesterday, prepared by France and also discussed by the Brussels meeting on Thursday, contains the proposals made by France and expresses deep concern at the humanitarian situation and the need to act quickly. Some countries - like Britain - reportedly emphasised the need for further consultations with Zaire, and stressed the needs of refugees and internally displaced people rather than focusing on military intervention.

The Security Council is expected to meet on the matter in the next two days. Despite the scale of the emergency, some countries show reservations about military intervention because of past experiences, like Somalia, which drew much international criticism and ultimately failed, in the long term, to resolve conflict and meet humanitarian needs.

British-based charity Save the Children Fund issued a statement on Thursday evening opposing military intervention. The SCF statement said military intervention would take too long and "may well compound the problems in the region". SCF said the priority was to restore stability in order to provide support for those in need of humanitarian assistance, and help with "major and rapid voluntary repatriation". Oxfam International yesterday called on the UN Security Council to endorse deployment of a force. Refugees International urged US President Clinton to "take a lead in galvanising the immediate deployment of an international force to provide life-sustaining emergency aid to the million lost refugees" in a statement issued yesterday. It also said the US should urgently provide "the best photos from satellite and other sources with complete transparency to enable the best emergency response". UNHCR and other agencies have asked donors to supply satellite images to track the whereabouts of the refugees, but no hard data has yet emerged.

Special Mediator for UN, Ambassador Raymond Chretien, UN Humanitarian Coordinator for the Great Lakes Sergio de Mello and Assistant Coordinator Martin Griffiths are meeting today in Kigali, Rwanda. They are expected to discuss Chretien's talks with President Mobutu in Nice, who had requested Chretien to proceed to Kigali rather than Kinshasa.

Nairobi, 8 November 1996, 09:30 GMT

[ENDS]

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Date: Fri, 08 Nov 1996 19:15:22 +0300 (GMT+0300) From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes  
<irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

## **Zaire: IRIN Update 14 on Eastern Zaire for 8 Nov 1996 96.11.8**

Sender: owner-irinlist@dha.unon.org

To: irinlist@dha.unon.org

MIME-version: 1.0

Precedence: list

>Received: (from majordom@localhost) by dha.unon.org (8.6.12/8.6.12) id

TAA26408; Fri, 8 Nov 1996 19:21:40 +0300 X-Authentication-warning: unigiri.unep.org:

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IRIN Emergency Update No. 14 on Eastern Zaire (8 November 1996)

Heavy artillery fire west of Goma town has been reported by AFP this afternoon, with the road to Mugunga closed to civilians. Fighting started last night, with gunfire heard about 15 to 20 kilometres from the town. A rebel official was quoted as saying armed Hutu extremists were "holding out" and trying to attack Goma. This follows reports yesterday of rebels preparing an offensive against Mugunga camp. Reuters reported yesterday that armed Hutu extremists had seized more than a hundred Zairean children from a nearby village this week, and were holding them hostage at Mugunga camp to deter a rebel attack.

New fighting marks the end of a tenuous three week ceasefire unilaterally declared on November 4 (Monday) by the rebels. Rebels claimed to AFP however that the ceasefire still holds, as they were simply defending Goma against attacks from Mugunga.

A new site of conflict emerged today in Nyakunde, 50 kilometres southwest of Bunia, on the Ugandan border. Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) have been evacuating aid workers today, and 300 Zairean refugees have crossed the border to Kasese as a result of the fighting. Zairean soldiers are reportedly regrouping in Bunia. This new site of rebellion is more than 250 kilometres north of the strip of border territory known to be held by the AFDL rebels. Aid workers say they need to clarify whether fighters are from a different group.

The rebel Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire (AFDL) have been protesting that their movement is "misunderstood" by the international community, who

describe it as a "Tutsi-led" rebellion. According to the ADFL, it comprises different political and ethnic groups fighting to overthrow President Mobutu. Yesterday AFDL spokesman Laurent Kabila, in Bukavu, was reported by AFP as urging crowds to join the movement, saying young people would receive weapons "as soon as tomorrow". The rebels were also reported as attempting to set up an administration in the three main towns they occupy, and appointing "political commissars".

Yesterday saw the third demonstration in a week in Kinshasa against prime minister Kengo wa Dondo. Thousands of protesters occupied the main parliament, despite a ban on demonstrations, and accused Kengo of "high treason", associating his part-Tutsi background with the rebellion in eastern Zaire. Troops did little to restrain protesters; Zaire's army chief of staff General Eluki Monga Aundu publicly protested against the government's handling of the crisis last week.

State-run Kenyan Broadcasting Corporation (KBC) said yesterday that President Moi had received an apology by Kengo wa Dondo, who said he could not attend regional talks on Tuesday because he was prevented by a parliamentary resolution demanding that all foreign troops withdraw from Zairean territory before any participation in talks. This was a reference to Rwandan troops, which journalists continue to report as present in rebel-held eastern Zaire.

A British and French summit today discusses planned intervention. British Prime Minister John Major was quoted on BBC World Service saying that military intervention and the contribution of British troops was "a possibility", but he said it was important to have consent from people in the region. He also said the force should have a large contingent of African troops. Britain has been described as acting as a brake on French enthusiasm to intervene, and there is division among member states over the use of Chapter VII - which allows intervention without consent of the parties involved.

BBC World Service talked of the difficulty of getting consensus for intervention from actors involved when there appeared to be "no organised government" in the area of conflict. The BBC also ran reports from Goma describing hungry local residents being beaten back by rebels as they tried to seize food in town warehouses. Concern focuses on the situation beyond the town, with new reports of dying refugees trapped behind the front line.

The International Committee of the Red Cross called today for armed intervention. Rwandan President Pasteur Bizimungu today said Rwanda was opposed to French, Belgian and Rwandan participation in the intervention force.

The three Special Rapporteurs of the UN Human Rights Commission for Burundi, Rwanda and Zaire have expressed concern for the fate of Burundian refugees trying to return home from eastern Zaire. There have been reports of hundreds of people being killed while trying to return to their villages via the Gatumba transit point. In a statement issued in Geneva, the rapporteurs expressed concern that rebels in eastern Zaire and the Burundian army were conspiring to allow only women and children into the Gatumba transit camp, in an effort to push the men into Burundi's interior. Burundian refugees are primarily Hutus, and the refugee camps were regarded as bases for rebellion within Burundi. UN High Commissioner for

Human Rights, Jose Ayala Lasso, said he was concerned that no human rights groups or humanitarian agencies were authorised to enter the "no man's land" transit zone to monitor the situation.

No new returnees have been reported arriving at Gatumba over the last three days, and the total of arrivals remains 11,000. WFP reported about 3,000 arriving north of Gatumba yesterday, with a further 500 arriving today. Returnees are being moved back to home communes, even in insecure provinces such as Cibitoke. An assessment mission to northwestern Burundi by UN agencies and NGOs today confirmed the arrival of at least 15,000 returnees in addition to the arrivals at Gatumba.

The Burundi government denied on Wednesday it was responsible for killings on the border. Refugees, aid workers, diplomats and human rights organisations say bodies washed up on the shores of the lake is evidence of the killings; but the Burundian government say the bodies are a result of anarchy in eastern Zaire.

New figures on refugee movements are:

TANZANIA there are now 10,080 registered refugees, with a further 3,000 at the port - most of whom are said to be Zairean. UGANDA new arrival points: Butagota 2,761, Ruenchane 500 (Zairean), Kisesi 300

UN DHA figures on UN humanitarian assistance to the Great Lakes reveal that \$555 million has been made available for UN emergency operations in 1996 so far, which is approximately 80% of needs estimated before the new crisis. USA and the European Union are the largest contributors, providing 33% (\$187m) and 14% (\$79m) respectively. Church World Service issued a US\$500,000 appeal yesterday, for "massive relief programs in new camps" in Zaire, including the resumption of medical operations. Immediate needs are listed as distribution of medicines and medical services, food, clothing, health and sanitation kits, blankets and related shelter items, kitchen utensils and agricultural tools. The appeal says refugees are emphatic they would "rather die in Zaire than in Rwanda".

UN Special Mediator Ambassador Raymond Chretien flew into Kigali today and held a meeting this afternoon with Rwandan President Pasteur Bizimungu. The newly appointed UN Humanitarian Coordinator for the Great Lakes, Sergio Vieira de Mello also attended. The officials, along with were Deputy Coordinator Martin Griffiths, held meetings with the donor community, UN agencies and the heads of NGOs. Four top officials from the European Union plan to visit the Great Lakes region tomorrow (Saturday) - European Commissioner Emma Bonino will travel with representatives from Ireland, Italy and Netherlands.

Nairobi, 8 November 1996, 16:20 GMT

[ENDS]

Date: Sat, 09 Nov 1996 19:27:12 +0300 (GMT+0300) From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes <irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

## **Zaire: IRIN Update 15 on Eastern Zaire for 8-9 Nov 1996 96.11.9**

Sender: owner-irinlist@dha.unon.org

To: irinlist@dha.unon.org

MIME-version: 1.0

Precedence: list

>Received: (from majordom@localhost) by dha.unon.org (8.6.12/8.6.12) id

TAA01330; Sat, 9 Nov 1996 19:27:41 +0300 X-Authentication-warning: unigiri.unep.org:

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### IRIN Emergency Update No. 15 on Eastern Zaire (8-9 November 1996)

UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali called yesterday (Friday) for a multinational force to "stabilise the situation" in eastern Zaire. He told the Security Council that "many tens of thousands of human beings are going to die of hunger and disease" unless effective action is taken urgently. Boutros-Ghali said he hoped that the 15-member Security Council would adopt a resolution for rapid military intervention within twenty-four hours.

At 2am New York time this morning the Security Council unanimously adopted a resolution, adapted from a French proposal, that included recommendations for a multinational force to be set up "for humanitarian purposes in eastern Zaire". However, the resolution only adopted the idea of military intervention in principle and requested member states to draw up plans for the proposed force. The resolution calls on the Secretary-General, in consultation with Special Envoy Raymond Chretien and Humanitarian Coordinator Sergio de Mello, with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, the Organisation of African Unity, the Special Envoy of the European Union Aldo Ajello and with all States concerned to "draw up a concept of operations and framework for a humanitarian task force, with military assistance if necessary". The objectives were described as delivering short-term humanitarian assistance and shelter to refugees and displaced persons in Eastern Zaire. It also called urgently for an international conference for peace, security and development in the Great Lakes region.

There is no explicit mention of the use of Chapter VII in the resolution, which allows intervention without consent from the parties in conflict, or the use of force. Boutros-Ghali

said on Friday he expected soldiers to "use force" if necessary. He also said that the objective of ensuring repatriation of the mainly Rwandan refugees might have to come at a later stage.

Rwandan President Bizimungu said yesterday that there should be no French, Belgian or Rwandan involvement in military intervention. Rebel spokesman Laurent-Desire Kabila also rejects French involvement.

President Mobutu has told French newspaper Liberation that he accepts a "de facto ceasefire", but continues to insist that the conflict is a "Rwandan-led attack". He denies that his cancer is spreading, but says he will not return to Zaire "for several weeks" (he was reported earlier this week as saying he would return "in a few days"). He said he would "take things in hand". French President Jaques Chirac said this week that Mobutu was the best person to resolve the crisis in Zaire, although the international community generally sees Zaire as "rudderless" and the president seriously ailing - physically and politically. Aid agencies are already warning that refugees and displaced people must be dying from lack of food and water, and hundreds of war victims have been buried by the Federation of the Red Cross in rebel held towns in eastern Zaire.

Fighting late on Friday in Goma reportedly killed at least one person in the suburbs of the town - although the fighting was described as being at least fifteen kilometers west of Goma.

The relief community in Burundi is concerned about the prospect of meeting the needs of a possible large-scale return of over 100,000 Burundian refugees, while sanctions still apply to Burundi. Even though the Regional Sanctions Coordinating Committee has now exempted a wide range of food and non-food supplies sufficient for 250,000 displaced people, contingency stocks are at a low level. The Burundian government has appealed to refugees to return home. An interagency team made a rare visit to Cibitoke yesterday, and found around 20,000 returnees staying in transit camps in very poor conditions. Direct aid to Cibitoke has been suspended by all international agencies for months due to insecurity.

The turmoil in Zaire has led to a rise in military operations and rebel attacks within Burundi. The DHA Humanitarian Coordinator in Burundi reports that the Burundian rebels have had their supply lines fractured by fighting in Zaire, and that the Burundian military appears to be attempting to prevent FDD rebels traversing the country and seeking to establish bases in Tanzania.

UN Special Envoy Raymond Chretien is in Kinshasa today with Sergio de Mello, UN Humanitarian Coordinator for the Great Lakes, for talks with the foreign and defence ministers, and Prime Minister Kengo wa Dondo. Chretien was reported by the press as saying the Rwandan government had pledged to "use their influence, their contacts, with armed parties".

Nairobi, 9 November 1996, 16:25 GMT

Date: Sun, 10 Nov 1996 22:11:30 +0300 (GMT+0300) From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes  
<irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

## **Zaire: EUROPEAN NGOs' appeal to EU member states 96.11.9**

Sender: owner-irinwire@dha.unon.org

To: irinwire@dha.unon.org

MIME-version: 1.0

Precedence: list

>Received: (from majordom@localhost) by dha.unon.org (8.6.12/8.6.12) id

WAA04754; Sun, 10 Nov 1996 22:14:40 +0300 X-Authentication-warning: unigiri.unep.org:

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CRISIS IN THE KIVU

APPEAL TOWARDS THE EUROPEAN UNION AND ITS MEMBER STATES

European NGO's from all backgrounds call upon the European Union and its member states to take up their responsibility in view of the crisis which is deteriorating the region of the Great Lakes.

AN IMMEDIATE RESPONSE TO THE HUMANITARIAN CRISIS

In first instance the EU should help to facilitate humanitarian aid to the hundreds of thousands of Rwandese, ZaÔrese en Burundese refugees who are the victims of this new armed conflict. At their regional summit in Nairobi on 5 November, the African Heads of State and government leaders requested the United Nations to deploy, in cooperation with the OAU, a neutral force in order to protect the refugees and to establish hamanitarian corridors so that aid can be provided. The EU must use every means in its power to respond quickly to this demand. In this regard, France and Great Brittain, permanent members of the Security Council, have a specific responsibility. We call upon every member state of the UN to mobilizeall necessary ressources to give this neutral force the necessary support so that it can operate from the moment the Security Council grants authority.

Clear political signals in order to prevent a further escalation of the war

In the current crisis, the seeds of a regional war are already present. To prevent such a catastrophe, it is imperative for the EU and its member states to send clear political signals to all the parties involved in the conflict. These NGO's ask the EU and its member states to take following measures:

- impose an arms embargo on all states in the region
- demand that all states involved in the conflict respect

humanitarian and international conventions concerning the protection of human rights, esp. the right of asylum for refugees and minority groups. -to reaffirm the principal of territorial integrity and inviolability of frontiers in conformity with the the Charter of the OAU.

Tackle the causes of the conflict

The purely humanitarian approach of the Rwandese refugee problem in ZaÔre which has been implemented up till now, has led to a stalemate. The EU has the means to develop a political strategy to tackle, in the medium to long term, the real causes of the conflicts which should facilitate the voluntary and gradual return of the refugees to their country. Such a strategy must have 4 objectives:

- Security: The presence, close to the border of Rwanda, of the former Rwandan army and militia amongst the refugees, represents a real danger for this country. The camps must be demilitarised and relocated further from the border, and the intimidators and those responsible for the genocide must be separated from the rest of the refugees. - Justice: the impunity of those who are responsible for the genocide and the massacres of 1994 on one hand, and the non-functioning of the judicial system, the situation in the prisons and the human rights abuses in Rwanda on the other hand, hinder any real chances for reconciliation and a voluntary return of the refugees. Everything possible should be done to enable the International Tribunal to fulfill its mandate. At the same time, the government of Rwanda should be pressed to fulfill its responsibilities in matters of justice and human rights. The same problem exists in Burundi where a similar solution must be found. - Democratization: a sustainable solution to the conflicts in the region can only succeed when the politics of exclusion of large numbers of the population have come to an end. This obviously implies that the nationality question of minorities in Zaire needs to be resolved. - Sustainable economic development which creates real prospects for all inhabitants of the region.

To date (8 November 1996) the following organisations have signed on to this appeal:

ACAT - Action des Chretiens pour l'Abolition de la Torture (Paris) \* AIDASF - Association Ingenieurs d'Africulture Sans Frontiere (Beauvais) \* Broederlijk Delen (Brussels) \* Caritas Secours International (Brussels) \* CCFD (Paris) \* Chrisitan Aid (London) \* CIMADE (Paris) \* European Justice and Peace Commissions \* COZI - Centre d'Information, de Recherche et de Solidarite avec le ZaÔre (Lyon) \* Entraide et Fraternite (Brussels) \* GRET - Groupe de Recherche et d'Echanges Technologiques (Paris) \* INTERMON (Madrid) \* Koordinierungsstelle der Osterreichischen Bischofskonferenz - KOO (Vienna) \* Misereor (Aachen) \* NCOS - Flemish NGOs of Belgium (Brussels) \* OIKOS (Lisboa) \* Pax Christi International \* SCIAF (Glasgow) \* Solidarite Socialiste (Brussels) \* Volontari nel mondo - FOCSIV (Rome)

Those willing to sign on to this appeal can contact one of the following persons:

Marc-Olivier HERMAN, CCAC (Concertation chretienne pour l'Afrique centrale) - Tel. xx 32 (0)2 502 33 12 - Fax: xx 32 (0)2 502 33 12 - email: ccac@ccac.ngonet.be \* Vereena JONES, CHRISTIAN AID - Tel. xx 44 1 71 523 2320 - Fax: 44 1 71 620 0714 \* Rik SAMYN, NCOS - T. xx 32 (0)2 539 26 20 - Fax: xx 32 (0)2 539 13 43 - email: rik.samyn@ncos.ngonet.be

[IRIN Note: Accented characters may appear peculiar for fax subscribers and users on some e-mail systems.]

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Date: Mon, 11 Nov 1996 13:30:34 +0300 (GMT+0300) From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes  
<irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

## **Zaire: IRIN Update 16 on Eastern Zaire for 10-11 Nov 1996 96.11.11**

Sender: owner-irinlist@dha.unon.org

To: irinlist@dha.unon.org

MIME-version: 1.0

Precedence: list

>Received: (from majordom@localhost) by dha.unon.org (8.6.12/8.6.12) id

NAA08730; Mon, 11 Nov 1996 13:31:36 +0300

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Integrated Regional Information Network

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### IRIN Emergency Update No. 16 on Eastern Zaire (11 November 1996)

UN agencies have crossed the border into Eastern Zaire from Rwanda with limited medical and nutritional supplies around midday today. Two UN interagency assessment teams looking at security and the general humanitarian situation reached Bukavu and Goma. They are expected back in Rwanda tonight. If security permits, more thorough assessments will be made tomorrow.

A group of NGOs also crossed into Goma today, among them Concern, Save the Children Fund (SCF-UK), Trocaire, MSF International and Merlin. Other NGOs have been given permission to carry out cross-border missions by Rwanda, but have not yet secured a go ahead from the rebel Alliance for the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire (ADFL).

Aid representatives say the Rwandan Minister of Health, Dr Joseph Karemera is involved in mediating with Zairean rebels on behalf of the aid agencies. Over the last two days, the Rwandan government has been calling for international representatives to hold talks with the rebels.

The Government of Rwanda have authorised a number of NGOs to work in Eastern Zaire from Rwanda. The government says it is anxious that missions into eastern Zaire preempt the arrival of any international military force; and that assistance to eastern Zaire should not be a feeding and maintenance programme which perpetuates the existence of the established (though mostly dispersed) refugee camps. A cabinet meeting was convened on Saturday (Nov 8) by President Bizimungu, which called for all those involved in humanitarian assistance to be

facilitated with travel documents. President Bizimungu said on state-run Rwandan radio that the government was looking for ways to send food and medicine to the refugees inside Eastern Zaire, with the assistance of the UN Humanitarian Coordinator. Bizimungu called for talks with the rebels to allow access to the refugees, but he said that if the "militia" (Interhamwe) and former Rwandan forces resisted by arms then that would be the time for the international community to intervene militarily.

The Rwandan government says French, Belgian and Rwandan troops should not participate in an international intervention force. State radio continues to report "heavy fighting" around the Mugunga refugee camp, attributing it to Hutu militia and former Rwandan troops resisting the advance of rebel troops.

Spokesman for the rebel ADFL, Laurent-Desire Kabila, announced in Goma on Sunday that a humanitarian corridor should be opened to Mugunga camp. The site, west of Goma town, held about 350,000 refugees shortly before the conflict. He has called for an "absolutely impartial" international force - excluding French participation - and says humanitarian organisations must contact the ADFL for authorisation to enter the rebel-held zone. The BBC report the ADFL saying that no aid workers who have previously worked in Zaire will be allowed into eastern Zaire.

About 600 Rwandan refugees have managed to cross into Rwanda over the last two days, reported as being in a weak condition. Some of the refugees had wounds - including machete wounds from fights over food - and many have swollen legs from many days of walking. Refugees talk of the terrible plight of those left behind, but the international community still has no real information on the whereabouts and condition of refugees and internally displaced people in eastern Zaire. A UN official told IRIN that eventual access would "unlock horrors".

UN Coordinator Sergio de Mello, this morning was still negotiating for access from the Zairean government in Kinshasa. Unlike NGOs, the UN is tied by a mandate which normally needs governmental approval to operate on the territory of a member state. However, the UN Secretary-General has personally authorized today's cross-border assessment missions.

Some thirty foreign journalists were told to leave Goma this morning - although some are believed to remain in the town. They now wait with the aid agencies on the Rwandan side to go back into the town. Journalists said access at the border had grown more restricted over the weekend. Last week, journalists and some aid workers were given access to Goma town after the rebels unilaterally declared a ceasefire; but fighting between rebels and armed Hutu extremists some 15 kilometres west of the town re-started on Friday.

Most aid missions attempting to get into Goma town on Sunday were turned away by the rebel ADFL, with the exception of two convoys from the German NGO Christoffel-Blindenmission, carrying some medical supplies. Two members of MSF went into Bukavu on Sunday, but AFP reports they failed to meet with rebel authorities to get authorisation to take in relief supplies from Rwanda today.

New refugee figures are:

UGANDA 5,000 Zairean refugees in Ishasha and Butagota, of an original 9,000, have spontaneously repatriated. 4,000 have been moved to a new site at Matanda. 4,500 remain at the Kisoro area, and will be moved to Nyakabande.

BURUNDI 2,000 returnees have been counted by UNHCR at Gatumba, 370 newly arrived yesterday.

8,000 from Gatumba have so far been returned to their home areas. TANZANIA UNHCR reports 2,000 new arrivals a day at Kigoma, mainly

Zairean. There are now about 20,000 refugees at Kigoma since the Eastern Zaire conflict began.

Foreign ministers from 17 African countries will meet in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, today on the crisis in Eastern Zaire. The OAU - which participated in the regional summit in Nairobi (Tuesday November 5) that made a clear call for international intervention - has been called on by the UN Security Council to work with the UN and regional leaders to help "draw up a concept of operations and framework for a humanitarian task force, with military assistance if necessary" (Security Council resolution, November 11). The OAU is expected to discuss plans for a neutral force to set up humanitarian corridors and temporary safe havens. France has called for a 5,000-strong force made up from troops from Africa, Europe and the United States, but French involvement is rejected by those involved in the conflict, except Zaire. France is seen as a long-term backer of several regimes in the region, and still expresses support for ailing President Mobutu of Zaire, now recuperating from cancer in France. AFP reports a top OAU official saying it is possible that intervention may only involve African forces. Several African countries, including Ethiopia, Senegal, Congo, Chad and Mali have said they will contribute troops, and South Africa is reported to be ready to offer assistance.

Sergio de Mello, UN Humanitarian Coordinator for the Great Lakes, is in Kinshasa today, hoping to convince the Zairean authorities to authorise cross-border humanitarian missions. UN Special Envoy, Raymond Chretien is in Kigali. European Humanitarian Aid Commissioner Emma Bonino with ministers from Ireland, Italy and the Netherlands, accompanied by EU officials, came from Kinshasa yesterday to Kigali. BBC quoted Emma Bonino as criticising the United States for holding up other member states prepared to go ahead with international intervention.

Nairobi, 11 November 1996 10:30 GMT

[ENDS]

[Via the UN DHA Integrated Regional Information Network. The material contained in this communication may not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its agencies. UN DHA IRIN Tel: +254 2 622123 Fax: +254 2 622129 e-mail: [irin@dha.unon.org](mailto:irin@dha.unon.org) for more information. If you re-print, copy, archive or re-post this item, please retain this credit and disclaimer.]

Date: Mon, 11 Nov 1996 19:20:53 +0300 (GMT+0300) From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes  
<irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

## **Zaire: IRIN Update 17 on Eastern Zaire for 11 Nov 1996 96.11.11**

Sender: owner-irinlist@dha.unon.org

To: irinlist@dha.unon.org

MIME-version: 1.0

Precedence: list

>Received: (from majordom@localhost) by dha.unon.org (8.6.12/8.6.12) id

TAA12363; Mon, 11 Nov 1996 19:27:09 +0300 X-Authentication-warning: unigiri.unep.org:

usasa set sender to

dha.unon.org!owner-irinlist using -f

### UNITED NATIONS

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IRIN Emergency Update No. 17 on Eastern Zaire (11 November 1996)

[IRIN Note: IRIN Update 16 wrongly reported that a UN mission had crossed into Bukavu around midday November 11. However, they did not cross until about 16:30 local time. We regret the error. IRIN's next information meeting in Nairobi will be held tomorrow, Tuesday 12 November at 9am at the IRIN offices on UN Avenue, Nairobi]

Aid workers crossed from Rwanda into Goma and Bukavu today. Among the aid workers crossing the border today were two UN interagency assessment missions into Goma and Bukavu. UNICEF and WFP supplies (mainly medicines and biscuits) were some of the goods supplied to Goma.

The convoy into Goma, according to a BBC correspondent in the group, was escorted by rebel soldiers and its reception in the town was "orderly". After an initial hold-up, the rebel authorities allowed aid workers to take relief goods into Goma stadium. Some of the supplies, from UN agencies and NGOs, including food, will be used in Goma's hospital. One UN official told IRIN that although aid workers had hoped to get supplies to refugees, rebels indicated that they would be used for the local population, at least initially. This could be an indication of the seriousness of the stand-off between the rebels and armed Hutu extremists west of the town, at Mugunga camp; or the desire of the rebels to "legitimize" their authority with international agencies and local people.

Aid workers are anxious that the political and physical needs of the rebels do not get in the way of getting urgent supplies to desperate refugees and internally displaced people. One aid worker told IRIN that the cross-border delivery of a token quantity of aid to Goma, directed by rebel forces was "a stage-managed photo-op". At least 70 international journalists reportedly went across with the aid workers, and relief workers were not allowed free movement once inside Zaire.

Zairean Information Minister, Boguo Makeli, said in Kinshasa today that aid agencies would be abetting "treason" if they dealt with rebel forces. He said that "if international organisations support a rebel, that would be real treason". He said the Zairean government would could withdraw the right of foreign aid organisations to work inside Zaire if they struck deals with the rebels. He also said that the rebel army was "not Zairean". Permission and access from Kinshasa is important for aid workers to legitimise operations and because many of the refugees and displaced people are believed to be behind rebel lines.

Four airlifts carrying 60 metric tons of High Energy biscuits (HEB) flew to Kampala (Entebbe) on Saturday, by the Belgium Airforce for the World Food Programme. Another airlift with 40 metric tons of HEBs were delivered to Kampala (Entebbe) today (Monday). The flights were organized by DHA's Military and Civil Defence Unit in Geneva.

Some aid representatives are concerned that little attention has been paid so far to Uvira, the first town to be taken by rebels in eastern Zaire. On Sunday, a UNHCR Burundi representative, Hitoshi Mise, said there were more than 100,000 Burundi refugees missing since fleeing camps around Uvira and Bukavu last month. Around 140,000 of the 220,000 refugees who fled the Uvira camps were Burundian Hutus. About 40,000 have been accounted for, many having to return to their homes - a policy that drew criticism from Medecins sans Frontieres because of security concerns inside Burundi. Some 75,000 Rwandan Hutus who fled the Uvira camps are also missing. There were 220,000 refugees in Uvira before the conflict, compared to some 717,000 in Goma, and 310,000 in Bukavu.

Guardian journalist, Chris McGreal, who went into Uvira when it was first seized by rebels writes of the brutal deaths of Banyamulenge (Zairean ethnic Tutsis). Finding bodies of murdered civilians, he writes "...mobs of young men have beaten, stoned or carved up people who until recently were their neighbours". He also describes how thousands of Zairean soldiers were flown into the the area as the Banyamulenge took up arms. As the Zairean soldiers fled, they killed as they retreated - meaning that Banyamulenge civilians who had managed to escape into the hills, suffered a second round of killings. Aid workers fear that many of the atrocities yet to be exposed are behind the front line or inaccessible.

According to Kenya's Sunday Nation, a local newspaper published in the lake port town of Kigoma, Tanzania, claimed an estimated 400 Zaireans drowned when an overloaded boat from Uvira (150 kilometres away) capsized in Lake Tanganyika on Saturday. According to the paper, another boat from Uvira is also reported missing.

In Burundi, state-run radio reports an upsurge in conflict in the northern province of Kayanza, with about 30 displaced people killed in the Matongo commune. The increase in violence in

Burundi is believed to be related to the conflict in Eastern Zaire because groups of Burundi Hutu extremists are now cut off from supplies in the camps in Eastern Zaire. Violence and insecurity is reported in the communes of Gatara, Gahombo, Muhuta, Butaganzwa, Rango and Matongo. Burundi is still restrained by regional sanctions, and the government has protested at not being involved in regional talks on eastern Zaire. Many of the Burundian refugees in Zaire come from insecure areas of Burundi.

Rwandan state-run radio has reiterated rejection of Rwandan, French and Belgium troops in the deployment of an international intervention force, and points to Belgian interests in a Kenyan ammunitions factory. The Eldoret factory was reportedly set up in February 1996. Quoting a Flemish daily "De Morgen", Rwandan radio said that a Belgian armaments group, an affiliate of the French group GIAT, is reportedly supplying ammunition from the Kenyan factory to the Interahamwe militia in Zaire. However, it is unclear whether the factory is really operational. The Rwandan embassy in Kenya was closed down this year after a Rwandan diplomat was arrested and deported following the shooting of a Rwandan opposition leader in Nairobi. Rwanda has accused Kenya, since 1994, of hosting thousands of fugitives from the genocide.

A company of 120 French soldiers are reported as deployed today (Monday) in Congo near the border with Zaire, reports AFP. "Reliable sources" are quoted by AFP as saying the deployment was not linked to the refugee crisis in the east of the country, but a "precautionary measure" following the anti-government demonstrations in Kinshasa Zaire.

The Organisation of African Unity today called for the speedy deployment of an international force in eastern Zaire, with a "clear mandate". Zaire was not represented at the OAU's conflict prevention meeting, where officials from 17 countries gathered. The Secretary General of the OAU, Dr Salim Ahmed Salim said the crisis had arisen because of the failure to find a solution to the aftermath of the Rwandan genocide, particularly the inability to separate bona fide refugees from armed extremists. He pointed out that the Government of Zaire, with OAU support, had expressed its readiness to move all the armed elements - especially members of the former Rwandese army - and relocate them further inland. It was abandoned because the international community could not find the resources needed. He said "one cannot but lament the failure to act more decisively when the opportunity had presented itself". He said the effect of inaction was that refugees had been prevented from returning home, that destabilizing activities by armed elements had continued on the border, with killings and counter killings, and an escalation of tension between Zaire and Rwanda.

President Meles Zenawi of Ethiopia expressed "deep disappointment" in an opening speech that the UN Security Council had fallen short of calling for a UN-led force as recommended by the Nairobi summit (November 5th). He said a multi-national force paid for by the participants and through voluntary contributions would make it particularly difficult for resource-poor African nations to participate in any meaningful manner. He said the OAU meeting should focus on how African states could join the international community in effectively dealing with the situation in eastern Zaire, and said Ethiopia was ready to contribute in accordance with the principles outlined in the Nairobi summit. A spokesman in the Kenyan Foreign Ministry was quoted in today's East African newspaper as saying "If

you look at it as an African force, you are saying leave Africans to themselves. Theirs is to die in Yugoslavia while others cannot die in Zaire".

The OAU meeting is also expected to try and reach a compromise between Zaire and Rwanda. So far, Zaire insists that the conflict is Rwanda-led and has not given permission to humanitarian missions for cross-border access.

Emma Bonino, European Commissioner for Humanitarian Affairs said today that the international response is already too late for many of the 1.2 million refugees trapped in Eastern Zaire. She blamed the US for preventing other willing countries to proceed with military intervention. A US State Department spokesman said today that the US is not willing to commit itself to involvement because "there is no coherent plan" for international intervention, reports AFP. The spokesman said there are "four to five competing proposals" for a multinational force. However, he is quoted as saying that the US "believes there will be a need for a humanitarian international force to care for the refugees". Member states are split over the issue of Chapter VII, which allows intervention without consent from the parties involved; and hold differing perspectives on whether priority should be given to repatriating refugees or to the civil war situation in Eastern Zaire - which includes various armed groups, and internally displaced people, as well as refugees.

Political discontent in Kinshasa continues, with Zairean security forces evacuating today two university campuses, believed to have initiated anti-government protests. Kinshasa was described by a BBC correspondent as being "at a standstill" this morning when students erected barricades on the outskirts of the city. Many offices were shut, either in sympathy with the protest or inability to get past the road blocks - which were taken down by the afternoon.

738 refugees, mostly ethnic Tutsis have arrived in Brazzaville, neighbouring Congo, from Kinshasa. AFP reports that the refugees have been transferred to a former military training camp, are being forced to pay \$40 each to the militia controlling the port when they arrive.

Nairobi, 11 November 1996, 16:20 GMT

[ENDS]

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Date: Mon, 11 Nov 1996 22:03:41 +0300 (GMT+0300) From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes <irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

**Zaire: UNSG talks with Kengo wa Dondo 11 November 1996 96.11.11**

Sender: owner-irinwire@dha.unon.org

To: irinwire@dha.unon.org

MIME-version: 1.0

Precedence: list

>Received: (from majordom@localhost) by dha.unon.org (8.6.12/8.6.12) id WAA13509; Mon, 11 Nov 1996 22:06:05 +0300

UNITED NATIONS

Statement attributable to the Spokeswoman for the Secretary General

The Spokeswoman for the Secretary-General made the following statement at Rome on 11 November, 1996 at 1330:

This morning the Secretary-General had an extended telephone conversation with the President of the Council of the government of Zaire, Mr Leon Kengo Wa Dondo, on the urgent need to provide humanitarian assistance to refugees and others displaced by the conflict in Eastern Zaire.

The Secretary-General said there had been a positive exchange of views, with the President of the Council declaring his willingness to cooperate with the United Nations to facilitate the provision of humanitarian assistance.

The Secretary-General then informed the UN Coordinator of Humanitarian Assistance for the Great Lakes Region, Mr Sergio Vieira de Mello, of the outcome of his conversation with the President of the Council. Mr Vieira de Mello who is currently in Kinshasha will meet with senior Zairean officials to arrange the details of delivering humanitarian assistance into Eastern Zaire.

The Secretary-General hopes these efforts will bring quick results but recognises that the extreme security situation demands a multinational force in the region to create conditions for a humanitarian operation in an area where there are currently more than one million refugees and displaced persons.

ends

[Via the UN DHA Integrated Regional Information Network "Wire" mailing list. The material contained in this communication may not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its agencies. UN DHA IRIN Tel: +254 2 622123 Fax: +254 2 622129 e-mail: [irin@dha.unon.org](mailto:irin@dha.unon.org) for more information. If you re-print, copy, archive or re-post this item, please retain this credit and disclaimer.]

Date: Tue, 12 Nov 1996 13:24:54 +0300 (GMT+0300) From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes <irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

## **Zaire: IRIN Update 18 on Eastern Zaire for 11-12 Nov 1996 96.11.12**

Sender: owner-irinlist@dha.unon.org

To: irinlist@dha.unon.org

MIME-version: 1.0

Precedence: list

>Received: (from majordom@localhost) by dha.unon.org (8.6.12/8.6.12) id

NAA18364; Tue, 12 Nov 1996 13:25:58 +0300

### UNITED NATIONS

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### IRIN Emergency Update No. 18 on Eastern Zaire (11-12 November 1996)

The front line has moved west of Mugunga camp towards Sake, with rebels firmly in control of immediate access to the camp. The NGO American Refugee Committee (ARC), who received a report from personnel passing from Sake to the camp yesterday, say there are refugees in the camp. Rebels are allowing some people out of the camp. A member of ARC told IRIN that a first hand account of access to the camp indicated that "the front line appears to have passed behind the camp". From Sake, rebels have erected road blocks towards Mugunga.

The ADFL are treating the camp as a "prohibited zone", refusing local people, journalists and aid workers access west of Goma town. The road from Mugunga camp, west of Goma town, towards Sake is mined, with one blast yesterday causing several deaths. It is not known whether mines are only on the road (further into the interior) or whether the perimeters of the camp have also been mined. ARC reports that Mugunga hospital is still functioning.

A Zairean Minister denounced the cross-border UN mission yesterday - described by the UN only as a "first step" - as a violation of its territorial integrity. Reuters reported Zairean Information Minister Boguo Makele saying that the mission represented "a violation of our territorial integrity" and that aid should be distributed to refugees within Rwanda. United Nations Secretary-General Boutros-Boutros Ghali talked to Zaire's prime minister, Kengo Wa Dondo, by telephone yesterday (Monday November 11) and said the Prime Minister was "willing to cooperate with the United Nations to facilitate the provision of humanitarian assistance". UN Humanitarian Coordinator for the Great Lakes Region, Sergio Vieira de Mello, was informed, so as to facilitate UN cross-border assessment missions from Rwanda.

Political discontent in Zaire and the civil war makes obtaining permission from Kinshasa difficult, particularly as it is unclear who has the power and influence to enforce decisions in the east. The Secretary-General had given the go-ahead to proceed with yesterday's cross-border missions despite Zaire's reluctance to give permission.

UNICEF says it is planning an airlift to Kisangani, organised via Kinshasa with the Ministry of Health. A preparatory mission to Kisangani was delayed in Kinshasa yesterday. UNICEF aims to preposition 100 tons of relief supplies in Kinshasa and then move supplies forward to Kisangani for displaced people. UNICEF's Zaire director Steve Allen reported there are some 60,000 displaced persons at Lubutu, southeast of Kisangani, the vast majority of whom are probably Zaireans (AFP). He said they had probably walked up to 2-300 kilometers, some starting off in very poor condition. UNICEF wants to reactivate health clinics and centres in the area, where local staff try to continue work.

Aid representatives in Nairobi say that despite the recent, limited moves into eastern Zaire, there is no indication of where the bulk of some 1.2 million refugees are. No satellite images have been made public; and concentrations of refugees in jungle and forest areas are invisible to aerial surveys.

Scores of French soldiers are reported to have arrived in Brazzaville, the Congolese capital, neighbouring Zaire. AFP reports they have been deployed in response to unrest in Kinshasa. AFP also reports that Congolese President Pascal Lissouba yesterday met the ailing President Mobutu of Zaire at his French Riviera villa.

Six trucks of supplies were brought in with the UN assessment mission to Goma yesterday for delivery to local hospitals. The UN convoys, along with those of NGOs were taken to the local stadium and obliged to remain there pending a meeting with a rebel "technical committee". UN Deputy Humanitarian Coordinator Martin Griffiths, with the UN team and an NGO representative, talked to rebel spokesman Laurent Kabila about access and monitoring of distributions. UN officials emphasised to Kabila that humanitarian assistance in Eastern Zaire did not constitute recognition of the rebels, and said that there should be no rejection of international civil servants (UN staff) who have previously worked in the area. Since Friday, there have been reports that the rebels and the Rwandan Government were refusing access to personnel and some aid agencies who had previously worked in eastern Zaire.

A second mission into Bukavu was composed of UNICEF, UNHCR, WFP and DHA, and met a representative of the ADFL. The UN team explained the need to do further assessment missions, and get guarantees from the ADFL on safety and access. The rebels are eager for supplies to get to local people and the internally displaced. UN missions are expected to try for cross-border access again today.

[IRIN Note: UNICEF is seeking CVs of qualified candidates immediately available for short term assignments in Information (Nairobi) and Programme Coordination (Kigali). Please

contact by e-mail: Violet.Waweru@unicef.unon.org, fax: +254 2 622681, PO Box 44145  
Nairobi.]

Nairobi, 12 November 1996, 10:25 GMT

[ENDS]

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Date: Tue, 12 Nov 1996 16:26:36 +0300 (GMT+0300) From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes  
<irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

**Zaire: UN Security Council 1078 (1996) 9 November 1996 96.11.9**

Sender: owner-irinwire@dha.unon.org

To: irinwire@dha.unon.org

MIME-version: 1.0

Precedence: list

>Received: (from majordom@localhost) by dha.unon.org (8.6.12/8.6.12) id  
QAA20689; Tue, 12 Nov 1996 16:28:53 +0300

UNITED NATIONS

9 November 1996

[INLINE]

Press Release

SC/6287

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SECURITY COUNCIL WELCOMES MULTINATIONAL FORCE PROPOSAL FOR  
EASTERN ZAIRE, URGES MEMBER STATES TO ARRANGE FOR HUMANITARIAN  
AID DELIVERY

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Unanimously Adopting Resolution 1078 (1996), Council Also Requests Secretary-General to  
Prepare Framework for Humanitarian Task Force

The Security Council, meeting early Saturday morning, expressed its grave concern at the  
deteriorating situation in eastern Zaire and welcomed the Secretary-General's proposal that a  
multinational force be deployed there for humanitarian purposes.

Unanimously adopting resolution 1078 (1996), the Council strongly urged Member States to  
prepare arrangements for the safe delivery of humanitarian aid in the region and report as soon  
as possible on those arrangements, to enable the Council to authorize the deployment of the

multinational force. The Council also decided that the cost of implementing the operation will be borne by participating Member States and voluntary contributions, and encouraged all Member States to contribute to the operation in any way possible.

Further, the Council requested the Secretary-General, in consultation with his Special Envoy, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Organization of African Unity (OAU), among others, to draw up a framework for a humanitarian task force, with military assistance, if necessary, charged with: delivering short-term humanitarian assistance and providing shelter; assisting the UNHCR with the protection and voluntary repatriation of refugees and displaced persons; and establishing humanitarian corridors for the delivery of assistance and to help voluntary repatriation.

The Council also requested the Secretary-General to secure the cooperation of the Government of Rwanda in further measures, including deployment of additional international monitors, and to report to the Council, with recommendations, no later than 20 November.

The Secretary-General was also invited to consult, on an urgent basis, with the Secretary-General of the OAU and concerned States to determine the procedures for convening an international conference for peace, security and development in the Great Lakes region and to take all steps needed to convene the conference.

The meeting, which began 1:48 a.m., was adjourned at 1:55 a.m.

#### Draft Resolution

The text of the resolution adopted by the Council reads as follows:

"The Security Council,

"Gravely concerned at the deteriorating situation in the Great Lakes region, in particular eastern Zaire, and at the effect of the continued fighting on the inhabitants of the region,

"Recalling the statement of the President of the Security Council on the situation in the Great Lakes region of 1 November 1996 (S/PRST/1996/44) and the letters dated 14 and 24 October 1996 from the Secretary-General to the President of the Council (S/1996/875 and S/1996/878),

"Particularly concerned at the humanitarian situation and the large-scale movements of refugees and internally displaced persons,

"Deeply concerned at the obstacles to the efforts of all international humanitarian agencies to provide relief and assistance to those in need,

"Stressing the need to address, as a matter of urgency, the humanitarian situation, and in this context, underlining the necessity to adopt, in consultation with the States concerned, measures necessary in order to enable the return in the region of humanitarian agencies and to secure the prompt and safe delivery of humanitarian assistance to those in need,

"Having considered the letter dated 7 November 1996 from the Secretary- General to the President of the Council (S/1996/916),

"Welcoming the regional efforts which are aimed at reducing tension in the region, in particular the contribution made by the regional leaders at their meeting in Nairobi on 5 November 1996,

"Noting the letter dated 6 November 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Kenya to the Secretary-General, which contains the communique of the Nairobi regional summit on the crisis in eastern Zaire (S/1996/914),

"Taking note of the request addressed to the Council by the regional leaders, at their meeting in Nairobi on 5 November 1996, to take urgent measures to ensure the establishment of safe corridors and temporary sanctuaries by deploying a neutral force,

"Taking note also that the regional leaders called for an intensification of efforts towards the voluntary repatriation of refugees to Rwanda,

"Expressing its intention to respond positively on an urgent basis to those requests,

"Bearing in mind the reaffirmation by the Nairobi regional summit of its commitment to the territorial integrity of Zaire and stressing the need for all States to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the States in the region in accordance with their obligations under the Charter of the United Nations,

"Underlining the urgent need for the orderly and voluntary repatriation and resettlement of refugees, and the return of internally displaced persons, which are crucial elements for the stability of the region,

"Reiterating its support for the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General and underlining the need for all Governments in the region and parties concerned to cooperate fully with the mission of the Special Envoy,

"Welcoming the efforts of the mediators and representatives of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the European Union and the States concerned, and encouraging them to coordinate closely their efforts with those of the Special Envoy,

"Underlining the urgent need for an international conference on peace, security and development in the Great Lakes region under the auspices of the United Nations and the OAU to address the problems of the region in a comprehensive way,

"Taking note of the letter dated 8 November 1996 from the Chargé d'affaires of Zaire to the President of the Council (S/1996/920),

"Determining that the magnitude of the present humanitarian crisis in eastern Zaire constitutes a threat to peace and security in the region,

## A

"1. Condemns all acts of violence and calls for an immediate cease- fire and a complete cessation of all hostilities in the region;

"2. Calls upon all States in the region to create the conditions necessary for the speedy and peaceful resolution of the crisis and to desist from any act that may further exacerbate the situation, and urges all parties to engage in a process of political dialogue and negotiation without delay;

"3. Reaffirms its commitment to the establishment of conditions conducive to the voluntary repatriation of refugees to their country of origin as a crucial element for the stability of the region;

"4. Calls upon all States to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the States in the region in accordance with their obligations under the Charter of the United Nations;

"5. Calls upon all those concerned in the region to create favourable and safe conditions to facilitate the delivery of international humanitarian assistance to those in need and to ensure the safety of all refugees, as well as the security and freedom of movement of all international humanitarian personnel;

## B

"6. Welcomes the Secretary-General's letter dated 7 November 1996, including in particular his proposal that a multinational force be set up for humanitarian purposes in eastern Zaire;

"7. Strongly urges Member States, on an urgent and temporary basis and in cooperation with the Secretary-General and with the OAU, to prepare the necessary arrangements, in consultation with the States concerned, to allow the immediate return of humanitarian organizations and the safe delivery of humanitarian aid to displaced persons, refugees and civilians at risk in eastern Zaire, and to help to create the necessary conditions for the voluntary, orderly and secure repatriation of refugees;

"8. Requests the Member States concerned to report to the Council through the Secretary-General on those arrangements as soon as possible to enable the Council to authorize the deployment of the multinational force referred to above upon receipt of the report, which will, inter alia, reflect the results of the consultations with the States concerned in the region, and bearing in mind the need to ensure the security and freedom of movement of the personnel of the multinational force referred to in paragraph 6 above;

"9. Decides that the cost of implementing such an operation will be borne by the participating Member States and other voluntary contributions, and encourages all Member States to contribute to the operation in any way possible;

## C

"10. Requests the Secretary-General, in consultation with his Special Envoy and the coordinator of humanitarian affairs, with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, with the OAU, with the Special Envoy of the European Union and with the States concerned:

"(a) To draw up a concept of operations and framework for a humanitarian task force, with military assistance, if necessary, drawing initially on immediately available contributions from Member States, with the objectives of:

-- Delivering short-term humanitarian assistance and shelter to refugees and displaced persons in eastern Zaire;

-- Assisting the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees with the protection and voluntary repatriation of refugees and displaced persons;

-- Establishing humanitarian corridors for the delivery of humanitarian assistance and to assist the voluntary repatriation of refugees after carefully ascertaining their effective will to repatriate;

"(b) To seek the cooperation of the Government of Rwanda in, and to ensure international support for, further measures, including the deployment of additional international monitors, as appropriate, to build confidence and ensure a safe return of refugees;

"(c) To report to the Council with recommendations no later than 20 November 1996;

"11. Calls on the OAU, the States of the region and other international organizations to examine ways in which to contribute to and to complement efforts undertaken by the United Nations to defuse tension in the region, in particular in eastern Zaire;

"12. Expresses its readiness to examine without delay the recommendations that the Secretary-General might submit in this regard;

## D

"13. Invites the Secretary-General, on an urgent basis and in close consultation with the Secretary-General of the OAU, and with the States concerned, and in the light of the recommendations of his Special Envoy, to determine the modalities of the convening of an international conference for peace, security and development in the Great Lakes region and to make all necessary arrangements to convene such a conference;

"14. Decides to remain actively seized on the matter."

Secretary-General's Letter

When the Security Council met to consider the situation in eastern Zaire, it had before it a letter dated 7 November from the Secretary-General to the President of the Council (document S/1996/916), which proposes that the Security Council authorize Member States with the necessary capacities to establish a multinational force, in consultation with the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and regional States. That force should be deployed to ensure stabilization of the security situation sufficient to allow civilian agencies to provide relief to refugees and prepare for their repatriation.

The Secretary-General describes three options regarding the force structure: the first option would be for a group of Member States to seek the Council's authority for the formation of a multinational force operating under command and control arrangements of their own design. The advantage of that structure -- which had been employed in several recent cases -- was that it permitted the deployment of a force more rapidly than if the task was entrusted to the United Nations. It would also keep open the possibility of a United Nations force to take over once conditions permitted.

The second option would be deployment of a United Nations peace-keeping force, the Secretary-General states. But the experience of recent years had shown that the United Nations lacked the capacity to deploy a strong-enough force, quickly enough, to respond to the kind of crisis unfolding in eastern Zaire.

A third option would be the deployment of a regional force. While leaders of countries in the region had demonstrated their readiness and ability to take political action to address problems in their region, deployment of a substantial military force in the necessary time-frame would require financial and logistical support. Regional leaders, at their 5 November summit in Nairobi, had indicated their preference for the Security Council to deploy a "neutral" force, says the Secretary-General.

He concludes that either of the first two options would require that organizers work closely with the OAU and consult with countries of the region, especially with those countries in which the force is to be stationed, or which will be asked to provide facilities. In that regard, the Secretary-General notes that President Mobutu of Zaire had informed the Secretary-General's Special Envoy, Raymond Chretien, that he fully endorsed the decisions of the Nairobi regional summit and was agreeable to the deployment of an international force in Zaire.

Summarizing recent events, the Secretary-General states that more than 1.2 million Burundian and Rwandan refugees and tens of thousands of Zairians had been displaced by fighting. Refugees had abandoned their camps in North and South Kivu provinces and were moving west towards inaccessible regions of Zaire. Those refugees were scattered beyond the reach of humanitarian agencies. Unless effective action was urgently taken, he states, "many tens of thousands of human beings are going to die of hunger and disease". And, while urgent humanitarian action was required, it must also be action that helps create the necessary conditions for the repatriation of refugees.

The Secretary-General states that stabilization of the situation in the region should be sufficient to allow the delivery of humanitarian assistance. That would involve the securing of airfields and border crossings, the protection of logistics supply bases, and the identification and protection of accessible locations from which refugees could be assisted.

All governments concerned had acknowledged that there was a need for the early repatriation of refugees, the Secretary-General states. The short-term response of the international community should not be allowed to recreate conditions in which refugees could again be intimidated by those who did not want them to return to their home countries.

Also before the Council is a 29 October letter from the Secretary-General (document S/1996/888) which describes the mandate of the Secretary-General's Special Envoy -- Raymond Chretien of Canada. It states that the Special Envoy will consult with all concerned in order to establish the facts and will develop plans for defusing tension and establishing a cease-fire and negotiations. Secondly, he will explore the possibilities for the early convening of a regional conference. Thirdly, he will present advice on the development of his mandate and on the size and structure of the United Nations political presence in the region.

Also before the Council are letters from the Secretary-General to the President of the Council dated 14 October (document S/1996/875) and 24 October (document S/1996/878). For detailed background of those letters, see Press Release SC/6285 of 1 November.

\* \* \* \* \*

[ENDS]

[Via the UN DHA Integrated Regional Information Network "Wire" mailing list. The material contained in this communication may not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its agencies. UN DHA IRIN Tel: +254 2 622123 Fax: +254 2 622129 e-mail: irin@dha.unon.org for more information. If you re-print, copy, archive or re-post this item, please retain this credit and disclaimer.]

Date: Tue, 12 Nov 1996 16:26:36 +0300 (GMT+0300) From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes  
<irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

**Zaire: UN Security Council 1078 (1996) 9 November 1996 96.11.9**

Sender: owner-irinwire@dha.unon.org

To: irinwire@dha.unon.org

MIME-version: 1.0

Precedence: list

>Received: (from majordom@localhost) by dha.unon.org (8.6.12/8.6.12) id  
QAA20689; Tue, 12 Nov 1996 16:28:53 +0300

UNITED NATIONS

9 November 1996

[INLINE]

Press Release

SC/6287

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SECURITY COUNCIL WELCOMES MULTINATIONAL FORCE PROPOSAL FOR  
EASTERN ZAIRE, URGES MEMBER STATES TO ARRANGE FOR HUMANITARIAN  
AID DELIVERY

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Unanimously Adopting Resolution 1078 (1996), Council Also Requests Secretary-General to  
Prepare Framework for Humanitarian Task Force

The Security Council, meeting early Saturday morning, expressed its grave concern at the  
deteriorating situation in eastern Zaire and welcomed the Secretary-General's proposal that a  
multinational force be deployed there for humanitarian purposes.

Unanimously adopting resolution 1078 (1996), the Council strongly urged Member States to  
prepare arrangements for the safe delivery of humanitarian aid in the region and report as soon  
as possible on those arrangements, to enable the Council to authorize the deployment of the  
multinational force. The Council also decided that the cost of implementing the operation will  
be borne by participating Member States and voluntary contributions, and encouraged all  
Member States to contribute to the operation in any way possible.

Further, the Council requested the Secretary-General, in consultation with his Special Envoy, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Organization of African Unity (OAU), among others, to draw up a framework for a humanitarian task force, with military assistance, if necessary, charged with: delivering short-term humanitarian assistance and providing shelter; assisting the UNHCR with the protection and voluntary repatriation of refugees and displaced persons; and establishing humanitarian corridors for the delivery of assistance and to help voluntary repatriation.

The Council also requested the Secretary-General to secure the cooperation of the Government of Rwanda in further measures, including deployment of additional international monitors, and to report to the Council, with recommendations, no later than 20 November.

The Secretary-General was also invited to consult, on an urgent basis, with the Secretary-General of the OAU and concerned States to determine the procedures for convening an international conference for peace, security and development in the Great Lakes region and to take all steps needed to convene the conference.

The meeting, which began 1:48 a.m., was adjourned at 1:55 a.m.

#### Draft Resolution

The text of the resolution adopted by the Council reads as follows:

"The Security Council,

"Gravely concerned at the deteriorating situation in the Great Lakes region, in particular eastern Zaire, and at the effect of the continued fighting on the inhabitants of the region,

"Recalling the statement of the President of the Security Council on the situation in the Great Lakes region of 1 November 1996 (S/PRST/1996/44) and the letters dated 14 and 24 October 1996 from the Secretary-General to the President of the Council (S/1996/875 and S/1996/878),

"Particularly concerned at the humanitarian situation and the large-scale movements of refugees and internally displaced persons,

"Deeply concerned at the obstacles to the efforts of all international humanitarian agencies to provide relief and assistance to those in need,

"Stressing the need to address, as a matter of urgency, the humanitarian situation, and in this context, underlining the necessity to adopt, in consultation with the States concerned, measures necessary in order to enable the return in the region of humanitarian agencies and to secure the prompt and safe delivery of humanitarian assistance to those in need,

"Having considered the letter dated 7 November 1996 from the Secretary-General to the President of the Council (S/1996/916),

"Welcoming the regional efforts which are aimed at reducing tension in the region, in particular the contribution made by the regional leaders at their meeting in Nairobi on 5 November 1996,

"Noting the letter dated 6 November 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Kenya to the Secretary-General, which contains the communique of the Nairobi regional summit on the crisis in eastern Zaire (S/1996/914),

"Taking note of the request addressed to the Council by the regional leaders, at their meeting in Nairobi on 5 November 1996, to take urgent measures to ensure the establishment of safe corridors and temporary sanctuaries by deploying a neutral force,

"Taking note also that the regional leaders called for an intensification of efforts towards the voluntary repatriation of refugees to Rwanda,

"Expressing its intention to respond positively on an urgent basis to those requests,

"Bearing in mind the reaffirmation by the Nairobi regional summit of its commitment to the territorial integrity of Zaire and stressing the need for all States to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the States in the region in accordance with their obligations under the Charter of the United Nations,

"Underlining the urgent need for the orderly and voluntary repatriation and resettlement of refugees, and the return of internally displaced persons, which are crucial elements for the stability of the region,

"Reiterating its support for the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General and underlining the need for all Governments in the region and parties concerned to cooperate fully with the mission of the Special Envoy,

"Welcoming the efforts of the mediators and representatives of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the European Union and the States concerned, and encouraging them to coordinate closely their efforts with those of the Special Envoy,

"Underlining the urgent need for an international conference on peace, security and development in the Great Lakes region under the auspices of the United Nations and the OAU to address the problems of the region in a comprehensive way,

"Taking note of the letter dated 8 November 1996 from the Chargé d'affaires of Zaire to the President of the Council (S/1996/920),

"Determining that the magnitude of the present humanitarian crisis in eastern Zaire constitutes a threat to peace and security in the region,

A

"1. Condemns all acts of violence and calls for an immediate cease- fire and a complete cessation of all hostilities in the region;

"2. Calls upon all States in the region to create the conditions necessary for the speedy and peaceful resolution of the crisis and to desist from any act that may further exacerbate the situation, and urges all parties to engage in a process of political dialogue and negotiation without delay;

"3. Reaffirms its commitment to the establishment of conditions conducive to the voluntary repatriation of refugees to their country of origin as a crucial element for the stability of the region;

"4. Calls upon all States to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the States in the region in accordance with their obligations under the Charter of the United Nations;

"5. Calls upon all those concerned in the region to create favourable and safe conditions to facilitate the delivery of international humanitarian assistance to those in need and to ensure the safety of all refugees, as well as the security and freedom of movement of all international humanitarian personnel;

B

"6. Welcomes the Secretary-General's letter dated 7 November 1996, including in particular his proposal that a multinational force be set up for humanitarian purposes in eastern Zaire;

"7. Strongly urges Member States, on an urgent and temporary basis and in cooperation with the Secretary-General and with the OAU, to prepare the necessary arrangements, in consultation with the States concerned, to allow the immediate return of humanitarian organizations and the safe delivery of humanitarian aid to displaced persons, refugees and civilians at risk in eastern Zaire, and to help to create the necessary conditions for the voluntary, orderly and secure repatriation of refugees;

"8. Requests the Member States concerned to report to the Council through the Secretary-General on those arrangements as soon as possible to enable the Council to authorize the deployment of the multinational force referred to above upon receipt of the report, which will, inter alia, reflect the results of the consultations with the States concerned in the region, and bearing in mind the need to ensure the security and freedom of movement of the personnel of the multinational force referred to in paragraph 6 above;

"9. Decides that the cost of implementing such an operation will be borne by the participating Member States and other voluntary contributions, and encourages all Member States to contribute to the operation in any way possible;

C

"10. Requests the Secretary-General, in consultation with his Special Envoy and the coordinator of humanitarian affairs, with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, with the OAU, with the Special Envoy of the European Union and with the States concerned:

"(a) To draw up a concept of operations and framework for a humanitarian task force, with military assistance, if necessary, drawing initially on immediately available contributions from Member States, with the objectives of:

-- Delivering short-term humanitarian assistance and shelter to refugees and displaced persons in eastern Zaire;

-- Assisting the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees with the protection and voluntary repatriation of refugees and displaced persons;

-- Establishing humanitarian corridors for the delivery of humanitarian assistance and to assist the voluntary repatriation of refugees after carefully ascertaining their effective will to repatriate;

"(b) To seek the cooperation of the Government of Rwanda in, and to ensure international support for, further measures, including the deployment of additional international monitors, as appropriate, to build confidence and ensure a safe return of refugees;

"(c) To report to the Council with recommendations no later than 20 November 1996;

"11. Calls on the OAU, the States of the region and other international organizations to examine ways in which to contribute to and to complement efforts undertaken by the United Nations to defuse tension in the region, in particular in eastern Zaire;

"12. Expresses its readiness to examine without delay the recommendations that the Secretary-General might submit in this regard;

D

"13. Invites the Secretary-General, on an urgent basis and in close consultation with the Secretary-General of the OAU, and with the States concerned, and in the light of the recommendations of his Special Envoy, to determine the modalities of the convening of an international conference for peace, security and development in the Great Lakes region and to make all necessary arrangements to convene such a conference;

"14. Decides to remain actively seized on the matter."

Secretary-General's Letter

When the Security Council met to consider the situation in eastern Zaire, it had before it a letter dated 7 November from the Secretary-General to the President of the Council (document S/1996/916), which proposes that the Security Council authorize Member States with the necessary capacities to establish a multinational force, in consultation with the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and regional States. That force should be deployed to ensure stabilization of the security situation sufficient to allow civilian agencies to provide relief to refugees and prepare for their repatriation.

The Secretary-General describes three options regarding the force structure: the first option would be for a group of Member States to seek the Council's authority for the formation of a multinational force operating under command and control arrangements of their own design. The advantage of that structure -- which had been employed in several recent cases -- was that it permitted the deployment of a force more rapidly than if the task was entrusted to the United Nations. It would also keep open the possibility of a United Nations force to take over once conditions permitted.

The second option would be deployment of a United Nations peace-keeping force, the Secretary-General states. But the experience of recent years had shown that the United Nations lacked the capacity to deploy a strong-enough force, quickly enough, to respond to the kind of crisis unfolding in eastern Zaire.

A third option would be the deployment of a regional force. While leaders of countries in the region had demonstrated their readiness and ability to take political action to address problems in their region, deployment of a substantial military force in the necessary time-frame would require financial and logistical support. Regional leaders, at their 5 November summit in Nairobi, had indicated their preference for the Security Council to deploy a "neutral" force, says the Secretary-General.

He concludes that either of the first two options would require that organizers work closely with the OAU and consult with countries of the region, especially with those countries in which the force is to be stationed, or which will be asked to provide facilities. In that regard, the Secretary-General notes that President Mobutu of Zaire had informed the Secretary-General's Special Envoy, Raymond Chretien, that he fully endorsed the decisions of the Nairobi regional summit and was agreeable to the deployment of an international force in Zaire.

Summarizing recent events, the Secretary-General states that more than 1.2 million Burundian and Rwandan refugees and tens of thousands of Zairians had been displaced by fighting. Refugees had abandoned their camps in North and South Kivu provinces and were moving west towards inaccessible regions of Zaire. Those refugees were scattered beyond the reach of humanitarian agencies. Unless effective action was urgently taken, he states, "many tens of thousands of human beings are going to die of hunger and disease". And, while urgent humanitarian action was required, it must also be action that helps create the necessary conditions for the repatriation of refugees.

The Secretary-General states that stabilization of the situation in the region should be sufficient to allow the delivery of humanitarian assistance. That would involve the securing of airfields and border crossings, the protection of logistics supply bases, and the identification and protection of accessible locations from which refugees could be assisted.

All governments concerned had acknowledged that there was a need for the early repatriation of refugees, the Secretary-General states. The short-term response of the international community should not be allowed to recreate conditions in which refugees could again be intimidated by those who did not want them to return to their home countries.

Also before the Council is a 29 October letter from the Secretary-General (document S/1996/888) which describes the mandate of the Secretary-General's Special Envoy -- Raymond Chrétien of Canada. It states that the Special Envoy will consult with all concerned in order to establish the facts and will develop plans for defusing tension and establishing a cease-fire and negotiations. Secondly, he will explore the possibilities for the early convening of a regional conference. Thirdly, he will present advice on the development of his mandate and on the size and structure of the United Nations political presence in the region.

Also before the Council are letters from the Secretary-General to the President of the Council dated 14 October (document S/1996/875) and 24 October (document S/1996/878). For detailed background of those letters, see Press Release SC/6285 of 1 November.

\* \* \* \* \*

[ENDS]

[Via the UN DHA Integrated Regional Information Network "Wire" mailing list. The material contained in this communication may not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its agencies. UN DHA IRIN Tel: +254 2 622123 Fax: +254 2 622129 e-mail: [irin@dha.unon.org](mailto:irin@dha.unon.org) for more information. If you re-print, copy, archive or re-post this item, please retain this credit and disclaimer.]

Date: Tue, 12 Nov 1996 17:25:52 +0300 (GMT+0300) From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes <irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

## **Zaire: Communique by the OAU Conflict Organ 11 Nov 1996 96.11.11**

Sender: owner-irinwire@dha.unon.org

To: irinwire@dha.unon.org

MIME-version: 1.0

Precedence: list

>Received: (from majordom@localhost) by dha.unon.org (8.6.12/8.6.12) id

RAA21657; Tue, 12 Nov 1996 17:26:33 +0300

Central Organ/MEC/MIN/Comm (IV) Ex

COMMUNIQUE ISSUED BY THE FOURTH EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF THE CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE OAU MECHANISM FOR CONFLICT PREVENTION, MANAGEMENT AND RESOLUTION AT THE LEVEL OF MINISTERS ADDIS ABABA, 11 NOVEMBER 1996

The Central Organ of the OAU Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and resolution, held, at the request of the Government of Algeria, its Fourth Extraordinary session today, 11 November 1996, at the Level of Ministers of Foreign Affairs. H.E. Mr. Ferdinand Leopold Oyono, Minister of External Relations of the Republic of Cameroon, chaired the Session. H.E. Mr. Meles Zenawi, Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, addressed the Session on the outcome of the Nairobi Regional Summit on the crisis in eastern Zaire, held on 5 November 1996. The countries involved in the Arusha Peace Process including those of the Great Lakes Region, as well the other countries bordering Zaire, also attended the Meeting at the invitation of the Secretary General.

The Session considered the Report of the Secretary General on the current crisis in the Great Lakes Region, with special reference to eastern Zaire.

The Central Organ:

1. EXPRESSES its grave concern at the humanitarian tragedy unfolding in Eastern Zaire with its far reaching implications for peace, security and stability in the region and APPEALS for an immediate cessation of hostilities and for restraint;
2. UNDERSCORES the urgent need to provide humanitarian relief and facilitate the voluntary return of the refugees to their countries of origin;
3. FULLY SUPPORTS and ENDORSES the decisions and approach taken by the regional leaders at their meeting of 5th November 1996 in Nairobi on the crisis in Eastern Zaire. The

Central Organ considers the Summit decisions as embodied in the Press Statement as a solid framework for defusing the crisis;

4. EXPRESSES its commitment to the unity, cohesion and respect of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Zaire in accordance with the OAU Charter and in particular the Cairo Declaration of 1964 on territorial integrity and inviolability of national boundaries as inherited at independence. It also calls for non-intervention and an end to cross border incursions. The Central Organ reaffirmed the inalienable rights of all peoples within the internationally recognized territorial boundaries as stipulated in the OAU Charter on Human and People's Rights and other international Conventions relevant to the right of citizenship and nationality;

5. UNDERSCORES the position that the setting up of a neutral Force as recommended by the Nairobi Summit would have been the most effective manner in facilitating the creation of safe corridors and temporary sanctuaries and ensuring an effective African contribution to such a Force. It regrets that the Security Council did not fully take into account this particular recommendation of the Nairobi Summit;

6. Nonetheless, given the decision by United Nations Security Council to create a multinational Force, the Central Organ CONSIDERS that African participation in such a Force is pivotal;

7. Given the resource constraints that would clearly face African contributors to the Force, the Central Organ UNDERSCORES the need for the Security Council and the International Community at large to create a Mechanism which would ensure an effective African participation. This means that financial, logistic and material resources should be provided on a very reliable, dependable and sustainable basis;

8. On the understanding that resources would be made available, the Central Organ APPEALS to all the African countries in a position to do so, to contribute contingents to the proposed multinational Force;

9. UNDERSCORES the need for clarity of the mandate of the proposed Force which should inter alia facilitate the provision of humanitarian relief assistance and return of the refugees to Rwanda. It also STRESSES the importance of the proposed Force being neutral. It URGES a speedy deployment of the Force and REQUESTS all parties concerned to extend maximum cooperation;

10. REQUESTS the OAU Secretary General to enter into consultation with all concerned especially with the United Nations Secretary General with a view to ensuring an effective African participation in the Force;

11. REITERATES the crucial importance of separating the intimidators from the bona-fide refugees and requests the Security Council to consider this issue as a vital component of the efforts to ensure the safe and voluntary return of the refugees to Rwanda and create conditions conducive to the resolution of the crisis;

12. UNDERSCORES the importance and urgency of finding a durable and lasting solution to the crisis in the Great Lakes Region and in this context re-affirms its support for the convening as soon as possible of the International Conference on Peace, Security and Stability in the Great Lakes Region as already agreed upon by the OAU.

13. MANDATES the Minister of External Relations of Cameroon (Representative of the Current Chairman), the Foreign Minister of Ethiopia (Representative of the past Chairman of the OAU) in cooperation with the Secretary General of the OAU, to follow the implementation of the outcome of this Session and in particular, the issue of the proposed Force.

[ENDS]

[Via the UN DHA Integrated Regional Information Network "Wire" mailing list. The material contained in this communication may not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its agencies. UN DHA IRIN Tel: +254 2 622123 Fax: +254 2 622129 e-mail: [irin@dha.unon.org](mailto:irin@dha.unon.org) for more information. If you re-print, copy, archive or re-post this item, please retain this credit and disclaimer.]

Date: Tue, 12 Nov 1996 18:41:29 +0300 (GMT+0300) From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes <irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

## **Zaire: IRIN Update 19 on Eastern Zaire for 12 Nov 1996 96.11.12**

Sender: owner-irinlist@dha.unon.org

To: irinlist@dha.unon.org

MIME-version: 1.0

Precedence: list

>Received: (from majordom@localhost) by dha.unon.org (8.6.12/8.6.12) id

SAA22570; Tue, 12 Nov 1996 18:42:16 +0300

### UNITED NATIONS

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IRIN Emergency Update No. 19 on Eastern Zaire (12 November 1996)

Canada has offered to lead a multinational force in eastern Zaire, confirmed UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali in a press conference in Rome today. He said that under Canadian command, the international force would have both the multinational and neutral dimension needed. According to the BBC, the UN Special Envoy, Canadian Raymond Chretien said a force could be in place within seven days.

Raymond Chretien, UN Special Envoy for the Great Lakes, said in a BBC interview that both Rwanda and Zaire had expressed a willingness for an intervention force, but that it was a "huge endeavour" that would go beyond the humanitarian sphere. Chretien expressed concern about the number of armed groups in eastern Zaire and said the intervention force would have to work out questions concerning "rules of engagement". He said that such questions would not create further delay if the force was "flexible" and ready to adapt to the situation on the ground.

The UN Secretary General also confirmed that South Africa has agreed to participate in what will be their first commitment of troops in an international intervention force. Canada had previously offered troops at an informal meeting, but said more troops were needed - particularly from the United States. A US State Department spokesman yesterday denied reports that the US was blocking the creation of an international force, but said no "coherent plan" was yet available. AFP reported today that a delegation of US Agency for International Development (USAID) crossed into Bukavu, eastern Zaire, today.

A UN team spent most of the day negotiating with rebel leaders in Goma to seek agreements on a number of issues relating to the restarting of humanitarian operations. Other negotiations were being pursued by Humanitarian Coordinator Vieira de Mello in Kinshasa.

Four African foreign ministers plan to fly to France tomorrow to talk with Zairean President Mobutu, Kenyan Foreign Minister Kalonzo Musyoka said in Nairobi today. On November 5, the Nairobi summit said four African diplomats would travel to Kinshasa to attempt to persuade the Zairean government to accept the resolutions of the Nairobi summit.

The Organisation of African Unity yesterday issued a communique calling for the setting up of an intervention force as recommended by the Nairobi summit (November 5), and stressing the importance of neutrality, and urging speedy deployment. The OAU Central Organ for conflict prevention said that African participation in such a force is "pivotal". According to the statement "the Central Organ underscores the need for the Security Council and the international community at large to create a mechanism which would ensure an effective African participation." Prime Minister Meles Zenawi of Ethiopia said at the opening of the OAU summit yesterday that it is difficult for resource-poor African nations to participate if a multi-national force is to be paid for by the participants and through voluntary contributions, as recommended by the UN Security Council. His views expressed a concern voiced by other African leaders and commentators.

Aid workers say there are "hundreds" of soldiers congregating in Bunia, and local personnel describe it as "not very safe". IRIN was told of shelling at Adi north of Bunia, and missionaries evacuating staff today. Fleeing, looting soldiers are also reported to be a problem in the Beni area. Fighting reported in Bunia is now attributed to competing groups of fleeing Zairean soldiers. A plane was reportedly sent to Bunia to pick up some of the soldiers fleeing from the front, and accompanying family members. There has been one flight known to have ferried soldiers from Bunia to Kisangani. Some soldiers have apparently refused to leave as they fear being sent back to fight - underlining reports of a demoralised army.

Reuters reported two nights of shooting and looting in Kisangani on Friday and Saturday, and said the local military commander warned troops from the warfront on Sunday that if they carried weapons on the street they would be shot. The New York Times reported two other groups of Zairean troops had hijacked river barges and made their way towards Kinshasa, terrorizing towns on the way.

Fleeing Zairean soldiers from the Goma area have moved southwest to Minova on the western shore of the lake. Local aid staff have reported that the retreating soldiers took wives, children and other civilians from Goma to Minova. TMK airline moved a fleet of about 5 aircraft from out of Minova two days ago to Entebbe, Uganda, because of the threatening presence of Zairean soldiers. A British pilot who met with a retreating contingent in Minova on Sunday was held hostage and threatened with execution, but escaped in remaining aircraft.

Two reliable sources told IRIN that areas between Sake and the northern side of Bukavu - outside the town - are insecure, with continued fighting. Sources also say that heavily armed Hutu extremists (Interahamwe and former Rwandan forces) are believed to have moved further

into the interior from Mugunga camp. It remains unclear whether those remaining in the camp include armed elements. Anti-refugee sentiment is reported to be high among local Zaireans.

In an article in *The Times* (UK), Sam Kiley reports finding "the charred bones of several Zairean women and children coated with molten plastic from the roof...where they were burnt alive by the Interahamwe ... in the Katale maternity clinic". One journalist who visited the abandoned camps on the Goma northern axis, said they had found "very little". Some journalists, like Kiley, yesterday were able to travel up to twenty kilometres outside Goma town. There is still no access west, towards Mugunga camp. Kiley writes in *The Times* that shelling from the direction of Mugunga camp towards Goma town has been "a daily occurrence at about 6pm". He attributes the bombardments to Hutu militia.

Concern increases over the effect of the eastern Zaire conflict on Burundi, which is still gripped by regional sanctions since the July coup. The Third Arusha Regional Summit, on 14 October 1996, said all parties to the conflict in Burundi should make a start on a negotiated settlement within a period of a month - a deadline which ran out today, without any visible progress made. The Arusha summit said it would take further measures against Burundian factions if they refused to participate in the negotiations. The next Arusha Summit is expected to meet on Thursday November 14.

The situation in Burundi has deteriorated because of the eastern Zaire crisis; but Burundi has not been invited to participate in regional talks. One NGO said that Burundi is now "as bad as it's ever been". There has been an upsurge of fighting and violence in Burundi, which may be related to the fact that fighters who used to be based in and around the refugee camps in Uvira, eastern Zaire, are coming back into Burundi.

A UNHCR nutritionist told IRIN that refugees in the Uvira camps had been in poorer shape than other refugees in eastern Zaire before the conflict broke out. Good nutritional indicators were reported in other camps in Goma and Bukavu, but Burundian refugees could now be one of the most vulnerable groups.

In Kigoma, since November 7, refugee figures are: 7,252 Zaireans; 2,332 Burundians; 40 Tanzanians (who had been residing in eastern Zaire), 455 Rwandans; and 1 Kenyan. The 2,332 Burundian refugees include six members of parliament. About half of these refugees (total 10,040) are at the Ministry of Home Affairs holding centre and half are in the Kigoma football stadium. Reports say they arrived in reasonable condition, but 8 were treated for gunshot wounds.

Nairobi, 12 November 1996, 15:40 GMT

[ENDS]

Date: Wed, 13 Nov 1996 13:45:22 +0300 (GMT+0300) From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes <irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

## **Zaire: IRIN Update 20 on Eastern Zaire for 13 Nov 1996 96.11.13**

Sender: owner-irinlist@dha.unon.org

To: irinlist@dha.unon.org

MIME-version: 1.0

Precedence: list

>Received: (from majordom@localhost) by dha.unon.org (8.6.12/8.6.12) id

NAA02506; Wed, 13 Nov 1996 13:47:26 +0300

### UNITED NATIONS

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IRIN Emergency Update No. 20 on Eastern Zaire (13 November 1996)

Shots were fired at a small plane flying over Goma this morning, reports AFP and BBC. AFP say anti-aircraft guns fired at the plane as apparent warning shots, and say the rebels have also threatened to shoot at French troops if they come into territory held by the rebel Alliance of the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire (ADFL).

Rebel commander Andre Kissasse-Ngandu issued the threats at a press conference today in Goma, when he said a small unidentified plane had been seen flying over the Sake region, about 25 kilometres west of Goma on Tuesday. Planes known to have been flying in eastern Zaire since rebels took about 300 kilometres of border territory, include those conducting aerial surveys for aid agencies and military planes attempting to evacuate retreating Zairean soldiers. A flight chartered by Associated Press filmed refugees congregated at Mugunga and deserted sites at Kibumba, Kahindo and Katala.

United Nations Special Envoy for the Great Lakes region, Raymond Chretien, is exploring access routes to eastern Zaire from within Zaire. The Zairean government is emphatic that aid passing through rebel territory would be unacceptable and would constitute a violation of territorial integrity.

Aid through Zaire would have to come through western Zaire, and poses major logistical problems. A WFP representative told IRIN that an estimated 500 tons of food a day would have to be moved out of Kisangani, eastern Zaire, to areas in Kivu, some 500 kilometres away. This would require a fleet of C130s doing 32 rotations a day into Kisangani, with a huge trucking fleet. There would also be an immediate need for storage, logistical backup and fuel -

all of which is not available in eastern Zaire. A UN assessment mission this year in Zaire came to the conclusion that large scale relief operations from inside Zaire were not feasible. The Zairean government denied permission to a proposed UN assessment mission to Kisangani this week. Kisangani currently has a growing number of fleeing Zairean soldiers, which has raised tension in the town and caused insecurity.

ICRC plans to send a flight from Kinshasa to Kisangani today with limited relief goods and staff to strengthen their delegation there. Further flights are planned if permission can be secured.

In the context of an aid distribution in Goma, the inter-agency assessment mission met on Monday, 11 November, with one of the local leaders in order to set down the principles which would govern possible UN assistance missions. It was agreed that the presence of UN agencies and contacts with the authorities do not represent a recognition of any sort or an infringement of Zairean sovereignty, and that UN missions and staff would be regarded as neutral. An independent assessment of the needs and the prevailing security conditions in the area is to be carried out as a priority. Practical issues such as the return of UN and NGO property, the reduction of border formalities and verification of aid brought into Goma were raised and will be resolved in collaboration with local authorities, who agreed to name a single liaison officer to facilitate procedures. Local authorities requested that staff hired by aid agencies and NGOs - aside from expatriate personnel, whose nationality or past assignments will not be taken into account - be natives or residents of the Goma area and that the agencies and NGOs not visit military installations; the UN mission acceded to these requests. An NGO representative was present during most of the discussions and it was understood that these conditions apply also to the NGO community. A meeting between rebel spokesman Kabila and NGOs wishing to operate in Goma was planned for this morning.

UNHCR says it finds itself "in the midst of a quandary of humanitarian, political and security challenges". In a statement to the Organisation of African Unity, David Lambo, UNHCR Regional Liaison Representative for Africa said on Monday that the "complex and unfolding drama is unprecedented in the history of UNHCR". He said reports confirm that many thousands have died, or face death, after fleeing camps and going deep into the hills and forests of Zaire. A small number of Rwandan refugees have fled to neighbouring Uganda, Tanzania and Zambia, he said.

He said the OAU meeting was crucial to push forward plans to allow effective delivery of aid, and there was need for a sustainable cease-fire. The UNHCR representative listed immediate delivery of humanitarian assistance, orderly repatriation of refugees, the establishment of return corridors, and separation of intimidators from bona fide refugees as the top priorities. He also said that UNHCR and other agencies would monitor reintegration of returning Rwandan refugees. He warned that failure to find a solution to the present crisis may lead to even greater political instability and humanitarian problems, and that no-one should underestimate the enormity of the humanitarian crisis - "the picture of over a million refugees going deeper into Zaire, wandering aimlessly around, dying of starvation, disease and exhaustion, is a very frightening prospect indeed."

Burundian refugees have also been affected by the eastern Zaire crisis, many having fled the Uvira area. Reports of increased violence and conflict in Burundi continue, believed to be related to the eastern Zaire crisis (see previous IRIN updates). State-run Burundi radio reported yesterday that security forces had engaged in a three hour fight with an armed group on the Bujumbura-Jenda road. It said armed groups had also been reported in Muhuta, Mugamba and Burambi in Bururi Province. Security forces say they captured Kalashnikovs and a rocket launcher.

Burundian refugees in Kigoma have been advised not to engage in any political activities, and to live peacefully, reported state-run Tanzania radio yesterday. An aid representative who had visited refugees in Kigoma told IRIN today that the number of new arrivals had dropped to about 400 a day. From November 9th, the number of refugees at Kigoma is said to be 14,400. They are predominantly Zaireans. Refugees - who include local aid workers - told the aid representative that an estimated 50,000 refugees remained in the Uvira area. Refugees who first arrived by small fishing boats were said to be carrying televisions, computers and household goods - referred to as "middle class refugees" by one NGO. The refugees are in relatively good condition. A fee of about \$100 was charged to this first category of refugees, with three or four boat-loads of about 400 refugees a day. The price has apparently dropped, as has the number of refugees arriving; aid workers say they are not clear whether this is because there are fewer people fleeing the area, or whether it is because those left behind are less able to get to Kigoma. Aid agencies also report that many of the refugees have landed on the beaches and are staying in inaccessible fishing villages. Tension is apparently high between locals and the dependent refugees.

Nairobi, 13 November 1996, 11:45 GMT  
[ENDS]

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Date: Wed, 13 Nov 1996 19:04:51 +0300 (GMT+0300) From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes <irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

## **Zaire: IRIN Update 21 on Eastern Zaire for 13 Nov 1996 96.11.13**

Sender: owner-irinlist@dha.unon.org

To: irinlist@dha.unon.org

MIME-version: 1.0

Precedence: list

>Received: (from majordom@localhost) by dha.unon.org (8.6.12/8.6.12) id

TAA03071; Wed, 13 Nov 1996 19:05:59 +0300

### UNITED NATIONS

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IRIN Emergency Update No. 21 on eastern Zaire (13 November 1996)

Fourteen US military personnel arrived in Entebbe at 2 pm local time today. A further 40 personnel arrived later in the afternoon, and are setting up antennae and logistical backup for the relief effort for eastern Zaire at Entebbe airport. The advance team is called the Humanitarian Force Support Assistance Wing, and is expected to stay in Entebbe to set up a logistical base. The team arrived with two maritime surveillance aircraft and a C-141 transporter.

A Pentagon official said yesterday that the deployment of the team "enhances the military's ability to respond but does not represent a commitment by the US to deploy other forces". AFP reports that the team was expected to be accompanied by representatives from Britain, France and Canada. It will include medical specialists, engineers, civil affairs and security experts. The United States has been criticised for stalling plans for an multinational force, and was publicly blamed for holding up "other willing countries" by European Commissioner for Humanitarian Affairs, Emma Bonino, on Monday.

United Nations Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said today in Rome that he believed the UN Security Council would give a mandate for an intervention force "within days". BBC quoted him as saying that "every moment was precious" and the eastern Zaire crisis was an "all-out emergency".

Decisions to be made about the mandate of the intervention force include questions about establishing law and order in the area of conflict and deciding on rules of engagement concerning armed groups. Apart from urgent facilitation of humanitarian assistance, the

multinational force would be faced with the problem of how to separate intimidators from bona fide refugees, and how to deal with those committing "war crimes" in the area of conflict. Other dilemmas relate to how the force would deal with the long-term political problem of the Interahamwe and the former Rwandan forces who are reportedly heavily armed and have been using eastern Zaire as a base since 1994.

Thousands of refugees from the deserted Katale camp (north of Goma) are reported in the forests around Masisi, and hundreds are dying every day. Their location is described as being 65 to 75 kilometres away from Goma. An NGO working in Katale camp before it dispersed (population: 202,000) has information from local staff travelling with the refugees. The refugees are reportedly surviving on food found in villages and fields, consisting mostly of tree roots and rotten sweet potatoes, and are suffering mainly from dehydration and bloody diarrhoea. Much of the dehydration is attributed to the onset of diarrhoea. Increasing cases of dysentery and cholera were also reported. Another group from the dispersed Katale and Kahindo camps were caught up in fighting around Tongo (north west of Katale). About 200 people are reported killed from the fighting in the last twenty four hours, and most of the refugees have scattered and are travelling in small groups. Katale camp was mortared on October 28th, and international staff evacuated on November 2.

Aid representatives in Goma said today that shelling in the hospital compound forced aid workers to retreat as the first relief truck was unloading. A WFP representative told IRIN that today's events demonstrated how difficult it had been to get a token amount of aid into eastern Zaire: "it's taken three days to move ten tons. It is very slow and insecure". A BBC correspondent described Goma town as tense, with mortar guns firing from Mugunga area west of the town.

UN Special Envoy Raymond Chretien and Humanitarian Coordinator Sergio Vieira de Mello are in Kinshasa today, continuing talks with the Zairean government on access routes to eastern Zaire.

Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien said on Tuesday that Canadian and US military officers and senior government officials have been discussing the details of the formation of a multinational taskforce in Washington. AFP reports that Lieutenant General Maurice Baril is taking part in the discussions and is expected to lead the multinational force. Prime Minister Chretien said a multinational force of between 6,000 and 10,000 is needed for eastern Zaire. France, who led the calls for international intervention, proposed 5,000 - but faced objections from the Rwandan government and Zairean rebels who accused France of lacking neutrality. Chretien said Canada could have a team of 350 military personnel on the ground in eastern Zaire "within 48 hours" of the Security Council agreeing on a mandate.

The Security Council faced international and regional criticism when it failed to decisively authorise a multinational intervention force on Sunday November 10. Momentum for intervention appeared to wane, until Canada offered to lead the force yesterday. United Nations Special Envoy to the Great Lakes Raymond Chretien said yesterday that he thought the force would arrive within the next seven days.

The Rwandan government has objected to use of French troops, but reports say it is willing to accept France taking part in a multinational force on a logistical level. AFP quotes diplomatic sources in Kinshasa today as saying Rwanda has given consent to Canada leading the force. Rwandan vice president and defence minister Paul Kagame said on state-run radio yesterday that the neutrality of the force was crucial. He said the eastern Zaire crisis was an internal problem for Zaire, and that the force should not interfere with it. He said a multinational force should instead concentrate on the humanitarian aspect of getting assistance to the refugees and facilitating repatriation.

Leader of the European Union delegation Joan Burton said on state-run Rwandan radio yesterday that the government had expressed concern about the future of the Banyamulenge people and others in Zaire of Tutsi ethnic origin. She also said the EU delegation had discussed with the Zaire government in Kinshasa the transition to democracy, and especially questions of citizenship. This would relate to the issue of the nationality of the Banyamulenge (ethnic Tutsis) in eastern Zaire.

Persistent sources indicate some 100,000 displaced people congregating in Fizi, including internally displaced people and refugees. One aid representative told IRIN that many who had fled to coastal villages report they were attacked by fleeing Zairean soldiers. There are also reports from those who fled Uvira that Zairean soldiers targeted ethnic Tutsis.

The UN World Health Organisation said today that it could not confirm cases of cholera reported in eastern Zaire. Spokesman Philippe Stroot said that although all the elements seem present for an outbreak, due to bad sanitation, there were no confirmed cases of cholera. WHO is planning to send a specialist from Geneva to the region.

Kinshasa was reported as uneasy as residents stayed at home yesterday - students had given Tuesday as an ultimatum for Prime Minister Kengo wa Dondo to step down. AFP say the streets of Kinshasa were deserted yesterday, after a week of demonstrations and student unrest.

Seven African countries have offered to contribute troops or support to a military intervention force for Zaire. Botswanan foreign affairs acting permanent secretary Charles Ntwaagae said today his country could send between 600 and 800 troops to the region, joining Ethiopia, Senegal, Congo, Chad, Mali and South Africa. Western involvement in the form of military support or humanitarian aid so far has been pledged by Canada, USA, the EU, Italy, France, Britain, Spain, the Netherlands, Belgium and the Nordic countries.

Nairobi, 13 November 1996, 16:00 GMT

[ENDS]

Date: Thu, 14 Nov 1996 11:51:29 +0300 (GMT+0300) From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes  
<irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

## **Zaire: Amnesty International calls for action 96.11.12**

Sender: owner-irinwire@dha.unon.org

To: irinwire@dha.unon.org

MIME-version: 1.0

Precedence: list

>Received: (from majordom@localhost) by dha.unon.org (8.6.12/8.6.12) id

MAA08955; Thu, 14 Nov 1996 12:06:23 +0300

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Easton Street, London WC1X 8DJ (Tel +44-71-413-5500, Fax +44-71-956-1157)  
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News Service 213/96

AI INDEX: AFR 02/19/96

12 NOVEMBER 1996

### **GREAT LAKES: AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL CALLS FOR URGENT ATTENTION TO THE NEED FOR HUMAN RIGHTS PROTECTION**

ADDIS ABABA -- Speaking at an emergency meeting of the Conflict Resolution Mechanism  
of the Organization of Africa Unity (OAU) in Addis Ababa yesterday, Amnesty  
International's Secretary General Pierre Sane called on participating governments to put  
human rights at the top of the agenda in any resolution on the crisis in the Great Lakes region.

~The humanitarian emergency and the urgent need for a political settlement should not deflect  
attention from the human rights crisis in the region,~ said Mr Sane.

~The mortal risk at which millions of people in Zaire, Rwanda and Burundi find themselves is  
the result not only of the fighting which broke out in eastern Zaire in September 1996, but  
also more fundamentally, of the legacy of widespread human rights violations and impunity in  
the region.~

In a letter addressed to members of the OAU Central Organ for Conflict Prevention,  
Management and Resolution, Mr Sane urged Member States to address the human rights  
dimension which, in the view of the organization, lies at the heart of the current crisis in the  
Great Lakes region.

~Attempts to induce, persuade or pressure refugees to return to their home countries are  
likely to result in a further serious escalation of human rights abuses if measures are not first  
introduced to ensure effective protection of human rights,~ said Mr Sane.

These should include ending ~disappearances~, unlawful executions, and arbitrary arrests in both Burundi and Rwanda as well as deliberate and arbitrary killings by the armed opposition groups in these two countries. There must be independent judicial systems functioning in each country to ensure impartial and effective investigations into human rights abuses.

~Unless human rights protection in the country of origin is made fully effective refugees cannot be expected to return voluntarily,~ said Mr Sane.

In the United Nations (UN) resolution 1078 adopted by the UN Security Council on 9 November 1996, it was decided that a multi-national force, to be funded by participating states and voluntary contributions, will be deployed in the region as opposed to a UN peace-keeping force. This resolution does not specifically mention prevention of human rights violations as one of the forces~s functions.

~Human rights protection is an international obligation for all members of the United Nations and cannot be left to voluntary initiatives. Otherwise we are again left to wonder whether the international community really cares about human rights in Africa or is only concerned to be seen to contain humanitarian crises,~ said Mr Sane.

Mr Sane, who is travelling to Kigali, Rwanda, attended the opening of the Ministerial session of the OAU Central Organ for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution, and met with the OAU Secretary General, Dr. Salim Ahmed Salim, to present Amnesty International~s recommendations regarding the resolution of the crisis in eastern Zaire. ENDS\

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Date: Thu, 14 Nov 1996 14:28:35 +0300 (GMT+0300) From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes <irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

## **Zaire: IRIN Update 22 on Eastern Zaire for 13-14 Nov 1996 96.11.14**

Sender: owner-irinlist@dha.unon.org

To: irinlist@dha.unon.org

MIME-version: 1.0

Precedence: list

>Received: (from majordom@localhost) by dha.unon.org (8.6.12/8.6.12) id

OAA10596; Thu, 14 Nov 1996 14:29:13 +0300

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IRIN Emergency Update No. 22 on eastern Zaire (13-14 November 1996)

Calls for a multinational force to intervene in eastern Zaire appear to have been answered, with the appearance of an American advance team of 40 in Entebbe, Uganda. The Security Council, however, has yet to decide on the mandate of a multinational force.

Canada says it will take charge of the multi-national force on the condition that it does not have to disarm or separate out the Interhamwe and former Rwandan forces from the bona fide refugees. The United States government has also refused to accept any mandate of disarmament.

While the planned arrival of a force has generally been welcomed, the conditions of the Canadian and US governments regarding the mandate are seen by much of the humanitarian community to undermine calls to tackle the root causes of the problem - namely the presence of the heavily armed Hutu extremist groups, the Interahamwe and the former Rwandan forces in the refugee camps in eastern Zaire.

Herman Cohen, former senior US government official and diplomat, said in a BBC interview, there had been conflicting opinions regarding the mandate of an international force and that "the humanitarian option won out over the military one".

Statements from UN organisations - such as UNHCR - European NGOs, the European Union and Oxfam have all previously focused on the need to separate "intimidators from bona fide refugees" in order to tackle the present crisis in eastern Zaire and restore regional stability.

The Nairobi Summit (November 5), the Security Council (November 10) and the Organisation of African Unity (November 11) also called for "intimidators" to be separated out. The UNHCR Regional Liaison Representative for Africa said in an address to the OAU (Monday November 11) that it was essential to separate out intimidators from the bona fide refugees, and organise the orderly repatriation of refugees. He said that one issue was clear: "long term and sustainable peace and security cannot be restored in Eastern Zaire and the countries of the Great Lakes as a whole without a rapid and durable solution to the refugee crisis. He said that in order for the repatriation strategy to work "the intimidators, militants and armed militia who, it seems, may have led many of the refugees into the hills and forests surrounding the camps, must once and for all, be separated from those who are genuinely in need of our protection and assistance."

In his speech to the Organisation of African Unity, OAU Secretary General Dr Salim Ahmed Salim said "no meaningful progress had been made" to return the refugees since 1994, and the problem would continue, and possibly be exacerbated, unless conditions for repatriation were met. He said "we look back and, bearing in mind the current catastrophic situation ... one cannot but lament the failure to act more decisively when the opportunity had presented itself". He said inaction had allowed the former Rwandan Army and the Interahamwe to continue holding refugees hostage, leading to killings and counter-killings and the escalation of tension between Zaire and Rwanda.

Rakiya Omaar, co-director of London-based human rights organisation African Rights, told IRIN from Kigali she believed most of the fighting in eastern Zaire is now between the former Rwandan troops or Interahamwe militia and Zairean rebel Alliance for the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire (ADFL). Coming from Bukavu and Uvira, she said the planned multinational military intervention was going to be "a thousand times worse than Somalia". International military intervention in Somalia was widely regarded as a failure. Omaar told IRIN that the "inevitable consequence" of a multinational intervention that refused to disarm armed elements would be violence, and a continuation of the problem - "if you are not going to disarm the armed elements, there is absolutely no purpose of coming. If a multinational force comes, it needs military and political preparation for armed engagement." She said that there was also a practical problem of separation, because it depended on a notion that there were two distinct groups, whereas the armed element were "husbands, sons, brother-in-laws and children" of the refugee mass. According to Omaar, there were immediate problems of hunger in Bukavu amongst the local population, where economic activity had been reduced to almost nothing. African Rights has said that the idea of a million people dying within weeks was absurd, and say the problem is one of "guns, grenades and genocidal ideologies, not starvation".

Since the announcement of the intentions of the multinational force, many members of the humanitarian community have expressed concern and scepticism about the mission. Some NGOs are expected to issue statements shortly. An editorial in the New York Times yesterday said "it would be reckless to throw a modest-sized international force between two larger warring armies that have yet to negotiate a cease-fire and that violently disagree about about where these refugees should be fed and settled".

US President Bill Clinton did not publicly respond to calls for the US to back a multinational force until Wednesday, after the Canadian government had said it would take command. US presidential elections on November 5th put the eastern Zaire issue "on hold", and meant that US diplomatic participation on the issue came late. Yesterday White House spokesman said arrangements for military deployment were "moving pretty quickly" because of the "urgency" of the situation, reported AFP.

The United States says it is ready to provide more aid to refugees in eastern Zaire once "mechanisms" have been set up to enable it to be delivered, US Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman said in Rome yesterday. He said the US had already provided a major share of the humanitarian assistance to the region.

In London, government ministers and defence officials discussed on Wednesday British participation in a possible multinational intervention force to assist relief efforts. A multinational team is due in Kigali today to discuss modalities.

The force, according to the Canadian government, is expected to be between 10,000 and 15,000 - much larger than the original 5,000 troops proposed by France and Spain. Botswana, South Africa, Cameroon, Chad, Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Mali and Senegal have offered to contribute, and possibly Zimbabwe.

Nairobi, 14 November 1996, 11:25 GMT

[ENDS]

[Via the UN DHA Integrated Regional Information Network. The material contained in this communication may not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its agencies. UN DHA IRIN Tel: +254 2 622123 Fax: +254 2 622129 e-mail: [irin@dha.unon.org](mailto:irin@dha.unon.org) for more information. If you re-print, copy, archive or re-post this item, please retain this credit and disclaimer.]

Date: Thu, 14 Nov 1996 19:26:52 +0300 (GMT+0300) From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes  
<irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

## **Zaire: IRIN Update 23 on Eastern Zaire for 14 Nov 1996 96.11.14**

Sender: owner-irinlist@dha.unon.org

To: irinlist@dha.unon.org

MIME-version: 1.0

Precedence: list

>Received: (from majordom@localhost) by dha.unon.org (8.6.12/8.6.12) id

TAA14817; Thu, 14 Nov 1996 19:28:06 +0300

### UNITED NATIONS

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### IRIN Emergency Update No. 23 on Eastern Zaire (14 November 1996)

Fierce fighting broke out around Goma overnight and continued today, raising fears that relief efforts would be further hampered. Rebels opened up with heavy arms and anti-aircraft fire against positions west of the town, targeting a plane which may have also overflowed Goma yesterday. The plane then left the area. A BBC reporter in the area said it was the worst violence since the rebels took the town. Some reports said shells were also fired from Mugunga camp near Goma. UNHCR spokesman Peter Kessler said the Interahamwe militia were ordering refugees to gather at Mugunga, in an attempt to prevent their return to Rwanda.

However UNHCR reported that 730 refugees -- probably from the Katale/Kahindo camps -- had defied the Interahamwe and crossed at Mutovu into Rwanda on Wednesday, the biggest number of returnees into Rwanda since fighting broke out last month.

Hundreds of residents started returning home to Goma today. A journalist in Goma said that people arriving in the town from the west say that Mugunga camp is "well hemmed in" by rebel forces. The journalists told IRIN that an elite force was stationed on the west side, seemingly consisting of Rwandan soldiers. Eyewitnesses coming into the town are reporting that the view from the slopes of Nyaragongo shows life "looking normal" inside the camp, with many refugees still there. Some trade is beginning again in Goma town, but there is no main crop to depend on because the expected bean crop has not yet come through. Refugees coming into Goma are described as in reasonably good shape, though with blistered and torn feet. One journalist told IRIN that rebel authorities would broadcast that refugees were arriving, presumably to try and reduce tension between the local population and the refugees.

The reporter added that tens of thousands of refugees are reported to be making their way from Kahindo and Katale camps, skirting the lava fields, down towards Goma town.

According to a Reuters report today, 800-1,000 internally displaced people arrived in Goma by boat across Lake Kivu from Sake to the northwest. They reported cases of cholera, as well as fighting between Zairean Mai-Mai militia, ex-FAR troops, the Interahamwe and rebels. A BBC reporter said the Zaireans, who came with a few belongings, had spoken of appalling conditions and heavy clashes in the area.

AFP reported that Tutsi rebels turned away a delegation from Medecins sans Frontieres attempting to enter Bukavu from Rwanda. It said aid agencies had made no headway with rebels in the South Kivu area of which Bukavu is the capital. NGO reports from Bukavu described the situation as "worrying" with a possible epidemic of diarrhoea, particularly among small children.

A UN relief flight funded by Switzerland arrived in Kinshasa today, using an AN-124 aircraft supplied by Emercom (Russia) to bring 100 MT of UNICEF supplies from Copenhagen, including 10,000 blankets, medical supplies and 31 tonnes of milk and high energy biscuits. The flight was arranged by DHA's Military and Civil Defence Unit.

Zaire lashed out at the world community today, accusing it of indifference and saying any aid should be delivered to the refugees' home countries. "The refugees who live today in the east of Zaire belong to states run by governments which cannot with any excuse, duck their responsibility to accept their compatriots inside their borders," deputy premier Mutombo Bakafwa Nsenda told an FAO summit in Rome.

President Mobutu was due to meet an OAU delegation today in the southern French town of Roquebrune-Cap Martin where he is recovering from cancer surgery. The delegation is led by Kenyan foreign minister Kalonzo Musyoka.

NGOs today continued to press for disarming Hutu militias and ex-FAR troops. Oxfam said the proposed multinational force must have a mandate to carry this out. "The lessons of the last two years have been that humanitarian aid is no substitute for political action," it said. MSF said it was "disappointed" that the force was not intended to "separate the criminals" and unless this happened, it was difficult to see how the refugees could be repatriated.

CNN said in a report today that aid agencies in Rwanda felt the challenge to a multinational force was to separate genuine refugees from the armed Hutu militia and former Rwandan forces. CNN's Christiane Amanpour said aid agencies were concerned that massive quantities of aid were not the solution, but that the international community should try and "break the lock" and stop the armed groups holding the refugees hostage.

Rebel leader Laurent-Desire Kabila today warned of a Somali-like situation in eastern Zaire if the multinational force was "ill-intentioned" or sought to "Balkanize the country". He also told reporters in Goma that use of the local airport was "negotiable", but that foreign soldiers could use airports in Rwanda and Uganda instead. Meanwhile, reports from Zaire near the

Rwandan border town of Gisenyi said the rebels had set up an FM radio station called Radio Star.

Canada has called on countries interested in contributing troops to the multinational force to meet in New York later today to discuss a "plan of action". A foreign ministry statement said participants would include Britain, France, the USA and "key aid donors". An advance team of 24 Canadian armed forces personnel, meanwhile, would head for the region today and another 250-strong military team, including doctors, engineers and communications specialists, was on standby. The US sent a team to Kigali today for discussions. The UN Security Council was expected to approve the mandate and deployment of the force by Friday.

French Foreign Minister Herve de Charette said today the force could be ready for deployment by the weekend, while his spokesman Yves Doutriaux said a European should be among three deputy commanders of the force. He added that France would "secure the airport at Bukavu". Senior government sources in Britain indicated it would send between 2,000 and 4,000 troops to eastern Zaire. Defence Secretary Michael Portillo speaking on the BBC today made no mention of numbers, but said the operation should quickly be handed over to African forces.

As a US airborne infantry battalion prepared to fly into eastern Zaire next week, two US relief teams were prevented from entering the region, according to a State Department statement on Wednesday. Zairean rebels in Goma told a Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) to return to Rwanda minutes after it had arrived, and a second group was turned back from Bukavu. A third team of military and civilian officials meanwhile, led by US coordinator for Rwanda and Burundi Richard Bogosian, was in Uganda en route for Rwanda and eastern Zaire.

The US contingent of the Canadian-led intervention force would comprise some 1,000 troops to be deployed in the Goma area and up to another 3,000 would support the operation in other countries, according to US officials quoted by AFP. The troops, who would be in Zaire for about four months, would be equipped to defend themselves under "robust" rules of engagement similar to the US operation in Bosnia.

WFP said its current stock level in the eastern Zaire region amounted to 71,358 mt, enough to feed 1.5 million people (including 1.25 million refugees and 250,000 affected Zaireans) for about 50 days. As another potential refugee crisis unfolded in Burundi, the UN indicated supplies there were running low. There were 63 days' worth of emergency food rations left, enough for 250,000 beneficiaries. Burundi's prime minister told WFP executive director Ms Bertini on Tuesday that his country had given clearance for international organisations to enter eastern Zaire from Burundi.

UN special envoy Raymond Chretien was due in Burundi tomorrow, a UN source said, and Humanitarian Coordinator Sergio Vieira de Mello was due in Kigali today. The Deputy Humanitarian Coordinator, Martin Griffiths, is in Kampala this evening en route to Kinshasa.

Three armed raiders were killed by Ugandan troops in the Kasese area on the border with Zaire Wednesday, a Ugandan official said. Martin Aliko, Minister of State for foreign affairs,

told a news conference they were members of gang made up of Zairean soldiers and Ugandan dissidents which had attacked a Ugandan military installation near the border earlier this week. He said the attackers were driven back into Zaire, adding he was unsure whether the attack had been sanctioned by Kinshasa or at a local level. WFP described the situation around Kasese as tense following the attack which reportedly involved 200 Zairean troops and Ugandan dissidents. It said several thousand Ugandans were displaced as a result of the attack.

Australia today announced a financial aid package of 2.6 million Australian dollars for the refugee crisis in Zaire, 100,000 of which will go to DHA IRIN. Other contributors to DHA IRIN since its inception in October 1995 are Sweden, Norway, UK, USA, Belgium, Netherlands and Israel.

Nairobi, 14 November 1996, 16:15 GMT

[ENDS]

[Via the UN DHA Integrated Regional Information Network. The material contained in this communication may not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its agencies. UN DHA IRIN Tel: +254 2 622123 Fax: +254 2 622129 e-mail: [irin@dha.unon.org](mailto:irin@dha.unon.org) for more information. If you re-print, copy, archive or re-post this item, please retain this credit and disclaimer.]

Date: Fri, 15 Nov 1996 14:05:05 +0300 (GMT+0300) From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes <irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

## **Zaire: IRIN Update 24 on Eastern Zaire for 14-15 Nov 1996 96.11.15**

Sender: owner-irinlist@dha.unon.org

To: irinlist@dha.unon.org

MIME-version: 1.0

Precedence: list

>Received: (from majordom@localhost) by dha.unon.org (8.6.12/8.6.12) id

OAA21195; Fri, 15 Nov 1996 14:19:46 +0300

### UNITED NATIONS

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IRIN Emergency Update No. 24 on Eastern Zaire (Friday 15 November 1996)

Mugunga camp is reported by UN eyewitnesses as "empty". Journalists and aid agencies report tens of thousands of refugees fleeing through Goma and arriving at the Rwandan border. Thousands have already crossed. CNN reported that rebel forces appear to have pushed the former Rwanda forces (ex-FAR) and Interahamwe militia back, causing the flight of refugees who had been contained inside the camp. However, people fleeing towards the Rwandan border are said to include Zairean displaced, and, according to CNN, also ex-FAR and Hutu militia. It is not yet clear whether all refugees from Mugunga camp are fleeing towards the Rwandan border. Mugunga camp was said to contain about 400,000 before dispersal. Other refugees may have fled into the interior with the ex-FAR and militia, or been casualties of heavy fighting in the camp.

The condition of people arriving at the border has been reported as "generally good". Refugees from Mugunga would have only about 15 kilometres to flee, once out of the camp, and had reportedly been receiving some food from existing stocks inside the camp as recently as last week. Mugunga hospital had also been reported last week as functioning at a rudimentary level.

Reports by the American Refugee Committee told IRIN that Mugunga camp had been displaced about four kilometres yesterday because of heavy fighting. Sources in Goma and Sake allege that rebels surrounding the camp had included an elite force of Rwandan soldiers. Rebels last week reportedly managed to push back the ex-FAR behind Mugunga, and now control the road up to Sake. Displaced Zaireans from Goma - who moved west when Goma was first taken by rebels - have been forced to flee towards Minova (south west of Sake).

Retreating Zairean soldiers congregating in Sake have fled north to Kisangani. Fighting is primarily between the ex-FAR and the rebel Alliance of the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire (ADFL). American Refugee Committee say Kirotsho hospital admitted 60 wounded Zaireans yesterday - believed to be from fighting around Sake.

Heavy fighting reported around Goma and Sake yesterday held up aid assessment missions. UNHCR and other agencies have been preparing for an influx of returnees into Gisenyi, Rwanda.

A multinational intervention force still awaits a mandate from the UN Security Council, which should decide on the matter today or Saturday. An advance party of twenty-five Canadians is expected in Nairobi today. The US government, which sent an advance team of forty personnel to Entebbe, Uganda, says its forces can only be inserted into a "non-hostile" environment before US troops will proceed into eastern Zaire. The US also would prefer to have "complicity" from governments in the region. Both the US and the Canadian government say they will not attempt to disarm the armed groups.

The rebel Alliance of the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire (ADFL) instituted a unilaterally declared ceasefire on November 4, which held tenuously in areas accessible to aid workers and journalists. Securing a ceasefire is difficult in that there are a number of different armed groups involved in the conflict: they include the rebel ADFL; the Zairean armed forces; Zairean militia groups (including the Bangilima and the Mai-Mai); and the former Rwanda armed forces (ex-FAR) and Interahamwe militia. Other armed groups reported to have been involved in the conflict are Rwandan government forces, and the Zairean Camp Security Contingent (previously guarding the camps).

It is generally agreed by the United Nations and aid agencies that the number, condition and location of refugees and internally displaced persons is not known, and that lack of information continues to be a major problem. Requested satellite images of the refugees' locations are said to be too indistinct to be of assistance. Different reports of the last week put the refugees in the following approximate locations:

GOMA refugees from Mugunga camp reported today as fleeing towards the Rwandan border as rebels push back ex-FAR and the Interhamwe. TONGO From the Kahindo and Katale camps north of Goma, who reportedly split into smaller groups when caught up in fighting earlier this week. MASISI From Sake, and also from the Kahindo and Katale camps, who are now concentrated mainly in the forest near Masisi town. NYIRAGONGO there are other reports of refugees from Kahindo and Katale who fled through the lava fields or skirted round by the edge of the forest, and are heading towards the Goma area. BUKAVU Many Bukavu refugees reportedly west of Bukavu, towards Chimanga.

Internally displaced people are also of concern, and are reportedly mixed with the refugees in some areas. The Fizi area, south of Uvira, reportedly contains a concentration of internally displaced, as well as the fishing villages along the coast line. High tension is reported to exist

between the local population and the refugees. Refugees and internally displaced in the interior are believed to be surviving on what produce they can find from village fields and gardens. Although water is available in many areas, many internally displaced people and refugees are reportedly suffering from dehydration because of the onset of diarrhoeal diseases.

The United Nations World Health Organisation is distributing an information sheet for aid organisations on protocol for the treatment of Shigella (bloody diarrhoea) and cholera - the two epidemics which decimated massive concentrations of refugees who crossed into eastern Zaire in 1994. Anticipation of massive numbers of deaths in the present crisis are now being treated with more caution. Senior UN nutritionists gave IRIN the following "statistical background" to help estimate the scale of the crisis:

Before the crisis, there was an average rate of 84 deaths per day, based on an estimated crude death rate of 0.7 per 10,000 per day in a refugee population of 1.2 million. The birth rate would add about 137 live babies each day. This is considered acceptable by nutritionists and aid workers. Alarm bells ring once the death rate rise about 1 per 10,000 per day; if it reaches 2 per 10,000 per day it is considered a crisis. During the peak of the diarrhoeal disease epidemic in Goma in 1994, the death rate was 25 per 10,000 per day. There is an unprecedented paucity of information on the condition of the refugees in the current crisis, and conflicting estimates of deaths, but death-rate calculations indicate about 480-960 deaths per day. A senior nutritionist warned that the death rate is likely to increase as soon as refugees start congregating in large numbers, because of sanitation problems. The nutritionist speculated that refugees in the interior may have a better chance of survival if they were travelling in small groups.

Nairobi, 15 November 1996, 11:00 GMT

[ENDS]

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Date: Fri, 15 Nov 1996 16:42:02 +0300 (GMT+0300) From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes <irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

## **Zaire: ICRC Operation gets under way, appeal launched 96.11.15**

Sender: owner-irinwire@dha.unon.org

To: irinwire@dha.unon.org

MIME-version: 1.0

Precedence: list

>Received: (from majordom@localhost) by dha.unon.org (8.6.12/8.6.12) id QAA23244; Fri, 15 Nov 1996 16:46:29 +0300

Communication to the press No. 96/36  
15 November 1996

### **ZAIRE: ICRC OPERATION GETS UNDER WAY**

Geneva (ICRC) - The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) today launched an appeal for 49 million Swiss francs (38.5 US dollars) to cover the cost of its operation to protect and assist some of the two million people affected by the conflict in eastern Zaire for three months.

The ICRC has just obtained confirmation from the authorities in Kinshasa that it may work throughout the territory of the Republic of Zaire, although certain formalities remain to be completed. An ICRC-chartered Hercules aircraft left Nairobi this morning with 14 tonnes of high-energy biscuits, two tonnes of medical supplies and 2,000 blankets. It landed in Kinshasa at about 10 a.m. local time before going on to Kisangani, where a team is already setting up a logistics base.

The ICRC delegation in Zaire has drawn up a plan of action to bring desperately needed aid to displaced persons. Existing health facilities in the areas affected by the conflict will receive support, and medical teams will be sent to hospitals in Kivu province and in Kisangani. A field hospital available in Nairobi could very quickly be set up in Zaire. Teams of specialists will make sure that drinking water is available in places where large numbers of refugees and displaced persons have gathered. Should reports of epidemics be confirmed, the ICRC would be able to treat 30,000 people.

The ICRC is in a position to provide non-food relief supplies (blankets, plastic sheeting, jerrycans and soap) for 525,000 people, and food for 250,000 people per month. The aim is not to set up new camps, but to distribute survival rations and water to displaced people on the move or making their way home. The ICRC is also planning a resettlement programme for displaced Zairians returning to their homes.

The ICRC has officially reminded the parties to the armed conflict that the rules of international humanitarian law are applicable. It has a mandate to protect and assist conflict

victims, and will work in close coordination with the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, which is specifically in charge of assistance to refugees. A coordination unit is to be set up, comprising representatives of the main humanitarian organizations and of the multinational force which is about to become operational.

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[Via the UN DHA Integrated Regional Information Network "Wire" mailing list. The material contained in this communication may not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its agencies. UN DHA IRIN Tel: +254 2 622123 Fax: +254 2 622129 e-mail: [irin@dha.unon.org](mailto:irin@dha.unon.org) for more information. If you re-print, copy, archive or re-post this item, please retain this credit and disclaimer.]

Date: Fri, 15 Nov 1996 17:05:01 +0300 (GMT+0300) From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes  
<irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

**Zaire: IRIN Bulletin: 15 November 1996, 14:55 GMT 96.11.15**

Sender: owner-irinlist@dha.unon.org

To: irinlist@dha.unon.org

MIME-version: 1.0

Precedence: list

>Received: (from majordom@localhost) by dha.unon.org (8.6.12/8.6.12) id

RAA23570; Fri, 15 Nov 1996 17:09:38 +0300

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IRIN Bulletin: Nairobi, November 15, 14:55 GMT

UNHCR reported that by 1pm local time that 15,000 people have arrived in Gisenyi, Rwanda. WFP said an estimated 70,000 others were backed up at the border. CNN reported "wildly fluctuating figures", but described the exodus as "countless thousands". Peter Kessler, UNHCR Nairobi said there was a 25 mile long stream of people, which included people from Mugunga, Lac Vert, Sake, Kahindo and Katale. UNHCR Geneva estimate that if refugees continue arriving at the present rate, 100,000 are expected by this evening.

The exodus is reportedly "orderly" at this stage, with aid agencies waiting to receive the refugees/returnees in Gisenyi, Rwanda. The World Food Programme has at least 750 tons of food in Gisenyi, which can feed 200,000 people for ten days, said a WFP representative. There are also food rations (two month food packages) in Nkamira way-station nearby. The United Nations and NGOs have food stocks and preparations in Rwanda. UNHCR says there is a reception centre at Umubano which has the capacity for 15,000 people. There are two more reception centres at Nkamira and Gisenyi-College. UNHCR have additional relief stocks in Kigali (Rwanda) and Kampala (Uganda).

United Nations eye-witnesses report Mugunga camp empty. TV pictures have been shown of a massacre at the deserted camp of fifteen people, including women and children. First-hand accounts from refugees say that the Interahamwe and former Rwandan forces tried to make the refugees retreat with them into the interior yesterday, and began destroying the refugee huts. Some of the refugees who refused to go with the Hutu militants were reportedly killed,

and an unknown number accompanied them into the interior. Refugees are also reportedly heading towards Masisi.

It is assumed that most of the people fleeing towards the border are Rwandan refugees, but they could also include internally displaced Zaireans. One journalist speculated that there could be members of the former Rwandan forces (ex-FAR) and the Interahamwe militia among them. The refugees returning to Rwanda are being screened and searched, slowing down the numbers crossing into Rwanda. One journalist in Gisenyi told IRIN that groups of Rwandan personnel - some identified as soldiers in civilian clothes - were taking details of families, numbers of children and wives and details of original commune and prefecture.

People arriving at the border are said to be in reasonably good condition, but medical personnel caution that the strongest people will arrive first. There have also been two confirmed cases of cholera at Goma hospital of people from Sake, according to WHO. Sake is one of the endemic cholera areas in Zaire.

Many of the Rwandan returnees will reportedly be trucked immediately back to their home communes, although a system of repatriation or screening has yet to be made public. One UN official told IRIN that it was essential that a huge mass of people should not congregate at the border as it would rapidly lead to problems of disease and sanitation.

Although some press reports portray the exodus as a "solution" to the eastern Zaire crisis, hundreds of thousands of refugees remain unaccounted for. Mugunga camp held about 400,000 refugees before the crisis, and the total number of refugees in the Goma area was 715,000. Reports so far indicate that the numbers heading for the border are likely to be around 100,000. First hand accounts from refugees arriving over the border describe long walks in the forest, over the last two weeks, indicating that many of those arriving have initially come from the Katale and Kahindo camps and not the original Mugunga population.

There are also some 490,000 refugees from Bukavu and Uvira who have not been accounted for. Concentrations of refugees - apparently mixed up with the internally displaced - remain inaccessible in the Zairean interior.

[ENDS]

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Date: Fri, 15 Nov 1996 19:45:06 +0300 (GMT+0300) From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes <irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

## **Zaire: IRIN Update 25 on Eastern Zaire for 15 Nov 1996 96.11.15**

Sender: owner-irinlist@dha.unon.org

To: irinlist@dha.unon.org

MIME-version: 1.0

Precedence: list

>Received: (from majordom@localhost) by dha.unon.org (8.6.12/8.6.12) id

TAA25183; Fri, 15 Nov 1996 19:49:23 +0300

### UNITED NATIONS

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### IRIN Emergency Update No. 25 on Eastern Zaire (15 November 1996)

Refugees continued to stream across the Zairean border into Rwanda throughout the day but there are no hard figures on numbers of arrivals. By 1pm local time UNHCR had estimated that 15,000 people had arrived in Gisenyi. UNHCR Geneva said that if the rate of arrival did not slow, 100,000 were expected by this evening.

The exodus was so far reported "orderly" and aid agencies were standing by in Gisenyi. WFP said it could feed 200,000 people for 10 days, but a spokesperson for WFP in Gisenyi expressed concern about the capacity of aid agencies to cope with the sheer numbers. UN eyewitnesses said Mugunga camp - from where most of the returnees were walking - was empty at midday. TV pictures have shown the remains of a massacre at the deserted camp of fifteen people, including women and children.

First-hand accounts from refugees say that the Interahamwe and former Rwandan forces tried to make the refugees retreat with them into the interior yesterday. Some of the refugees who refused to go with the Hutu militants were reportedly killed, and an unknown number accompanied them into the interior. Refugees are also reportedly heading towards Masisi. There are also some 490,000 refugees from Bukavu and Uvira who have not been accounted for. Concentrations of refugees - apparently mixed up with the internally displaced - remain inaccessible in the Zairean interior.

UNHCR chief Sagata Ogata told the BBC she was "elated" at the refugee exodus, but stressed that measures should be taken to ensure the safety of thousands of other refugees hiding out

further in the interior. Madame Ogata said she would still like the help of a multi-national force to set up road security and to encourage other refugees still inside Zaire to repatriate.

According to a BBC report Zaire's Minister of Information said the government was happy the refugees were repatriating as "it was the only solution". He also expressed frustration that Zaire had not been properly consulted about the mandate of the multi-national forces. The ICRC today launched an appeal for 49 million Swiss francs (US\$38.5 million) to cover the cost of its operation in eastern Zaire for three months. It said Kinshasa had given it permission to operate throughout Zairean territory, and it was now in a position to provide non-food relief supplies for 525,000 people and food for 250,000 people per month. It was not planning to set up new camps, but to help people on the move. Should reports of epidemics be confirmed, the ICRC would be able to treat 30,000 people. A UN interagency flash appeal is due to be launched early next week.

Medecins sans Frontieres (MSF) appealed yesterday to the UN to immediately authorise the deployment of a multinational force, warning otherwise of tens of thousands of deaths among the refugees and internally displaced people. The agency said it was outraged by the "apathy" of the international community.

After a day of intense negotiations, Western nations at the UN agreed late Thursday on a mandate for deploying a multinational force in eastern Zaire. The UN Security Council is due to authorise the force later today. The force is expected to eventually comprise at least 10,000 troops aimed at "facilitating" the return of refugees. Dutch foreign minister Hans van Mierlo on Thursday joined the calls for disarming Hutu militias, but the Canadian commander of the force Lt-Gen Maurice Baril ruled out the possibility at a news conference in New York. Baril said the main headquarters would be in Goma, with branches in Kigali and Kinshasa. Staging bases would be established in Kigali, Entebbe, and Nairobi, with two "secure forward operations bases" in Goma and Bukavu.

Britain sent a 43-strong reconnaissance party to the region today to check conditions on the ground, and Brazil offered to send 150 troops. The commander of American troops possibly to be sent to eastern Zaire arrived in Kigali on Thursday, accompanied by about 40 other soldiers, state-run Rwandan radio reported. He said the group had come to assess the situation and decide whether US troops should be sent.

Burundi said today it would not host a multinational force unless regional economic sanctions were lifted. "You can't leave the population here to suffer in misery while helping those on the other side of the border," foreign minister Luc Rukingama told AFP. "We shall be very happy to make our ports and airports available as soon as the economic blockade is lifted."

UN Special Envoy Raymond Chretien was headed for Burundi today to discuss the crisis in eastern Zaire with Pierre Buyoya. A spokesman for Chretien said he met Zairean leaders in Kinshasa on Thursday and received assurances that US troops within a multinational force would be welcome. Chretien is due to meet Rwandan president Bizimungu in Kigali on Saturday. Chretien, travelling with UN Humanitarian Coordinator Sergio Vieira de Mello was scheduled to arrive in Kigali tonight.

Zairean deputy premier Mutombo Bakafwa Nsenda said in Rome today that Zaire had not been formally notified of plans for a multinational force and in any case, his country would not allow relief aid for refugees to be brought in. The aid must be placed and distributed in Rwanda, he added. According to BBC radio, the Zairean information minister said his country was happy the refugees were returning.

President Mobutu expressed on Thursday support for humanitarian aid corridors to allow the repatriation of refugees from his country, a visiting OAU delegation said. He told the delegation at his villa near the French city of Nice that he was ready to do anything to restore peace and stability to the region and insisted on the inviolability of frontiers. Opposition leader Etienne Tshisekedi meanwhile said he was ready to meet Mobutu in France for talks on forming a government to resolve the crisis in the east. He told a Kinshasa news conference on Thursday it was "high time" responsible Zaireans met to resolve the issue.

Belgian commercial VTM television reported Thursday that Tutsi rebels were holding 40 Belgian nationals in Goma. Foreign minister Erik Derycke told the television the Belgians were not physically threatened but their movements were limited.

A UNHCR report on Thursday said at least 80,000 internally displaced people had gathered in the northern town of Kisangani where a team from UNHCR, WFP and UNICEF was looking into the possibility of launching an assistance programme. According to unconfirmed reports, another 80,000 refugees were said to be in the Walikale area, about 80 kms west of Goma.

The number of returnees to Burundi from refugee camps near Uvira has dropped sharply raising concern among aid workers, DHA reported from Bujumbura between 7-12 November. About 140,000 of the 220,000 refugees who fled the camps were Burundian Hutus but only 40,000 of them have been accounted for. Tens of thousands of refugees have also returned directly from South Kivu to the volatile northwest Cibitoke province. Between 12,000 and 16,000 are believed to be living in fields near Buganda, 10km south of Cibitoke town. Another 3,000 are in another camp north of Cibitoke.

UNHCR said 21,000 people had fled Burundi to Tanzania so far this month, compared with 8,100 in October. There were 14,500 refugees in Kibundo camp and over 6,600 in Kasulu as of yesterday. 15,000 refugees were registered in the Kigoma region, including a small number of Burundians and Rwandans, and there were 10,000 new arrivals in lakeside villages.

The official Ugandan New Vision newspaper reported today that some 70,000 people had fled their homes near the Uganda-Zaire border in the Kasese area after intensive fighting. It quoted military sources as saying the clashes were between Zairean-assisted Ugandan dissidents and Ugandan government forces aided by Zairean Tutsis rebels.

Nairobi, 15 November 1995, 16:40 GMT

Date: Sat, 16 Nov 1996 10:51:33 +0300 (GMT+0300) From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes  
<irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

## **Zaire: IRIN Briefing - Facts and Figures 16 Nov 1996 96.11.16**

Sender: owner-irinlist@dha.unon.org

To: irinlist@dha.unon.org

MIME-version: 1.0

Precedence: list

>Received: (from majordom@localhost) by dha.unon.org (8.6.12/8.6.12) id  
LAA29431; Sat, 16 Nov 1996 11:19:36 +0300

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[IRIN Note: This document is in no way intended to be comprehensive, but offers basic information thought to be useful to the humanitarian community during the present crisis.]

Zaire: IRIN Briefing - Facts and Figures 16 November 1996

### INTRODUCTION:

Zaire -- Africa's third largest nation -- is located at the heart of the continent, and has become ever more embroiled in chaos since independence from Belgium in 1960. The sprawling country has vast mineral reserves, and regions such as copper-rich Shaba and diamond-rich Kasai are virtually autonomous.

Home to 1.2 million Rwandan and Burundian Hutu refugees in the east, Zaire is now wracked by a revolt in the eastern Kivu region led by Tutsi rebels, widely believed to be backed by soldiers from the Tutsi-led Rwandan army. Refugees are again on the move, and the rag-tag Zairean army's flight from the rebels, coupled with President Mobutu's prolonged absence from the country, has demonstrated Kinshasa's growing inability to control events in the country.

### BASIC FACTS:

Area - 2,344,885 sq km, 905,365 sq miles

Capital - Kinshasa

Official language - French

Population - 41.2 million in 1993

Average life expectancy at birth - 52 years

Adult literacy - 75.2 percent

#### CHRONOLOGY:

June 1960: Independence from Belgium. Joseph Kasavubu proclaimed president, Patrice Lumumba prime minister. Armed mutiny five days later and Belgian chief of staff replaced by Col (later Marshal) Joseph-Desire Mobutu.

February 1961: Lumumba murdered.

January 1964: Rebellion breaks out in southern Kivu and northern Katanga (now Shaba) provinces. Within a few months the rebels were in control of the east and northeast of the country. In early 1965, the revolt was defeated by the army, assisted by Belgian troops, mercenaries and members of the Banyamulenge Tutsi ethnic group.

August 1964: New constitution establishes presidential system of government and federal structure.

November 1965: Mobutu declares himself head of the 'Second Republic', imposes five year ban on party politics.

1966: Mobutu forms Mouvement Populaire de la Revolution (MPR). Provinces reduced to eight, Leopoldville becomes Kinshasa.

1970: Presidential and legislative elections. Mobutu, as the sole candidate, elected president end October, and members of the 420-member legislative council elected from a list of candidates selected by the MPR political bureau.

October 1971: Republic of Congo renamed Republic of Zaire.

1982: Opposition movement gains momentum with formation of the Union pour la Democratie et le Progres Social (UPDS) and the Front Congolais pour le Retablissement de la Democratie (FCD), with exiled Nguza Karl-I-Bond as its spokesman.

1990: Relations with Belgium enter all time low after Brussels freezes assistance to Zaire following the killing of student demonstrators.

October 1990: Mobutu announces that full multi-party system will come into force.

1991: Opposition parties come together under the umbrella of Union Sacree and take part in a national conference in August aimed at drafting a new constitution.

December 1992: National conference dissolves itself, and is succeeded by a 453-member High Council of the Republic (HCR) with Archbishop Monsengwo as its president. It declares Etienne Tshisekedi as prime minister.

March 1993: Mobutu attempts to reassert political authority by convening a special "conclave" of political forces to debate the country's future, and a parallel administration is formed with Faustin Birindwa as prime minister.

1994: Transitional legislature, known as Haut Conseil de la Republique-Parlement de Transition, formed and Leon Kengo wa Dondo elected premier of a transitional government.

July/August 1994: Zaire's international standing enhanced after the influx of over one million refugees fleeing the civil war in Rwanda.

January 1995: International concern after an outbreak of the fatal Ebola virus in the southwestern town of Kikwit.

May 1996: Violence escalates in the eastern region of Masisi in North Kivu as Zairean forces, former Rwandan soldiers and Hutu refugees target Tutsi villagers who have lived in the region for decades. Thousands of Tutsis flee to Rwanda.

August 1996: Mobutu undergoes surgery for prostate cancer in Lausanne, Switzerland.

October 1996: Concern mounts over Mobutu's health and his leadership, as he prolongs his stay in Switzerland, and fighting between rebel ethnic Tutsis in South Kivu - known as Banyamulenge - and the Zairean armed forces engulfs the eastern Zaire region.

November 1996: Great Lakes region faced with another refugee crisis after Banyamulenge rebels oust Zairean soldiers in Bukavu, Goma and Uvira regions and thousands of people are again on the move. Kinshasa effectively rudderless.

#### SOME OF THE KEY PLAYERS:

**MOBUTU SESE SEKO** - Zaire's strongman president for three decades and arguably the one symbol of national unity, Mobutu has been absent since August when he had surgery for prostate cancer in Switzerland. He is currently in France. He came to power in a military coup in 1965 and has ruled since with cunning. In 1990 he embraced democratic reforms, but the transition has dragged on and Zaire has yet to hold elections. Mobutu has a magnificent palace at his home of Gbadolite, deep in the jungle of northern Equateur district. In recent years he has spent most of his time there, rarely visiting the capital.

**KENGO WA DONDO** - Zaire's half-Polish, part-Rwandan prime minister is appreciated by the West for his willingness to reform the corrupt economy. A wealthy businessman, he was a

prime minister under Mobutu's one-party system but during the transition to democracy moved towards the opposition ranks. The transitional parliament elected him prime minister in 1994 as a candidate from the opposition acceptable to Mobutu's supporters, who are in the majority. His attempts to implement economic reforms reflected well on Mobutu, shunned by the West for human rights abuses and lack of democracy.

**ELUKI MONGA AUNDU** - As army chief of staff, General Eluki commands Zaire's biggest armed force, a ragged body estimated at around 25,000, forced by low pay to survive on what they can forage or extract from the civilian population. Eluki is from the same Equateur region as Mobutu.

**BARAMOTO KPAMA** - General Baramoto commands the civil guard, most feared of the military forces by the civilian population. Well-trained and fed compared to the regular army, it is used to put down local disturbances and also has a combat role. Baramoto comes from the same Ngbandi ethnic group as Mobutu.

**NZIMBI NGBALE** - Commanding general of the Special Presidential Division (DSP), the most disciplined, best-paid and professional of Zaire's fighting forces. Their specific duty is to assure the president's security but includes defending vital national interests. Employed by the United Nations, a contingent of the DSP was used to guard Rwandan Hutu refugee camps in the east. Nzimbi has close family ties to Mobutu.

**KAMANDA WA KAMANDA** - A career politician, the interior minister is a centrist allied with Kengo, having once been close to Mobutu. In 1972 he was elected assistant secretary-general of the Organisation of African Unity. Kamanda has been outspoken on getting Hutu refugees to return home, as both foreign minister and now interior minister. He is from the western Bandundu district close to the capital Kinshasa.

**ETIENNE TSHISEKEDI** - A onetime friend of Mobutu, Tshisekedi is now the main figure in radical political opposition to the president. He was arrested on numerous occasions before democratic reforms began. As prime minister elected by a national conference in 1992, he was shunted aside in favour of a Mobutu appointee in 1993. Tshisekedi refuses to accept Kengo's 1994 election and claims the job for himself. The opposition, and even Tshisekedi's own Union for Democracy and Social Progress Party, is divided. His origins lie in the diamond-rich Kasai region of central Zaire.

**NGUZA KARL-I-BOND** - Veteran opposition leader and political survivor, he has been everything from first commissioner (prime minister) under Mobutu's one-party state to a prisoner on death row. A former ambassador to the United States, he was a major player in the early days of the democratic transition. He leads the Union of Federalists and Independent Republicans.

**LAURENT KABILA** - A former Marxist who heads the rebel Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire (ADFL), dominated by the Banyamulenge ethnic Tutsis now controlling much of eastern Zaire. He says the aim of the alliance is to put an end to Mobutu's rule and eradicate corruption.

The ADFL, formed on 18 October 1996 at Lemera, South Kivu, is composed of:

- o Parti de la Revolution Populaire, a Marxist-oriented group founded in the 1960s battling the government in the east. Prominent leader: Laurent Kabila, from Shaba.
- o "Kissasse" rebels, who follow military commander Andre Kissasse. They include fighters from the eastern Zaire Nande tribe and Kasai. Party: Conseil National de Resistance pour la Democratie.
- o Mouvement Revolutionnaire pour la Liberation du Zaire. Prominent leader: Nindaga Masusu, reportedly of Bashi ethnicity.
- o Zairean Banyamulenge Tutsis from South Kivu province, joined by the Banyarwanda Tutsis from North Kivu. Party: Alliance Democratique des Peuples (ADP), leader: Deo/Douglas Bugera (from Rutshuru), prominent member, Muller Ruhimbika (Banyamulenge).

In addition, fighters within the rebel forces may include:

- o Ethnic Luba dissidents from southeastern Kasai province.
- o Shaba fighters drawn from 500,000 people who fled government terror in the southeastern Shaba province to Kasai in 1992.
- o Zairean army deserters.
- o Elements from the Mai-Mai and Bangilima North Kivu Zairean militia - although they have reportedly fought on both sides of the conflict.

#### ECONOMY:

Main Exports - Copper, coffee, diamonds, cobalt, crude oil; mainly to the USA, EU and Japan.

Main Imports - Refined petroleum products, heavy machinery, food and fuels; mainly from the USA, EU and Japan.

#### Economic Performance Profile Indicator

GDP per capita (\$)	198
Real GDP growth (%)	-8.5
Inflation (%)	2870.5
Unemployment (%)	39.2
Capital Investment	8% of GNP

[Sources: IBC USA Licensing Inc.,1995; Reuters; AFP; AP; New African Year Book 1995-96; Europa-Africa South of the Sahara 1996; Countries of the World Yearbook 1997]

[ENDS]

[Via the UN DHA Integrated Regional Information Network. The material contained in this communication may not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its agencies. UN DHA IRIN Tel: +254 2 622123 Fax: +254 2 622129 e-mail: [irin@dha.unon.org](mailto:irin@dha.unon.org) for more information. If you re-print, copy, archive or re-post this item, please retain this credit and disclaimer.]

Date: Sat, 16 Nov 1996 11:43:31 +0300 (GMT+0300) From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes  
<irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

**Zaire: Full Text of Chapter VII of the UN Charter [issued:] 96.11.16**

Sender: owner-irinwire@dha.unon.org

To: irinwire@dha.unon.org

MIME-version: 1.0

Precedence: list

>Received: (from majordom@localhost) by dha.unon.org (8.6.12/8.6.12) id

LAA29677; Sat, 16 Nov 1996 11:44:01 +0300

UNITED NATIONS CHARTER

CHAPTER VII

ACTION WITH RESPECT TO THREATS TO THE PEACE, BREACHES OF THE  
PEACE, AND ACTS OF AGGRESSION

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ARTICLE 39

The Security Council shall determine the existence of any threat to the peace, breach of the peace, or act of aggression and shall make recommendations, or decide what measures shall be taken in accordance with Articles 41 and 42, to maintain or restore international peace and security.

ARTICLE 40

In order to prevent an aggravation of the situation, the Security Council may, before making the recommendations or deciding upon the measures provided for in Article 39, call upon the parties concerned to comply with such provisional measures as it deems necessary or desirable. Such provisional measures shall be without prejudice to the rights, claims, or position of the parties concerned. The Security Council shall duly take account of failure to comply with such provisional measures.

ARTICLE 41

The Security Council may decide what measures not involving the use of armed force are to be employed to give effect to its decisions, and it may call upon the Members of the United Nations to apply such measures. These may include complete or partial interruption of

economic relations and of rail, sea, air, postal, telegraphic, radio, and other means of communication, and the severance of diplomatic relations.

#### ARTICLE 42

Should the Security Council consider that measures provided for in Article 41 would be inadequate or have proved to be inadequate, it may take such action by air, sea, or land forces as may be necessary to maintain or restore international peace and security. Such action may include demonstrations, blockade, and other operations by air, sea, or land forces of Members of the United Nations.

#### ARTICLE 43

1. All Members of the United Nations, in order to contribute to the maintenance of international peace and security, undertake to make available to the Security Council, on its call and in accordance with a special agreement or agreements, armed forces, assistance, and facilities, including rights of passage, necessary for the purpose of maintaining international peace and security.

2. Such agreement or agreements shall govern the numbers and types of forces, their degree of readiness and general location, and the nature of the facilities and assistance to be provided.

3. The agreement or agreements shall be negotiated as soon as possible on the initiative of the Security Council. They shall be concluded between the Security Council and Members or between the Security Council and groups of Members and shall be subject to ratification by the signatory states in accordance with their respective constitutional processes.

#### ARTICLE 44

When the Security Council has decided to use force it shall, before calling upon a Member not represented on it to provide armed forces in fulfilment of the obligations assumed under Article 43, invite that Member, if the Member so desires, to participate in the decisions of the Security Council concerning the employment of contingents of that Member's armed forces.

#### ARTICLE 45

In order to enable the United Nations to take urgent military measures, Members shall hold immediately available national air-force contingents for combined international enforcement action. The strength and degree of readiness of these contingents and plans for their combined action shall be determined within the limits laid down in the special agreement or agreements referred to in Article 43, by the Security Council with the assistance of the Military Staff Committee.

#### ARTICLE 46

Plans for the application of armed force shall be made by the Security Council with the assistance of the Military Staff Committee.

#### ARTICLE 47

1. There shall be established a Military Staff Committee to advise and assist the Security Council on all questions relating to the Security Council's military requirements for the maintenance of international peace and security, the employment and command of forces placed at its disposal, the regulation of armaments, and possible disarmament.

2. The Military Staff Committee shall consist of the Chiefs of Staff of the permanent members of the Security Council or their representatives. Any Member of the United Nations not permanently represented on the Committee shall be invited by the Committee to be associated with it when the efficient discharge of the Committee's responsibilities requires the participation of that Member in its work.

3. The Military Staff Committee shall be responsible under the Security Council for the strategic direction of any armed forces placed at the disposal of the Security Council. Questions relating to the command of such forces shall be worked out subsequently.

4. The Military Staff Committee, with the authorization of the Security Council and after consultation with appropriate regional agencies, may establish regional sub-committees.

#### ARTICLE 48

1. The action required to carry out the decisions of the Security Council for the maintenance of international peace and security shall be taken by all the Members of the United Nations or by some of them, as the Security Council may determine.

2. Such decisions shall be carried out by the Members of the United Nations directly and through their action in the appropriate international agencies of which they remember.

#### ARTICLE 49

The Members of the United Nations shall join in affording mutual assistance in carrying out the measures decided upon by the Security Council.

#### ARTICLE 50

If preventive or enforcement measures against any state are taken by the Security Council, any other state, whether a Member of the United Nations or not, which finds itself confronted with special economic problems arising from the carrying out of those measures shall have the right to consult the Security Council with regard to a solution of those problems.

## ARTICLE 51

Nothing in the present Charter shall impair the inherent right of individual or collective self-defence if an armed attack occurs against a Member of the United Nations, until the Security Council has taken measures necessary to maintain international peace and security. Measures taken by Members in the exercise of this right of self-defence shall be immediately reported to the Security Council and shall not in any way affect the authority and responsibility of the Security Council under the present Charter to take at any time such action as it deems necessary in order to maintain or restore international peace and security.

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[ENDS]

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Date: Sat, 16 Nov 1996 12:16:12 +0300 (GMT+0300) From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes <irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

**Zaire: UN Security Council Resolution 1080 15 Nov 1996 96.11.15**

Sender: owner-irinwire@dha.unon.org

To: irinwire@dha.unon.org

MIME-version: 1.0

Precedence: list

>Received: (from majordom@localhost) by dha.unon.org (8.6.12/8.6.12) id MAA29909; Sat, 16 Nov 1996 12:22:43 +0300

UNITED NATIONS  
Security Council  
15 November 1996

[IRIN Note: This is an unofficial transcript of the text of UN Security Council Resolution 1080 (1996).]

The Security Council,

Reaffirming its resolution 1078 (1996) of 9 November 1996,

Gravely concerned at the continuing deteriorating situation in the Great Lakes region, in particular eastern Zaire,

Taking note of the communique issued by the fourth extraordinary session of the central organ of the Organisation of African Unity Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution held at the level of ministers in Addis Ababa on 11 November 1996 (S/1996/922) as well as a communication dated 13 November 1996 from the Permanent Observer Mission of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) to the United Nations,

Stressing the need for all states to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the states in the region in accordance with their obligations under the Charter of the United Nations,

Underlining the obligation of all concerned strictly to respect the relevant provisions of international humanitarian law,

Having considered the letter dated 14 November 1996 from the Secretary-General to the President of the Security Council (S/1996/941),

Reiterating its support for the special envoy of the Secretary-General, and underlining the need for all governments in the region and parties concerned to cooperate fully with the mission for the special envoy,

Welcoming the efforts of the mediators and representatives of the OAU, the European Union and the states concerned, and encouraging them to coordinate closely their efforts with those of the special envoy,

Recognising that the current situation in eastern Zaire demands an urgent response by the international community,

Reiterating the urgent need for an international conference on peace, security and development in the Great Lakes region under the auspices of the United Nations and OAU to address the problems of the region in a comprehensive way,

Determining that the present situation in eastern Zaire constitutes a threat to international peace and security in the region,

Bearing in mind the humanitarian purposes of the multinational forces as specified below,

Acting under Chapter VII of the charter of the United Nations,

1. Reiterates its condemnation of all acts of violence, and its call for an immediate ceasefire and a complete cessation of all hostilities in the region,
2. Welcomes the letter from the Secretary-General dated 14 November 1996,
3. Welcomes the offers made by member states, in consultation with the states concerned in the region, concerning the establishment for humanitarian purposes of a temporary multinational force to facilitate the immediate return of humanitarian organisations and the effective delivery by civilian relief organisations of humanitarian aid to alleviate the immediate suffering of displaced persons, refugees and civilians at risk in eastern Zaire, and to facilitate the voluntary, orderly repatriation of refugees by the United Nations Commissioner for Refugees as well as the voluntary return of displaced persons, and invites other interested states to offer to participate in these efforts,
4. Welcomes further the offer by a member state (S/1996/941, annex) to take the lead in organising and commanding this temporary multinational force,
5. Authorises the members states cooperating with the Secretary-General to conduct the operation referred to in paragraph 3 above to achieve, by using all necessary means, the humanitarian objectives set out therein,
6. Calls upon all concerned in the region to cooperate fully with the multinational force and humanitarian agencies and to ensure the security and freedom of movement of their personnel,
7. Calls upon the member states participating in the multinational force to cooperate with the Secretary-General and to coordinate closely with the United Nations Coordinator for humanitarian assistance for eastern Zaire and the relevant humanitarian relief operations,

8. Decides that the operation shall terminate on 31 March 1997, unless the Council, on the basis of a report of the Secretary-General, determines that the objectives of the operation have been fulfilled earlier,
9. Decides that the cost of implementing this temporary operation will be borne by the participating member states and other voluntary contributions, and welcomes the establishment by the Secretary-General of a voluntary trust fund with the purpose of supporting African participation in the multinational force,
10. Encourages member states to contribute urgently to this fund or otherwise to give support to enable African states to participate in this force, and requests the Secretary-General to report within 21 days after the adoption of this resolution to enable the Council to consider the adequacy of these arrangements,
11. Requests the member states participating in the multinational force to provide periodic reports at least twice monthly, through the Secretary-General, to the Council, the first such report to be made no later than 21 days after the adoption of this resolution,
12. Expresses its intention to authorise the establishment of a follow-on operation which would succeed the multinational force, and requests the Secretary-General to submit for its consideration a report, no later than 1 January 1997, containing his recommendations regarding the possible concept, mandate, structure, size and duration of such an operation, as well as its estimated costs,
13. Requests the Secretary-General to initiate detailed planning and to determine the willingness of member states to contribute troops for the anticipated follow-on operation,
14. Decides to remain actively seized of the matter.

[Transcribed by UN DHA IRIN, Nairobi.]

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Date: Sat, 16 Nov 1996 13:24:44 +0300 (GMT+0300) From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes <irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

## **Zaire: HRW Urges Separation of Armed Elements from Refugees 96.11.15**

Sender: owner-irinwire@dha.unon.org

To: irinwire@dha.unon.org

MIME-version: 1.0

Precedence: list

>Received: (from majordom@localhost) by dha.unon.org (8.6.12/8.6.12) id

NAA30663; Sat, 16 Nov 1996 13:55:46 +0300

### HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH

(New York, November 15, 1996) As Rwandan refugees streamed out of the major camp at Mugunga in eastern Zaire, Human Rights Watch/Africa today stressed that any new camps established for them must exclude anyone bearing arms, including armed soldiers of the former Rwandan army and militia responsible for the 1994 genocide in Rwanda. According to Peter Takirambudde, Director of Human Rights Watch/Africa, "When refugee camps were first established in Zaire, the international community permitted the civilian and military authorities who had carried out a genocide to reassert their control over the refugee population. To fail to separate armed elements from unarmed refugees now would simply repeat the mistake, postponing any real solution to the crisis. The proposed international force cannot simply hand out porridge; it must offer effective protection for the lives and human rights of the refugees."

Troops of the United States and other participants in the multinational force should rigorously screen all who seek entry to the new sites to ensure that no one bearing arms is admitted. In addition, to protect camps and humanitarian relief corridors, the force must also effectively police areas inside and around the perimeters of the camps to protect refugees and humanitarian workers from assault or intimidation. If the multinational force fails to establish its authority within the camp sites, the Rwandans who directed the genocide could once again take control.

The human rights organization insisted that the force must be mandated to arrest any person indicted by or sought by the International Tribunal for Rwanda in connection with the 1994 genocide. "All the talk of international justice is hollow rhetoric unless the troops are directed to arrest those sought by the Tribunal and provided with the means to do so," Takirambudde said.

Human Rights Watch/Africa also urged the international community to provide resources needed to increase the number of United Nations Human Rights Field Officers monitoring the situation within Rwanda. The Rwandan government has reportedly agreed to adding 200

officers to the 100 now working in the country. This addition of human rights monitors would increase confidence among the returning refugees and help ensure their safe integration into their home communities.

Among the returning refugees, some will certainly be arrested on charges of having participated in the genocide and will swell further the ranks of those now awaiting trial in Rwandan prisons. More than 83,000 persons are detained in inhumane conditions. Rwanda recently adopted a law establishing a system of plea-bargaining for many of those accused of genocide and setting the punishment for those found guilty. It has also received substantial foreign aid for rehabilitating the judicial system and for training magistrates and other judicial personnel. With the legal framework in place and the human and material resources now available, Rwanda should proceed immediately with trial of persons accused of genocide. It must also ensure that future arrests, whether among those now resident in the country or those returning from the camps, be made according to due process.

While acknowledging the need for an international humanitarian response, Human Rights Watch stressed that the fundamental causes of the crisis impunity for past crimes, lack of protection for human rights, and the importance of dialogue among the political actors still must be addressed by both local and international governments.

[...]

[ENDS]

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Date: Sat, 16 Nov 1996 14:07:56 +0300 (GMT+0300) From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes <irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

## **Zaire: IRIN Update 26 on Eastern Zaire for 15-16 Nov 1996 96.11.16**

Sender: owner-irinlist@dha.unon.org

To: irinlist@dha.unon.org

MIME-version: 1.0

Precedence: list

>Received: (from majordom@localhost) by dha.unon.org (8.6.12/8.6.12) id

OAA30872; Sat, 16 Nov 1996 14:09:27 +0300

### UNITED NATIONS

Department of Humanitarian Affairs

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### IRIN Emergency Update No. 26 on Eastern Zaire (15-16 November 1996)

One hundred thousand people have so far crossed the border at Gisenyi as of 10:30 am local time, according to the UN Humanitarian Coordinator's spokesperson, Paul Stromberg.

In spite of the massive return, the United Nations Security Council has mandated a multi-national force to use "all necessary means" to facilitate a humanitarian operation in eastern Zaire. On November 15 (Friday) the Security Council authorised deployment of troops under Chapter VII, which allows for intervention without the consent of the affected governments, and the use of force. The operation is to end on 31 March 1997 unless the Council decides on an earlier date. Details of a follow-on operation to succeed the multi-national force are to be considered.

The cost of the operation is to be borne primarily by the participating member states, but the Security Council welcomed the establishment by the Secretary General of a voluntary trust fund to support African participation in the force. It also called for an international conference on peace, security and development in the Great Lakes region under the auspices of the United Nations and the Organisation of African Unity.

Controversy among member states about whether to disarm or engage the various armed groups continues. The powerful mandate remains open to interpretation. Chapter VII is the same mandate that was invoked for Somalia in 1992.

Both the Canadian and US government have made it a condition of participation that they will not attempt disarmament. The Security Council resolution welcomed the offer of leadership

by the Canadian government. The US - which has already deployed 40 troops to neighbouring Uganda - has gone further by asking for a "de facto ceasefire" and says it does not wish to put troops into a "hostile" environment. However, regional leaders and humanitarian organisations continue to stress the need to separate out armed Hutu militants from genuine refugees, and remain concerned about the numbers of refugees and internally displaced people still in areas inaccessible because of armed groups.

Yesterday's massive exodus of thousands of people into Rwanda, which had prompted comments in the press that there was no longer need for a multi-national force. Estimates of Rwandan refugees heading for the border fluctuate wildly between tens and hundreds of thousands. Some journalists report that registration systems in Rwanda and on the border are breaking down. However, even if the highest estimate is taken, it still means that at least half a million refugees remain inside Zaire - along with unknown concentrations of internally displaced persons.

Zaire presented objections to the authorisation of the force. Zaire's representative, Lukabu Khabouji N'Zaji, said that the Zairean government "should be formally consulted on the composition and mandate of the force and the measures needed to implement the decision". He reiterated the stance that Zaire has maintained since fighting broke out in eastern Zaire, namely that Zaire was the victim of aggression by regular armed forces of Rwanda, Uganda and Burundi. He said that Zaire believed the force should have its headquarters in Zaire, and objected to planning done in Kigali. The representative said the force should have a political as well as humanitarian mandate, and should be able to move around to defend itself militarily if blocked by armed aggressors. Zaire also insisted that there should be no recognition of rebel administration.

Rwandan representative at the UN, Gideon Kayinamura, said the proposed multi-national force "is no longer relevant as far as rescuing Rwandan refugees in eastern Zaire is concerned". He said plans for the proposed force should be altered to adapt to the changing situation on the ground, and should include a new mandate. The representative said a new mandate should consider disarming the ex-Rwandan Government soldiers and militia, as well as "availing adequate resources to facilitate the rehabilitation and re-integration of the returning refugees."

In a statement to the Security Council, the Canadian representative, Robert Fowler, said there was still need for a force despite the "heartening news" of returning refugees. In reference to the mandate, he interpreted it as not including disarmament or engagement with armed groups. He said it was important to be clear about what the multinational force was seeking to accomplish, which was facilitation of humanitarian assistance - "We do not, therefore, envisage disarmament or interposition as elements of the Force's mandate. Indeed, disarmament cannot be part of this mandate, as it would require a much larger and robust force which would need to engage in a war with those who most evidently do not wish to be disarmed." Canada anticipates a multi-national force 10 - 15,000 strong. Canadian Foreign Minister Lloyd Axworthy yesterday claimed that the exodus of refugees across the border was a "direct consequence" of the plan to send a Canadian-led multi-national force to the region, reports AFP.

US representative Madeleine Albright welcomed the formation of a force with Canadian leadership, but said "some outstanding questions concerning the organisation and operation of the mission remain to be worked out". The United States has faced criticism for dragging its feet over the multinational force, until Canada offered to lead on Tuesday November 12th.

The Security Council has been strongly criticised by Kenyan president Daniel arap Moi for not consulting African nations about preparations for an intervention force in Zaire. In Rome, at the UN World Food Summit, President Moi said yesterday he expected the UN to consult with regional leaders through the OAU, but had only learned of authorisation for intervention "through the media". President Moi hosted the November 5th Nairobi Summit which brought together regional leaders and affected states (except for Burundi, still under regional sanctions). The Nairobi Summit, which called for a multi-national force with a strong African component and peace talks, was widely seen as the first main step taken to address the eastern Zaire crisis.

Burundi on Friday said the main objective of the multi-national force should be to disarm the former Rwandan forces and Interahamwe militia. A statement issued by Burundi's UN ambassador said they should be held in centres far from the borders with Burundi and Rwanda. The statement warned that otherwise, the mission would be a repeat of 1994 in Rwanda when UNAMIR "helped unleash the genocide". The statement also called for an international conference on the Great Lakes region, under UN and OAU auspices, aimed at triggering a massive return of refugees to their countries. It added that while world attention was focused on Zaire, Burundi which was toiling under economic sanctions, had been forgotten.

UN Special Envoy Raymond Chretien met Burundian leader Pierre Buyoya on Friday to discuss the multi-national force. According to Chretien, Buyoya said he had no objections to the force but that he needed more details of the mission before he would allow the establishment of a base in Bujumbura. He described Buyoya's attitude as "extremely practical."

A senior UN official said today he was concerned about the military's apparent lack of consultation with the humanitarian community regarding the scope of operations in regard to humanitarian needs. He said it appeared the military were planning deployment and operations in isolation, as in Somalia in 1992.

Thousands of refugees continued to stream across the Rwandan border at Gisenyi today after spending a rainy night in the open or under makeshift shelters. A spokesman for the UN Humanitarian Coordinator in Kigali said they were crossing at the rate of 12,000 an hour. According to UNHCR, a further 300,000 people were on their way from Mugunga and further west. A UN refugee official reported first thing this morning, two long columns of people could be seen snaking into Goma from the west. UNHCR expects a further 250,000 people to cross the border today. Five hundred unaccompanied children have been registered so far.

Rwandan president Pasteur Bizimungu and his cabinet were at the border yesterday to welcome home the refugees. He told them they would be able to reclaim their property in

Rwanda, and that only the guilty would have anything to fear. CNN showed pictures of the refugees applauding Bizimungu.

Many of the returnees are being encouraged to continue to the Nkamira transit camp, 25km from the border, for onward trucking to their home communes. Along the way, they are being supplied with nutritional biscuits and water. At Nkamira, aid agencies hope to separate the refugees into groups according to the distance of their home communes. Food packages will be handed out at prefectural level, before the refugees return to their communes. Fifty trucks organised by UNHCR are available, with more on standby, and the first truckloads are expected in the home communes today. The refugees will receive plastic sheeting, jerry cans and blankets. Screening by the Rwandan government will now take place in the home communes, apart from the search for weapons at the border. Other refugees are being housed at the Umubano camp near the border crossing, which has a capacity for 30,000 people.

UNHCR estimates it has supplies for 50,000 people in Gisenyi and additional stocks are being brought in for another 20,000 people. UNHCR stocks of food and non-food items in Rwanda are sufficient for 200,000 people. The World Food Programme meanwhile says it has 30,000 MT of food in Rwanda, enough to feed 700,000 people for 45 days, and NGOs have emergency relief for another 250,000 people.

Heavy weapons fire was heard in eastern Zaire from the Gisenyi area around 10:00 local time today, AFP reported. It said a UN agency official described how a small plane flying over Goma and Gisenyi came under anti-aircraft fire, although it was not hit.

Sixty-five "invaders" and three Ugandan soldiers have been killed in two days of fighting in western Uganda, according to the New Vision today. The invaders were still in control of Mpondwe border post by yesterday afternoon. A Ugandan newspaper reported today that Health Minister Crispus Kiyonga narrowly escaped death in a rebel ambush on the Ugandan-Zaire border Thursday. According to the Monitor, he was forced to abandon his car and run on foot for one kilometre as rebels fired bullets in his direction. Fighting has been raging in the Kasese border area since Wednesday between Ugandan troops and Zairean-backed rebels.

Nairobi, 16 November 1996, 11:05 GMT

[ENDS]

[Via the UN DHA Integrated Regional Information Network. The material contained in this communication may not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its agencies. UN DHA IRIN Tel: +254 2 622123 Fax: +254 2 622129 e-mail: irin@dha.unon.org for more information. If you re-print, copy, archive or re-post this item, please retain this credit and disclaimer.]

Date: Sun, 17 Nov 1996 14:19:20 +0300 (GMT+0300) From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes <irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

## **Zaire: IRIN Update 27 on Eastern Zaire for 16-17 Nov 1996 96.11.17**

Sender: owner-irinlist@dha.unon.org

To: irinlist@dha.unon.org

MIME-version: 1.0

Precedence: list

>Received: (from majordom@localhost) by dha.unon.org (8.6.12/8.6.12) id

OAA02730; Sun, 17 Nov 1996 14:21:45 +0300

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### IRIN Emergency Update No. 27 on Eastern Zaire (16-17 November 1996)

As thousands of people resumed their trek across the border into Rwanda this morning, doubts were cast on the need to deploy a multi-national force in Eastern Zaire to aid refugees. As of last night a human tide of some 200,000 people had crossed the border into Rwanda. UNHCR believes that as many as 300,000 more may be on the way.

The Rwandan Government and Zairean rebel leader Laurent-Desire Kabila both said on Saturday that there was no longer any need for sending an international force to Zaire. Kabila, apparent head of the Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire, said the "job they wanted to do here has been done by us". On Thursday rebels ousted militia and former Rwandan troops from the camp of Mugunga, 15 kilometres west of Goma. This sparked off the mass exodus back to Rwanda. The US Government has said that it will continue to prepare for an international humanitarian mission to Zaire but that it will not make a final decision for several days. The European Commissioner for humanitarian aid, Emma Bonino also cast doubt on the usefulness of a multi-national force if "it could not disarm warring factions". Bonino blames "American reservations" for delaying the decision - approved by the UN Security Council on Friday - to deploy the Canadian-led force.

Canada, meanwhile, has voiced determination to proceed with the mission. "Planning continues on track", said Foreign Ministry spokesman, John Bell. He said that despite the mass return of refugees, the humanitarian crisis remained. Hundreds of thousands of people still in Zaire were stranded without food, water or shelter. Yesterday AFP reported that planes carrying 24 Canadian soldiers were held up for some hours in Kenya pending the permission of the Rwandan Government to land in Kigali. The soldiers had been deployed to

install the Goma headquarters for the Canadian commander of the force, General Maurice Baril. General Baril is due to travel to Germany on Tuesday to meet other military officials involved in the mission.

This morning aid agencies were struggling to cope with the sheer mass of people arriving at the border. UNHCR has described the return as the "largest and swiftest" homeward movement of refugees in memory and said that it had mobilised all available staff and resources to meet the needs of the returning refugees. Most new arrivals appear to be heading towards the official transit posts in and around Gisenyi but aid workers report that streams of refugees can be seen in the hills heading directly for their former homes. The first 50 buses laid on by UNHCR were due to start ferrying people to their home villages this morning from Nkamira some 21 kilometres from the Gisenyi border crossing. Doctors treating sick children said that their biggest problem so far was diarrhoea and vomiting. A Merlin official said that many children were badly dehydrated and in a state of collapse. In Goma, relief officials said that they feared a cholera epidemic. Some 25 confirmed cases amongst refugees have now been reported from the Goma hospital.

Attempts are being made to provide high protein biscuits to the new arrivals but aid workers in Gisenyi said that distribution is difficult because of the extraordinary numbers of people. WFP announced yesterday that it would begin to distribute food rations once the refugees are back in their home communes.

The High Commissioner for Refugees, Sadako Ogata said yesterday that she was delighted at the mass return. She stressed, however, that the big challenge for the international community and UNHCR was "to reintegrate returnees in conditions of security". Ogata said that UN Human Rights Field Officers would work closely with UNHCR Field Officers to monitor the returnees in their home communes. AFP has reported that observers in Gisenyi have said that they are concerned about the strain of the mass return on Rwanda's fragile political foundations.

Human Rights Watch/Africa yesterday stressed that any new camps established for refugees in Zaire must exclude anyone bearing arms, including the ex-FAR and militia. Failing to separate out armed elements, said the organisation, would simply repeat the mistakes made in 1994.

So far there has been no agreement on access to the 500,000 or so Rwandan and Burundian refugees scattered in south Kivu. Aid workers are reported today to be continuing attempts to reach them.

Renewed fighting broke out yesterday between rebels and Zairean forces around Sake northwest of Goma yesterday and there was speculation that Zairean troops may be planning a new offensive in the next few days.

Burundi's leader Pierre Buyoya said Saturday that Hutu rebels displaced by the fighting in eastern Zaire were travelling across Burundi and setting up bases in Tanzania. Buyoya said that he was concerned about the clouded relations between Burundi and Dar-es-Salaam.

Relief agencies in Burundi, meanwhile, sent food, medicines, plastic sheeting, blankets, jerrycans and water purification tablets to Cibitoke province - the scene of some of the most intense fighting in Burundi - on Saturday for the 20,000 or so Burundians who have returned to the northwest from eastern Zaire. UNHCR reported that only one refugee turned up at Gatumba transit camp near Bujumbura yesterday. Altogether some 13,500 have crossed at Gatumba and most have been resettled in their home communes. Up to 20,000 more have returned spontaneously to Cibitoke.

Nairobi, 17 November 1996, 11:15 GMT

[ENDS]

[Via the UN DHA Integrated Regional Information Network. The material contained in this communication may not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its agencies. UN DHA IRIN Tel: +254 2 622123 Fax: +254 2 622129 e-mail: [irin@dha.unon.org](mailto:irin@dha.unon.org) for more information. If you re-print, copy, archive or re-post this item, please retain this credit and disclaimer.]

Date: Mon, 18 Nov 1996 14:04:09 +0300 (GMT+0300) From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes <irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

## **Zaire: IRIN Update 28 on Eastern Zaire for 17-18 Nov 96 96.11.18**

Sender: owner-irinlist@dha.unon.org

To: irinlist@dha.unon.org

MIME-version: 1.0

Precedence: list

>Received: (from majordom@localhost) by dha.unon.org (8.6.12/8.6.12) id OAA08534; Mon, 18 Nov 1996 14:08:40 +0300

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IRIN Emergency Update No. 28 on Eastern Zaire (17-18 November 1996)

A UNHCR spokesman said that 400,000 refugees had crossed into Rwanda as of this morning. Rwandan Minister of Rehabilitation and Social Integration Patrick Mazimhaka said he had tried to go to the border yesterday and described the scene as "moving". He said it became difficult to proceed to the border from about 90 kilometres away.

Press reports say the retreating Interahamwe and ex-Rwandan forces left a trail of documents relating to a planned invasion of Rwanda, along with abandoned weapons, uniforms and medical supplies. Military identity cards were found torn up, with abandoned uniforms, in Mugunga camp suggesting some Hutu militants have joined the march as civilians across the border. Journalists say documents found in the camp also provide direct evidence of arms supplies, including those relating to large amounts of weapons flown into Kinshasa for the Hutu militants.

The Times (UK) reported today that documents prove sales of weapons by a British company after the arms embargo. According to the documents found on the road to Sake, northwest of Goma town, British company Mil-Tec Corporation supplied Hutu militants with rifles, ammunition, grenades, rockets, rocket-launchers and explosives worth more than \$5.5 million. AFP reports that other documents found relate to guerrilla operations on Rwandan territory, ammunition supplies, and the management of vehicles and other military resources the troops had managed to bring when they fled Rwanda in 1994. Journalists with access to Mugunga camp say the militant Hutus fled north of Sake where gunfire can still be heard. Rwandan Minister Patrick Mazimhaka said on the BBC that evidence of planned

military activity by the Hutu militants came as "no surprise" and that the Rwandan government was aware of it.

Zaire threatened to wage war on Burundi and Rwanda to defend its territory which it described as being violated by the two neighbouring states, the Zairean deputy Foreign Minister was reported as saying on Friday. He is on a diplomatic tour around Europe and northern Africa.

The exodus of 400,000 leaves at least half a million refugees inside Zaire. Information regarding the whereabouts of the remainder remains scant, with much still depending on guesswork. Their condition is believed to be worse than the Mugunga refugees - who had some food and medical supplies up to the time of dispersal - and will deteriorate as the period without assistance lengthens. Some, like the Uvira caseload, were in a poorer nutritional state than other camps before the crisis, and have been in the bush for at least three weeks.

There are consistent reports of a concentration of people moving towards Masisi, believed to be primarily from the Katale and Kahindo camps (northern Goma). According to aid agencies who are in contact with local workers with the refugees, this group is situated along the western edge of the park forest moving towards Masisi town. Some of the refugees from this group fled to Mugunga camp a few days ago, and some have been killed in fighting around Tongo around November 13. Many of the "vulnerables" - women and children - are reported to have gun shot and shrapnel wounds.

Reports indicate that the concentration of people covers some 10 kilometres and is estimated to be about 300,000 refugees; but this conflicts with other reports that a significant number managed to get to Mugunga and are now joining the exodus into Rwanda. It is sufficient to say that "a large group" of people are in the Masisi area.

According to aid workers working in the Goma refugee camps before the eastern Zaire crisis erupted, Katale camp was characterised by its middle class/intellectual component, perceived to be some of the "masterminds" of the 1994 Rwandan genocide. Kibumba in contrast, was characterised by its rural-peasant component. Kahindo is described as having been occupied mainly by people from Kigali and Kigali-rurale. Aid workers point out that intellectuals - government officials, teachers, civil servants etc - may not wish to return to Rwanda, and are likely to be among the group heading towards Masisi. Information gathered before the crisis indicates that Masisi was a known Interahamwe training and supply stronghold.

Other information regarding the location of refugees remaining inside eastern Zaire include reports that refugees from Bukavu had initially started to move north towards Minova, on the Goma road. However, fighting northwest of Goma (believed to emanate primarily from inter-militia battles and retreating Hutu militants) has caused displacement towards Minova. Other sources, including one close to the rebels, said last week that the rebels have been unsuccessful in establishing control in territory north-east of Bukavu. This would make passage northwards difficult for refugees.

New information today supports last week's reports, indicating that Bukavu refugees dispersed in three directions and have moved in concentrated groups towards Walikale (north-west), Walungu (south-west) and on the Kalehe road towards Minova (north-east).

United Nations sources in Kigali report that refugees continue to come out of the interior and are moving towards and through Mugunga camp, effectively creating a "second wave" after the original dispersal of Mugunga on Friday. However, a UN official in Gisenyi told IRIN that there had been no known - or significant numbers - of refugees from Bukavu and Uvira arriving in Rwanda as part of the exodus.

Movement of refugees and Hutu militants towards Masisi remains a concern, as Hutu militants may want to treat it as an operational base. The Masisi stronghold was consolidated by militant Hutu mainly during early 1996 and caused displacement of Zaireans, including ethnic Tutsis, many of whom are believed to have joined the recent rebel uprising, or fled into Rwanda. A report of UN Special Rapporteur, Mr Robert Garreton, released October 1996, investigating human rights abuses in North Kivu, expresses concern about the "forced displacement of more than 750,000 persons belonging to ethnic minorities", and says Hutu militia "have been the main instigators of violence". It also says that the Interahamwe were to be found in all the refugee camps "especially Mugunga, where it is believed that 80 per cent of young people belonged to them". (See IRIN reports on Masisi, and copies of reports by the UN Special Rapporteur available from IRIN).

A WFP spokesperson told IRIN that there were now 300,000 food packages stocked in Rwanda, and that WFP aimed to have 1 million there in the next seven to ten days. Aid agencies are facing some criticism in the press for being unable to cope with the massive exodus, despite two years of preparation for repatriation. Repatriation was expected to be more gradual, and contingency plans had depended on issuing food and water at transit centres. The enormous flood of returning refugees means the aid agencies have had to effectively abandon original reception plans and concentrate on getting assistance to the communes. Over the weekend, refugees started to walk back to their homes, but are encountering problems getting sufficient water and food on the way. There has also been growing concern about whether there is sufficient food and water available in home communes once they arrive. One UN official said that feeding at commune level would require more manpower, more transportation and more time - and described it as "altogether more difficult".

Another issue will be monitoring the arrival of the returning Hutus in their home villages, many of whom will be identified as or perceived as guilty of participation in the 1994 genocide.

One hundred and twenty Canadian soldiers and additional equipment destined for Rwanda left Trenton air force base in Ottawa, Canada, Sunday. Canadian Defence Minister Douglas Young said yesterday in a television interview he favoured the establishment of an African follow-up force after the four months' mandate by the Security Council expires for the multi-national force. The US is reported as monitoring the "dramatically changing" refugee crisis and has made no decision yet on US troop intervention in the region.

Nairobi, 18 November 1996, 11:55 GMT

[ENDS]

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Date: Mon, 18 Nov 1996 18:52:58 +0300 (GMT+0300) From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes <irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

## **Zaire: IRIN Update 29 on Eastern Zaire for 18 Nov 96 96.11.18**

Sender: owner-irinlist@dha.unon.org

To: irinlist@dha.unon.org

MIME-version: 1.0

Precedence: list

>Received: (from majordom@localhost) by dha.unon.org (8.6.12/8.6.12) id SAA12089; Mon, 18 Nov 1996 18:55:30 +0300

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IRIN Emergency Update No. 29 on Eastern Zaire (18 November 1996)

The tide of Rwandan refugees crossing the border today has dropped to about 3-4,000 per hour, compared to 12,000 per hour yesterday, according to the UNHCR. Half a million refugees are expected to have arrived in Rwanda by this evening. Television reports say the roads in Gisenyi, Rwanda, are beginning to empty, after a massive bottleneck of people over the weekend effectively blocked the border.

Late arrivals are reportedly in weaker condition than those crossing in the initial exodus, which started on Friday. UNHCR is sending trucks through the crowds to reach those in poorer condition, to carry them across the border. Although Rwandan personnel are still attempting to search the bundles carried in by the refugees, journalists and UN representatives report many of the refugees taking "short cuts" through the hills to avoid the check-points. Reuters report Rwandan border guards being overwhelmed by the number of people needing to be searched, and say aid workers have also given up trying to register the refugees. World Food Programme spokesperson Brenda Barton said yesterday that a WFP truck carrying high protein biscuits had been looted by some of the refugees.

UNHCR spokesperson Melita Sunjic was reported yesterday as saying the refugees returning to Rwanda were free of cholera. AFP say 25 cases of cholera have been registered so far in Goma town, among Zairean nationals.

The massive return of hundreds of thousands of people, some of whom are implicated in the 1994 genocide poses enormous problems for the Rwandan government. It has welcomed repatriation, although - like the aid agencies - probably never anticipated or planned for the

enormous, spontaneous tide of returnees. The sheer number of people crossing the border over the last four days has overwhelmed screening and searching systems, and has necessitated the immediate return of Hutus to home communes, without practical or political preparation.

The United Nations Secretary-General Boutros-Boutros Ghali is expected to launch a flash appeal for humanitarian assistance in eastern Zaire at 12.30 New York time today.

Countries planning to send troops to Zaire will meet in Germany on Wednesday (November 20) to review the force's size and mandate, the US military announced on Sunday. An advance team of Canadian officials have already arrived in Stuttgart. Canada will lead the multi-national force. The US is reconsidering the need for an intervention force, but had been expected to provide security at the Goma airport and along a five kilometre corridor from the airport into Rwanda. Reuters reports the US is also to provide support to humanitarian rescue efforts. AFP reported yesterday that British SAS crack commandos could be deployed in Zaire as part of a mission to secure a "key airport" for aid supplies.

Eritrea today withdrew last week's pledge to contribute a contingent to serve in the multi-national intervention force. AFP reports a statement from the foreign ministry saying the planned force had no clear mission or mandate, and that recommendations by regional leaders in the Nairobi Summit on November 5 had been ignored. African leaders have expressed dissatisfaction with the way the international community has proceeded with plans for a multi-national force, complaining they had not been consulted.

On Saturday, Kenya's President Daniel arap Moi convened a meeting of leaders of the Great Lakes region to re-examine the crisis in eastern Zaire. The meeting, which was convened in Rome, Italy, following a UN World Summit, was attended by President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda, Benjamin Mkapa of Tanzania, Issias Afeworki of Eritrea, and the Prime Minister of Rwanda Celestin Pierre Rwigema. They said that proposals presented by regional leaders at the Nairobi Summit of November 5 had been ignored, and troop-contributing countries appeared to have taken a unilateral approach. They complained of a lack of consultation with regional leaders. A number of African countries have offered to contribute troops, and the Security Council has proposed a voluntary fund to assist African member states contribute to the operation. South African President Mandela said on Sunday that South Africa will send troops to join the multi-national force.

The immediate needs of tens of thousands of returnees in Rwanda has distracted international attention from those refugees still remaining in eastern Zaire, and also from the growing number of Zaireans who have been internally displaced. Tens of thousands of Zaireans have been displaced not only by rebel fighting in eastern Zaire, but also by violence from the Interahamwe before the crisis. The United Nations Commission on Human Rights reported more than 750,000 displaced in Shaba and Northern Kivu because of attacks against minority groups, and violence by the Hutu militants in 1996. Internal displacement has also been caused by the Zairean troops, and fighting between various Zairean militia. There have also been reports by journalists and aid workers that local populations in eastern Zaire have suffered killings and reprisals during the recent conflict, as well as atrocities by the fleeing

Zairean troops. Estimates on location, condition and numbers of internally displaced people (IDPs) are unlikely to be available until there is greater access to the Zairean interior. Aid strategies before the mass exodus of refugees included discussions on how to provide short term assistance to the internally displaced - particularly around Kisangani - and how to assist their return home.

More details are emerging of the location of the refugees in the Bukavu area. A mission based in the Bukavu area reports large numbers of refugees between Katshungu (175 kilometres west of Bukavu) and Kingulube (towards Bukavu) - the numbers are estimated at around 250,000. Health problems are reported to be on the increase, particularly cases of malaria and dysentery . Before the evacuation of international aid staff from Bukavu there were about 380,000 refugees in the area. Information on the location of 100,000 Uvira refugees remains patchy, although some reports say they have begun to go back to the camps of Kagunga and Kachembo (near Uvira in Zaire).

Reuters reports that the Zairean army driven from eastern Zaire is re-grouping for a counter-attack. Reuters quotes military sources as saying that the retreating soldiers were re-grouping in Kindu, 350 kilometres west of Bukavu. State-run radio quoted army Chief of Staff General Eluki Monga saying Zaire had "lost the battle, not the war", and claiming the army now had the capacity to recapture rebel-held eastern Zaire. The Chief of Staff is reported to be in eastern Zaire. Eluki accused the government two weeks ago of not providing the army with the means to defeat the rebels. However, many of the fleeing soldiers were reported over the last two weeks as arriving in Kisangani, demoralised and anarchic - some resisting re-location by military plane. Reuters puts the Zairean army at anywhere between 25 - 50,000; outnumbered by Rwanda's 54,000-strong forces.

UN Special Envoy Raymond Chretien said yesterday that a multi-national force was still needed in eastern Zaire, despite the mass exodus of 400,000 refugees over the weekend. Chretien said in a BBC interview from Kigali that that a multi-national force would probably be involved in working out a strategy to reach refugees still inside eastern Zaire, in order to assist them and encourage them to repatriate. He said "Don't think only of what you see on the television screens. There is a huge number of refugees that are absolutely invisible." Chretien said he had held talks with Rwandan President Pasteur Bizimungu on the return of Hutu refugees. Rwandan leaders have said that the mass exodus over the weekend makes the need for a multi-national force obsolete. The Rwandan government had previously said that a multi-national force should be mandated to disarm the Interahamwe and the former Rwandan forces, but the Canadian and US government made it a condition of leadership and contribution that there should be no attempt to disarm any of the warring factions.

Nairobi, 18 November 1996, 15:50 GMT

[ENDS]

Date: Tue, 19 Nov 1996 14:38:09 +0300 (GMT+0300) From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes  
<irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

## **Zaire: IRIN Update 30 on Eastern Zaire for 18-19 Nov 96 96.11.19**

Sender: owner-irinlist@dha.unon.org

To: irinlist@dha.unon.org

MIME-version: 1.0

Precedence: list

>Received: (from majordom@localhost) by dha.unon.org (8.6.12/8.6.12) id

OAA01003; Tue, 19 Nov 1996 14:46:53 +0300

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### IRIN Emergency Update No. 30 on Eastern Zaire (18-19 November 1996)

United Nations Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali yesterday appealed for \$259.3 million for urgently-required humanitarian assistance to some 1.5 million refugees, internally displaced persons, returnees and other populations affected by the conflict in eastern Zaire. The Flash Appeal, prepared by the United Nations agencies and some NGOs operational in the region covers the period 1 November 1996 to 31 January 1997. It includes emergency food aid requirements as well as provision of clean water, sanitation, health services, shelter and other non-food items. Because of the recent mass exodus of refugees into Rwanda, the appeal will also cover repatriation programmes, referred to as "reintegration, justice and capacity building" activities. The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights launched an appeal at the same time for \$1,406,000, for sixty human rights officers, and five human rights monitors, for a period of three months.

Momentum for an international intervention force continues to wane, after the Security Council mandated a multi-national force to intervene in eastern Zaire last Friday. The commander of the multi-national mission to Zaire, General Maurice Baril of Canada, arrived in Kigali today for talks with Rwandan government leaders. The Rwandan government has said since the mass exodus of refugees that it does not believe an intervention force is now necessary. The US government is suggesting that its role might be limited to logistical support. European Special Envoy to the Great Lakes region Aldo Ajello said yesterday in Kinshasa that the multi-national force should be given a political mandate. He said the question of relations between Zaire and Rwanda and repatriation of refugees had to be dealt with in a "political manner". He also said - from Kinshasa - that the authority of the Zaire government alone would be recognised by the force and no deals would be done with rebels.

The massive repatriation exercise in Rwanda is under strain. "Impromptu" systems set up in response to the exodus are over-burdened by the huge numbers. WFP reports that attempts to distribute biscuits along homeward-bound routes were unsuccessful as returnees tried to attack and loot the trucks. Rwandan government officials yesterday closed a medical centre in Gisenyi, Rwanda, reports AFP. 350 hospitalised people were ordered to go, despite pleas for a 24 hour delay. There has been no information about the reason for the closure. Andrew Hall of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies said the Federation would lodge a protest.

Reuters quoted Sergio Vieira de Mello, UN Humanitarian Coordinator for the Great Lakes region as praising the Rwandan government: "They have taken risks and sacrificed security concerns for the refugees". Hutu extremists from Rwanda's former government are blamed for the massacre of more than 500,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus in 1994, along with many ordinary civilians who killed with machetes in their own villages. At commune and official level, many returnees will be perceived as directly or indirectly associated with the killings.

The Rwandan government has set up a National Emergency Committee to oversee all aspects of repatriation. Prefectural Emergency Committees are also to be set up, and will include the Prefect, RPA and Gendarmerie Commanders, representatives of Ministries of Health and Rehabilitation, UNHCR and WFP. They plan to meet on a daily basis. Other sub-committees, according to the Rwandan government, will be set up on security, health, food, transport and social integration. The Rwandan Minister of the Interior told aid agencies in a meeting in Gisenyi that all communes in Rwanda will open transit centres to register arriving returnees and host those who cannot reclaim their houses immediately. The Minister said a UNHCR representative should be appointed to assist and monitor registration in each commune.

The Rwandan government has reassured aid agencies at the border that no arrests will be made without sufficient evidence gathered by public prosecutors. No significant hostility has yet been reported at commune level, or acts of vengeance. AFP report some of the returnees being "warmly greeted" by villagers. Some returnees are reported as trying to reclaim property occupied by others. Food distributions will be implemented at the commune level and will be given to returnees only. One UN official, however, pointed out that distributions of food to returnees only is likely to cause resentment. UNHCR in Kigali estimate that the majority of refugees from the Goma camps will be returning to Ruhengeri, Gisenyi, Kigali and Byumba prefectures. UNHCR figures released by the UN Regional Humanitarian Coordinator estimate 165,388 returning to Ruhengeri; 163,913 to Gisenyi, 138,130 at Kigali, and 108,382 at Byumba (further figures available from UNHCR). AFP reported a UN official in Nkamira, a transit point 21 kilometres from the border, as saying agencies were being "over-optimistic" about the return. He said that reception at the border had been reasonably smooth, but there was a need to look at the reception at village level as "there is bound to be some violence".

Amnesty International released a statement on November 16 expressing fears that arbitrary arrests within Rwanda may increase significantly. At the same time Amnesty Secretary-General Pierre Sane said those responsible for human rights abuses during and following the 1994 genocide "must be held fully accountable".

UNICEF reports 2,500 unaccompanied children registered in Gisenyi, Rwanda, since the exodus from Goma began. 450 children were reunited with their families immediately. Some 15,000 unaccompanied children were known to be placed in institutions and families around Goma, before the eastern Zaire crisis began.

Personnel from the pan African NGO EUB, in Uvira when it was captured by rebels, travelled for twenty days with refugees. Many of the refugees travelled south towards Baraka, but had to move because of insecurity. They moved to Kasimir, further south towards Fizi, which is reportedly a base for the Wabembe militia. EUB said that refugees and internally displaced travelled together, and estimated some 50,000 refugees and some 300,000 internally displaced in the area. He said that the mixed population was unable to use boats to cross to Tanzania because the price had risen to \$50.

Reports in Bunia of looting by former Zairean soldiers continue. Aid agencies and missionaries say there has been no access since last Thursday because of insecurity. Some 150,000 refugees are thought to be between Katshungu and Kingulube. They have relayed pleas for assistance through missionaries in the area. Kisangani also remains volatile. It is reported as reasonably calm during the day, but gunfire is heard by night. A group of businesses in Kisangani are reportedly paying the military to reinforce the town. There have been reports of rape and looting by Zairean soldiers between Walikale and Lubutu. Aid agencies report continued hostility towards expatriate organisations and personnel from Zairean soldiers.

Other responses to the massive exodus include speculation that refugees remaining in eastern Zaire, and in neighbouring countries, will be encouraged to return home. The huge numbers of Hutus returning may reduce fears held by refugees that they faced revenge, imprisonment and isolation in Rwanda. The rebel Alliance of the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire (ADFL) says it wishes to open a humanitarian corridor in the Bukavu region to allow tens of thousands of Rwandan refugees to return home, report AFP. Rebels say that a corridor may be opened today between Bukavu and Cyangugu, said Fernando del Mundo of UNHCR, Geneva.

In eastern Zaire, Hutu militants are reported to be less than fifty kilometres from Goma, moving north east from Bukavu region. AFP's Annie Thomas, in Kalungu (southeast of Minova), reports seeing men wearing uniforms of the former Rwandan Armed Forces. The militants had reportedly told local authorities that thousands of Rwandan refugees were on the plateaux, having travelled about 150 kilometres of mountainous terrain on foot from Bukavu and west of Lake Kivu. The Hutu militants were reportedly travelling west to Shanje and Numbi. Information from aerial surveys given to IRIN today indicate a large group of people (estimated to be over 150,000) congregated south of Kirotshe.

Refugee figures as of 17 November:

UGANDA Kisoro: 6,500 Matanda camp (combines people crossing at Ishasha and Butogota: 3,317)

TANZANIA The refugee population in the Kigoma area of Tanzania has doubled since the beginning of month from 51,000 up to 118,000, as a result of heavy fighting in Burundi and the conflict in eastern Zaire. The breakdown of new arrivals is: 38,200 new Burundian arrivals of whom 27,000 crossed at Kibondo and 7,000 at Kasulu, the rest across the lake. A total of 27,000 Zaireans have arrived in Tanzania in and around Kigoma from South Kivu across the lake. Also 1,200 Rwandans across the lake

ZAIRE UNHCR says up to 500,000 returnees have returned through Gisenyi.

EUB, a pan African NGO, has reportedly buried 780 bodies in mass graves in Goma. No further details are immediately available.

Switzerland has refused to grant another visa to ailing Zairean President Mobutu, the foreign ministry said on Monday. Mobutu is in France, following treatment for cancer in Switzerland, and claims he will return to Zaire soon.

Nairobi, 19 November 1996, 11:30 GMT

[ENDS]

[Via the UN DHA Integrated Regional Information Network. The material contained in this communication may not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its agencies. UN DHA IRIN Tel: +254 2 622123 Fax: +254 2 622129 e-mail: [irin@dha.unon.org](mailto:irin@dha.unon.org) for more information. If you re-print, copy, archive or re-post this item, please retain this credit and disclaimer.]

Date: Tue, 19 Nov 1996 19:09:10 +0300 (GMT+0300) From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes <irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

## **Zaire: IRIN Update 31 on Eastern Zaire for 19 Nov 96 96.11.19**

Sender: owner-irinlist@dha.unon.org

To: irinlist@dha.unon.org

MIME-version: 1.0

Precedence: list

>Received: (from majordom@localhost) by dha.unon.org (8.6.12/8.6.12) id

TAA04010; Tue, 19 Nov 1996 19:11:53 +0300

### UNITED NATIONS

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IRIN Emergency Update No. 31 on Eastern Zaire (Tuesday 19 November 1996)

The road between the Rwandan border town of Gisenyi and Ruhengeri further east was packed with thousands of refugees today as relief agencies and the authorities continued to grapple with logistical and food problems. AFP said buses and trucks from the Rwandan transport authority and the UNHCR headed from Kigali to Ruhengeri to ease the crowding as exhausted refugees demanded transport back to their home villages. Refugees who are too weak to return on foot from Goma have also been assisted by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) which sent 53 trucks into the town on Sunday to bring out the sick and vulnerable. IOM said 5,000 refugees had already been helped in this way.

The Rwandan government took issue with NGO operations in the country saying the priority was for the refugees to go straight home. Speaking on BBC radio, the vice-president's political adviser, Claude Dusaidi accused the NGOs of again wanting to create camps in Rwanda. He said the relief agencies should establish themselves in the communes and provide aid from there. Camps for mainly Hutu displaced people in southwestern Rwanda in 1994 proved a thorn in the government's side because of insecurity and the ability of militants to control their populations. The Rwandan Patriotic Army eventually closed the camps by force in April 1995.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said it would move a team from Lubumbashi to Kalemie, south of Uvira, as soon as possible and a delegate would attempt to reach Bunia on the border with Uganda to assess reported heavy fighting there. The ICRC will also attempt to land a plane in the town of Shabunda, between Bukavu and Kindu, following

reports from the area of a large group of refugees and internally displaced people (IDP) in very poor condition.

The World Food Programme today said UN teams had not been able to gain access to Uvira from Burundi. It added that according to unconfirmed reports, there was a significant concentration of people, possibly some 100,000, near Fizi, south of Uvira. A UNHCR official told AFP Tutsi rebels were still blocking aid agencies trying to cross from Burundi. Some 100,000 Burundian refugees who were on the Uvira plain remain unaccounted for, along with an unknown number of displaced Zaireans. "Expatriate staff need to go there to assess the situation, but the rebels are still not allowing us to cross the border," Hitoshe Mise, Burundi's UNHCR representative told AFP.

A Christian NGO consortium, Action by Churches Together (ACT), warned of a continuing humanitarian crisis in eastern Zaire as thousands of people were still stranded without food, water or shelter. An assessment mission for the organisation reported there were two main routes for refugees and IDPs moving towards the Zairean interior - Goma-Masisi-Walikale-Kisangani and Bukavu-Hombo-Walikale-Kisangani - and many were hiding in the forests and banana plantations. As many as 250,000 refugees from Bukavu may be in the Hombo area, ACT said. It appealed for donations to help its operation in the region, saying that for the moment the biggest challenge for the international community was to integrate the returning refugees in secure conditions. WFP reported a total of 79 refugees had crossed from Bukavu at Cyangugu on the Rwandan border as of midday today, but BBC radio said Zairean rebels had warned of a big influx of refugees from Bukavu.

Despite waning enthusiasm for an international force, French President Jacques Chirac today insisted the troops were still needed to help the refugees. "There are still many refugees," he said. "The situation, alas, is far from stable." He reiterated that France's "double objective" of helping the refugees and creating the necessary conditions for an international Great Lakes conference still stood. Britain today also appeared determined to send troops to the region. Defence Secretary Michael Portillo told The Times daily it was "premature" for the international community to "breathe a sigh of relief" and Britain would push ahead with its plan to send 1,000 troops. A Pentagon spokeswoman said today the USA would probably provide troops in a supporting role only. "Our current thinking is that the force will require less than 1,000 troops operating in a support role rather than a security role," Lt Col Nancy Burt said. According to AFP, countries planning to contribute to the force are now to meet in Stuttgart, Germany, on Thursday to review its size and mandate.

Allegations are mounting against Western firms breaking a UN arms embargo by providing weapons to former Rwandan forces (ex-FAR) in 1994. In London, customs officials on Monday said they wanted to examine documents abandoned in eastern Zaire by fleeing Hutu Interahamwe militia and ex-FAR soldiers. British press reports, based on the documents, said a company based in the Isle of Man, named Mil-Tec Corporation, had supplied the Hutu militants with weapons worth over 3.3 million pounds between April 17 and July 13 1994.

Meanwhile Britain's Channel 4 news said on Monday there was also evidence, based on discarded papers found near Goma, of a French firm - Sofremas - supplying arms to the

Hutus. An invoice showed the company accepted an order on April 29 1994 for 12 million dollars' worth of shells and mortar rounds, to be manufactured in South Africa. However France today denied the allegations. There was "a total halt to deliveries and approval of contracts as of April 1994," foreign ministry spokesman Jacques Rummelhardt said. The document in question, he said, was "a tender on May 5 1994, which was not followed through."

Kenya was also implicated in arms deliveries to Hutu militias in eastern Zaire, after the Belgian daily De Morgen reported on November 9 that Belgium was providing them with products from a bullet factory in the Kenyan town of Eldoret. The factory was set up with the help of the Belgian arms supplier FN Herstal, the paper said. Kenya has strongly denied the reports.

A British daily, the Independent, today dealt with arms supplies to the Tutsi rebels in eastern Zaire, quoting South African intelligence sources as saying the weapons come from past and present members of the intelligence services. According to the paper, a former personal assistant to South African ex-president Pieter Botha is coordinating one of the operations, and is under investigation by the UN.

Since January 1995 donors contributing to the Rwanda Rehabilitation and Recovery Programme have disbursed a total of 696.5 million dollars. The top five bilateral donors are the USA which disbursed 103.1 million dollars, Netherlands 69 million dollars, Germany 43.2 million, Belgium 38 million and Canada 32.7 million dollars. The biggest multilateral donor is the European Union which has disbursed 132 million dollars.

Nairobi, 19 November 1996, 14:00 GMT

[ENDS]

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Date: Wed, 20 Nov 1996 13:43:16 +0300 (GMT+0300) From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes  
<irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

## **Zaire: IRIN Update 32 on Eastern Zaire for 19-20 Nov 1996 96.11.20**

Sender: owner-irinlist@dha.unon.org

To: irinlist@dha.unon.org

MIME-version: 1.0

Precedence: list

>Received: (from majordom@localhost) by dha.unon.org (8.6.12/8.6.12) id

NAA11089; Wed, 20 Nov 1996 13:46:08 +0300

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IRIN Emergency Update No. 32 on Eastern Zaire (Wednesday 20 November 1996)

Doubts were cast on the future of a multi-national force for eastern Zaire today, as Canada, which offered to lead the troops, poured cold water on the idea of military intervention. In Ottawa, Canadian premier Jean Chretien pointed out that Rwanda itself did not want the force. "There is no longer any need for a military intervention," he said, adding that the priority now was to provide humanitarian aid to the refugees returning to Rwanda. US President Bill Clinton, speaking in Canberra today, said the US was still considering whether to send troops and a final decision was still awaited pending further discussions. Canadian Defence Minister Doug Young said countries participating in what is now being dubbed a humanitarian mission would meet in New York later today to discuss the future of the mission. The countries were also due to hold a further meeting in Stuttgart, Germany, on Friday, instead of Thursday as had previously been announced. Chretien said the New York meeting would have a mainly "political" character, while the Stuttgart talks would have a more "military" nature. He added that a further meeting would be held in Geneva to discuss the coordination of aid distribution in the Great Lakes region.

In Kigali, UN special envoy Raymond Chretien described his talks with the Canadian force commander Gen. Maurice Baril on Tuesday as good, but also admitted Rwanda did not want the troops. "Certainly this view has to be taken into account," he told reporters before leaving for Kinshasa. "But there are still a number of unanswered questions about what is happening on the other side of the border."

Zaire on Tuesday sharply criticised Washington's decision not to send combat troops to the region, accusing it of working with Rwanda to block an international force. "The whole world,

with few exceptions, finds itself under the boot of the Yankees," Information Minister Boguo Makeli told AFP. "Zaire would prefer to disappear from the world map with dignity and honour than accept the dictates of this great power of shame and injustice." The USA had said earlier it would not send a combat force to the region, but was prepared to provide less than 1,000 troops in a supporting logistics role. Meanwhile, two US military cargo planes headed for Africa on Tuesday carrying equipment for an air bridge to ferry supplies for returning Rwandan refugees. Pentagon spokeswoman Nancy Burt said the planes would go to Kigali and Mombasa, and a third plane was due to fly to Entebbe.

The French minister for emergency humanitarian action Xavier Emmanuelli arrived in Kisangani on Tuesday, ahead of today's planned departure from the town of an aid convoy for areas further southeast. The convoy, organised by NGOs, was due to arrive in the towns of Lubutu and Walikale where tens of thousands of refugees are believed to be hiding out in the hilly and jungle terrain. AFP said the drivers would all be local, and the convoy would be escorted by the Zairean army. Red Cross volunteers meanwhile began removing bodies from the deserted camps of Mugunga and Sake on Tuesday. At least 166 people have so far been buried in a mass grave in Mugunga. An NGO with a contact in Kalemie, south of Uvira, told IRIN the area was calm. Several thousand displaced people and refugees were in the town and a few were believed to be outside. All required food and shelter.

A rebel radio station "Radio du Peuple", broadcasting from Bukavu, announced yesterday that the border between Bukavu and Cyangugu in Rwanda would be open as of today. A statement signed by the rebel Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire (ADFL) said local people would be allowed to move around and obtain supplies from both sides of the border. Sources close to the Banyamulenge told IRIN today the Interahamwe militia and former Rwandan forces were moving from the Goma and Bukavu areas in two groups, mixed with refugees, and would in all likelihood meet up in an area south of Sake.

A UNHCR bulletin on Tuesday said about 50 percent of returnees had reached their home communes, mainly in the Gisenyi and Ruhengeri areas of Rwanda. Some had even reached as far as Kigali.

According to a breakdown of the home areas of Rwandan refugees, five prefectures - Kibungo, Byumba, Gisenyi, Kigali Rurale and Ruhengeri - accounted for 75 percent of all refugees in Goma. The UN Humanitarian Coordinator's Office in Rwanda said Byumba was the only prefecture with a mixture of refugees in both Zaire and Tanzania, and the mass return from Zaire might prompt a similar return from Tanzania in a bid to get home before property and land were taken.

UNHCR said the refugee population in the Kigoma region of western Tanzania had more than doubled in just the first half of November. By 17 November, the figure had reached over 116,000 up from 51,600 at the end of October. New Burundian arrivals in Tanzania directly from Burundi were put at 36,198 and refugees coming from Zaire (mainly Zairean) at 27,447.

The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights which has been monitoring the unfolding situation in Rwanda through the Human Rights Field Operation in Rwanda (HRFOR), has

called for increasing HRFOR personnel up to a maximum of 300 to give sustained human rights assistance to the Rwandan government and people. It said HRFOR had insufficient resources to deal with the mass influx of Rwandan refugees into the country. In Geneva, the UN announced 60 UN volunteers had been identified, mainly funded by the Dutch government. The Human Rights High Commissioner also appealed for increasing the number of observers in Burundi to at least 35, and preferably 100, given that the mass return of thousands of Burundian refugees in South Kivu could occur at any time.

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Nairobi, 20 November 1996, 10:40 GMT

[ENDS]

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Date: Wed, 20 Nov 1996 13:43:16 +0300 (GMT+0300) From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes <irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

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Sender: owner-irinlist@dha.unon.org

To: irinlist@dha.unon.org

MIME-version: 1.0

Precedence: list

>Received: (from majordom@localhost) by dha.unon.org (8.6.12/8.6.12) id

NAA11089; Wed, 20 Nov 1996 13:46:08 +0300

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Nairobi, 20 November 1996, 10:40 GMT

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Date: Wed, 20 Nov 1996 19:28:24 +0300 (GMT+0300) From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes <irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

## **Zaire: IRIN Update 33 on Eastern Zaire for 20 Nov 1996 96.11.20**

Sender: owner-irinlist@dha.unon.org

To: irinlist@dha.unon.org

MIME-version: 1.0

Precedence: list

>Received: (from majordom@localhost) by dha.unon.org (8.6.12/8.6.12) id

TAA15803; Wed, 20 Nov 1996 19:30:15 +0300

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IRIN Emergency Update No. 33 on Eastern Zaire (20 November 1996)

Faced by the rapidly receding possibility of an international intervention force, aid organisations are trying to re-focus attention on hundreds of thousands of Rwandan refugees and internally displaced Zaireans still believed to be inaccessible in eastern Zaire.

At a meeting in Kisangani, north eastern Zaire, yesterday the International Committee of the Red Cross and NGOs reiterated that too much attention was being focussed on Rwandan returnees, and that hundreds of thousands of internally displaced people and refugees are at risk in eastern Zaire. Tens of thousands of local Zaireans have fled, including Hutu Zaireans who fear both the rebel ADFL and the Rwandan government as a "Tutsi alliance". There are also hundreds of thousands of Zaireans - particularly from minority groups - who were displaced by the Hutu militants and Zairean soldiers before the conflict broke out.

The exact whereabouts of large concentrations of refugees and internally displaced people inside eastern Zaire is still not known, although many new locations and numbers are being offered. Results of aerial and satellite surveys done by the US, Canadian and French governments are not being made public, but appear to be producing contradictory information on the movements and locations of groups of people in eastern Zaire.

Rwandan Vice-President and Minister of Defence, Paul Kagame, said in a press conference in Kigali today that the "majority" of refugees had returned. He accused aid agencies of inflating numbers regarding refugees remaining in eastern Zaire. Kagame said there were a few scattered refugees remaining inside eastern Zaire, and he hoped they would return soon. He said the exact number of returnees to Rwanda was not yet known. Kagame said the ex-FAR and

Interahamwe were scattered in small groups, and referred to locations between Walikale and Hombo, saying there were small groups of refugees among them. The Vice-President said that the Rwandan government had "signals" from Bukavu that there was an intention to make a return of refugees through Cyangugu possible. He said it was hoped that repatriation from Tanzania would be undertaken in a more orderly fashion once the current return from Zaire had been completed; and this would be discussed with the Tanzanian authorities. The Rwandan government has always disputed the total number of refugees given by aid agencies.

Rwandan state-run radio reported today that many of the ex-FAR soldiers had joined the exodus of refugees returning to Rwanda and called on these soldiers to make themselves known to the authorities. Vice-President and Defence Minister Paul Kagame said today that the main objective at the moment was to settle and "stabilise" returnees as quickly as possible, and that wider issues regarding property rights and screening would be settled later. Kagame said to date there had been no arrests relating to the newly returned refugees. UNHCR and the UN Human Rights Field Operation in Rwanda report that the among returnees since 1994, 1.4 percent have been arrested.

The Vice-President said that property would be returned to the original owners eventually. One UN official told IRIN that property would be a major issue in resettlement because many houses had been occupied by people returning to Rwanda in 1994 after years of exile in neighbouring countries. Land rights in rural communes will be equally contentious. Some aid agencies indicate that many more returnees than initially expected may try to go to Kigali; figures from a census taken in refugee camps in 1995 about the rural-urban distribution have long been disputed.

Other comments during the press conference regarded the need to "re-think" the multi-national force. The Rwandan Foreign Minister Anastase Gasana said at the same press conference that Rwanda wanted to "maintain good neighbour relations" with Zaire, and claimed Rwanda had never exercised its right of pursuit into Zairean territory.

The Interahamwe and ex-FAR are believed to be moving south of Sake, various sources concur. A rebel spokesman said that fighting continued around Minova, but confirmed that the rebels now had control of Sake and Masisi. He said Kalehe and Katana refugee camps (north of Bukavu) were still being used as bases by armed Hutu militia; this was confirmed to IRIN by military intelligence sources. There has been no confirmation on the whereabouts of the refugees from those camps, but there have been persistent reports of a large concentration of people north of Bukavu.

AFP carried reports of uniformed Hutu militants sighted in Kalungu, which is south of Minova - described as the "front line" in some press reports. There have been contradictory reports on who the fighting emanates from. many Zairean soldiers are known to have fled sometime ago to Kisangani, but Bangilima militia are reportedly split between the government side and the rebels. The Mai-Mai militia are also active in the Sake area. Reuters reported yesterday that the "entire area around Kiroche, Minova and Sake to the west of Lake Kivu was controlled by large numbers of heavily-armed Zairean rebel troops, some of them no more than 10 years old"

Continued fighting between the rebel Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire (AFDL) and Hutu militants along the road north from Bukavu towards Sake, may have blocked passage of refugees moving north of Bukavu. The re-grouping of the Hutu militants in this area and the use of the Kalehe and Katana camps as bases may mean the passage of refugees is also affected by political manipulation.

Reuters and BBC reports describe today some of the fears expressed by Tutsi villagers as the returnees arrive back in their home communes. One was reported as recognising a man who had killed family members, and expressing fear that he knew where she lived. She was quoted as saying "If we are told by the government we can accuse, we will accuse; if we are told to keep quiet, we will."

Amnesty International reports that three human rights activists in Zaire were released on 2 November 1996, who say they met dozens of other detainees, including civilian ethnic Tutsis arrested since the rebel up-rising in eastern Zaire. They reported to Amnesty that among those they met were about 10 ethnic Tutsis who the authorities claim are members of the rebel group. Amnesty says in its report that some ethnic Tutsis in eastern Zaire have been subjected to sexual assaults and humiliation.

A rebel source said that the issue of Banyamulenge rights, which had been a central issue for the rebel ADFL, still needs to be solved. The Banyamulenge, who are believed to be dominant in the ADFL, were stripped of their nationality rights in 1981 by the Zairean government. AFP reports the ADFL saying they will continue an offensive deeper into Zaire.

A letter in the Kenyan Daily Nation details an e-mail message recieved from a doctor in Nuankunde in north-eastern Zaire on November 14 says: "Retreating Zairean forces from Goma, after looting Butembo and Beni, passed through Bunia and Nyankunde on their way to Kisangani. We have had a relatively quiet day, with the military passing at the top of the road. The very sad news is the numbers of young girls that have been taken from Butembo and nearer here". One aid worker told IRIN that there had been many reports of Zairean soldiers committing rape along the road between Lubutu and Walikale.

General Eluki Monga Aundu, Zairean Armed Forces chief, has been suspended from his post, state-run television announced today. The TV report quoted the deputy Prime Minister with responsibility for defence when giving details of the dismissal. General Eluki earlier this month criticized the government for not "giving the army the means necessary to go to war".

Nairobi, 20 November 1996, 16:20 GMT  
[ENDS]

Date: Thu, 21 Nov 1996 14:47:31 +0300 (GMT+0300) From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes  
<irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

## **Zaire: IRIN Update 34 on Eastern Zaire for 20-21 Nov 96 96.11.21**

Sender: owner-irinlist@dha.unon.org

To: irinlist@dha.unon.org

MIME-version: 1.0

Precedence: list

>Received: (from majordom@localhost) by dha.unon.org (8.6.12/8.6.12) id

PAA22888; Thu, 21 Nov 1996 15:03:50 +0300

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IRIN Emergency Update No. 34 on Eastern Zaire (20-21 November 1996)

Journalists and aid officials managed to cross into Bukavu, eastern Zaire, yesterday, after having access blocked for ten days. There is no real information as to why access has been difficult in Bukavu and Uvira, but it may relate to territorial and political consolidation by the rebel authorities.

A three-person team of aid officials crossed to Bukavu at 4.30 pm local time yesterday, and stayed overnight, reports the World Food Programme. The officials were representatives from WFP, UNICEF and UNHCR. The Bukavu and Uvira areas have had relatively little attention compared to Goma, with only one brief visit to Bukavu by a small group of aid officials ten days ago. There has been no access to Uvira for international aid representatives since the rebels took control of the town. Three foreign journalists and a representative from an international human rights organisation are known to have had access to the town soon after the take-over. The border between Bukavu, eastern Zaire, and Cyangugu, Rwanda was effectively closed until yesterday, when rebels announced the border open by radio and local people in Bukavu were allowed into Cyangugu to buy goods. Aid workers mainly attribute the hold-up to rebel bureaucracy, as senior rebel representatives had been concentrated in Goma. Rebel coordinator, Laurent Kabila, personally gave the go-ahead from Bukavu for yesterday's mission.

Despite the recent increase of information from various aerial surveys and satellite images, there is no consensus on the exact location or movement of concentrations of people in eastern Zaire. Furthermore, from a humanitarian point of view, lack of access remains the most significant factor.

However, major population movements and concentrations are reported on five main axes:

1) North of Goma, from the Katale camp and Rutshuru area westwards to Walikale-Lubutu-Kisangani

This movement is believed to be mainly internally displaced Zaireans, fleeing westwards with the retreating Zairean forces. Reliable sources claim that some 20,000 IDPs are fleeing east into Uganda south of Lake Edward. Some 100,000 IDPs are reported to be north of Lake Edward, fleeing fighting between rebels and Zairean troops.

There is also a small group (less than a thousand) believed to be refugees, camped near Rutshuru, north of Katale, with some moving south towards Goma. A small group of Hutu militants from Katale camp (which was characterised by its middle class/intellectual component) are believed to be in the area just west of Rutshuru, possibly trying to link up with other refugees and militants near Masisi.

2) Northwest, from Sake to Masisi

There have been persistent reports from different sources indicating a group of people around the Masisi area, believed to be mainly Rwandan refugees, with Hutu militants. A group of around 30,000 were reportedly camped some 20 kilometres west of Masisi town on November 19.

On November 17, there were reliable reports of some 45,000 people northwest of Sake, and a further 3,000 near Sake. Small groups of people as well as 15 tents have been reported near Minova, south of Sake. There are reports of small numbers of people (up to 3,000) entering Mugunga from Virunga forest.

3) South of Goma and north of Bukavu

Several good sources indicate the presence or movement of significant numbers of people in an area north of Bukavu. They are believed to be mainly refugees with some IDPs. Continued fighting on the road to Minova may block movement; the presence of Hutu militants may also be directly affecting the movement of the refugees.

On November 19, a site north of Bukavu was reported to contain approximately 100,000 people, and growing rather than dispersing. Kalehe and Katana camps are reported to be under the control of the former Rwandan forces and Interahamwe militia. Other unsubstantiated reports suggest significant refugee movement, possibly of refugees herded by uniformed men, towards Goma.

4) Westward from Bukavu to Katshungu-Shabunda-Kindu

There are several reports of movements of internally displaced people. An unsubstantiated report indicated 100,000 people 280 kilometers west of Bukavu at Katshungu.

A group of some 5,000 is reported southwest of Bukavu at Bulonge, believed to contain former Rwandan forces.

A large concentration of people has been reported in Mwenga, southwest of Bukavu.

#### 5) Uvira and surroundings

Refugees from the Uvira camps are displaced south of Uvira, and a large concentration of people is reported at Fizi, thought to be combination of refugees and displaced Zaireans.

Note: Before the crisis broke, there was a registered refugee population on Idjwi island of at least 45,000 Rwandan refugees. There has been no information regarding their whereabouts.

\* \* \* \* \*

A spokesman for Refugees International said there was "great concern" that the US military apparently had no responsibility to survey areas other than North Kivu. "It appears the US military component of the multi-national force has only done flights over North Kivu because its responsibility stops at the South-North Kivu border", said Don Krumm. "That is of great concern to us because the 500,000 unaccounted-for refugees are in the south," he added.

Aerial surveys have reported difficulty in accurately assessing areas covered by dense forest. Satellite images were previously reportedly too unclear to give accurate indications of numbers.

IRIN was informed today of 4,000 "non-military refugees" in Lubutu, reported by contacts in the area. Numbers of refugees in Lubutu are said to be increasing, and are being tenuously assisted by local villagers. The source says there are also enough Zairean soldiers in Lubutu to be commanded by a colonel of the Presidential Guard, although normally the highest ranking officer present is a lieutenant or captain of gendarmes or Guard Civil. Lubutu is described as reasonably well ordered. IRIN also received unconfirmed reports of a General of the 1st Division of the Zairean army in Kalemie, south of Fizi.

The International Committee of the Red Cross has buried several hundred bodies in Mugunga camp in the last few days, a spokesman in Geneva reported yesterday. Spokesman Robin Wavre said the bodies were buried after ICRC was given access to Mugunga four days ago; he was unable to confirm numbers or give cause of death.

General Eluki Monga Aunda, Zairean Armed Forces chief, has been suspended from his post for saying on Tuesday that a multi-national force was not necessary, and repeating complaints that the government was not doing enough for the army regarding the war effort. Reuters reports General Eluki as one of the four most powerful men in the army, and says his dismissal indicates a possible split in the armed forces. Military response to the rebel uprising in eastern Zaire has shown the Zairean forces to be demoralised and ill-disciplined; some of the fleeing soldiers congregating in Kisangani reportedly refuse to board military planes for

fear of being sent back to the war front. Continued fighting in eastern Zaire has been attributed to Interahamwe, former Rwandan forces and various militia against rebel forces, rather than Zairean soldiers, who fled the area early on in the conflict. Earlier this week General Eluki was reported to be in eastern Zaire, planning to launch a new offensive against the rebels from Kindu.

Informed sources told IRIN that the dismissal of General Ekuki was significant, and that it was related to controversy over use of the proposed multi-national force. According to the source, the Zairean government sees the multi-national force as capable of "doing the job the Zairean army has failed to do" - namely effectively re-establishing control in eastern Zaire by an armed presence that recognises the government. General Eluki's dismissal, however, will be significant in that he is likely to have support in his complaints among the army who see the government as weak and, in the case of Prime Minister Kengo wa Dondo, treacherous. In the same way there is no visible civilian "heir apparent" on the political scene, there is no clear centre of power in an army that is demoralised and diffuse.

A US Navy P-3 surveillance plane came under apparent anti-aircraft fire south of Goma today. The US government decided not to send troops to the region, but has offered logistical support. AFP reports US military officials have begun moving teams and equipment into place to set up a humanitarian "air bridge" to funnel food and supplies to affected populations once a decision has been made.

The British Overseas Development Administration announced yesterday that Britain had pledged an extra 10 million (sterling) for humanitarian relief to the Great Lakes region. Baroness Lynda Chalker said the new funding demonstrated Britain's commitment to the safe, voluntary return of refugees and meeting immediate humanitarian needs.

Catherine Bertini, Executive Director of the World Food Programme, said at a press conference in Kigali yesterday that there were still 700,000 Rwandan refugees unaccounted for in eastern Zaire - countering claims by the Rwandan government that refugee figures were being "inflated" by aid organisations. Bertini said "We have been feeding in the camps for a long time and providing food for 1.2 million refugees". Since the outbreak of the eastern Zaire crisis, aid agencies have also faced renewed criticism that assistance to the camps nurtured Hutu militants and prolonged the problem. International human rights organisations and some aid agencies said in after 1994 that there was evidence that the militia and former Rwandan forces were being armed and preventing repatriation of "bona fide" refugees; arms contracts, weapons, warfare manuals and invasion plans were found by journalists when Mugunga camp at Goma was abandoned by fleeing Hutu militants.

A conference on humanitarian relief efforts, to be held on Saturday in Geneva, will discuss the reintegration of hundreds of thousands of refugees returning to Rwanda, reports AFP. The meeting is a conference of government officials, and will be attended by the United States, Europe, Japan, Australia, Rwanda, the OECD, the World Bank, UN and humanitarian agencies.

Nairobi, 21 November 1996, 11:45 GMT

[ENDS]

[Via the UN DHA Integrated Regional Information Network. The material contained in this communication may not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its agencies. UN DHA IRIN Tel: +254 2 622123 Fax: +254 2 622129 e-mail: [irin@dha.unon.org](mailto:irin@dha.unon.org) for more information. If you re-print, copy, archive or re-post this item, please retain this credit and disclaimer.]

Date: Thu, 21 Nov 1996 19:26:27 +0300 (GMT+0300) From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes <irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

## **Zaire: IRIN Update 35 on Eastern Zaire for 21 Nov 1996 96.11.21**

Sender: owner-irinlist@dha.unon.org

To: irinlist@dha.unon.org

MIME-version: 1.0

Precedence: list

>Received: (from majordom@localhost) by dha.unon.org (8.6.12/8.6.12) id

TAA26127; Thu, 21 Nov 1996 19:31:55 +0300

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IRIN Emergency Update No. 35 on Eastern Zaire (Thursday 21 November 1996)

The International Committee of the Red Cross today announced a massive new tracing operation in the Kivu area to enable people still on the move to make contact with their families. The operation was also aimed at reuniting children who had been separated from their parents during the population movements. In Gisenyi, ICRC has reported a total of 2,634 unaccompanied minors had been identified and registered, most of whom were being transferred to Nkamira transit camp or Ruhengeri. Four hundred and forty-five families were reunited on the spot. An additional group of 480 unaccompanied children had been transferred to Kigali where they were being accommodated by the Belgian Red Cross. UNICEF put the figure of lone children much higher at 4,125, as of Wednesday. It said 70-80 percent were boys. UNICEF spokeswoman Marie Heuze added that the agency was also concerned by reports of armed child soldiers in the Kirotshe area, between the Mugunga and Katale camps of eastern Zaire.

According to ICRC, before the start of the exodus, there had been 20,000 unaccompanied children in eastern Zaire. It said nobody knew what had become of these children, whose numbers are assumed to have increased by several thousand. An ICRC data bank in Nairobi will centralise all available information concerning the children.

ICRC said that since last Sunday it, along with the Zairean Red Cross, had treated 300 wounded Zairean soldiers in Kisangani. In a statement from Kinshasa, it said it had also dispatched four tonnes of medicines, blankets and food which left by truck from Kisangani for Lubutu on Wednesday. The aid is intended to help displaced Zaireans in the Lubutu and Walikale areas.

The exiled Hutu organisation, Rally for the Return of Refugees and Democracy in Rwanda (RDR), reacted bleakly to the mass return of refugees, warning of another "Kibeho" - the camp in southwest Rwanda where large numbers of Hutus were killed when it was closed down by the Rwandan Patriotic Army last year. "The ongoing forced repatriation of refugees from Zaire is proving yet another nightmare for returnees," RDR said in a statement yesterday. It charged that some refugees were either arrested immediately upon their return home or "forced to be squatters on their own properties". Part of the proposed multi-national force should be deployed inside Rwanda, the statement added. There have been no official reports of arrests within Rwanda as yet.

Some reports warn of short-term vulnerability to hunger in Rwanda caused by returning refugees, but paint a rosier picture of long-term prospects. Rwanda currently faces a critical situation regarding beans and other pulses, the country's most important crops. Poor rains meant the crops were withering and dying and the influx of hundreds of thousands of returnees is likely to increase the threat of hunger among the resident population. In the past, returning refugees have generally sold their resettlement rations for local products such as beans, sweet potatoes and bananas prompting price increases of such goods. In the long-term however, the returning refugees would increase the labour pool thus reducing labour costs and putting more land to production.

Returnees to the Gatumba transit camp in Burundi, near Bujumbura, told AFP that Hutu men, fleeing camps on the Uvira plain, had trekked 100 kms to mountains further south where they were fighting Banyamulenge Tutsi rebels. Women returning to the camp said the men, both Burundian and Rwandan, were now concentrated in the Ubembe area, near Fizi, where they had joined up with the Babembe people to fight the Tutsis. A DHA report from Bujumbura said details of Burundian refugees in the south Kivu area were sketchy. According to the last census there were about 125,000 Burundian refugees in south Kivu, 11,000-13,000 of whom had been registered at Gatumba. Refugees were still crossing the Zairean border to Cibitoke on their own accord and UNHCR estimates the number at some 22,000. UNHCR said today 8,917 new Burundian refugees arrived in Tanzania yesterday and a total of 24,701 "boat people" have so far arrived in Kigoma across Lake Tanganyika.

ADFL military commander Andre Kissasse announced plans for taxing and administering the area under rebel control. "Up until now the international community has only thought of the Goma region in terms of providing food and aid for refugees, but now we have to think for ourselves," he told a crowd of some 10,000 supporters in Goma on Wednesday. He vowed to reduce unemployment and impose local taxes to bring about essential services. He also urged local people to form self-defence committees, adding that his troops would bring democracy to the whole of Zaire.

Zairean Prime Minister Kengo wa Dondo today said Kinshasa was considering breaking diplomatic ties with the neighbouring countries of Rwanda, Uganda and Burundi describing them as "aggressors of Zairean territory". He also told a news conference that the Zairean army would soon recapture Goma and Bukavu from the "Rwanda-backed" rebels, who were "trained by mercenaries of various nationalities" on Rwandan territory.

A new interim Zairean armed forces chief was named today to replace General Eluki Monga Aunda who was sacked. The new incumbent - General Kpama Baramoto Kata - is closely allied to President Mobutu and comes from the same ethnic group. Baramoto Kata, described as a hardliner, was commander of the feared civil guard. Meanwhile, AFP quoted Zairean opposition leader Etienne Tshisekedi, who met Mobutu at his villa in France today, as saying the two men agreed on the need for national reconciliation. "The unifying of the political class is required by the country," Tshisekedi said.

Burundi today strongly denied an Amnesty International report which said 400 returnees from Zaire were killed by members of the security forces in Cibitoke province last month. Speaking on BBC radio, a spokesman for Burundian leader Pierre Buyoya said more evidence was needed and that Amnesty had its own agenda regarding Burundi.

Another rebel attack in the Kasese area of Uganda, near the Zairean border, brought an abrupt halt to a tour of the region by Ugandan parliamentarians and security officials late Wednesday, AFP reported. A 30-minute barrage of heavy artillery fire from Zaire towards the Mpondwe border post sent the officials scurrying for cover. NGO reports from the area said Mpondwe was sealed off but fighting in the Kasese area had subsided although there was still tension. Between 20,000-25,000 displaced people (IDPs) were mostly staying with their families, others were housed in church halls and schools. WFP was providing food assistance but said the need so far was not great. There may be greater need for assistance once the IDPs return home, as there have been reports of some looting. President Museveni, who has blamed Sudan for the cross-border attacks, is due to visit the area. An NGO in the area told IRIN the biggest threat currently comes from Arua, further north, where Zairean army troops are said to be massing across the border and giving support to rebels of the pro-Idi Amin West Nile Bank Front (WNBF).

A Ugandan paper reported that the Zairean border town of Kasindi was "shelled to rubble" on Tuesday, but accounts of the attack differed. In conflicting reports, quoted by The Monitor, Ugandan military authorities said the town was shelled by mistake "because of the geographical location of the area", while other military sources claimed it was attacked because it served as a rear base for Ugandan rebels.

Nairobi, 21 November 1996, 16:20 GMT

[ENDS]

[Via the UN DHA Integrated Regional Information Network. The material contained in this communication may not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its agencies. UN DHA IRIN Tel: +254 2 622123 Fax: +254 2 622129 e-mail: [irin@dha.unon.org](mailto:irin@dha.unon.org) for more information. If you re-print, copy, archive or re-post this item, please retain this credit and disclaimer.]

Date: Fri, 22 Nov 1996 19:10:09 +0300 (GMT+0300) From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes <irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

**Zaire: IRIN Update 36 on Eastern Zaire for 22 Nov 96 96.11.22**

Sender: owner-irinlist@dha.unon.org

To: irinlist@dha.unon.org

MIME-version: 1.0

Precedence: list

>Received: (from majordom@localhost) by dha.unon.org (8.6.12/8.6.12) id

TAA00322; Fri, 22 Nov 1996 19:12:52 +0300

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IRIN Emergency Update No. 36 on Eastern Zaire (Friday 22 November 1996)

The Canadian commander of a proposed international force in eastern Zaire said that troops were still needed, but it would take until tomorrow at least to develop military aid options. Lieutenant General Maurice Baril said officials from 35 countries and international organizations meeting in Stuttgart today had disagreed about the number of refugees in need and that he had established a "multi-national assessment group" to try to reach agreement.

Ethiopia has threatened to pull out of the force unless the mandate is expanded to allow the separation of Hutu militants from refugees. "The UN Security Council should revise its decision that confines the mission of the proposed multi-national intervention force to humanitarian work only," Prime Minister Meles Zenawi said yesterday. Kenya's President Moi said a force should only be deployed in the Great Lakes region with the consent of both Zaire and Rwanda.

An international meeting tomorrow in Geneva will focus on humanitarian aspects of the refugee situation, with priority going to the resettlement of Rwandan refugees, AFP said. However, participants in the meeting, to be chaired by Canadian International Cooperation Minister Don Boudria, also want the spotlight to fall on hundreds of thousands of refugees still in Zaire. The talks are expected to bring together ministers and high ranking officials from Canada, the USA, Europe, Japan and Australia. Senior UN and other aid officials will also attend.

The Rwandan government issued a statement yesterday saying that numbers given by aid agencies of Rwandan refugees remaining in eastern Zaire "are totally incorrect and misleading".

In a meeting yesterday called by the Rwandan Minister of Rehabilitation and Social Integration, the Rwandan government based its assessment on the fact that neither the UNHCR nor the Government of Rwanda had done a physical count of returnees following last week's exodus from eastern Zaire, and that all the camps in North Kivu were empty. The government also asserted that interviews with returnees indicated that they included refugees arriving from Bukavu, who had moved northward as the result of the civil war in South Kivu. Refugees who had moved west of Bukavu, according to the government "could be either Burundis, Zaireans or Rwandese." The government also claimed that there were "daily crossings of refugees from the Bukavu area through the Cyangugu border post and other crossings in the south". The statement appealed to the aid agencies to provide "the necessary assistance to the entire affected population in eastern Zaire". The meeting was attended by Ministers of Health, Foreign Affairs, political advisor to the Vice President and Minister of Defence, and representatives of UNDP, UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP and ICRC.

US Ambassador to Rwanda Robert Gribben said in a BBC interview yesterday that most of the refugees still in Zaire were either displaced Zaireans or Burundians, and that numbers of Rwandan refugees were nothing like those put forward by the aid agencies. He said that groups of refugees remaining in eastern Zaire "appear to be tens to twenties of thousands rather than in vast numbers". In response, Refugees International (RI) demanded the recall of the ambassador, saying he was downplaying the seriousness of the refugee crisis in eastern Zaire just before the Stuttgart military meeting today. Lionel Rosenblatt, President of the Washington-based RI told the BBC from Bukavu that the situation was still critical and that international intervention was a necessary decision: "We have one of the worst refugees crises of modern times. One need not quibble over numbers, but we know there are hundreds of thousands of people formerly supported by all of us as wards of the international community who've gone missing and are without food or water now for three weeks".

CNN journalist Catherine Bond reported yesterday, from near Sake, that local people said refugees fleeing Mugunga were killed by rebel soldiers. Newsweek (US) also reported accounts by eye-witnesses that refugees were killed by both the Hutu militants and the rebel forces, when Mugunga camp dispersed.

Renewed fighting was reported near Sake yesterday between rebels and Hutu gunmen. "We are receiving first-hand reports of fighting around Minova and in the Masisi hills above Sake," UNHCR's Filippo Grandi told reporters in Goma. Refugees arriving in Goma from Sake said there had been several clashes in the last few days between rebels and Hutu militias.

UNHCR reported that 241 people had crossed at Cyangugu yesterday, while on Wednesday 3,000 refugees from Kahindo and Katale camps arrived at Mugunga en route to the Rwandan border. The rebels allowed the use of one UNHCR bus to transport vulnerable cases. Numbers issued by UNHCR suggest the population of Gisenyi could increase by nearly 30 percent and Ruhengeri and Kibuye by almost 20 percent if all the refugees believed to be in Zairean camps return home. Initial reports also suggest a slight increase in Rwandan returnees from Tanzania, but numbers are not yet available, UNHCR said. An AFP report from Kigali said some of the refugees arrived in the city today after trudging over 150 kms from Gisenyi.

The International Committee of the Red Cross has announced that thousands of Rwandan children lost in the mass refugee return over the past week should be back in their homes within 48 hours thanks to a "lightning action" launched by ICRC in collaboration with the Rwandan authorities. However, the Committee is still concerned about the fate of possibly thousands of unaccompanied children still languishing in Zaire.

Rebel "Radio of the People" in Bukavu, monitored by BBC, yesterday announced the end of the ceasefire announced unilaterally fifteen days ago. Rebel-run radio said that ADFL commander, Colonel Andre Kissasse Ngandu, had told a meeting attended by 10,000 people in Goma that the cease-fire was intended to allow refugees to return to Rwanda. Kissasse said now that a large number of refugees had crossed the border, the immediate aim of the Alliance was to continue occupying Zairean regions, and eventually overthrow Mobutu's regime. The radio claimed 1,500 young men from the Bukavu area had joined the Alliance. Rebel radio also said that opposition leader Etienne Tshisekedi - who met President Mobutu yesterday for talks - was ready to work with Alliance leader Laurent Kabila. The rebel radio station appears to have replaced state-run Radio Bukavu. Recently, the Zairean government appears to have up-graded its transmitters in order to better serve provinces which for long have been without good radio reception.

Etienne Tshisekedi today claimed he had been named prime minister of a new government of national unity following talks with President Mobutu in France yesterday. He told Radio France Internationale the meeting had led to a reconciliation, but a spokesman for Mobutu denied the remarks. "The president yesterday received him for more than an hour, and there was never any question of political problems," spokesman Honore Nghanda told RFI, adding it would be unconstitutional for Mobutu to appoint a premier while he was out of the country.

The Rwandan government has told international journalists that there have been some arrests of returning former Rwandan soldiers, but many other ex-FAR have been allowed home and will be screened later. According to a spokeswoman for the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, quoted by AFP today, 15 arrests have been reported so far, but the number is expected to rise dramatically. The spokeswoman, Marie Van Der Elst, said trials were expected "soon" and were likely to be followed by executions. One UN official told IRIN it was frustrating and "of great concern" that there was so little information about how re-settlement at commune level was going. Donors are reportedly keen to put money into Human Rights monitors, and 60 monitors are due to arrive in Rwanda shortly.

UNHCR today said 300 Burundian refugees who returned from eastern Zaire were massacred in a church in Cibitoke province last month. UNHCR spokeswoman Christiane Berthiaume said they returned voluntarily to Muramba on October 22 and spent the night in the church, where they were killed. Berthiaume added that the identity of the killers was not known. Burundi yesterday denied Amnesty International claims that at least 400 returnees were killed by the security forces in the church, and Prime Minister Pascal-Firmin Ndimira today in Stockholm again issued a flat denial. "There is no sense for this allegation and people who are returning are well supported by humanitarian organisations," he said. "Even people who inform the UN are not always right," he added.

President Museveni visited Mpondwe on the border with Zaire yesterday and warned that Ugandan troops would follow rebels into Zaire if they attacked Uganda again. "If the rebels dared to attack the country again, they will be crushed and followed up to their bases," he told journalists, according to the New Vision paper today. A BBC journalist in the area said there were signs of a big battle - houses were empty and there were no civilians on the street. Displaced people were gradually returning to Mpondwe from Kasese. The Ugandan government, meanwhile, said it would soon send a delegation to Kinshasha, according to Ugandan press reports. The talks will discuss flushing out "the Zairean-backed rebel group" that raided the western district of Kasese last week capturing a series of towns. Foreign Affairs Minister, Eriya Kategaya told diplomats in Kasese on Wednesday that Uganda had already contacted Kinshasha over the issue. Some twenty diplomats were given a tour of the re-captured towns and told that Uganda wanted to solve the problem diplomatically. "There is no doubt that the rebels are in Zaire and could strike again," Kategaya said.

Nairobi, November 22 1996, 15:50 GMT  
[ENDS]

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Date: Sat, 23 Nov 1996 13:56:13 +0300 (GMT+0300) From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes  
<irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

## **Zaire: IRIN Update 37 on Eastern Zaire for 22-23 Nov 96 96.11.23**

Sender: owner-irinlist@dha.unon.org

To: irinlist@dha.unon.org

MIME-version: 1.0

Precedence: list

>Received: (from majordom@localhost) by dha.unon.org (8.6.12/8.6.12) id

NAA04884; Sat, 23 Nov 1996 13:58:40 +0300

### UNITED NATIONS

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IRIN Emergency Update No. 37 on eastern Zaire (22-23 November 1996)

A statement issued yesterday by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights said United Nations Human Rights Field Operation in Burundi (UNHRFOB) observers visited Cibitoke province on Thursday where they learned for the first time that refugees returning from eastern Zaire had been massacred in a church. After speaking to civilians, local authorities and the military, they ascertained that a total of 258 people were killed outright at Muramba church in Buganda commune and a further 40 died from injuries they sustained. Seventy others were wounded. Those responsible for the attack used guns and hand grenades, the observers said.

The UNHCR is now coming under great pressure to stop sending the returnees to Cibitoke. On November 9, MSF in Burundi had criticized efforts by UNHCR and the Burundian authorities to resettle returnees in the province. HRFOB last week expressed similar concerns to the Burundi authorities that refugees were being channelled to the volatile Cibitoke and Bubanza provinces, areas of severe confrontation between Hutu rebels and the armed forces and where access for relief workers is very limited. The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights has already appealed for an increase in the number of observers - currently five - to 35 and preferably 100. According to UNHCR, some 30,000 returning Burundian refugees have gone to Cibitoke province. UNHCR chief Sakako Ogata has decided to send the UNHCR Special Envoy for the Great Lakes, Dessalegn Chefeke, to Bujumbura for discussions on ensuring the security of the returnees.

AFP reported that fighting in Cibitoke province was delaying aid distribution to refugees returning to the embattled province. Relief workers yesterday brought a five-truck convoy to

the village of Nyamitanga, on the border with Zaire. A member of the Tutsi-dominated army told AFP that Hutu guerrillas had attacked the local market, and the ensuing clash had lasted three hours. Some 10 rebels had reportedly been killed. Burundian leader Pierre Buyoya held talks in Uganda yesterday with President Museveni to discuss the crisis in Burundi, specifically the lifting of sanctions.

One thousand Burundian refugees arrived in Gisenyi from Goma asking to be repatriated, the Office of the Humanitarian Coordinator in Kigali reported today. They had been taken to Butare in the south where there are camps for Burundian refugees. Regarding Rwandan returnees, the road from Gisenyi to Ruhengeri was now almost clear and the Rwandan government was encouraging people to move as fast as possible. To this end it had requested closure of all way stations from Gisenyi to Nkamira, and even the Nkamira transit camp was closed.

Thirty-five countries and international organisations continued meeting in the German city of Stuttgart today to weigh up military options aimed at helping refugees in eastern Zaire. Yesterday there was disagreement on how to proceed. Oxfam yesterday warned of an "African Bosnia" if the international community continued to neglect central Africa. The organisation's deputy director John Whitaker described the international response as "lacklustre". "Failure to take decisive action at the Stuttgart summit today (22 November) will condemn many to death," he said. "This humanitarian tragedy is not over." He again stressed that the force must disarm the Interahamwe militia and former Rwandan forces. "If the force does not have this mandate, then it shouldn't consider intervening," he added. Another international meeting is due to be held in Geneva today to discuss humanitarian aspects of the refugee crisis.

The USA resumed reconnaissance flights over Zaire yesterday after one of its planes came under fire on Wednesday. However poor weather prevented it obtaining images of the situation on the ground. National Security Adviser Anthony Lake said US officials were watching developments in the region "day by day" but he could not predict whether Washington would join in a possible multi-national force.

A convoy of UNICEF-ICRC-MSF trucks which left Kisangani for Lubutu on Wednesday had some problems en route and is now blocked near Lubutu, UNICEF said. One of the trucks broke down on the road and another was looted before it could deliver its load. A UN interagency mission left Kinshasa this morning and was expected in Kisangani later today. It will attempt to make assessments in Walikale.

Nairobi, 23 November 1996, 11:50 GMT

[ENDS]

Date: Mon, 25 Nov 1996 14:59:46 +0300 (GMT+0300) From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes  
<irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

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MIME-version: 1.0

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>Received: (from majordom@localhost) by dha.unon.org (8.6.12/8.6.12) id  
PAA14253; Mon, 25 Nov 1996 15:01:07 +0300

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Nairobi, 25 November 1996, 12:00 GMT  
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MIME-version: 1.0

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>Received: (from majordom@localhost) by dha.unon.org (8.6.12/8.6.12) id PAA14253; Mon, 25 Nov 1996 15:01:07 +0300

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PAA14253; Mon, 25 Nov 1996 15:01:07 +0300

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<irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

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To: irinlist@dha.unon.org

MIME-version: 1.0

Precedence: list

>Received: (from majordom@localhost) by dha.unon.org (8.6.12/8.6.12) id  
SAA16815; Mon, 25 Nov 1996 18:39:46 +0300

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IRIN Emergency Update No. 39 on eastern Zaire (Monday 25 November 1996)

The Rwandan government has begun registration of returnees in the communes. All members of the former Rwandan armed forces (FAR) have been told to register immediately upon arrival, as well as to hand in any weapons. So far five communes have registered between 60 and 150 ex-FAR members per commune and only a few weapons have been turned in. There have been few arrests.

According to a UN Human Rights Field Operation in Rwanda (HRFOR) information officer some 20 people have been detained "for their own protection" after being denounced by people in their communes, but the government is sticking to its pledge not to carry out arbitrary arrests. The government has requested residents to vacate the homes of returnees within 15 days and some transit centres have been set up in communes to accommodate both homeless returnees and residents displaced by returning owners. The centres are controlled by the local authority in a bid to avoid turning them into refugee camps and are open only to commune residents after registration. Currently there are 110 UN human rights observers in Rwanda, 65 of whom are in the field and 45 special investigators based in Kigali. Another 35 are due shortly, the objective being to increase their numbers by 300.

WHO (Gisenyi) has expressed satisfaction with the condition of returnees, stating that the mortality rate is lower, compared to the rate within Mugunga camp, near Goma, before the start of the exodus. However WHO says this is probably due to the fact that those surviving the walk back to Rwanda are probably the healthiest. WHO recorded only 23 cases of cholera between 13-22 November and the fatality rate has been low.

Rwandan foreign minister Anastase Gasana held talks on Friday with Canada's Nairobi-based representative to Rwanda, Bernard Dussault, Rwandan radio reported on Saturday. According to the radio, they discussed the proposed multi-national force, which Gasana described as "irrelevant", in keeping with the Rwandan government stand. The financial and logistical support to be used by the force could instead be sent to Rwanda for refugee reintegration, he said.

An NGO representative who has just been in Kigali said problems may just be starting in the Rwandan capital as refugees, who had walked from Gisenyi, were only now beginning to arrive. A government official has said a large number of families will have to move out of their homes to make way for the returnees. UNHCR puts the figure of returnees to Kigali Ville at 30,000. Predictions of higher numbers may be based on the fact that many returnees are walking through, instead of around, Kigali en route to their communes further south in Byumba and Kigali Rural. This is creating a massive flow of refugees through the city. The UN Humanitarian Coordinator's office in Kigali said many of them are now being transported on IOM trucks. Meanwhile, the mayor of Kigali requested 10,000 tents and prefabricated buildings to house the returnees and displaced residents.

The Hutu opposition Forces de Resistance pour la Democratie (FRD) accused the Rwandan authorities of a "machiavellian plan" in denying the existence of some 700,000 refugees still said to be in eastern Zaire. "The RPF regime has just amazed the world by shamelessly claiming that there are no more Rwandan refugees in Zaire and that the humanitarian military intervention voted by the UN is no longer needed," FRD said in a Brussels statement, signed by ex-minister Seth Sendashonga. It urged the quick deployment of a multi-national force "to stop the ongoing genocide against Rwandan refugees in Zaire."

Following on from the Stuttgart meeting, British Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind said today it was too early for European Union foreign ministers to decide on sending a multi-national force to Zaire. "It is not the day for a decision," he said on arrival at the Council of Ministers meeting in Brussels, adding that the final decision lay with the UN. Belgium lashed out at the UN today, accusing it of tardiness. "I'm afraid that if the huge United Nations machine finally gets moving, it will take several weeks more before something can be organised," Defence Minister Jean-Pol Poncelet said on Belgian radio. "The slowness of the international community to react is due to the failure of the United Nations system, the imbalanced power of the United States and the weakness of Europe."

Rebel commander Andre Kissasse has said the zone west of Goma, on the border with Rwanda, has been sealed off while his fighters move towards Hutu militia forces around Sake, Associated Press reported on Saturday. He said the rebels were carrying out "secret operations" in the area. Rebel leader Laurent Kabila had said earlier his troops had captured the towns of Mwenga and Masisi in recent days and were approaching the city of Kisangani.

AFP said officials of the UNHCR and other aid agencies met in Bukavu on Sunday to prepare for an urgently needed relief operation in the town. UNHCR spokesman Mans Nyberg said the talks, which were also attended by Tutsi-dominated rebels who control the town, focused

on aid to the region and the plight of internally displaced people and refugees still in eastern Zaire. Nyberg added that the attitude of the rebel officials was "helpful", but that they refused to acknowledge the existence of a refugee problem, admitting to a possible maximum of 100,000.

Zairean-based Ugandan rebels have abducted about 400 people and taken them to a camp inside Zaire, Ugandan papers reported today. A man who escaped from rebel captivity was quoted as saying rebels from the Allied Democratic Army captured men, woman and children in the Kasese area of Uganda and took them to a temporary camp in Zaire, only half a kilometre from the border. The Kasese area has been the scene of heavy clashes between rebels and the Ugandan army for over a week. On Saturday, the New Vision daily reported that the death toll among rebels was expected to reach over 400 as more and more "rotting rebel bodies" were being discovered in bushes and houses.

[IRIN Note: IRIN regrets a typing error which misstated Canadian Lt. Gen. Maurice Baril's rank in Update 38.]

Nairobi, 25 November 1996, 15:25 GMT

[ENDS]

[Via the UN DHA Integrated Regional Information Network. The material contained in this communication may not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its agencies. UN DHA IRIN Tel: +254 2 622123 Fax: +254 2 622129 e-mail: [irin@dha.unon.org](mailto:irin@dha.unon.org) for more information. If you re-print, copy, archive or re-post this item, please retain this credit and disclaimer.]

Date: Tue, 26 Nov 1996 13:39:24 +0300 (GMT+0300) From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes  
<irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

## **Zaire: IRIN Update 40 on Eastern Zaire for 26 Nov 96 96.11.26**

Sender: owner-irinlist@dha.unon.org

To: irinlist@dha.unon.org

MIME-version: 1.0

Precedence: list

>Received: (from majordom@localhost) by dha.unon.org (8.6.12/8.6.12) id

NAA23854; Tue, 26 Nov 1996 13:42:12 +0300

### UNITED NATIONS

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IRIN Emergency Update No. 40 on Eastern Zaire (26 November 1996)

United Nations Regional Deputy Humanitarian Coordinator, Martin Griffiths - returning from Zaire - told IRIN today that the lack of first hand UN evidence of large concentrations of people in eastern Zaire means continuing reconnaissance should remain a top priority. After holding talks with the Zairean authorities in Kinshasa and Kindu he said the UN intends to expand its presence in Zaire, possibly using Kisangani and Kindu as operational areas. By increasing UN personnel and stocks in Zaire, the UN hopes to reach displaced and conflict affected people in eastern Zaire. Negotiations will continue with the Zairean government, which has welcomed the proposal of a multi-national force to assist in repatriating Rwandan refugees.

The Regional Deputy Humanitarian Coordinator said that the Zairean government is anxious to get assistance to internally displaced people, but remains insistent that Rwandan refugees must be repatriated and given assistance in their country of origin. According to Zairean authorities there are up to 200,000 refugees around Katshungu. However, a UN flight to Walikale and Lubutu showed only small groups of people - including some 1,500 sheltering under UNHCR sheeting in Katshungu - but the UN team was informed by Zairean authorities that large groups of displaced people were sheltering in church buildings and forests. Church networks may be used to assist those internally displaced.

Zairean soldiers fleeing Butembo and Beni are arriving in large numbers further north in Bunia. Internally displaced groups are reported as fleeing in front of the soldiers - or making way for them - because of fear of looting and abuse by the soldiers. The congregation of soldiers in Bunia, and the accompanying disorder and insecurity, led to the evacuation of missionary

families and personnel in Bunia and Nyankunde over the weekend. An NGO flight over the border area showed about fifty vehicles travelling north to Bunia, assumed to be carrying military personnel and accompanying families.

The United Kingdom has agreed to make aerial photographs publicly available to UN agencies to assist with accurate tracing of refugees and displaced people.

UNHCR reports that numbers of refugees returning from Goma, eastern Zaire, to Rwanda are falling. Yesterday 1,016 returnees arrived in Rwanda, compared to 3-5,000 per day between 21-23 November. UNHCR say that some of the refugees were from South Kivu camps who had walked along the western shore of Lake Kivu and through Goma. Several hundred people continue to appear in Mugunga camp near Goma, apparently moving through the forest from Katale and Kibumba camps on the northern axis. Arrivals are reported to be in relatively good condition, although agencies still anticipate a later arrival of weaker refugees - especially those walking for ten days or more from South Kivu camps.

Journalists report that the rebel ADFL were requisitioning vehicles over the last few days to pick up refugees from the Sake road; however, rebels brought back mainly women and children and apparently separated out male refugees. One UN official told IRIN there was no information available on the fate of these refugees.

The Dutch paper De Standaard reports allegations from a refugee diary, kept since October 20, that rebels repeatedly prevented refugees from returning to Rwanda and "hunted" refugees on escape routes from the camps. According to the diary, rebels set up road blocks outside Mugunga camp and separated out men and boys of twelve years and over. Refugees say they heard gunfire near the road blocks; one claims he counted 120 corpses on the road. De Standaard reports that, according to refugee accounts, the Interahamwe also terrorized and killed refugees. The author of the diary estimates that 500 refugees were killed by Hutu militants in Mugunga camp when an Interahamwe militia man was found dead. It also records mass killings by armed militants of 200 men in Kirinda, near Katale, of 20 men, and of another group of 200 men. De Standaard says the diary will be used to prosecute crimes against humanity. A member of an international human rights organisation told IRIN, from Kigali, that some journalists had handed over vital documentary evidence found in Mugunga camp to officials for the UN International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (Arusha); but some journalists are known to have retained documents.

The Rwandan government has removed way stations and transit camps from Gisenyi to Ruhengeri to speed up repatriation of returnees to home communes. Many former soldiers are with the returnees, and are declaring themselves to the local communal offices. In some areas, meetings have been held to see how former soldiers might be reintegrated into the RPA. The UN Human Rights Field Operation in Rwanda has gathered preliminary information on house occupation - in Kayove commune (Gisenyi area) for example, there are 252 houses occupied by old caseload returnees and 727 houses occupied by genocide survivors whose own houses were destroyed. Temporary transit centres set up by the Rwandan government are being used to house returnees, displaced residents, and, in some cases, Zairean refugees. Mutende Transit Centre/Adventist University is housing about 5,000 Zairean refugees.

UN and other humanitarian agencies are still waiting for a decision on deployment of a multi-national force. An Inter-Agency Standing Committee statement on matters relating to the multi-national force in eastern Zaire on Friday (November 22) suggested that a formal mechanism be established to "facilitate planning and communication between the military and humanitarian actors". The statement emphasised the continued need for a multi-national force, despite the large exodus of refugees from eastern Zaire ten days ago, and expressed hope that a multi-national force would "lead to a sustainable security environment". The statement said that the humanitarian mandate of the agencies should be taken into consideration in the planning and execution of the deployment of the multi-national force, and that the Office of the Regional Humanitarian Coordinator should be "fully consulted in further developing the humanitarian objectives of the mission of the multi-national force". It also reiterated that a multi-national force should act in accordance with human rights and international law.

Nairobi, 26 November 1996, 10:35 GMT  
[ENDS]

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MIME-version: 1.0

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NAA23854; Tue, 26 Nov 1996 13:42:12 +0300

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The Regional Deputy Humanitarian Coordinator said that the Zairean government is anxious to get assistance to internally displaced people, but remains insistent that Rwandan refugees must be repatriated and given assistance in their country of origin. According to Zairean authorities there are up to 200,000 refugees around Katshungu. However, a UN flight to Walikale and Lubutu showed only small groups of people - including some 1,500 sheltering under UNHCR sheeting in Katshungu - but the UN team was informed by Zairean authorities that large groups of displaced people were sheltering in church buildings and forests. Church networks may be used to assist those internally displaced.

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Nairobi, 26 November 1996, 10:35 GMT  
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Date: Tue, 26 Nov 1996 19:15:02 +0300 (GMT+0300) From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes  
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**Zaire: IRIN Update 41 on Eastern Zaire for 26 Nov 96 96.11.26**

Sender: owner-irinlist@dha.unon.org

To: irinlist@dha.unon.org

MIME-version: 1.0

Precedence: list

>Received: (from majordom@localhost) by dha.unon.org (8.6.12/8.6.12) id

TAA26431; Tue, 26 Nov 1996 19:17:03 +0300

UNITED NATIONS

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IRIN Emergency Update No.41 on eastern Zaire (Tuesday 26 November 1996)

A Rwandan Hutu refugee has said hundreds of thousands of his compatriots are still hiding in the Virunga forests of eastern Zaire, Reuters has reported. Some refugees who fled Katale camp last month, began emerging from the forests on Saturday. "Imagine the population of Katale and Kahindo, all put in the same place, all together," said Jeanepo Musivimu, a refugee from Kigali. "That is what it is like in the forest." According to UNHCR, the combined population of the two camps before the exodus was 310,000. Reuters said the man's testimony adds credence to the estimates of aid organisations, who say there are still possibly hundreds of thousands of refugees trying to make their way home.

Other media reports quote refugees as saying the rebels are killing hundreds of men in the forest. "From what the refugees are telling us, there is a huge disaster going on up there," said one aid worker, quoted by Associated Press. One refugee said the rebels suspect that any refugees remaining in Zaire is a member of the Rwandan Hutu militias. Other refugees speak of the Zairean Mai Mai militia taking adult male refugees into the forest, AP said. An article in the "New York Times" yesterday noted, however, that according to some aid workers who had been talking to the refugees, the latter were offering widely differing accounts of what was happening in the forests, which could be a reflection of their own political leanings.

AFP said that by yesterday Bukavu was returning to normal, as the Tutsi-dominated rebels took the first steps towards setting up a regional administration. ICRC, which has a team of delegates in the town, also confirmed that the situation was calm. Food is available, although at inflated prices. Local people appeared unconcerned by the new authorities, the first

priority being to find food, AFP reported. ICRC said the water supply was functioning as was electricity, although only at night. It added that 17 sick and wounded people had been evacuated to Bukavu hospital from the Kashusha and Inera camps along the airport road, but no further details were available. ICRC is concentrating its efforts on medical care, by providing assistance to Bukavu hospital and seven health centres.

Aid workers yesterday expressed frustration at the lack of progress over sending a multi-national force to the region. "We understand the situation is difficult and changing but we feel the international community should take its responsibility for averting a humanitarian disaster," said Arjan Hehenkamp, head of mission for MSF in Kigali. "We don't care about numbers," he added. "Even if there are only 20,000 [in eastern Zaire] we need to reach them because logic dictates that they will be in a very bad condition."

Reports on the consensus on refugee and displaced people (IDPs) numbers in eastern Zaire reached at the Stuttgart international meeting, put the figures as follows: Masisi region 80,000; NW coast of Lake Kivu south of Sake 150,000; west of Bukavu towards Kindu near Shabunda 30,000; southwest of Bukavu near Mwenga 100,000. According to other sources, there are some 700,000 refugees still in eastern Zaire. Some 2,000 IDPs and refugees are reported to be in the Kisangani area, and 2,000-4,000 refugees are on the western side of Lake Kivu 70km from Bukavu moving southwards towards the town.

Zairean rebels today accused Zairean soldiers of looting two towns north of Goma. Rebel military chief Andre Kissasse said the troops "robbed, then fled" the towns of Butembo and Bunia, 200 kms north of Goma. Rebel troops had not yet reached the area "but the population is calling us," Kissasse added. According to AFP, rebels were today evacuating Rwandan refugees from Sake towards the border with Rwanda. Aid workers reported an increased number of refugees at Sake and Grand Lac and are predicting that up to 200,000 refugees may cross the border at Gisenyi in the next few days. Way stations may be set up between Sake and Goma, but access is severely restricted. A new camp "Numbi" has been set up south of Sake, and according to UNHCR it is bigger than Mugunga which housed 350,000 people.

The World Food Programme today warned that the sudden influx of refugees from eastern Zaire into Rwanda would require a major expansion of food aid projects to facilitate the reintegration process. In a press release, it said WFP planned to integrate recent returnees into new and existing food-for-work projects over the coming weeks and months, adding that the sudden return of the refugees would require a dramatic expansion of its food aid activities.

The Office of the UN Humanitarian Coordinator in Kigali reports that initial reintegration of Rwandan returnees in the communes has gone well with no major problems. However, the situation could become more fraught with the creation of transit centres as returnees wait to reclaim their property and resident families are evicted. Isolated security incidents have been reported in Gisenyi: on 17 November in Giciye commune two genocide survivors were killed and three injured in an attack by unknown assailants. Another genocide survivor was killed on the same day in a separate incident. Figures available as of 22 November from some communes in Gisenyi give the number of returnees and ex-FAR as follows: Rwerere 9,608 returnees and 147 ex-FAR Mutura 15,400 returnees and 150 ex-FAR Kanama 7,041 returnees

and 168 ex-FAR Rubavu 15,034 returnees and 130 ex-FAR Kayove 2,496 returnees and 66 ex-FAR Karago 7,552 returnees and 100 ex-FAR

Zairean rebel leader Laurent-Desire Kabila has denied being influenced by the USA, in an interview with Bukavu-based rebel Radio du Peuple broadcast on Saturday. However, Voice of America said he met with a senior official from the US embassy in Rwanda yesterday. According to VOA, the meeting in Goma with the US acting deputy chief of mission for Rwanda, Peter Whaley lasted over an hour but both men declined to reveal the contents of the talks.

A medical checkup for Mobutu, convalescing at his villa in the south of France after cancer surgery, was postponed yesterday, according to his aides. AP said this was a possible delay to his plans to return to Zaire. Prime Minister Kengo wa Dondo said last week Mobutu would have the checkup on 25 November and return home three days later.

Burundian leader Pierre Buyoya has said he will attend a regional summit on the Great Lakes to be held in Congo next week. He was invited to the summit, slated for December 2 and 3, by Congolese foreign ministry secretary-general Basile Ikouebe who visited Bujumbura on Saturday and said the turmoil in the region directly affected his country. Congolese president Pascal Lissouba has said the embargo against Burundi is unjust. Meanwhile, Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni held talks with Rwandan vice-President Paul Kagame in the northern Ugandan town of Gulu yesterday, according to AFP. A statement said Kagame returned to Kigali later in the day, but gave no details of the talks.

The response so far to the UN inter-agency flash appeal for the Great Lakes region amounts to contributions totalling US\$70,652,441, that is 27.2 percent of needs covered. UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali launched the appeal for \$259.3 million on 18 November for urgent humanitarian assistance to cover the period 1 November 1996-31 January 1997.

Nairobi, 26 November 1996, 16:00 GMT

[ENDS]

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Date: Wed, 27 Nov 1996 19:01:03 +0300 (GMT+0300) From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes  
<irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

## **Zaire: IRIN Update 42 on Eastern Zaire for 27 Nov 96 96.11.27**

Sender: owner-irinlist@dha.unon.org

To: irinlist@dha.unon.org

MIME-version: 1.0

Precedence: list

>Received: (from majordom@localhost) by dha.unon.org (8.6.12/8.6.12) id

TAA02199; Wed, 27 Nov 1996 19:34:16 +0300

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IRIN Emergency Update No. 42 on Eastern Zaire (Wednesday 27 November 1996)

Soldiers of the rebel Alliance of the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire (ADFL) are alleged to have massacred more than 300 Rwandan and Burundian Hutu refugees. Local Zaireans have reported eyewitness accounts by residents of Kakinda village, near to the empty Chimanga refugee camp, some 40 kilometres southwest of Bukavu. Eyewitnesses say that on November 17 some 40 rebels gathered about 300 refugees at Chimanga camp saying they would be repatriated, and then set off a mortar or grenade. They said survivors were killed with automatic rifles. Amnesty International issued a statement on the massacre yesterday, but alleges that about 500 Rwandan refugees and displaced Zaireans were killed. Amnesty International said the rebels separated out women and children, whereas Reuters say victims included women and children, and interviewed a young injured female refugee who survived the massacre. Bodies were buried by village residents in mass graves.

A resident of Butembo, North Kivu, contacted by radio today, said rebels had captured the town after entering it yesterday. Civilians fled into the surrounding hills several days ago while Zairean troops looted the town, and the local radio is appealing for people to return home, assuring them of their safety. Zairean soldiers, meanwhile, were fleeing further north, congregating in the towns of Beni and Bunia, pillaging and looting en route. Unconfirmed reports said troop reinforcements had been flown into Beni from Kisangani. A source close to the rebels claimed today that the towns of Kamituga, southwest of Bukavu beyond Mwenga and Lulimba, southwest of Fizi, were now also under rebel control.

The Ugandan daily New Vision reported today that around 200-300 heavily armed rebels of the Allied Democratic Army (ADA) entered western Uganda on Monday, heading for the

Bundibugyo district north of Kasese. The paper also said the Ugandan army shelled suspected rebel hideouts in the Kamirongo, Karimyo and Kasindi areas on the border with Zaire. An army officer told the paper that despite the shelling there was no response from the area, but that according to intelligence reports the rebels were mobile, moving within Zairean territory. The army had been monitoring rebel radio communications since their invasion of the country two weeks ago, he added.

UNHCR said 1,800 Rwandan refugees crossed into Gisenyi from Sake on Monday, with two thirds of the new arrivals coming from south Kivu. The returnees reported that many more refugees were following them. UNHCR said 4,000 Rwandan refugees arrived in Sake yesterday and were transported by UNHCR trucks to the Rwandan border. UNHCR also reported a concentration of 40,000 Rwandan refugees at Minova yesterday. SCF-UK said it had been able to move out of Goma to make a further assessment of the area. Some 30,000 people were believed to be in Minova town and a further 10,000-15,000 appeared to be moving northwards to meet them, it said.

ICRC reported on the joint fact-finding mission to Kindu, along with UNDHA, UNHCR and UNICEF. ICRC confirmed that only a few hundred people had arrived in Kindu. ICRC is to establish a logistical base closer to the conflict area which will also monitor the situation in south and west Kivu. ICRC delegates, who met the local head of the Zairean Red Cross in South Kivu, were told that volunteers had buried 525 people in Bukavu killed in fighting after October 28 when ICRC had to evacuate the town. Other reports say that Mugunga camp contains unexploded ordnance and two local NGO workers died at the camp on Monday when a mine exploded.

UNHCR said at least 5,229 refugees have so far been repatriated to Rwanda through Bukavu and Cyangugu this month, with average daily repatriation last week of 600. Also, according to UNHCR, hundreds of refugees from Zaire and Burundi continued to arrive in Tanzania, putting the total number of refugees in the country at 756,200. Of these, 535,000 are from Rwanda.

European Aid commissioner Emma Bonino called again yesterday for a multi-national force to be sent rapidly to eastern Zaire. She expressed frustration about inaction: "Scores of governments and military leaders from the most powerful nations in the world seem to be incapable of assessing the number of human beings in distress and to precisely locate them." She said in a statement issued from Brussels that the only response was to immediately organise a military mission to find out "once and for all" the location and situation of refugees remaining in eastern Zaire. Canadian foreign minister Lloyd Axworthy yesterday suggested basing an international relief mission at Entebbe in Uganda from which supplies could be parachuted into Zaire.

Bonino's statement followed a meeting on Monday of European Union foreign ministers in Brussels, and weekend conferences in Stuttgart and Geneva, which resulted in a "war of numbers" - regarding refugees and displaced people - rather than a decision for action. African leaders continue to complain that they are not being consulted. The UN Security Council has proposed a voluntary fund to finance troop contributions from African nations.

Aid agencies are endeavouring to move on from the political focus on numbers to the more important question of access. Despite lack of precise detail, aerial surveys have confirmed significant movements of groups of people within the area from the Rwanda border west into the interior of Zaire. The limited picture provided by technical intelligence has led to renewed emphasis on human intelligence, with efforts to get eyewitness reports.

The United Kingdom has agreed to provide information from aerial photographs relevant to the location and number of refugees and IDPs, but not the photographs themselves. Information will be shared with all relevant UN agencies and NGOs.

State-run Tanzanian radio, quoting a Rwandan minister, said yesterday that citizens in Rwanda were gripped by deep fear, because of accusations that returning refugees include individuals involved in the 1994 genocide. Rwandan Minister of Rehabilitation, Patrick Mazimpaka, who was in Dar es Salaam yesterday said that so far nearly 700,000 refugees had returned to Rwanda from Zaire, Burundi and Tanzania, and that the government was seeking funds to build temporary accommodation for the refugees before building permanent houses. UN Humanitarian Coordinator Sergio Vieira de Mello said yesterday some Rwandan refugees based in Tanzania might start moving home and added he planned to visit Tanzania, after travelling to Uganda, Kenya and Burundi.

State-run Rwandan radio reported an estimated 110,000 people had returned to the 12 communes of Gisenyi Prefecture. About 1,500 soldiers of the former had been registered in those communes, according to the government. Members of the former Rwandan forces have been issued with identity cards to show they were former soldiers. Most of the returnees are still in transit camps at commune HQs, while some have returned to their homes and are receiving food and medicine, reports Radio Rwanda. It also reported yesterday that the price of foodstuffs in Kigali Urban Prefecture had risen, because of increased consumption by returnees. Another explanation was given by an official from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry who was quoted as saying that most vehicles used to transport foodstuffs from up-country Rwanda were being hired by the government to help in the transportation of returning refugees, explaining a drop in supply. A survey reportedly done in the town records the price of beans rising from 150 to 200 francs, and Irish potatoes from 35 to 45 francs.

An international journalist who has been in Goma and Kigali told IRIN today that "the level of hostility and fear between returnees and survivors is tangible". According to the journalist, reclaimed farm land will be a big issue as it is already cultivated. The Rwandan military maintains a visible presence on the roads, reports the journalist, and "everybody knows there is a strong security presence in the communes".

Zairean opposition leader Etienne Tshisekedi returned to Kinshasa today after talks in France with President Mobutu, and announced he would call a government meeting tomorrow, AFP reported. According to AFP, he received a triumphant welcome from thousands of supporters.

About 15 people have died from cholera and another 2,000 are infected in Zambia on the northern border with Zaire, report health authorities in northern Zambia. Health department spokesman Frederick Mwansa said the deaths were reported in recent days in two fishing camps.

Nairobi, 27 November 1996, 15:30 GMT  
[ENDS]

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Date: Thu, 28 Nov 1996 18:23:56 +0300 (GMT+0300) From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes  
<irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

## **Zaire: IRIN Update 43 on Eastern Zaire for 28 Nov 96 96.11.28**

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To: irinlist@dha.unon.org

MIME-version: 1.0

Precedence: list

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SAA10968; Thu, 28 Nov 1996 18:25:58 +0300

### UNITED NATIONS

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IRIN Emergency Update No. 43 on Eastern Zaire (Thursday 28 November 1996)

US Defence Secretary William Perry, who is in Italy, yesterday pledged Washington's support for a Canadian proposal to parachute food to the refugees in Zaire, but said there was no question of sending a US combat force to the country. A White House statement yesterday said the USA had placed troops on alert in readiness for a possible airlift. However WFP said the proposed air drop should only go ahead if relief supplies could not be transported overland. Both WFP and UNHCR called for a presence on the ground to ensure the food packages did not fall into the hands of the Hutu militia. Zaire today rejected the proposed airdrops, saying it would not authorise overflights of its territory for "such an insulting operation". "It's better to do nothing at all than treat refugees and displaced people like dogs," Information Minister Boguo Makeli told AFP. Uganda yesterday agreed that Entebbe could be used as a base.

Rwanda meanwhile criticised a Canadian suggestion to use Entebbe airport as a base for the airdrops. Presidential adviser Ephraim Kabaija said if the international troops did not have a mandate to fight in eastern Zaire, then "they are coming here for a holiday, to spend time on the beaches of Entebbe." Entebbe, he added, was on the wrong side of the frontline and the base would be better situated in Kinshasa or Kisangani.

The head of the proposed multi-national force, Canadian Lt. Gen Maurice Baril, arrived in Goma from Kigali today for talks with rebel leaders, AFP said. One of the Canadian officers accompanying him said the aim of the visit was to try and make contact with the "new authorities", as he described them. The team had also wanted to see whether it was possible to cross the border, the officer added. Yesterday, Baril met UN Humanitarian Coordinator Sergio

Vieira de Mello at Uganda's Entebbe airport before flying on to Kigali where he held talks with Rwandan Vice-President Paul Kagame. During the meeting, Kagame again stressed Rwanda's opposition to the planned multi-national force. Canada announced yesterday it had decided to distribute the first tranche - seven million [Canadian] dollars - of an overall 15 million dollars in emergency aid to Rwanda and Zaire. Japan said a government fact-finding mission would leave for the region tomorrow to assess the humanitarian needs in eastern Zaire and Rwanda.

Aerial surveys carried out by Britain yesterday revealed there were "numerous camps" scattered throughout the mountainous and forested area, west of Minova. Aid workers have located several thousand Rwandan refugees and Hutu militiamen a few kilometres west of Numbi, just off the main road to Goma, AFP also reported today. It quoted a UNHCR official as saying the refugees, who formed too large a group to be easily counted, were five hours' walk west of the road between Goma and Bukavu.

Mobile way stations providing high energy biscuits and medicines are to be set up between Minova and Sake with the involvement of ICRC, MSF and Merlin, after some 40,000 refugees and displaced people were located in the area, WFP said.

According to a report issued by the US Agency for International Development (USAID), Zairean refugees in Kigoma, Tanzania rioted earlier this week over a shortage of plastic sheeting. The following day there was a riot over lack of blankets. During this disturbance, the Kigoma Regional Commissioner was attacked and promptly ordered all Zairean refugees to be repatriated. The USAID report said UNHCR is holding discussions with the Commission to have this decision rescinded. The total number of refugees assisted by operations run from UNHCR sub-office in Kigoma has almost tripled from 51,600 at the start of November to over 148,000 people. The new arrivals include Burundians crossing overland and Zaireans arriving by boat to Kigoma town. UNHCR has asked for help from ICRC and MSF Spain in assisting the new arrivals from Zaire and Burundi. At Mtendeli camp, the malnutrition rate for children under five is said to be approaching 19 percent.

UNHCR and the Tanzanian government meanwhile have stepped up negotiations with the Rwandan refugee population regarding their voluntary return home, according to the USAID report. Some refugees have stated they first need confirmation that their land back home is unoccupied. UNHCR said it detected a new mood on repatriation among the Rwandan refugees. Previously seven to eight refugees a day were volunteering to go back, now the number had risen to 100-150. The Tanzanian authorities had drawn up a plan to separate extremists from the refugees.

About 10,000 refugees crossed over from Goma into Gisenyi, WFP reported yesterday. It said this was the highest number for several days and could indicate the start of another large influx. WFP was able to distribute biscuits to those coming across the border. The agency said its aim now was to move away from free food distribution and into food for work programmes as soon as possible. In the south Kivu area, WFP said it was planning "small scale targeted distribution" to vulnerable groups in Bukavu - 500 hospital patients and 500 children in orphanages. Additional aid would be provided to 8,000 - 9,000 refugees and displaced people in and around the Bukavu area.

The number of Burundian returnees from Zaire to the Gatumba transit centre has been dropping, according to DHA in Bujumbura. Over the last two weeks the number of daily new arrivals averaged under 400, with fewer than 50 arriving on some days. Inter-agency missions are continuing to work in the troubled Cibitoke province where tension is reported to be high between returnees and those displaced by recent fighting.

UNHCR in its daily report said there are signs of a major battle at Nyabibwe, 100 kms south of Goma, at the peak of a high path leading back down to the lake. The road was littered with the wreckage of 57 trucks, buses and cars, probably hit by rocket-propelled grenades. Other cars had just been left abandoned in the road. Local villagers said many civilians who had been behind the vehicle convoy - apparently coming from the south Kivu region - fled to the hills, but the UNHCR team was unable to go into the hills to confirm the reports.

Eastern Zairean rebels have issued a statement telling journalists they must have a permit from the rebel authorities to carry out their work. The statement, broadcast yesterday by rebel-run Radio of the People and monitored by the BBC, said journalists must produce a written request to include the aim and length of the mission, the employer, the country of origin, and the areas they want to visit. Any journalist contravening an agreement signed with the authorities would not be able to work in the territory.

Belgium's State Secretary for Cooperation Reginald Moreels arrived in Kinshasa on Tuesday night for a one-week official visit, the Belgian daily *Le Soir* reported yesterday. The paper said it was the first visit to Zaire by a Belgian government member since 1990, but it doubted that the trip would give out any strong political signal. It was expected that Moreels would keep a low profile, the paper said. Moreels, who is due also to visit Kisantu, Mbwamanda and Kisangani, said the message he was bringing from his government included support for Zaire's territorial integrity. He also said Belgium disapproved of the slowness in dispatching an international force to the region and that it would step up indirect assistance by supporting more projects for food security, health care, training and democratisation. It would be a mistake for Zaire to allow the democratisation process to be affected by the Kivu crisis, he added. In another development, Belgium yesterday strongly denied allegations that it was sending military supplies to Hutu militias in Zaire through a Kenyan weapons factory at Eldoret. "This factory is not up to production," a foreign ministry spokesman said. "It is impossible that munitions could have been delivered to any party in the Great Lakes region."

An aide to President Mobutu confirmed the Zairean leader would not be returning home from Europe this weekend, after raising expectations that he would go back three days after a medical check on 25 November. The check-up was postponed, and the aide, Honore Ngbanda, said Mobutu would return "some time soon", but no date had been set.

The regional military commander in western Uganda, Col Peter Karim, has denied press reports that heavily armed Ugandan rebels infiltrated the country from neighbouring Zaire, saying that they had been pushed back into Zaire. He said shooting in the Kasese area on Tuesday was simply soldiers undergoing training exercises. MSF told AFP that most of the

30,000 people displaced by the recent fighting had now returned to Kasese district, despite press reports to the contrary.

The UN Regional Humanitarian Coordinator for the Great Lakes Sergio Vieira de Mello chaired a regional meeting in Nairobi yesterday to discuss key operational issues in the region. These included collaboration with the multi-national force, regional logistics matters and dissemination of information. The meeting was attended by the deputy Humanitarian Coordinator Martin Griffiths: the humanitarian coordinators of Zaire, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi and Tanzania: the UN resident coordinator for Kenya: and the regional coordinators/special envoys of UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, WHO, FAO and ICRC.

Actionaid is convening an international conference on the Great Lakes crisis, to be held at the Nairobi Hilton Hotel on December 1 and 2. The aim of the conference is to bring together academics, analysts, UN agencies and NGOs to discuss the humanitarian implications of the crisis. For further details contact Robert Dodd on Nairobi 334000, Fax 339462 [Hilton Hotel], or at Actionaid Tel.442200,440440/4/9, Fax 445843, E-mail calum@form-net.com

Nairobi, 28 November 1996, 15:15 GMT

[ENDS]

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Date: Fri, 29 Nov 1996 19:18:31 +0300  
From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes <irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

**Zaire: IRIN Update 44 on Eastern Zaire for 29 Nov 96 96.11.29**

Sender: owner-irinlist@dha.unon.org  
To: irinlist@dha.unon.org  
MIME-version: 1.0  
Precedence: list  
>Received: (from majordom@localhost) by dha.unon.org (8.6.12/8.6.12) id  
TAA19929; Fri, 29 Nov 1996 19:18:31 +0300

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IRIN Emergency Update No. 44 on Eastern Zaire (29 November 1996)

Aid workers report fighting around Minova today. Attempts to help some 40,000 refugees, encountered by Canadian Commander Lieutenant General Maurice Baril yesterday southwest of Goma, have been frustrated by the renewed fighting, with aid agencies confined to Goma and Sake. UN agencies have had access to Minova since Tuesday, and had provided high protein biscuits at a way-station two kilometres outside Minova for refugees travelling to Rwanda through Goma. According to WFP, this way-station had to be abandoned today. The group of some 40,000 refugees southwest of Goma were the first large group to be physically encountered by aid workers and foreign military personnel since the conflict in eastern Zaire began. World Food Programme reported 6,500 newly arrived Rwandan returnees in Gisenyi today.

Baril reported yesterday, according to AFP, that the refugees he encountered were not moving because "they are too sick, or being held hostage". Baril's statement on the "hostage" situation of the refugees, as reported by AFP, indicates a continued presence of Interahamwe and former Rwandan soldiers, and possibly hostile militia, on the Sake-Minova road. The rebel Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire (ADFL) was reported to have taken control of Sake and Minova last week; however, these gains proved tenuous, with continued reports of security problems. The rebels are now attempting to consolidate and control a swathe of border territory stretching some 500 kilometres along the Rwandan and Burundian borders. ADFL's most recent acquisition is allegedly Butembo (on Tuesday night) some 200 kilometres north of Goma. BBC reported today that the Zairean government denies Butembo has been taken. State-run television today showed pictures of Beni, and ran

interviews with displaced Zaireans. IRIN has received unconfirmed reports of Zairean army reinforcements flown into Beni and Bunia.

Lieutenant General Baril was scheduled to complete his assessment mission of the region today. Journalists report that Baril has plans to go to Kinshasa this weekend to hold talks with the Zairean government. AFP reports that Baril negotiated with rebel leader Laurent-Desire Kabila yesterday in Goma on use by the multi-national force of Goma airport; but that he refused to comment on the outcome of the negotiations. Reuters reported gunfire shortly after Baril travelled through Sake. Reuters said the gunfire caused refugees, aid workers and journalists to flee. However, a WFP spokesperson said the shooting was an attempt at crowd control by the rebels, after people congregated around a warehouse.

A Canadian military spokesman said today that a base of the multi-national force has been established in Entebbe, Uganda, which is primarily for intelligence collecting. The proposed multi-national force will have a steering committee in New York, USA, from which approval is needed for any switch between five established levels of readiness - including operating in a hostile environment. United Nations agencies are in the process of establishing a joint logistical and air coordination cell in Kampala.

The UNHCR daily up-date reports, for Wednesday, that more than 95,600 refugees from Zaire and Burundi arrived this month in Tanzania's Kigoma and Kibondo districts. Of the arrivals, 30,000 were Zairean refugees and about 1,500 Burundian refugees from Zaire - the rest came directly from Burundi. Tanzania now hosts more than 755,000 refugees, including 535,000 Rwandans and 189,000 Burundians. More than 59,000 Burundian refugees from Zaire have returned to Burundi since early November. This figure includes 15,377 who arrived through the Gatumba transit centre outside Bujumbura. UNHCR says the number also includes some 44,000 who came spontaneously to the Cibitoke region, where fighting has been reported between government forces and rebels. UNHCR reports that a team visited Cibitoke on Wednesday and travelled to the Rwandan border, where they saw groups of returnees and displaced people in poor health. In Uganda, UNHCR reports an average of 40 people a day continuing to arrive in southwestern Uganda. Some 11,597 mostly Zairean refugees are in the region, including 8,094 at Kisoro and 3,503 at Matanda.

Plans for air-dropping food into eastern Zaire are being treated with caution, after many aid agencies criticised the proposal. Reuters reports that aid workers poured scorn on the plan as "expensive, dangerous and full of holes". Other critics point out that air-drops would depend on getting access for ground personnel and good intelligence on the whereabouts of the refugees - the very lack of these being a main reason why significant humanitarian operations have been unable to go ahead in eastern Zaire since the start of the conflict. According to Canadian sources, however, the plans for parachuting food over Zaire from a base in neighbouring Uganda is mainly a "demonstration of readiness". Lieutenant General Maurice Baril said yesterday in Kigali that air drops are "complex, dangerous and very difficult - something to use only as a last resort", reports AFP.

Several countries participating in the Canadian-led multi-national operation announced commitments of equipment and personnel yesterday, reports AFP. France has pledged to

provide two planes and an unspecified number of ground troops; Belgium will be providing at least one Hercules aircraft and one field hospital; Denmark and South Africa have both offered Hercules; and Senegal has offered to send in ground troops for reconnaissance. The US announced a commitment to provide headquarters personnel in Entebbe, and assistance in air-drop planning. Canada already has 21 military personnel in Kigali, and 243 personnel at the Entebbe base.

The Rwandan government, which has publicly opposed the proposed multi-national force as "irrelevant", has not confirmed whether the multi-national force will be able to use Rwandan air or land territory. BBC reports presidential advisor Claude Dusaidi as saying Rwanda will support reconnaissance missions to get the "exact facts" from eastern Zaire. Dusaidi said the attitude of the international community was "hypocritical" in that it used inflated numbers to attract funding, but failed to provide support for refugees when they returned to Rwanda.

The United Nations Human Rights Field Operation in Rwanda reported today that four new human rights monitors had arrived, and more were expected - including United Nations volunteers. It had received reports of about 35 arrests of newly arrived returnees by November 26. The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Jose Ayala Lasso, is due to arrive in Rwanda during the first week of December, and plans to meet with government officials, UN agencies and NGOs to discuss programmes of protection and promotion of human rights, particularly with regard to the administration of justice and reintegration of returnees.

Nairobi, 29 November 1996, 16:10 GMT  
[ENDS]

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Date: Sat, 30 Nov 1996 14:21:54 +0300  
From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes <irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

**Zaire: IRIN Update 45 on Eastern Zaire for 30 Nov 96 96.11.30**

Sender: owner-irinlist@dha.unon.org  
To: irinlist@dha.unon.org  
MIME-version: 1.0  
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>Received: (from majordom@localhost) by dha.unon.org (8.6.12/8.6.12) id  
OAA23918; Sat, 30 Nov 1996 14:21:54 +0300

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IRIN Emergency Update No. 45 on Eastern Zaire (30 November 1996)

The Ugandan army has attacked eastern Zaire and captured Kasindi and Virunga Hills, 10km inside Zairean territory, the state-owned New Vision reports today. The assault, which continued into the early hours of Friday morning, was in response to attacks launched from Zaire into Uganda's Kasese region this month by rebels, allegedly of the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF). Ugandan area commander, Lt Col Geoffrey Muheesi, was quoted by the New Vision as saying that Ugandan forces would not leave Zairean territory "until after the intervention of the Zairean government" to neutralize the rebel threat. AFP has been reporting Zairean reinforcements being flown into Beni, about 60 km northwest of Kasindi.

Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni held talks with Canadian Lt Gen Maurice Baril in the northern Ugandan town of Gulu on Friday. According to the New Vision, Museveni told the commander of the proposed multi-national force (MNF) that the Ugandan Government was happy with the MNF plan to carry out its operations from Uganda. Museveni, however, advised the commander to concentrate on "humanitarian aid and not get drawn into internal regional conflicts". A joint advance team of more than 550 British, Canadian and US military personnel has been based at Entebbe's airport since early November.

AFP has reported that the 20 countries which form the multi-national force formally approved its establishment yesterday. Paul Heinbecker, the senior Canadian official who chaired yesterday's meeting in Ottawa announced that the MNF was approved, with its headquarters to be in Entebbe. Heinbecker also said that it had been agreed to form a Steering Committee of 14 countries to make operational decisions on the recommendation of Lt Gen Maurice Baril. The Committee would meet in New York from now on and report to the UN

Security Council. The members of the Committee are: Belgium, Cameroon, France, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Senegal, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Britain, the United States, Uganda and Canada. It was still unclear late Friday about the number of troops to be deployed and how much equipment would be needed.

Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien told a news conference on Friday that Lt Gen Baril had secured the collaboration of the commander of the rebel group in eastern Zaire after talks in Goma. Rebel ADFL leader, Laurent Kabila had earlier told the Paris based weekly *Nouvel Afrique Asie* that his men would continue to resist any French presence in the MNF because of French intervention in support of Zairean president Mobutu in the past.

Amnesty International has accused Zairean soldiers and rebels of arbitrarily killing local people and Rwandan refugees in Eastern Zaire. At a news conference at the end of a two week visit to Zaire, Herve Berger, Amnesty's Deputy Secretary-General, denounced the killings and said that Amnesty has received reports of extrajudicial killings, rape and pillaging by the Zairean Army and the slaughter of hundreds of Rwandan refugees and displaced Zaireans by the rebel groups. "The human rights situation is continuing to get worse", he said. Expressing concern at the nomination of General Baramoto Kpama Kata, the former head of the feared civil guard, as armed forces Chief of Staff, Berger added that: "Zairean authorities have created a climate of intimidation, where questions demanding the truth about the role of the authorities in the current crisis are repressed".

A UN spokeswoman in Geneva yesterday reported the killing of three civilians by former Rwandan soldiers in Giseki, Gisenyi. One was a genocide survivor. So far, 38 ex-FAR have been arrested in Rwanda since the massive return of refugees earlier in the month.

Donors have contributed close to US\$ 78 million to the UN Consolidated Inter-Agency Flash Appeal for the crisis in Eastern Zaire. The Appeal launched in early November for a three month period, calls for more than US\$ 259 million for urgent assistance for refugees, returnees and conflict affected people. A further US\$ 22 million has been provided by donors outside the framework of the Flash Appeal - mainly to international NGOs.

Nairobi, 30 November 1996, 11:00 GMT

[ENDS]

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Date: Mon, 02 Dec 1996 18:43:43 +0300  
From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes <irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

## **Zaire: IRIN Update 46 on Eastern Zaire for 1-2 Dec 96 96.12.2**

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To: irinlist@dha.unon.org  
MIME-version: 1.0  
Precedence: list  
>Received: (from majordom@localhost) by dha.unon.org (8.6.12/8.6.12) id  
SAA01733; Mon, 2 Dec 1996 18:43:43 +0300

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IRIN Emergency Update No. 46 on eastern Zaire (1-2 December 1996)

Fears of cross-border assaults between Uganda and Zaire were heightened today after the Zairean army accused Ugandan troops of taking control of Beni, 50 kms from Butembo in north Kivu. An army spokesman, quoted by AFP, said the Ugandans entered the town on Saturday after coming into Zaire via the Mpondwe-Kasindi border post. He rejected claims by Uganda that it was simply exercising its right to pursue Zaire-based rebels. "They penetrated Zairean territory to come to the aid of their Rwandan allies, not to pursue Ugandan rebels," the spokesman said. Missionary organisations operating in the area said Beni was under rebel control, but that according to second-hand reports there may have been Ugandan involvement. The organisations have been evacuating Bunia, further north, due to instability. Reports say that Bunia airport is no longer safe. The missionaries reported that Zairean soldiers were looting as they fled the towns and some women were said to have died from violent rape and attempted rape. Beni itself was now reported to be calm. BBC radio said the rebels were pushing northwards in pursuit of fleeing Zairean soldiers.

Uganda meanwhile denied that its forces had captured Beni but admitted going into Kasindi late Thursday in pursuit of rebels. "We wouldn't go into Beni," foreign minister Eriya Kategaya said on Sunday. "Why should we go there? We went into Kasindi because it was being used by rebels and is close to our border." He said he believed Beni had been taken by Zairean rebels.

Nyamulagira volcano, north of Goma, erupted yesterday with initial reports dismissing any significant humanitarian problems, as the area is reportedly sparsely populated. The volcano is located near the now-empty camps of Kitale and Kahindo. However the whereabouts of

many refugees and displaced people remains unknown. Eyewitnesses in the Goma region said they could see lava spewing into the air, along with large clouds of gases.

An advance team of Canadian officers from the multi-national force was due in Goma today to prepare for possible airdrops of supplies to refugees in the region, UNHCR said. UNHCR spokesman Ray Wilkinson, quoted by AFP, said WFP had been tasked with defining the dropping zones, but by yesterday the Zairean rebels had still refused WFP representatives access to the area. The refugees appear, according to some UN sources, to be concentrated in three main areas - the majority, up to 200,000, near Walikale, an estimated 50,000 along the Masisi plain and tens of thousands sheltering in Virunga forests. No firm decision has yet been taken on the airdrops, which most aid agencies say should be a last resort option. A Canadian military official, meanwhile, said yesterday that medical supplies and cholera vaccines from MSF, weighing 6.7 MT, had been airlifted to Kigoma, Tanzania, aboard a military cargo plane.

WFP in Uganda has received the first of two air shipments of short-haul trucks from Croatia to provide badly-needed transport of relief food to Rwandan returnees. A WFP press release said eight of a total 16 trucks, donated by ODA, arrived in Entebbe on Saturday. It said the supply of trucks was critical to gain access to returnees who have gone back to their hilly, remote areas. The FAO representative in Rwanda, Peter Vandor said returning refugees had already been provided with seeds and tools to enable them to start farming as soon as possible.

Zairean rebel leader Laurent Kabila has said the territory under the control of his forces would soon be named Democratic Congo, Associated Press reported on Saturday. Upon independence in 1960, the former Belgian Congo was renamed Republic of the Congo. Mobutu changed the name to Zaire in 1971.

Burundian leader Maj Pierre Buyoya said he would ask neighbouring countries to lift economic sanctions against his country at a regional summit which opens in Congo. "I shall explain the difficulties faced by our country, notably because of the illegal closure of the borders ... in order to have these measures reviewed," he said, in remarks broadcast by Burundi national radio. Buyoya is already in Brazzaville to attend the summit which will discuss the crisis in the Great Lakes region. The rebel Hutu organisation National Council for the Defence of Democracy (CNDD) today expressed its disapproval of Buyoya's invitation to the summit, describing him as "head of the military junta in Bujumbura."

The Canadian commander of the MNF Lt Gen Maurice Baril is due in Nairobi tomorrow night and is planning to meet representatives of humanitarian agencies and the Kenyan government.

Nairobi, 2 December 1996 15:40 GMT

[ENDS]

Date: Tue, 03 Dec 1996 18:46:02 +0300  
From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes <irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

### **Zaire: IRIN Update 47 on Eastern Zaire for 3 Dec 96 96.12.3**

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MIME-version: 1.0  
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SAA12541; Tue, 3 Dec 1996 18:46:02 +0300

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IRIN Emergency Update No. 47 on eastern Zaire (Tuesday 3 December 1996)

Reports from Kisangani, in eastern Zaire tell of an increasingly unstable situation in the town. BBC radio today said Zairean rebels claimed they were in control of the town, but this could not be confirmed. Zaire denied the rebels had taken the town and said its forces were in complete control. The situation however was rapidly deteriorating, according to NGOs who had recently arrived from the town. Aviation Sans Frontieres (ASF) are reported to be pulling out of the area after their aircraft came under fire yesterday. Crack troops from the Civil Guard and the Special Presidential Division were reportedly arriving in Kisangani and other parts of eastern Zaire to reinforce the Zairean army. Some 400 Zairean soldiers, who regrouped in Kisangani after fleeing the rebel advance in north Kivu, have remained in the town where shooting and looting are common occurrences. Soldiers apparently have not been paid and are said to be demoralised as the rebels consolidate their gains. Aid workers who left Kisangani yesterday, said a military plane had arrived from the rebel-captured town of Beni bringing bodies of soldiers killed in the fighting. This added to the tension, heightening fears that insecurity in Kisangani will escalate still further.

The Kisangani area, home to some 500,000 people, also houses between 2,000-3,000 displaced persons. Last Friday, WFP was granted a government permit to oversee a feeding programme, but due to the growing insecurity, staff are still in Kinshasa. In the meantime, WFP is arranging the transport of 500 MT of food stocks from Zambia by rail to Kindu, and then by barge to Kisangani.

A recent Amnesty International report also painted a grim picture of life in Kisangani, saying it feared extrajudicial executions were being carried out in the town. Authorisation was never

received to visit the area, but reports spoke of violent attacks on families by Zairean troops, including beating and raping women and girls as young as 12. A field trip to Zaire undertaken by the organisation's deputy Secretary-General Herve Berge highlighted torture and arrests in Kinshasa and massacres in other parts of the country.

After routing the Zairean army in Beni on Saturday, the rebels were still said to be advancing northwards towards Bunia where the situation was described as very tense. Missionary aircraft, attempting to land in Bunia and nearby Nyakunde today, had to abort as both places were deemed too insecure, while another missionary flight at Rethi, northeast of Bunia, was boarded by a soldier carrying out a search. Soldiers are not normally based in Rethi, which may indicate they are fleeing Bunia, according to a source in touch with the area. Local people on the ground told missionary groups by radio that the rebel focus was now on Bunia. "We are told Zairean soldiers are fleeing in total panic," said one radio operator, quoted by Reuters. "The rebels are advancing along the road to Bunia, there is complete chaos in Bunia."

An article over the weekend in the Zairean newspaper "La Reference le Plus" points to the low morale of the Zairean army. According to the report, Butembo - which fell to the rebels on Wednesday - was an easy gain. The lack of a military confrontation was surprising, the newspaper said, as soldiers had a three-day warning of the rebel attack. It questioned how a force 60,000-10,000 strong was unable to mobilise enough troops to meet the rebel challenge and criticised the government's delay in sending reinforcements. "La Reference" went on to predict the fall of the mineral-rich Kasai region, to the west of Kivu. Another newspaper, "Le Soft" reported on Saturday that forces from the Masisi Hunde and Ngilima militia had allied themselves to the rebels.

Despite the war looming on the Shaba-Kivu border, Reuters reports that the first private mining company to invest in Zaire since the 1970s signed a deal to mine copper and cobalt in Shaba. The Swiss-based Groupe Lundin, representing the Canadian company Consolidated Eurocan Ventures (CEV), won agreement from the Zairean government to mine the vast mineral resources at Tenke Fungurume in partnership with the state-owned Gecamines firm. Under the terms of the deal, signed Sunday, CEV will own 55 percent of the Tenke Fungurume project, and Gecamines 45 percent. Lundin chairman Adolf Lundin told Reuters the agreement signified the "rebirth" of Zaire's mining industry and he played down any risk of investing in the country. "Taking risks too much into account is like competing in a marathon with a broken leg," he said. Site studies have revealed that Tenke Fungurume could become one of the world's largest open-cast copper mines.

Kinshasa is reported calm at the moment, but its dependence on food supplies from the Kivu region threatens to destabilise the situation as prices soar. Red beans have become scarce, increasing in price by 124 percent, while white beans have increased by 88 percent. The prices of vegetables, usually imported from the Kivu area, have also been dramatically hiked. Potato prices are up by 117 percent, and maize and manioc by 55 percent. Bas-Zaire, and to a lesser extent, Bandundu, are now the main suppliers for Kinshasa but the quality and quantity are said to be poor. A shortage of beans is expected to create problems for Kinshasa residents who had already substituted beans following an increase in meat prices. This, coupled with inflation, has eroded the purchasing power of many low income residents.

The UN Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Raymond Chretien arrived in Nice last night, ahead of a planned meeting with Zairean President Mobutu. According to AFP he told journalists earlier in the day in the Senegalese capital, Dakar, that Mobutu was "the only one who can bring solutions" to the eastern Zaire crisis. France meanwhile demanded that the immunity of Zairean ambassador Ramazani Baya be lifted so that he could be tried for running down and killing two boys in the southern town of Menton at the weekend. Mobutu is scheduled to meet the mayor of Menton today to discuss the issue.

Reports from the Minova area, south of Sake, concurred that 40,000 refugees discovered in the region had moved on. The UNHCR Goma head of sub-office said they had moved westwards rather than towards Goma as expected. Aerial surveillance showed that the refugee camp at Minova was now empty. Fighting in the area had prohibited access for several days.

Interviewed by the Belgian daily "Le Soir", Rwandan vice-president Paul Kagame alleged the planned multi-national force in eastern Zaire was merely a "pretext" for propping up Mobutu. He denied that the Rwandan army had taken part in supporting the rebels, but added he was "not altogether unhappy about the events in eastern Zaire." He also rejected the idea that Rwanda wanted to revise its borders. "We have neither the ability nor the desire to modify our frontiers. We want good relations and safe borders," he told the paper.

The repatriation of Rwandan refugees from Tanzania could take place before the end of the month, UN sources said today. A UN official in Kigali said refugees seemed "resigned" to repatriation and it appeared the Tanzanian government was pressing for their departure by the end of the year. Of the approximately 500,000 Rwandan refugees in Tanzania, almost all from eastern Rwandan prefectures: 69 percent from Kibungo and 25 percent from Byumba/Umutara. Their return is likely to be through Rusomo in the southeast corner of Kibungo. NGOs said today there was no major movement from Ngara, but the trickle of returnees was increasing significantly and some refugees were selling their possessions. Doubts were cast however on whether a mass return would take place before the harvesting season in January, as many refugees had planted crops.

The Canadian airforce has agreed to move plastic sheeting from Uganda's Entebbe airport to Mwanza in Tanzania, bound for Kasulu and Kibondo districts where a huge influx of refugees from Burundi and Zaire has been reported, according to a UNHCR update yesterday. A total of 46 MT of plastic sheeting for 50,000 people will be flown in aboard two flights scheduled for today, and another one tomorrow.

UNHCR said registration of the estimated 500,000 Rwandan returnees was continuing in the communes without major disruption, according to the Office of the UN Humanitarian Coordinator for Rwanda. After this first major batch of arrivals in mid-November, another 50,000 had been recorded since then. Over the weekend, 1,475 Rwandan refugees arrived in Cyangugu from Bukavu bringing the total number of returnees on that route to some 8,000.

A two-day meeting in Nairobi on the Great Lakes crisis, convened by ActionAid, ended yesterday with agreement that NGOs should support processes which encourage

reconstruction based on local people's initiatives. The conference, which grouped over 50 representatives of humanitarian agencies, the UN, African experts and academics, also believed NGOs should assist women, especially, to understand and enjoy their rights. It gave the example of Rwanda where the majority of households are headed by women, but under Rwandan law they are not allowed to own land, and therefore would have nothing to pass on to their children. The aim of the meeting was to identify the key implications for humanitarian work in the region and explore strategies for short-term relief.

Heads of state and government from 11 central African states met in Brazzaville, Congo, today to discuss regional problems, including the situation in the Great Lakes. The meeting included Burundi's leader Pierre Buyoya, President Pasteur Bizimungu of Rwanda and Zairean premier Kengo wa Dondo who were meeting for the first time since the crisis broke out in eastern Zaire. A BBC reporter said the gathering was likely to be "volatile".

The response to the UN inter-agency flash appeal for the Great Lakes region reached a total of \$86,531,222 as of yesterday. The appeal, covering the period 1 November 1996 - 31 January 1997, is trying to raise a total of \$259,466,214. Other donations (mainly to international NGOs) reported to DHA bring the total response to the crisis up to \$109 million so far.

Nairobi, 3 December 1996, 15:10 GMT  
[ENDS]

[Via the UN DHA Integrated Regional Information Network. The material contained in this communication may not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its agencies. UN DHA IRIN Tel: +254 2 622123 Fax: +254 2 622129 e-mail: [irin@dha.unon.org](mailto:irin@dha.unon.org) for more information. If you re-print, copy, archive or re-post this item, please retain this credit and disclaimer.]

Date: Wed, 04 Dec 1996 19:03:59 +0300  
From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes <irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

## **Zaire: IRIN Update 48 on Eastern Zaire for 4 Dec 96 96.12.4**

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To: irinlist@dha.unon.org  
MIME-version: 1.0  
Precedence: list  
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TAA21439; Wed, 4 Dec 1996 19:03:59 +0300

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IRIN Emergency Update No. 48 on eastern Zaire (Wednesday 4 December 1996)

Ugandan military sources say rebels in eastern Zaire have captured the town of Bunia, forcing looting and rampaging Zairean soldiers to flee further north. Reuters quoted the sources as saying the town fell on Monday night, and that yesterday rebels were clearing pockets of resistance. Zairean refugees, arriving in the Ugandan border town of Kasese to escape the fighting, said soldiers pillaged Bunia, beat up residents and raped women before the rebel takeover. Missionary sources in the area appeared to confirm the reports, saying soldiers were looting from Sunday onwards and by last night all the FAZ troops had left. Some sources suggest the troops may head for Isiro, over 350km to the northwest.

Renewed clashes broke out in western Uganda yesterday after Zaire-based rebels crossed over the border, the "New Vision" reported today. It quoted fleeing civilians as saying there was fierce fighting between Ugandan soldiers and some 100 rebels of the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), who entered via Bwera. Ugandan military sources said there were casualties on both sides. The rebels invaded Uganda last month, but were pushed back into Zaire after a week of heavy fighting.

Zairean premier Kengo wa Dondo has accused Rwanda, Uganda and Burundi of aggression against his country, aimed at setting up a "Tutsi empire", and called for the rapid deployment of a multi-national force to help "a million Rwandese refugees" in eastern Zaire. Speaking at the Congo summit of central African leaders yesterday, he also reiterated Kinshasa's opposition to food airdrops and to the establishment of the force's HQ in Uganda, saying it should be set up in Kisangani. Burundian leader Pierre Buyoya, in comments broadcast by Burundi radio yesterday, told the meeting the economic embargo against his country was the

main obstacle to peace. Burundi, he said, was waiting for the world community and regional leaders to show "active solidarity." "The international community cannot bring about peace among the people of the Great Lakes without us," he said.

>From Congo, Buyoya has gone on to Ouagadougou in Burkina Faso to attend a Franco-African summit due to open tomorrow. Rwandan foreign minister Anastase Gasana, who is representing his country at the meeting, lashed out at UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros Ghali yesterday accusing him of presiding over "failure after failure." According to a statement, issued in Ouagadougou, he said that "under his mandate, Africa went through a horrible genocide, and that tragedy took place in Rwanda."

UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali maintains that a military multi-national force is still required for eastern Zaire, despite the fact that prospective participants want to scale down or scrap plans for troop intervention. In a report to the Security Council, he said the humanitarian situation in the region was undergoing "dramatic changes" and was likely to evolve rapidly in the coming weeks. He warned there must be no return to the "status quo ante" and above all no re-creation of refugee camps in eastern Zaire. The immediate concern, he said, was the fact that hundreds of thousands of people were still facing hunger, disease and death in eastern Zaire and the only practical way to avoid a humanitarian disaster was to establish some form of international military presence in the region.

The head of the multi-national force Lt Gen Maurice Baril stressed that fighting in eastern Zaire was changing very quickly and could be "extremely dangerous" for any force attempting to aid refugees. Speaking from Uganda's Entebbe airport yesterday, according to Associated Press, he said 13 countries had promised air assistance to the multi-national effort and the force would be increased to 460 in the next 10 days, in addition to the 300 US troops operating separately from Entebbe.

A question mark remained over the status of Kindu after Zairean rebels claimed today they had taken the town. However sources on the ground dismissed the claim, saying Zairean troops were in control. The rising insecurity and tension threatens limited relief operations mounted in the area. An ICRC update yesterday said the Committee was setting up a logistical base in Kindu where a group of 300 displaced people had already received assistance. A Zairean Red Cross truck carrying ICRC relief supplies left Kindu for Shabunda and a small ICRC aircraft landed at Kalima, between Kindu and Shabunda, to hand over relief items to the local Red Cross which is assisting some 500 displaced people. ICRC also said a team had managed to get through to Rutshuru from Goma. Further south, ICRC delegates reached Kalemie where over 8,000 people have sought shelter. They will receive assistance from Lubumbashi. Meanwhile, a source in Walikale confirmed the presence of large numbers of former Rwandan soldiers and Interahamwe militia and their families in the area.

Reports continued to filter through of the unstable situation in Kisangani. UNICEF pulled its last two staff members out of the town on Monday due to insecurity, Reuters reported. Steven Allen, UNICEF representative in Kinshasa, said that before they left, the staff members reported shooting between different elements of the Zairean army, apparently triggered by the arrival of wounded and dead soldiers from the rebel-captured town of Beni.

At least 1,000 soldiers, plus their families, are reported to be in the town and that number may be swollen by soldiers who allegedly do not want to be registered for fear of being sent back to the front. However the situation was described as relatively calm last night.

WFP said it was still waiting for authorisation from the Zairean authorities to conduct an airlift from Entebbe to Kisangani, but so far clearance had only been given to fly via Kinshasa - which WFP regards as an "unfeasible route".

The first UN/NGO team to visit Uvira since aid agencies pulled out on October 22 arrived in the town from Bukavu yesterday to assess the situation there. WFP said the team - comprising representatives from UNHCR, DHA, WFP, UNICEF, MSF, ICRC, IFRC - stayed overnight. Checkpoints were reported along the roads, but the road conditions were said to be good. Aid agency compounds within Uvira had been heavily looted, but the hospital appeared to be functioning relatively normally. All the refugee camps seen on the trip were empty. WFP said a request to visit the Uvira port would probably be granted later in the week. The border with Burundi is still closed on the Zairean side.

Some 1,500 refugees from Zaire are reported in the Congolese capital Brazzaville, 85 percent of them ethnic Tutsis mostly from the Kinshasa area. There are 10-40 new arrivals each day and WFP is preparing an assessment mission to the city.

WFP has said it is preparing for a possible influx of Rwandan refugees from Tanzania by prepositioning food at commune level in and biscuits en route. Reports say the Tanzanian government has ordered all Rwandan refugees out of the country by the end of the year. WFP said a meeting of the tripartite commission (UNHCR, Rwanda and Tanzania) was likely to take place in Ngara, Tanzania, or Kigali before the end of the week to discuss modalities for repatriating the Rwandans. The multi-national force successfully completed four airlifts carrying a total of 10,000 plastic sheets to Mwanza in Tanzania. The sheeting will be used by new Burundian arrivals further south.

Nairobi, 4 December 1996, 15:40 GMT

[ENDS]

[Via the UN DHA Integrated Regional Information Network. The material contained in this communication may not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its agencies. UN DHA IRIN Tel: +254 2 622123 Fax: +254 2 622129 e-mail: irin@dha.unon.org for more information. If you re-print, copy, archive or re-post this item, please retain this credit and disclaimer.]

Date: Thu, 05 Dec 1996 18:57:00 +0300  
From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes <irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

## **Zaire: IRIN Update 49 on Eastern Zaire for 5 Dec 96 96.12.5**

Sender: owner-irinlist@dha.unon.org  
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SAA32406; Thu, 5 Dec 1996 18:57:00 +0300

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IRIN Emergency Update No. 49 on eastern Zaire (Thursday 5 December 1996)

Despite rumours that Kindu had fallen to the rebels, residents said yesterday it was still in government hands. According to Reuters, local people described Kindu as a "virtual military fortress" with large numbers of soldiers in town. There is speculation that rebels are announcing the capture of towns to throw Zairean troops off balance and frighten them out. ICRC pulled its last two staff members out of Kindu for security reasons yesterday. In a statement, ICRC described the situation as "precarious" and said it had been the only international aid organisation working in the region for weeks. Displaced Zaireans arriving in Kindu to escape fighting were reported to be in extremely poor health. The statement cited the example of an exhausted nineteen year-old girl who arrived from Bukavu with her six-month old baby too tired to speak and suffering from malaria, dehydration, malnutrition and shock. She had wandered around without help for weeks. The statement also expressed concern over tens of thousands of civilians, displaced people and refugees in the Shabunda area who have been deprived of humanitarian assistance for weeks.

The situation in Kisangani is still unclear, but some media reports say the local military authorities have begun disarming soldiers who arrived from the Kivu region. These soldiers have been creating insecurity in the town due to food-related problems. More soldiers are said to be arriving from the direction of Walikale, along with their families, and attempts to disarm the Kivu soldiers appear to be increasing tension in the town. Reports say that until the Kivu soldiers have been definitively disarmed and fed, humanitarian aid in the area risks being looted and security for international staff cannot be assured.

Zaire has called on the UN to stop what it describes as Uganda's armed incursions into Zairean territory. In a statement to the Security Council, dated 1 December, it accused the Ugandan army of "involvement in the war which Rwanda is imposing on Zaire". The statement, signed by Zairean deputy premier and Interior Minister Gerard Kamanda wa Kamanda, said Ugandan troops entered Zaire on November 30 by way of the Kasindi border point. The incursion followed repeated attacks against Zairean territory by the Ugandans earlier in the year, the statement added. It denied Zaire was backing Ugandan rebels of the Allied Democratic Front (ADF). The statement said that because of its "involvement", Uganda should be disqualified from serving as a base for the multi-national force (MNF). It urged the Security Council and Secretary-General to take "energetic measures" against Uganda's "incursions". In Kinshasa, the authorities have reiterated that the MNF should be stationed on Zairean territory and that any aid flights should go via Kinshasa for reasons of cargo verification.

A report in the Ugandan 'New Vision' newspaper today said 50 rebels were killed in the mountains of Kasese province during heavy fighting yesterday. Rebels of the Allied Democratic Front infiltrated from Zaire on Monday night and rampaged through the Kanyansi area, setting houses on fire, the newspaper said. It quoted military sources as saying the rebel "remnants" fled back to Zaire and Ugandan soldiers were conducting mopping up operations. Hundreds of exhausted displaced people trekked to Bwera trading centre, about 10 kms away from Kanyansi, the paper said. Three civilians were reportedly wounded in the crossfire. Five Ugandan soldiers were also injured. Meanwhile, presidential adviser Maj Gen David Tinyefuza resigned over remarks criticising the government's handling of the rebellion in the north, the independent daily 'Monitor' reported today.

UN Special Envoy Raymond Chretien, who met President Mobutu in the south of France yesterday, said the Zairean leader was "the only one who can deal with the situation" in eastern Zaire. According to Chretien, Mobutu himself wanted to return home. "Zaire is ready to play its role again and does not intend to use an 'empty chair' policy, Mr Mobutu has assured me," Chretien added. He said Mobutu was in charge of all important decisions concerning the country and that the Zairean leader had stated his readiness for talks with Rwanda.

Rebel leader Laurent Kabila called on Mobutu to resign. In a 27 page open letter, he claimed that the "incompetence" of the Mobutu regime was comparable to "natural disasters such as droughts, floods and earthquakes." At least the bombing of Hiroshima, Nagasaki and Nazi Germany did not destroy the sociological basis on which their societies were founded, AFP reported him as saying. Meanwhile, the rebels yesterday announced the defection to their side of a senior Zairean officer. According to AFP, rebel security adviser Jean Kabongo said Lt Col Lokilo Nene Boseka had gone over to the rebels and was preparing an appeal to fellow officers to follow suit.

There are indications that life is inching towards normality in rebel-captured territory. An Associated Press article yesterday spoke of crowded markets, the sale of farm produce and businesses re-opening their doors. The report gave the example of Goma, where there was a

"growing sense of optimism". Water was again being supplied for part of the day and electricity would soon be restored.

The Franco-African summit, opening in Burkina Faso today, has prepared a draft declaration on the Great Lakes crisis, although the topic is not officially on the agenda. The declaration stresses the inviolability of Zaire's borders. AFP said the declaration was drafted during 12 hours of preparatory talks late Tuesday which were peppered by charged encounters between the representatives of Zaire, Rwanda, Burundi and Tanzania. A regional meeting in Brazzaville, Congo, on Tuesday appeared to yield few results and was boycotted by both Rwanda and Uganda. A final communique called for lifting regional economic sanctions against Burundi "noting steps taken by the Burundian government towards re-establishing democracy."

Rwandan President Pasteur Bizimungu warned that the road ahead would be difficult and that the emphasis now must be on rebuilding Rwanda, both materially and psychologically. In a presidential message, broadcast by Rwandan radio last night, he said there was no alternative to "unity to write our country's history afresh". Bizimungu announced that committees would be set up at all levels, in which the church would be involved, aimed at reconstructing the country.

UN human rights monitors in Rwanda say they have received reports of Rwandan returnees killing genocide survivors. A UN spokeswoman on Tuesday, quoted by Reuters, said the head of the UN Human Rights Field Operation in Rwanda Javier Zuniga had called for a thorough investigation into the incidents and for follow-up action. The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Jose Ayala-Lasso, is due in Kigali today for a three-day mission. So far, some 2,000 ex-soldiers have been registered and 38 people arrested.

A UNHCR nutrition survey indicated that the refugees who have returned to Rwanda are generally in good health, but they are worried about food shortages and housing issues. The UNCHR's daily update pointed out that the next harvest will be in February and local authorities are predicting difficulties ahead. A seven-day food ration, which returnees collect after registration, consists of 400 grams of flour, 120 grams of peas or beans, 20 grams of oil, 5 grams of salt and some biscuits. The Rwandan government has offered new plots of land to people who have to leave their houses so that returning owners can move back in, Reuters reported. The authorities have set a 15-day deadline for families to move out after registration by the rightful owners, but the government was due to initiate a housing programme today to lessen the impact. "The aim of the house-building programme is not for people to wait for government to build them houses, but to foster a spirit where people will not leave vulnerable groups stranded on the hillside," said Christine Umutoni, deputy rehabilitation minister.

UNHCR has urged Rwandan refugees in Tanzania to start making preparations to return home as soon as possible, after the Tanzanian government's demand that they leave the country by the end of the year. The government had informed UNHCR it was confident the refugees could return to their country in safety and that the repatriation would be conducted in an orderly and humane manner under the aegis of the Home Affairs Ministry. WFP said the Tanzanian authorities had begun visiting the camps to inform refugees that repatriation must

take place imminently. On Tuesday, over 230 refugees were repatriated to Rwanda, which UNHCR described as the biggest figure in a single day. It said the figure almost equalled the number of returnees for the whole of October. More refugees were expected to return today. The Rwandan government, in conjunction with UNHCR, was making preparations for the returnees. Unconfirmed reports cited an NGO as saying yesterday that refugees from the Ngara camps were gathering at the border waiting to cross to Rusomo.

Nairobi, 5 December 1996 15:40 gmt

[ENDS]

[Via the UN DHA Integrated Regional Information Network. The material contained in this communication may not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its agencies. UN DHA IRIN Tel: +254 2 622123 Fax: +254 2 622129 e-mail: [irin@dha.unon.org](mailto:irin@dha.unon.org) for more information. If you re-print, copy, archive or re-post this item, please retain this credit and disclaimer.]

Date: Fri, 06 Dec 1996 18:41:37 +0300  
From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes <irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

## **Zaire: IRIN Update 50 on eastern Zaire for 6 Dec 96 96.12.6**

Sender: owner-irinlist@dha.unon.org  
To: irinlist@dha.unon.org  
MIME-version: 1.0  
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>Received: (from majordom@localhost) by dha.unon.org (8.6.12/8.6.12) id  
SAA02085; Fri, 6 Dec 1996 18:41:37 +0300

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IRIN Emergency Update No.50 on eastern Zaire (Friday 6 December 1996)

Canadian Defence Minister Doug Young yesterday mooted the idea of scrapping military intervention by the multi-national force (MNF), saying the mass return of refugees to Rwanda all but eliminated the need for such a force. He also thought it unlikely that relief airdrops would be required. "This is an absolutely phenomenal success without military intervention," he told reporters after a cabinet meeting in Ottawa. "It doesn't look as though they [airdrops] are going to be required in any significant way because NGOs are in that area on the border between Zaire and Rwanda." He added that ways of providing humanitarian aid would have to be looked at, "but I don't think at this stage it will require any major military intervention." In Kampala, a Canadian military spokesman said politicians would meet at the weekend, probably in Ottawa, to set a date for the MNF to move aid. Relief agencies have expressed frustration over the lack of information provided by the MNF. A UNHCR spokesman in Goma, quoted by AFP, said they were expecting to meet MNF liaison officers "from one day to the next" to discuss coordination, but that "they do not appear to be in a hurry."

Aerial surveillance by the multi-national forces have found no more than 165,000 refugees on the move or displaced people in a 150km-wide swathe of North and South Kivu, Lt Gen Maurice Baril, commander of the MNF, told a meeting of humanitarian agencies in Nairobi today. Flights by British and US spotter planes - some of which had been fired upon or "painted" by anti-aircraft radar - are taking high-resolution photographs by day and thermal images by night, and had discovered only one major concentration of about 150,000 people west of Lake Kivu. Lt-Gen Baril said that the remainder are scattered in smaller groups. Locations previously

reported as having large groups of refugees or displaced people (for example Mwenga and Fizi), were surveyed and no concentrations were sighted.

Baril said "we don't claim that we got them all", admitting that a group of about 30,000, thought to be ex-FAR, Interahamwe and their families, had "disappeared" somewhere around Masisi. In his briefing for a group of NGOs and UN agencies at the DHA office in Nairobi, Baril said his mission was strictly humanitarian and that he had "neither the tools, nor the means, nor the intention" to affect the political or military situation.

The "Numbi" group of 150,000, in the mountains and river valleys west of lake Kivu, were the primary target for humanitarian assistance, he said, but he added that the military situation around Walikale would need to be resolved in order to get safe access to them. He also announced that Italian and French forces would join the MNF in Uganda by the weekend, and that airdrops would be considered only after a number of criteria, relating to safety, management and distribution on the ground were met. He said he would "cooperate" with the rebel authorities, but not "negotiate". Baril reminded the meeting that he was operating under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter, which allows the MNF to act despite protests from member states involved.

During the whole of November, US estimates (the highest available) indicate 656,500 refugees returned to Rwanda. Against a UNHCR registered caseload of 1.096 million Rwandan refugees (not including 143,000 Burundian refugees) in Zaire before the crisis, basic arithmetic suggests there should be a minimum of 439,500 remaining in Zaire. The "missing Rwandan refugees" therefore number 274,500. Given that about 60,000 Burundian refugees have returned to Burundi, their remainder in Zaire should be about 83,000. Therefore the total missing refugees may be 357,500. These calculations do not take possible Zairean displaced populations into account.

A number of explanations have been advanced for this phenomenon: the possibility that the refugees were never there in the first place - double counting and inaccurate registration frequently plague refugee operations. An attempt in September 1996 to re-count the Goma camps was suspended when refugees refused to cooperate. The last census in the Goma camps was in February 1995. However, UNHCR, in a statement today said that the population figures had been verified during a joint food assessment mission in October between UNHCR, WFP, observed by EU and USAID. The Uvira and Bukavu camps had been re-counted

twice since 1994, the statement added. An over-registration rate of one third would be needed to explain away the "missing refugees". Other explanations are: the refugees are hidden in forests and houses, or have moved beyond the 150km zone. Lt Gen Baril said however, that some sorties have been flown up to 225km inside Zaire and no large groups had been picked up. The "numbers issue" remains one of the hottest political issues in the humanitarian crisis in eastern Zaire, with Rwanda, and the ADFL leader Laurent-Desire Kabila, supported in part by major donors, saying all of the non-military refugees who want to come home from Zaire have already done so, and aid agencies openly doubting the validity and impartiality of the survey results. The UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Sadako Ogata said in a statement

today, "sadly, despite our best efforts, we have not been able to locate substantial numbers of refugees and distressed people out in the forests and hills of Zaire."

The USA on Wednesday urged Kabila to stop alleged human rights abuses against refugees returning to Rwanda. "The message was essentially the following," said State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns. "The United States is deeply concerned about the allegations of political murders and human rights abuses in eastern Zaire by elements of the rebel alliance." The USA, he said, would not support "in any way, shape, or form any effort by the rebel alliance to try to create any kind of artificial state in eastern Zaire." Burns announced that the rebels had acceded to a US request to allow human rights monitors into the region. AFP cited "witnesses" as saying the mass graves of at least 80 massacred Hutu refugees had been discovered in the Goma region.

An NGO representative recently returned from Kisangani described the situation at the weekend as relatively tranquil after the local military authorities tried to disarm soldiers arriving from the front. Gunfire broke out, but the situation then calmed down. The representative said it had been possible to buy goods in Kisangani and send them on to Lubutu. He added that media reports about insecurity in Kisangani were somewhat misleading and causing a problem to aid agencies working in the area, as the local authorities accused them of passing on false information rather than helping the people. He said NGOs were hard pressed to explain they were there to render assistance. The situation in Lubutu, where there are some 25,000 displaced people, was described as serious. There was not even one tablet in the local hospital where people were said to be suffering from malaria and diarrhoea. Between 6-10 children were dying daily. After a 500km walk from Bukavu, the strongest people managed to arrive in Kisangani, others were forced to stop in Lubutu and still more very weak people are believed to be between Bukavu and Lubutu.

Reuters said that according to civilians arriving in the town of Kasindi from frontlines to the north, the rebels were advancing towards Watsa, Isiro and Kisangani. "Wherever they reach, the local population celebrates and many Zairean soldiers join their ranks," said one man from Beni. However the consensus among civilians and aid workers on the ground seemed to be that Bunia in the north was still occupied by rampaging Zairean troops. Missionaries reported that rebels had not yet entered the town but were close by, having reached some 40km south of Bunia. Looting has been reported in Bunia, and a Greek couple were killed by Zairean soldiers for refusing to open their shop to them.

Ugandan troops patrolled Kasindi, 10 kms inside Zairean territory, yesterday after driving out rebels of the Allied Democratic Force (ADF). An army commander, quoted by Reuters, said the rebellion had been "crushed" and his troops would leave in two days' time. He added however that Uganda was seeking guarantees from Zaire that rebels will not continue to launch cross-border attacks. A report on BBC radio today said some 3,000 Zairean soldiers, chased out of Beni, were trying to join up with ADF rebels.

An article in the 'New York Times' yesterday said tension was mounting in Mbuji-Mayi, capital of the mineral-rich East Kasai province, as rebels pushed ever closer towards the area, indicating the opening of a new front and a new strategy. Diplomats and aid experts point out

that the quest for East Kasai lies at the heart of the rebels' economic plans. The rebels have been quick to reassure foreign mining companies, by announcing they will honour existing mining contracts, but they also intend to remove restrictions on prospecting that have limited opportunities for Zaireans.

As Tanzania issued an ultimatum for all Rwandan refugees to leave the country by the end of the year, aid workers warned that former soldiers and militiamen in the camps - who have been exhorting refugees not to return - must be separated from innocent people. UNHCR sources told Reuters the Tanzanian government had a list of 200 intimidators who might be separated prior to the repatriation deadline. Lennart Kotsalainen, deputy director of UNHCR's office in Dar es Salaam said radio broadcasts were being made to inform refugees of the departure order. The exiled Hutu organisation Rally for the Return of Refugees and Democracy in Rwanda (RDR) said returnees were being killed, arrested or were disappearing and that it was in conditions such as these that the mass return from Tanzania would take place. In a statement, issued on Wednesday, RDR again urged the international community to stop its "neverending meetings" and deploy the MNF without delay.

Canada and Rwanda are to co-chair a meeting in Kigali on December 13 and 14 to discuss relief needs for hundreds of thousands of Rwandan returnees, Canadian Minister for International Cooperation Don Boudria announced yesterday. UN agencies and NGOs will participate in the meeting, which is a follow-up to the Geneva donors' meeting on November 23. Rwanda has launched an appeal for a total \$739,339,000 to resettle returnees, including the expected return from Tanzania.

Leaders meeting at the Franco-African summit in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, were moving towards a declaration calling for lifting the economic embargo against Burundi, sources close to the summit said yesterday. Meetings were held behind closed doors, but the sources, quoted by AFP, said heads of state were discussing whether to take into account the suffering of Burundi civilians caused by the sanctions. On the Great Lakes crisis, the declaration would call for an international conference on the issue, as well as for the immediate deployment of a multi-national force in eastern Zaire. Japan meanwhile today offered an emergency aid package worth 21.42 million dollars to help refugees and displaced people in eastern Zaire. The package includes 5.5 million dollars for UNHCR, 9.2 million dollars for WFP and 3.8 million dollars for ICRC.

Nairobi, 6 December 1996 15:40 gmt

[ENDS]

[Via the UN DHA Integrated Regional Information Network. The material contained in this communication may not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its agencies. UN DHA IRIN Tel: +254 2 622123 Fax: +254 2 622129 e-mail: irin@dha.unon.org for more information. If you re-print, copy, archive or re-post this item, please retain this credit and disclaimer.]

Date: Mon, 09 Dec 1996 11:41:28 +0300  
From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes <irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

## **Zaire: IRIN Update 51 on Eastern Zaire for 7-8 Dec 96 96.12.9**

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MIME-version: 1.0  
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LAA07387; Mon, 9 Dec 1996 11:41:28 +0300

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IRIN Emergency Update No. 51 on eastern Zaire (7-8 December 1996)

Lt-Gen Maurice Baril, Canadian commander of the multi-national force has said the situation in eastern Zaire is improving. "Life is returning to normal, the markets are open and people are coming home," said Baril, who arrived in Goma on Sunday. Any force sent to the region must have "a mission to accomplish", he added, hinting there may no longer be any need for sending foreign troops. While in Goma, Baril said he had not seen any movement of refugees during his visit, but acknowledged some were further west in the Zairean forest without aid. "The groups have broken up," he said. "It is difficult to know exactly where they are." He indicated that food-drops were now probably out of the question, describing them as "costly and dangerous". However, "if there were to be a catastrophe, we could do food-drops," he said.

France insisted it was still committed to an international force, despite remarks at the weekend by Cooperation Minister Jacques Godfrain in which he said there was "no longer any question of going there [eastern Zaire]." The French foreign ministry later issued a communique stating that "France's position on the implementation of United Nations resolutions on Zaire, notably on the deployment of a multi-national force, has not changed."

In an interview with Kenya's Sunday Standard newspaper, rebel commander Andre Ngandu Kissasse said his troops "had the weapons and the people's will to fight a war. We will reach Kinshasa very soon." He said some Zairean soldiers had joined the rebels, and others were so disillusioned without pay that they were no longer capable of fighting. Rebel leader Laurent Kabila meanwhile, who paid a short visit to Bukavu on Friday, told recruits in the area it was time to carry out the liberation struggle, rebel Radio of the People reported on Saturday. He

defined their mission as "a disciplined army at the service of the people ... an elite body different from an outlawed armed gang."

UNHCR spokesman Filippo Grandi told AFP on Saturday that there have been 2,754 corpses picked up and buried in the Goma region between November 2 and December 4. He said his figures were based on data from a local humanitarian agency working for UNHCR with responsibility for burying bodies. He added it was not known who killed them but that some had died of exhaustion or illness. Half of the bodies were thought to be refugees, and the rest Zaireans.

Ugandan security sources, quoted by AFP on Saturday, said at least 3,000 Zairean soldiers had joined up with Ugandan rebels based in Zaire. According to the sources, the soldiers - who had been driven out of Beni by Zairean rebels - believed the Ugandan army had helped the rebels take control of Beni, and they were now siding with the rebel Ugandan Allied Democratic Forces (ADF). Uganda has consistently denied any involvement in the Beni takeover.

Amnesty International has expressed concern that Rwandan refugees in Tanzania will be returned home without consideration for their rights to continue to seek asylum. In a statement dated 6 December, Amnesty "appeals for an immediate withdrawal of the decision by the Tanzanian government to expel all Rwandese refugees by 31 December 1996 and is urging the UNHCR to desist from taking any actions which would condone this decision". Saying that the refugees are "not just an anonymous mass", the human rights organization says many of them "would be at risk on return," due to continuing human rights problems within Rwanda.

A report from the UN Human Rights Field Operation in Rwanda released on 7 December indicates that 162 returnees have so far been placed in detention from over 500,000 who returned from Zaire during November. The UNHCRFOR says that 322,964 people had been registered in their home communes as of 1 December, and that "returnees were generally well-received". Some of those in detention are seeking protection from revenge attacks. In general, the report says local authorities have respected national directives so that arrests take place only after case files have been completed. 4,331 members of the former Rwandan Armed Forces (ex-FAR) have been registered, 12 of whom have been arrested. HRFOR have received reports of 26 returnees being ill-treated at the time of their arrest or during detention and are investigating.

Four returnees and two of their associates have been killed, according to HRFOR, but also four genocide survivors and two of their associates have been reported killed by returnees, apparently in an attempt to eliminate witnesses to crimes committed in 1994. HRFOR reports that property problems could be the largest impediment to rapid reintegration. The lack of housing - particularly in urban areas remains a "real and serious" problem.

In its report, the HRFOR reported on the reception of 75,000 Rwandan returnees who came from Burundi in July and August. Of those, about 2.65% are in detention presently.

Nairobi, 9 December 1996, 08:40 GMT  
[ENDS]

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Date: Mon, 09 Dec 1996 18:21:50 +0300  
From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes <irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

## **Zaire: IRIN Update 52 on Eastern Zaire for 9 Dec 96 96.12.9**

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SAA11387; Mon, 9 Dec 1996 18:21:50 +0300

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IRIN Emergency Update No. 52 on eastern Zaire (9 December 1996)

WFP and UNHCR report that some 15,000 refugees have left the Kagenyi and Rubwere camps in the Karagwe region. According to some reports, they are said to be heading north and east. The exodus took place between Friday and Sunday night, and more people were reported to be on the road today although heavy rains appear to have temporarily stalled the refugee movement. Some media accounts say aid workers have put forward the theory that Hutu hardliners may be organising mass departures in response to the repatriation preparations.

Some 300 Rwandan refugees returned home from Tanzania on Sunday and many more were expected to follow on Tuesday, according to UNHCR, quoted by AFP. Earlier, UNHCR announced the return of about 1,118 refugees on Friday. It said a mass return was expected tomorrow after the food rations were distributed to refugees today. A UNHCR update, issued on Friday, said preparations for the return included setting up two way stations on the 30km road from the camps to the border and four water points, which would also be used as a collection point for children separated from their parents. WFP said it was distributing food to refugees in the greater Benaco and Ngara camps. The rations, consisting of cereals, pulses and vegetable oil, will be distributed to camps in the Karagwe region later in the week.

Rwandan radio said a planned operation to repatriate some 1,000 refugees from Tanzania on Saturday was scrapped. Rwandan military and civilian officials who went to the border to welcome the returnees were told the operation had been cancelled, but no reasons were given. The radio also reported that 163 Rwandan refugees arrived back in Kigali from Brazzaville, Congo, on Friday. It said 800 Rwandans had fled to the Congolese capital from Kinshasa last

month after being "harassed and tortured" following events in eastern Zaire. More returnees were expected in the coming days.

Meanwhile, the refugee influx from Zaire and Burundi in Tanzania's Kigoma region has slowed down, UNHCR reported. In its Friday update, it said that over the last five days 5,200 refugees had arrived from Burundi and 550 had come by boat from Zaire. Some 100,000 refugees have arrived in Kigoma since last month.

Schools were due to reopen in the south Kivu area of eastern Zaire today after the regional authorities held a meeting last week to discuss the issue. Municipal and educational authorities would visit educational establishments in the course of the day to learn more about the situation, rebel Radio of the People announced.

Recent visitors to Zairean President Mobutu say his health is deteriorating and doubt whether he will ever return home, Associated Press reported yesterday. The news agency said it had been told privately by Mobutu's chief aide, Bosco Kassouba, that the president "is very sick ... and he is very tired. He is incapable of having more than one visit a day." On Saturday, Kassouba announced that all photo opportunities of the president would cease. Mobutu, who has not been in Zaire since August, is convalescing from cancer surgery at his villa in the south of France.

A report in the Washington Post said State Department officials believed Mobutu was negotiating with the South African Executive Outcomes security firm to supply mercenaries to put down the eastern Zaire rebellion. Rumours have been circulating of mercenary involvement on the side of the Zairean army. According to South African radio, French newspapers reported last week that 300 mercenaries were fighting alongside the Zaireans. However Executive Outcomes has denied the allegations. The radio reported the firm's owner as saying he had been approached to help in the Great Lakes region, but had declined.

French Foreign Minister Herve de Charette reiterated the call for an international conference on the Great Lakes region. In an interview with Radio France Internationale on Friday, he stated that Zaire's territorial integrity was a prerequisite for regional peace. He said a "latent civil war" was taking root in Zaire, with increasing political problems, and a conference should be convened as soon as possible, under UN and OAU auspices.

Leaders of Red Cross groups from the five Great Lakes countries were due to meet in Nairobi today to discuss the humanitarian crisis in the region. The two-day meeting, comprising representatives of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies from Burundi, Rwanda, Zaire, Tanzania and Uganda, will focus on strategic planning in the area, AFP said.

The Rwandan justice minister Faustin Nteziryayo met the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Jose Ayala Lasso, on Saturday to discuss the human rights situation in the country following the mass return of Rwandan refugees. A report on Rwandan radio said the minister briefed Ayala Lasso on measures taken by Rwanda to improve human rights

conditions, especially in the country's prisons. Steps taken included the temporary release of minor offenders and setting up committees to examine the cases of detainees. He also explained that "advanced preparations" were underway regarding the trials of genocide suspects. Official Rwandan sources, quoted by AFP today, said the names of 1,900 genocide suspects had been published, listed by commune and prefecture. They are suspected of "first degree" involvement in the 1994 genocide, which renders them liable to the death penalty under a new law introduced in September.

Nairobi, 9 December 1995, 14:50 GMT

[ENDS]

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Date: Tue, 10 Dec 1996 18:23:31 +0300  
From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes <irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

**Zaire: IRIN Update 53 on Eastern Zaire for 10 Dec 96 96.12.10**

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IRIN Emergency Update No. 53 on eastern Zaire (10 December 1996)

ICRC said its team in eastern Zaire, which was forced to evacuate Kindu and Kisangani last week because of insecurity, managed to fly to Shabunda on Sunday from Lubumbashi. Between 8,000 and 10,000 Burundian and Rwandan refugees, from the Uvira camps, were located in the area, most of them in a very bad condition. They were suffering mainly from diarrhoea, malnutrition and malaria. ICRC said there were indications that large groups of women, children and elderly people were in the surrounding forests living in difficult conditions. Emergency food aid was being flown into the area as of today and ICRC said it would concentrate on the refugees it had located. ICRC added however that it did not want its activities to favour the establishment of new camps, and it was discussing the future of these people with the local authorities and UNHCR. A UN interagency mission just returned to Kinshasa from Shabunda reports a similar picture, having visited small camps of refugees at Nialubwe near Shabunda. Several Rwandan refugees interviewed by a UN official during the mission expressed a willingness to go home.

Zairean Prime Minister Kengo wa Dondo has stated that his country's armed forces "have lost the battle but not the war". In an interview with Radio France Internationale, broadcast yesterday, he said Zaire would do everything in its power to regain "its occupied territories". "The Zairean armed forces have withdrawn at the moment... Soon you will see what these Zairean armed forces are capable of when motivated by the love of their country," he told the radio. He described rebel leader Laurent Kabila as a "puppet of the Rwandans", and ruled out any negotiations with the rebels. "The war has not been won," he added. "No-one can celebrate a victory at the moment."

Kabila meanwhile said the Zairean army was facing "total disaster". According to rebel Radio of the People yesterday, monitored by the BBC, he said 350 soldiers had gone over to the side of the rebels. The Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire (ADFL), he said, was ready to negotiate with "all those in favour of a democratic and republican system", but he would never work with Mobutu. However, Zairean Information Minister Makeli Boguo denied that soldiers had defected to the rebels, saying the claim was part of the rebels' "psychological battle". "I would have liked us to be told where and how many," he told Radio France Internationale. "All we are told is that 300 soldiers are reported to have gone over to the enemy forces. According to military sources, this report is untrue and is being spread about simply to sap the morale of our soldiers."

Boguo also strongly denied that the town of Bunia had fallen to the rebels, despite repeated claims by rebel security chief Jean Kabongo that the town was in ADFL hands. NGOs, with contacts on the ground, confirmed that Bunia had not been taken, and said more Zairean soldiers had turned up in the town where they continued to loot property and possessions. Seven soldiers were reported killed by Bunia residents who are said to be increasingly fed up with the state of lawlessness in their town. A demonstration, by mostly young people, was held over the weekend in protest against the current state of affairs.

Some reports said Bunia was surrounded by rebels, backed by fighters from the Mai Mai militia of the Hunde tribe. According to a Reuters report, Mai Mai child warriors captured the village of Mambasa on Sunday, effectively cutting off Bunia and some 5,000 Zairean soldiers there from any escape route. The news agency quoted the local operations head of the Zaire Red Cross in Beni as saying the rebels were taking advantage of the Mai Mai who believe the power of water will protect them from harm, including bullets. Reuters said the ADFL had trucked thousands of Mai Mai to the frontline near Bunia, as a psychological weapon against Zairean forces.

One French and two Belgian employees at a mine in eastern Zaire were reportedly held hostage for three days by Burundian Hutu rebels in the Kamituga area. According to Reuters, Sylvain Bogaertss, the Belgian director of works at the Sominki gold mine in Kamituga said on Friday they were surrounded by about 20 Burundian rebels and taken away. "They were desperate men with nothing to lose. They said they were going to kill us," he said. They were freed separately after a large but undisclosed ransom was negotiated, Reuters said. It added that Burundian rebel groups have been driven from bases inside Zaire in areas bordering Burundi, by Zairean rebel advances in the east of the country. Their supply lines from Bukavu to the Rusizi plain, have been cut. Like their armed Hutu counterparts from Rwanda, many have now been driven into the interior of Zaire.

There are indications that some refugees who fled camps in Tanzania's Karagwe region rather than be repatriated to Rwanda are returning to the original camps, signifying that intimidators - thought to be preventing the repatriation - may be losing their hold. UNHCR said several of the 15,000 refugees who left Kagenyi and Rubwere camps over the weekend had now returned. A report from the office of the Humanitarian Coordinator in Kigali said 30 trucks were able to cross from Rwanda into Tanzania today in readiness for the repatriation exercise, and another 60 UNHCR/IOM trucks were on their way to the border. Today, 1,387

Rwandans returned from Tanzania, bringing the total of returnees since 1 December to over 3,000.

Radio France Internationale reported today that President Mobutu would return to Zaire early next week. It said it had obtained the information exclusively from Mobutu's chief aide, Honore Ngbanda. Mobutu has been in France convalescing from cancer surgery.

Amnesty International today accused the Zairean authorities and ADFL rebels of clamping down on human rights activities in the Bukavu area. It said that since September many human rights activists had been killed, attacked, imprisoned or had disappeared. In its statement, the organisation said it had received many "alarming reports" on the difficult conditions faced by activists to investigate and publicise cases of human rights abuses.

A 14-nation steering group overseeing the multi-national force (MNF) is due to meet in New York on Friday, a Canadian government source said. Quoted by AFP, he said no timetable had been set for the meeting which will be held at UN headquarters. There has been much speculation of late about the future of the mission with prospective participants questioning whether or not it should be scrapped.

Nairobi, 10 December 1996, 15:15 GMT  
[ENDS]

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Date: Wed, 11 Dec 1996 18:28:40 +0300  
From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes <irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

## **Zaire: IRIN Update 54 on the Great Lakes for 11 Dec 96 96.12.11**

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IRIN Emergency Update No. 54 on the Great Lakes (Wednesday 11 December 1996)

Rwandan refugees in Tanzania appear to be on the verge of leaving the camps in large numbers. A report from the office of the Humanitarian Coordinator in Kigali said 13,000 Muslims throughout the camps had asked to be repatriated this weekend. They will probably walk to the Rusumo border crossing, with some transport assistance for vulnerable groups. UNHCR, in its daily report, said the atmosphere in the Ngora camps was relaxed and refugees seemed to be preparing to go back. Some were selling their belongings or harvesting their beans. Further north, in Karagwe, the situation was less clear with reports of some 23,000 refugees fleeing away from the border following a campaign of intimidation by Hutu extremists in the camps. According to WFP, many of these refugees had moved south towards Chabalisa, but around 5,000 were heading northwards to the Ugandan border. UNHCR said the local authorities in the Karagwe region were enforcing measures promulgated a year ago, to restrict the movement of refugees outside four kms of the camps and to stop all commercial activities. UNHCR added it was sending 270 trucks to Tanzania from Rwanda to be used in the repatriation process.

Radio Tanzania today said arrangements to repatriate 130,000 refugees in Karagwe had been finalised. It quoted the district commissioner as saying the plans had been drawn up with UNHCR collaboration.

About 559 refugees from Karagwe arrived at a refugee camp in southwest Uganda yesterday and Monday, and it was expected that more would arrive today, WFP said. Oruchinga camp in Mbarara shelters 6,500 refugees, 5,000 of whom are Rwandan Hutu moderates who left the

country in 1992-94. The refugees coming from Tanzania are crossing the Kagera river which straddles the border by private canoe, and then walking the remaining 2kms to the camp.

A WFP programme for supplying food to Rwandan prefectures expecting an influx of returnees from Tanzania is underway. WFP said 1,200 MT of mixed commodities were transported within Rwanda over the weekend. A detailed contingency plan has been elaborated by WFP, UN agencies and NGOs for Kibungo prefecture, which may have to cope with as many as 340,000 returnees.

Representatives of the Tanzanian and Rwandan governments and UNHCR are due to hold a meeting at the Tanzania-Rwanda border crossing tomorrow. The meeting is likely to be continued in the Ngara camps the next day and is expected to kick-start the repatriation process which is planned to begin at Ngara. All returnees will be required to register at commune level, DHA Kigali said. During the repatriation from eastern Zaire, there was some confusion as some refugees registered at commune level and others at sectoral level.

Aid workers, quoted by Reuters, said they believed Tanzanian troop reinforcements were heading for the northwestern camps to enforce the government's repatriation deadline of December 31 and that anyone escaping from the camps would face arrest.

Tanzanian Prime Minister Frederick Sumaye yesterday warned refugees against taking part in politics or military training and told them to respect the laws of the land. Addressing Burundian refugees at a camp in Kibondo district, he said they should continue living peacefully until they were ready to go home, Tanzanian radio reported. Any refugees who left the camps would be arrested, jailed and repatriated despite the fact that their countries were in turmoil. The minister said the warning came after the arrest of some refugees who had been involved in murder, theft and poaching.

The exiled Rwandan Hutu organisation, Rally for the Return of Refugees and Democracy in Rwanda (RDR), has alleged, in a statement issued on Monday, that the repatriation of Rwandan refugees from Tanzania may just be the start of a new cycle of instability and a "return to square one."

The UN inter-agency mission which flew over the Shabunda area on Sunday and Monday confirmed the presence of some 50,000 mostly Rwandan refugees in the region of Katshunga. The team - made up of UNHCR, DHA, UNDP, UNICEF, WHO plus MSF and advisers of the Zairean interior and defence ministries - found that the Zairean army had cut off the road between Shabunda and Kindu at Matukamo/Magenbe and were preventing refugees from walking towards Kindu. The plane managed to land at Shabunda and after some time on foot, the team located two refugee camps near Nialubwe, one consisting of 300-400 people, the other of about 2,000. These camps cannot be seen from the air. The mission also established that many refugees, some 20,000, were walking towards Walikale and then onwards to Kisangani.

UNHCR said 1,400 refugees from the Virunga National Park in the Goma region returned to Rwanda via Cyangugu yesterday. It said about 35,000 refugees, who had emerged from the forests, had been repatriated since November 19.

Kisangani has been calm over the past few days and newly-arrived Special Presidential Division troops are reported to be in control of the situation, according to the UN in Kinshasa. Only sporadic gunfire has been heard. Local authorities and missionary sources indicate a general price increase and overall food shortages, especially in Kisangani, Lubutu and Kindu. The local authorities warn that if the food situation does not improve by next week, the overall health of the population and general security are quickly expected to deteriorate. The Belgian embassy in Kinshasa announced that it had provided about 110 MT of food aid to affected people and soldiers in Kisangani over a week ago.

Unconfirmed reports said pockets of ex-FAR and Interahamwe troops have engaged Zairean rebels in a series of clashes, west of Goma. According to an AFP report, local eyewitnesses claimed the fighting, some 50kms away from Goma, had been underway for several days. Zairean Justice Minister Joseph Nsinga Udjuu meanwhile has urged the international community not to abandon his country. He called on countries "to resume their place at the side of the Zairean people and help it [Zaire] to again find political, social and economic stability without which human rights are at risk." The UN High Commission for Human Rights announced the deployment of the first two observers to Kinshasa yesterday, following allegations of human rights abuses in Zaire.

The USA and its European allies yesterday stressed the need to deploy a multi-national force (MNF) to the Great Lakes region to help with the humanitarian crisis, according to a spokesman for Belgian Foreign Minister Erik Derycke. He was speaking after a meeting in Brussels on the sidelines of a NATO ministerial gathering which included US, French, British and Dutch delegates. "No-one at the meeting questioned it (MNF)," the spokesman said. He added that an ambassadorial level meeting on Friday at UN headquarters in New York should confirm yesterday's talks.

Nairobi, December 11 1996, 15:15 GMT  
[ENDS]

[Via the UN DHA Integrated Regional Information Network. The material contained in this communication may not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its agencies. UN DHA IRIN Tel: +254 2 622123 Fax: +254 2 622129 e-mail: irin@dha.unon.org for more information. If you re-print, copy, archive or re-post this item, please retain this credit and disclaimer.]

Date: Fri, 13 Dec 1996 13:45:22 +0300  
From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes <irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

## **Zaire: UNHCR Lauches Action Program 12 Dec 96 96.12.12**

Sender: owner-irinwire@dha.unon.org  
To: irinwire@dha.unon.org  
MIME-version: 1.0  
Precedence: list

UNHCR

12 December 1996

### UNHCR LAUNCHES ACTION PROGRAM FOR EASTERN ZAIRE

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees mobilized on Thursday emergency relief aid for up to 100,000 Rwandan and Burundi refugees reported to be sheltering in Zaire's Shabunda area.

A seven-member mission is poised to proceed to Shabunda from Kinshasa over the weekend to coordinate urgent relief for these refugees- the first major group to be located since hundreds of thousands dispersed in eastern Zaire last month.

Over the weekend, the International Committee of the Red Cross identified up to 100,000 refugees in Shabunda, 175 kilometers west of the eastern Zairian town of Bukavu. Since then a UN mission, including UNHCR, has reported that while 10,000 of these refugees are in Shabunda town, the majority are in several pockets along the road farther east. Field reports indicate that many of the refugees are malnourished and are suffering from various diseases.

UNHCR is sending high-energy biscuits, blankets, plastic sheets, medical kits and water equipment from its warehouses in Entebbe, Uganda, for emergency airlift to Shabunda. The World Food Program is providing emergency food rations.

Relief agencies, including ICRC, have already begun providing emergency assistance to the refugees in Shabunda town. The UNHCR team will look into the possibility of extending relief to the large concentrations of refugees outside the town. One major aim is to find ways of helping those who wish to return to Rwanda to do so.

#This is the first time we have located a significant number of refugees in the dense tropical forest of Zaire and we are doing everything we can to help them,# High Commissioner Sadako Ogata said. However, she said the Shabunda operation would present major logistical challenges that would stretch the resources of humanitarian agencies.

#There are hundreds of thousands of refugees who remain unaccounted for and we need to reach them. We need to provide them urgent relief and help them go back to their country. We need help from everyone to get to them,#she said.

UNHCR cared for some 1.2 million refugees in eastern Zaire before fighting broke in the region in October. An estimated 560,000 Rwandan refugees have returned to Rwanda since the middle of last month. Another 60,000 Burundi refugees have gone back to Burundi. UNHCR

has received unconfirmed reports, mostly based on aerial reconnaissance, of large refugee concentrations in Zaire, but the group at Shabunda has been verified.

UNHCR has had no contacts with large numbers of refugees since they began abandoning camps in eastern Zaire's Uvira region two months ago. Although the agency has reestablished a presence in the Goma and Bukavu regions, staff movements have been hampered by difficult terrain and continuing insecurity.

Large numbers of refugees have also been reported heading toward the interior of Zaire beyond north Kivu, making the task of reaching them in the dense forest and hills more difficult.

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Date: Wed, 18 Dec 1996 15:55:06 +0300  
From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes <irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

## **Zaire: Update No. 15 on ICRC activities 96.12.18**

Sender: owner-irinwire@dha.unon.org  
To: irinwire@dha.unon.org  
MIME-version: 1.0  
Precedence: list

Source: ICRC Geneva <adminpress.gva@gwn.icrc.org> Date: 18 Dec 1996

Please find herewith an Update No. 15 on ICRC activities related to the Zairian crisis

### QUOTE

The humanitarian situation in Shabunda, a settlement about mid-way between Bukavu and Kindu, is slowly becoming critical. ICRC activities are hampered by poor infrastructure, heavy rains and difficult access to the refugee site. Relief supplies are flown to Kindu from Nairobi in a Hercules cargo plane and then on to Shabunda by DC-3. From the runway, which is often water-logged, relief has to be transported to a river, transferred by dugout, and carried by bicycle to the site four kilometres from the river. Faced with ever increasing numbers of Rwandan and Burundian refugees, ICRC staff are struggling to provide basic food and medical assistance. Most recent refugee counts show that some 40,000 people have by now arrived in Shabunda, and continue to pour in at the rate of 3,000-5,000 a day.

As these refugees are becoming increasingly settled at the site, urgent action is required to find a long-term solution, such as repatriation, before new camps are established. The ICRC has met with UNHCR representatives in Kinshasa and has offered air transport to Shabunda to make it possible to gather first-hand information.

Owing to heavy rain, the ICRC flight to Lubutu had to be cancelled. The ICRC has been in contact with Midecins sans Frontihres (MSF), which is working in Lubutu hospital. MSF has said that there are some 30,000 refugees in Tingitingi, seven kilometres west of Lubutu, and tens of thousands more along the road between Walikale and Lubutu.

In Kalemie, the ICRC has started to distribute food rations to 4,400 Zairian displaced and 800 refugees.

Access to areas around Goma and in North Kivu is still not possible, and the ICRC has no information about the victims of the conflict in this area.

However, delegates have been given greater access to the areas around Bukavu, and the local authorities have accepted the use of Red Cross messages in the areas they control. An ICRC team and a representative of the German Red Cross went to Uvira to evaluate the situation at the hospital and the possibility of resuming activities there.

On 13 December, eleven Zairian border guards and 14 family members were repatriated to Kinshasa from Uganda in an ICRC-chartered Hercules plane.

A further source of concern for the ICRC has been recent Rwandan refugee movements in and out of camps in Tanzania. Refugees who had left their camps and moved deeper into Tanzania were returned to their camps. However, as of yesterday, a steady tide of Rwandan refugees has been returning to Rwanda via the Rusumo border post. The ICRC has set up two waystations along the Tanzanian road to the border to provide refugees with clean water. The ICRC also took care of 400 unaccompanied children found along the road. By the end of the day, 100 of these children had not yet been reunited with their families. On the Rwandan side of the border, four ICRC water engineers are providing safe drinking water using mobile treatment equipment and water tankers.

UNQUOTE

Best regards,  
Press Division

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Date: Mon, 23 Dec 1996 16:08:05 +0300  
From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes <irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

## **Zaire: Amnesty International on "campaigns of terror" 96.12.19**

Sender: owner-irinwire@dha.unon.org  
To: irinwire@dha.unon.org  
MIME-version: 1.0  
Precedence: list  
>Received: (from majordom@localhost) by dha.unon.org (8.6.12/8.6.12) id  
QAA03238; Mon, 23 Dec 1996 16:08:05 +0300

This News Service is posted by the International Secretariat of Amnesty International, 1  
Easton Street, London WC1X 8DJ (Tel +44-71-413-5500, Fax +44-71-956-1157)  
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News Service 243/96  
AI INDEX: AFR 62/30/96  
EMBARGOED UNTIL 0001 HRS GMT 19 DECEMBER 1996

### **ZAIRE: SOURCE OF REFUGEE CRISIS REMAINS HIDDEN FROM SCRUTINY**

Amnesty International today released new evidence that ~campaigns of terror~ were being waged by Zairian military forces, militias and rebel forces against refugees and civilians in the South-Kivu region of Zaire at the very time that the international spotlight was focused on the massive stream of refugees further north heading back to Rwanda last month.

~This face of the Zaire tragedy has so far been hidden from international scrutiny -- and with this area still cut off from the outside world there are real fears that the attacks and killings are continuing today,~ Amnesty International said.

In a new report, the organization says that some 40,000 people fled for their lives to Tanzania and many others fled further southwards into Zaire in the space of a few weeks in October and November to escape horrific abuses at the hands of rebel forces in eastern Zaire.

The report is based on findings from an Amnesty International investigation team visit to Tanzania earlier this month which talked to refugees from South Kivu. The evidence shows that there has been a systematic and deliberate policy of armed attacks and indiscriminate killings to flush out civilians in refugee camps there, as well as deliberate and arbitrary killings of civilians in Zairian towns and villages.

Amnesty International is extremely concerned that the Zairian regions, including South Kivu, now held by the armed group, the L~alliance des forces democratiques pour la liberation du Congo-Zaire (AFDL), the Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire, have remained hidden to international scrutiny for almost two months now.

The organization is appealing to the Zairian government and the AFDL to stop human rights abuses and to allow full access for human rights activists and others investigating allegations of human rights abuses in eastern Zaire. Amongst the abuses reported to the organization's delegation were:

~ In mid-September 1996, about 100 Tutsi were massacred in the villages of Lueba and Mboko by the Babembe volunteer force (an armed Zairian militia). The victims were members of a Methodist Church.

~ On 6 October, armed Tutsi rebels attacked Lemera Hospital, where staff were caring for about 300 patients. At least 38 patients and three nurses were killed. One eye-witness said ~We fled, but the patients who had just been operated on could not move from their beds. When we went back the next day, we found them, killed in their beds by a bullet through the mouth~.

~ Members of the Tutsi armed group attacked the town of Kiliba on 18 October killing about 60 civilians, including young babies. Among those killed were nine members of the Cassandra family who had reportedly been slaughtered in their home with knives.

~ Armed Tutsis attacked Luberezi camp on 20 or 21 October. One of those in the camp told Amnesty International ~Members of my family were killed. My father, Bizimana Samuel, and my sisters Nuwimana Maria and Soia Wimbabazi. I saw their dead bodies but I did not have time to bury them~.

~ The small village of Mboko was the scene of mass killings between 28 and 30 October. There were around 300 victims. One boat was sunk with about 150 people on board. Some refugees said they had seen boats crammed with people trying to escape being shot at by Tutsi fighters from the shore. When the boats sunk, some were drowned, but people who could swim were allegedly shot in the water.

The latest cycle of violence began in mid 1996 following the Kinshasa government's proposal to remove Zairian citizenship from the Tutsi population in Eastern Zaire. Following this announcement, local government officials instigated a campaign of intimidation against the Banyamulenge population with mass killings, armed attacks and forcible expulsions.

In early October, armed AFDEL forces were systematically attacking Zairian villages, towns and refugee camps, forcing their inhabitants to flee further South.

~What is clear is that both sides deliberately and indiscriminately targeted civilians in South Kivu,~ Amnesty International said. ~Now the AFDL control South Kivu there are only allowing restricted access to investigate what happened or to monitor what is going on at the moment.~

Amnesty International is calling on all parties to the conflict to commit themselves publicly to abiding by the principles of international humanitarian law, and on states who have influence with the AFDL to make every effort to ensure that the AFDL abides by these principles.

It is also urging the Zairian authorities and the AFDL to stop the forcible return of refugees to Burundi or Rwanda. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) should mount an independent investigation into attacks on the refugee camps under its protection and to denounce publicly any human rights violations.

~At the moment we are witnessing a continuous series of refugee crises in the Great Lakes region, with the international organizations at best struggling to cope with the results and at worst being prepared to overlook the fundamental human rights safeguards behind the refugee flows. Unless there is a serious attempt to solve the real issues behind this situation, the prospect for stability in Central Africa looks bleak,~ Amnesty International said. ENDS.../

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Date: Tue, 28 Jan 1997 11:23:03 +0300  
From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes <irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

**Zaire: Refugees International Urgent Bulletin 27 Jan 97 97.1.27**

Sender: owner-irinwire@dha.unon.org  
To: irinwire@dha.unon.org  
MIME-version: 1.0  
Precedence: list  
>Received: (from majordom@localhost) by dha.unon.org (8.6.12/8.6.12) id  
LAA20753; Tue, 28 Jan 1997 11:23:03 +0300

----- Forwarded message -----

Date: Mon, 27 Jan 1997 18:21:32 -0500 (EST) Source: Refugees International <ri@clark.net>

=====  
REFUGEES INTERNATIONAL  
=====

Report #17 Contact: David Shorr  
January 27, 1997 (202) 828-0110

"Lost" Refugees Found But Emergency Assistance  
May Not Reach Them In Time

This urgent bulletin contains the findings and recommendations of a joint assessment mission to Zaire just completed by Refugees International and the U.S. Catholic Conference (USCC) Migration and Refugee Services. There are well over 200,000 refugees from Rwanda in the Lubutu and Shabunda areas of eastern Zaire and additional numbers of Zairian displaced persons, many of whom are clinging tenuously to life.

For three months the refugees and those internally displaced who accompanied them have been cut off from regular UN relief supplies of food and water. Owing principally to the resultant malnutrition, the health of the refugees is now declining precipitously. Many of the most vulnerable -- including infants and young children -- have already died, and more young lives are in the balance. For example, in Tingi Tingi alone, there are over 2,000 children under five years old being kept alive with emergency supplementary feeding; more are being admitted each day. The cumulative effects of malnutrition, exhaustion and malaria will continue to cause mounting deaths among the refugees and internally displaced; nearly two-thirds of the deaths among this population have been children ages five years and under.

The humanitarian emergency in eastern Zaire has unfolded quietly and beyond the range of TV cameras and is therefore relatively unknown. In fact, after the repatriation to Rwanda of many

refugees in November, doubt had been expressed in some quarters that there were many refugees still in Zaire. There is no doubt now that they are in Zaire, but unless urgent measures are taken, many more will die. The objective of the international community should be to stabilize the refugees with emergency assistance and prepare the way for a safe repatriation to Rwanda.

The continued fighting in the area, which has intensified with the recent launch of the Zaire counteroffensive, makes immediate mass repatriation impossible and complicates the delivery of even limited, life-sustaining emergency assistance. In this context, averting a humanitarian catastrophe in eastern Zaire will require extraordinary efforts by the international community, the relief agencies and the government of Zaire. There should be additional efforts elsewhere in eastern Zaire to identify refugees still missing, but, by accounts trying to survive and return home.

Refugees International sent its president Lionel Rosenblatt along with Advocacy Associate Kirpatrick Day, and the U.S. Catholic Conference Migration and Refugee Service was represented by Shep Lowman, USCC's director of international refugee affairs. The assessment team recommends that:

- \* Given the extraordinary humanitarian and political stakes in eastern Zaire, the international community -- especially the U.S. -- must give much higher priority to the crisis. The prompt appointment of Mohammed Sahnoun by UN Secretary General Kofi Annan as his Special Representative for the Great Lakes (wearing both UN and OAU hats) is a welcome first step. The Special Representative's efforts to negotiate a cease-fire and to protect and provide emergency assistance to refugees should begin immediately.

- \* There is broad consensus that no permanent refugee camps should be established. The objective is instead to provide minimum, temporary assistance until safe repatriation can be arranged. Supplies should be distributed through an ad hoc structure created by the relief agencies; the former commune structure, which exercised so much control in the former camps, must not be entrusted with distribution. Consideration should be given to a possible security role for the remaining element of the CZSC, the contingent assigned to and paid by UNHCR. Strong diplomatic pressure should be placed on the governments of Rwanda and Uganda to obtain rebel cooperation with any further overland repatriation to Rwanda.

- \* The key to providing emergency assistance in time to avert massive loss of life will be to expand the delivery of the needed humanitarian supplies, equipment and personnel. While we understand Zaire's current preoccupation with the counter-offensive, the need for immediate, expanded access for relief flights is absolutely vital. Perhaps, opening up the use of the second, smaller airport at Kisangani would facilitate this if the flight slots for the regular airport cannot be immediately expanded.

- \* The logistical obstacles to supplying the refugees are

formidable. The road from Kisangani to the Lubutu area (where most of the refugees are located) is poor, and trucks take at least 4-5 days to make the round trip. Unfortunately there are presently virtually no usable trucks on the ground. Hence, in addition to expanding cargo flights into Kisangani, smaller aircraft are required to shuttle between Kisangani and the refugee/displaced sites. Measures to maintain (and perhaps expand) the runways at Amisi and Shabunda will be needed. Donors should signal immediately to WFP and the other UN agencies their willingness to fund the complex logistical measures required. In this regard, we were heartened to learn of the long-awaited decision to send an OFDA assessment mission to Zaire and look forward to a positive and generous U.S. response to the UN appeal for emergency assistance in eastern Zaire.

\* To reach the 30-40,000 refugees and displaced at Shabunda is particularly difficult. Light, DC-3 type aircraft land on a grass strip, which is damp and deteriorating even under the existing, light pressure. Flour sacks are then put on bicycles to a small river, where they are transshipped by canoe and re-loaded on bicycles. When the track gets too rough, the sacks are loaded on the backs of the refugees for the last stretch. The refugees and displaced are surviving by eating manioc leaves. Less than five tons of supplies have made it in to Shabunda. Given this logistical "cul de sac," we urgently recommend that the Zaire authorities, in consultation with UN officials, identify a more sustainable (and more secure) site for the Shabunda population and facilitate an immediate movement of the population by foot, before they weaken any further.

\* Cholera is already present at Tingi Tingi, underscoring the high priority which should be given to bringing in emergency water pumps and chlorination means to use the existing available river water. Thus far, the cholera has been of a relatively less virulent strain, or mortality rates would already be even higher. The UN agencies require immediate assurances of funding to bring in the emergency water measures needed. Technical personnel are also needed to implement the measures at each site.

\* Internally displaced Zairians (IDPs) and local villagers who are also struggling to survive should receive additional assistance. Some of this might be channeled in a way to strengthen local capacity. For example, a food for work program might be set up under which IDPs and affected villagers would assist in the repair of roads; such an approach would be cost-effective and could begin quickly.

\* UNHCR, in conjunction with the governments of Zaire and Rwanda, should arrange for repatriation by air for vulnerables, including orphans and unaccompanied minors. Those at Shabunda are in especially poor condition, suffering from malnutrition, exhaustion and malaria.

\* The concentrations in the Lubutu and Shabunda areas do not constitute the sum total of "lost" refugees in eastern Zaire, and focus must also be placed on other pockets of refugees. For example, up to 2,000 refugees are now returning each day to Cyangugu, Rwanda from the Bukavu area. Given that, unlike in the north (Goma area), a significant repatriation channel did not open up in South Kivu, it is logical to assume that at least tens of thousands more may be present in that area, especially west and south of

Bukavu. Other missing refugees from the Uvira/Fizi areas may well still be further to the south. Efforts to locate them and assist a safe return (in conjunction with the rebels) should be taken by UN agencies, ICRC and others.

In sum, much more urgent and effective emergency assistance measures need to be put in place to enable minimum, life-sustaining assistance to get to the refugees and displaced in time. We call on the government of Zaire (and rebel leaders as necessary), donor governments and UN authorities to expedite the emergency humanitarian efforts along the lines described above. The situation is so complex and urgent that coordination within the UN must be tightened, preferably through the appointment of an emergency field coordinator with full authority to mobilize the UN agencies on the ground. The world wasn't much interested when hundreds of thousands of refugees were dispersed into the forest. Will it save them, now that many of the "lost" refugees have been found?

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Refugees International -- 2639 Conn. Ave, NW, Washington, DC 20008 Phone: 202-828-0110  
Fax: 202-828-0819 www: <http://www.refintl.org>

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[Via the UN DHA Integrated Regional Information Network "Wire" mailing list. The material contained in this communication may not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its agencies. UN DHA IRIN Tel: +254 2 622123 Fax: +254 2 622129 e-mail: [irin@dha.unon.org](mailto:irin@dha.unon.org) for more information. If you re-print, copy, archive or re-post this item, please retain this credit and disclaimer.]

Date: Tue, 28 Jan 1997 11:55:31 +0300  
From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes <irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

## **Zaire: UNHCR Press Release 24 January 1997 97.1.24**

Sender: owner-irinwire@dha.unon.org  
To: irinwire@dha.unon.org  
MIME-version: 1.0  
Precedence: list  
>Received: (from majordom@localhost) by dha.unon.org (8.6.12/8.6.12) id  
LAA21095; Tue, 28 Jan 1997 11:55:31 +0300

Source: UNHCR  
24 January 1997

### **UNHCR WORRIES OVER REFUGEES IN EASTERN ZAIRE**

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees expressed grave concern today about the refugee situation in eastern Zaire.

#The options are limited and stark, and things are getting worse not better, #said High Commissioner Sadako Ogata in a statement issued in Geneva.

UNHCR is coordinating relief efforts for more than 200,000 refugees in Shabunda, Tingitingi and Amisi. It is looking at ways of repatriating those who want to go home. Delivery of emergency assistance remains difficult. In Shabunda, the airfield is waterlogged five out of seven days a week. UNHCR, the only agency present in Shabunda, has managed to set up health facilities with assistance from locals and refugees and reactivate and chlorinate water systems unused since agencies departed in December because of security conditions

However, despite best efforts of UNHCR and its partners, Ogata said it was impossible to meet even the lifesaving needs of the most vulnerable refugees. Insurmountable logistical difficulties in operating in refugee hosting areas are compounded by lack of security for people in need and staff of international agencies.

#There is now a trickle of food coming through the international organizations, #said UNHCR's Dillah Doumaye, who heads operations in the region, referring to some areas. #However, the situation is extremely precarious, and if things do not improve, we will head toward a humanitarian disaster. #

Many refugees, especially children, have already died from malnutrition or disease. In addition, the refugees risk finding themselves in the midst of war, as the conflict in Zaire moves closer to them.

#While UNHCR, with its partners, is continuing to do what it can, and is in contact with authorities at the highest level, humanitarian organizations alone have little influence on events that threaten the lives of large numbers of refugees, and indeed of many Zairian civilians, #Ogata said.

Another problem is that many refugees remain under the control of the former Rwandan leadership, elements of which are armed. Separation of these people and the refugees is even more difficult now than in the previous camps.

Many refugees have indicated to UNHCR that they wish to repatriate to Rwanda. But repatriation would require a safe passage through the conflict zone and security and assistance along the route.

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[ENDS]

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Date: Thu, 06 Feb 1997 10:28:10 +0300  
From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes <irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

## **Zaire: UNHCR Press Release on Shabunda 97.2.5**

Sender: owner-irinwire@dha.unon.org  
To: irinwire@dha.unon.org  
MIME-version: 1.0  
Precedence: list  
>Received: (from majordom@localhost) by dha.unon.org (8.6.12/8.6.12) id  
KAA25775; Thu, 6 Feb 1997 10:28:10 +0300

### UNHCR PRESS RELEASE

5 February 1997

#### ABOUT 40,000 REFUGEES AGAIN ON THE MOVE IN ZAIRE

Some 40,000 Rwandan refugees fled encampments in the Shabunda area in eastern Zaire today following reports rebels have taken a nearby town.

"All the refugee sites in Shabunda are empty," said Dillah Doumaye, UNHCR's deputy representative in Zaire. "The refugees packed their belongings, the plastic sheets they use for shelter and went away. They were prepared to leave and the departure was orderly."

A small UNHCR plane bringing in blankets and food was surrounded by a group of about 150 people demanding to be flown out. Police twice fired shots in the air to disperse the crowd. The plane took off with all three UNHCR staff members posted in Shabunda on board after distributing the relief supplies, originally destined for the Catholic mission of Shabunda.

Local authorities said the refugees moved out after reports swept Shabunda that Katshunga, a small town located 45 km northeast of Shabunda, had fallen. There has been no independent confirmation of these reports. A UNHCR staff member went by motorcycle to Katshunga on Sunday carrying some relief supplies for a local missionary helping refugees in transit. He met a group of 150 refugees on the road to Shabunda.

The UNHCR plane failed to find a trace of the refugees who had departed and had to return to Kisangani because it was running out of fuel. The plane will overfly the area on Thursday and attempt to locate the refugees, Doumaye said. They were believed to be heading west, possibly toward Kalima and Kindu.

The refugees abandoned Shabunda a day after UNHCR completed the distribution of a four-day food ration of beans, corn meal and corn-soya blend. A food warehouse and a hospital in Shabunda were looted, allegedly by the local people, as the refugees were leaving. About 7,000 Zairians were also reported to have fled Shabunda.

UNHCR has been the only agency operating in Shabunda since other international relief workers withdrew in December in the midst of insecurity and extreme difficulties in bringing in assistance. Relief supplies had to be flown in via a small grass airstrip, put on bicycles, then boats to cross a river and finally onto the backs of refugees for the final journey to the encampments.

UNHCR is also assisting another 40,000 refugees in nearby Amisi and 120,000 in Tingi-Tingi.

The emptying of Shabunda came on the eve of High Commissioner Sadako Ogata's departure on Thursday for the Great Lakes region. She is attempting to find ways of increasing the amount of humanitarian aid into eastern Zaire and ways of assuring the safety and protection of refugees in other areas. She plans to visit refugee sites during her visit to Zaire, the first stop on her 10-day trip to the region.

[ENDS]

[Via the UN DHA Integrated Regional Information Network "Wire" mailing list. The material contained in this communication may not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its agencies. UN DHA IRIN Tel: +254 2 622123 Fax: +254 2 622129 e-mail: [irin@dha.unon.org](mailto:irin@dha.unon.org) for more information. If you re-print, copy, archive or re-post this item, please retain this credit and disclaimer.]

Date: Fri, 14 Feb 1997 16:32:54 +0300  
From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes <irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

## **Zaire: Resolutions of Synergies Africa conference 97.2.13**

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To: irinwire@dha.unon.org  
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Concertation entre membres de la société civile sur la situation à l'Est du Zaïre.

\*\*\*\*\*

Résolutions et recommandations

organisée par Synergies Africa à Genève, les 3, 4, 5 février 1997

avec le soutien de la République d'Irlande et de la Confédération Helvétique

Plan:

I. Rappel des objectifs

II. Conditions préliminaires:

III. Recommandations générales sur la conférence sur la paix, la sécurité et le développement durable dans la Région des Grands Lacs

I. Rappel des objectif

1) Recueillir les témoignages des dirigeants de la société civile sur la situation qui prévaut à l'Est du Zaïre;

2) Définir, si possible, des pistes de solutions durables à la crise actuelle.

II. Considérations préliminaires

A) La réunion a connu une participation de qualité: des membres de la société civile, de l'Est du Zaïre et du reste du pays ont assisté à la rencontre; notons aussi la présence d'un conseiller diplomatique du Premier Ministre du Zaïre ainsi que d'éminentes personnalités du monde politique et des ONG du Rwanda (voir liste en annexe.)

Ce niveau de participation traduisait une sincère volonté de dialogue, en dépit du contexte actuel.

B) Les débats parfois vifs se sont déroulés dans un climat de franchise, de courtoisie et de sérénité; ils se sont déroulés aussi sous le signe d'une fraternité africaine, en dépit des divergences politiques et idéologiques réelles.

C) La rencontre s'est tenue sous la présidence de l'Ambassadeur Alioune SENE, ancien ministre du Sénégal, et en présence du Conseiller politique spécial du Directeur Général des Nations Unies (Genève), des représentants du Centre Carter, de l'OUA, du CICR et du HCR et de quelques ONG internationales basées à Genève.

### III. Recommandations et résolutions finales

A. La Conférence régionale sur la paix, la sécurité et le développement durable.

#### A.1 Points de consensus

L'organisation d'une conférence régionale est une nécessité de l'heure; les ONG doivent promouvoir, à tous les niveaux, cette perspective politique.

L'intégration régionale, dans une optique pluridimensionnelle (Économique, sécuritaire, etc) devrait être la finalité politique et opérationnelle de cette conférence.

La société civile devrait être pleinement associée à la conception, à la mise en oeuvre et au suivi de la conférence régionale.

#### A.2. Autres remarques et contributions significatives.

D'emblée, il faut remarquer que certains participants ont émis des réserves sur l'efficacité de ce type de rencontre et suspectent certains pays occidentaux de chercher à instrumentaliser la rencontre pour atteindre des objectifs inavouables.

\* Sur les préalables et les objectifs de la conférence régionale

Les préalables à l'organisation de cette conférence pourraient être la définition des conditions acceptables par toutes les parties d'un cessez-le-feu, l'accord politique des pays de la région, et l'engagement ferme des grandes puissances à soutenir ce processus.

Les objectifs de la conférence viseraient à promouvoir la coexistence pacifique entre les peuples et les Etats de la région en vue d'une paix équitable et durable et à assurer la sécurité pour tous.

\* Sur l'agenda de la conférence régionale

- OpÈrer un diagnostic profond des conflits qui minent la rÈgion, cerner leurs causes profondes et leurs ramifications.

- RÈflÈchir sur un nouveau concept de sÈcuritÈ en le replaÁant dans ses diffÈrentes exigences et dimensions (par exemple: mettre l'accent sur le concept de sÈcuritÈ humaine au dÈtriment d'une approche uniquement militariste de la sÈcuritÈ.)

- Aborder les questions liÈes † la protection et † l'assistance des populations civiles y compris les problÈmes concernant la libre circulation des organisations humanitaires qui cherchent † secourir les victimes.

Cette confÈrence devrait avoir comme impact concret et immÈdiat la mise en oeuvre d'un pacte rÈgional de non-agression et de cohabitation pacifique, (Ètabli dans le cadre du ComitÈ consultatif permanent de l'ONU sur la sÈcuritÈ en Afrique centrale) sur le modÈle de l'ANAD en Afrique occidentale.

\* Sur les participants † cette confÈrence rÈgionale

Le niveau de participation politique devrait Être le plus ÈlevÈ possible: les chefs d'Etat et de Gouvernement, les chefs des organisations internationales (OUA, ONU, etc.), les protagonistes aux conflits.

La participation des autoritÈs traditionnelles pourraient Être envisagÈe et les ONG de la rÈgion devraient Être mobilisÈes, dÈs maintenant, pour apporter leur contribution au dialogue interÈtatique.

\* Sur la mise en oeuvre de la confÈrence rÈgionale

Selon plusieurs participants, la mise en oeuvre de la confÈrence devrait se faire selon les Ètapes suivantes:

- Travail de restitution des recommandations issues du prÈsent atelier aux niveaux local, rÈgional et national. Autrement dit, des rÈunions regroupant les ONG de chaque pays devraient se tenir dans les prochains jours.

- Ensuite, il s'agira d'organiser une confÈrence rÈgionale des ONG des Grands Lacs en vue de prÈparer les conditions favorables † la tenue de la confÈrence rÈgionale.

Au cours de cette confÈrence rÈgionale des ONG, certains thÈmes pourraient Être abordÈs: la bonne gouvernance et la dÈmocratie, la dÈfense des droits de la personne, la sÈcuritÈ et la paix.

A l'attention des dÈcideurs de la communautÈ internationale, certains participants suggÈrent que la confÈrence rÈgionale soit bien prÈparÈe et soit conÁue avant tout comme un processus dynamique et vivant et non comme un sommet sans lendemain. A cet effet, ils prÈconisent l'organisation de missions prÈparatoires composÈes de comitÈs d'experts techniques et

politiques en vue d'affiner les thèmes qui seront à l'ordre du jour. Dans le cas spécifique du Zaïre, l'envoi d'une commission internationale d'établissement des faits en vue de dire le droit concernant la matérialité ou non de l'agression, pourrait contribuer à rapprocher les points de vue et enclencher une dynamique de dialogue.

L'une des décisions majeures de la conférence pourrait être la mise en place d'une structure permanente d'alerte et de réflexion sur les crises et les conflits.

Le soutien politique et financier de la communauté internationale sera indispensable à la réussite de la conférence régionale. Toutefois, la condition décisive de réussite de cette réunion sera l'engagement et l'adhésion consciente de toutes les forces vives des pays de la région.

B. La contribution de la société civile à ce processus de dialogue et de paix.

\* Tous les efforts devront être déployés afin de maintenir et de renforcer la coopération et la concertation entre les ONG de la région. A cet effet, il est urgent de créer une plate-forme commune de réflexion et d'échange entre les ONG, et Synergies Africa pourrait jouer un rôle important dans le sens de faciliter le flux d'information et de rencontres entre les dirigeants de la société civile.

\* La société civile devrait demeurer, plus que jamais, un lieu d'interpellation démocratique des dirigeants politiques; sans entrer, toutefois, dans une logique d'opposition systématique aux institutions de l'Etat et aux hommes politiques, mais oeuvrer en synergie avec tous les partenaires

\* Dans une région où l'information constitue un enjeu politique majeur, la société civile devrait affiner ses outils de collecte, d'analyse et diffusion d'informations fiables pouvant éclairer les décideurs politiques et renforcer les processus et la dynamique de paix en cours.

\* Les ONG doivent maintenir leur vigilance à propos de tous les cas de violations des Droits de la personne, quel'en soient les auteurs et leurs justifications. Néanmoins, il s'agit d'aller plus loin que ces dénonciations: il faut dorénavant mettre l'accent sur l'information, la formation et l'éducation aux Droits de l'homme et des libertés fondamentales pour soutenir la transition démocratique, l'esprit de tolérance et la culture de la paix.

\* Afin de s'acquitter de toutes ces obligations, la société civile a besoin d'être renforcée; ses dirigeants doivent être à l'abri de l'arbitraire et le statut juridique des associations doit faire l'objet de protection de la part de l'Etat. Les ONG devraient aussi bénéficier d'un soutien matériel et financier accru.

A ce titre, la nomination du Représentant Spécial de l'OUA et de l'ONU, l'Ambassadeur Mohamed SAHNOUN, suscite une grande attente de la part des ONG, eu égard à sa sensibilité bien connue à propos de la place des ONG dans le processus de dialogue et de paix.

Liste finale des participants:

[available from Synergies Africa: <hassanba@iprolink.ch]

[ENDS]

[Accented characters may become distorted in transmission between different e-mail systems.]

[Via the UN DHA Integrated Regional Information Network "Wire" mailing list. The material contained in this communication may not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its agencies. UN DHA IRIN Tel: +254 2 622123 Fax: +254 2 622129 e-mail: [irin@dha.unon.org](mailto:irin@dha.unon.org) for more information. If you re-print, copy, archive or re-post this item, please retain this credit and disclaimer.]

Date: Wed, 19 Feb 1997 15:53:06 +0300

From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes <irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

## **Zaire: Communiqué du Gouvernement de la République du Zaire 97.2.16**

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To: irinwire@dha.unon.org

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### COMMUNIQUE DU GOUVERNEMENT DE LA REPUBLIQUE DU ZAIRE

I. Le Gouvernement de la République du Zaire a pris connaissance avec étonnement du communiqué du Porte-parole du Secrétaire Général de l'ONU concernant les réfugiés se trouvant à Tingi-Tingi et spécialement:

01. de l'appel qu'il a lancé "à toutes les parties pour qu'elles cessent de transformer les camps des réfugiés en une base armée et assurent la sécurité de tous les réfugiés et de tout le personnel humanitaire";

02. de l'espoir qu'il a exprimé "pour que les dirigeants de la région arrivent à persuader les belligérants pour qu'ils acceptent le cessez-le-feu et qu'ils accordent le temps nécessaire à la reprise des négociations".

II. Le Gouvernement de la République du Zaire tient à donner les précisions suivantes:

01. La stratégie des agresseurs du Zaire à savoir le Rwanda, l'Ouganda et le Burundi, consiste à exporter en territoire zaïrois le conflit interethnique tutsi-hutu et à procéder à l'extermination des réfugiés hutu sur le sol zaïrois, au motif qu'ils sont génocides.

02. C'est ainsi que s'expliquent non seulement les attaques des armées régulières de ces pays contre les camps des réfugiés du Nord-Kivu et du Sud-Kivu en territoire zaïrois mais aussi, les charniers découverts à:

- Mugunga, dans la zone Katindo à Goma: 3,000 personnes; - Katale, sur la route de Rutshuru: 500 personnes;
- Chimanga, dans la zone de Walungu: 500 personnes;
- Kashusha, dans la zone de Kabare: 600 personnes;
- Kahindo, sur la route de Rutshuru: 100 personnes.

03. A ce jour, la Communauté internationale, à travers l'ONU et spécialement le HCR, qui a dans ses attributions la protection internationale des réfugiés, n'a réagi ni en ce qui concerne les attaques dirigées contre les camps des réfugiés par les armées régulières du Rwanda et de l'Ouganda ni au sujet des charniers, ni à propos de l'extermination systématique des réfugiés hutu qui est aujourd'hui de notoriété publique. (Cfr. Le journal "De Standard" du 8 - 9 février 1997).

04. Depuis l'attaque des camps des réfugiés et le refus du déploiement de la Force multinationale, le gouvernement de la République du Zaïre n'accepte plus sur son territoire, ni la reconstitution d'anciens camps de réfugiés, ni la formation de nouveaux camps de réfugiés. Il n'y a donc pas de camps de réfugiés à Tingi-Tingi mais une concentration de réfugiés, de personnes déplacées et de populations civiles sinistrées qui fuient la guerre.

En ce qui concerne la militarisation de ce camp évoquée par le Porte-parole du Secrétaire Général de l'ONU, le gouvernement de la République du Zaïre affirme qu'il ne recrute pas d'anciens soldats ou d'autres miliciens rwandais et qu'il ne saurait militariser les réfugiés en errance ni des anciens soldats et miliciens dispersés dans la nature à la suite des attaques de leurs camps.

05. Le Gouvernement de la République du Zaïre tient à rappeler que s'il y a encore des réfugiés rwandais, des anciens soldats et miliciens rwandais sur le sol zaïrois, c'est parce que les Nations Unies n'ont pas voulu déplacer les ex-FAR et les miliciens vers Kongolo au Shaba, Lukandu au Maniema et Irebu à l'Équateur, comme l'avait demandé le gouvernement zaïrois à l'époque, d'une part, et parce que les Nations Unies n'ont pas été en mesure de faire appliquer et respecter, d'autre part, la résolution 1080 (1996) du Conseil de Sécurité du 15 novembre 1996 sur le déploiement de la Force multinationale qui devait sécuriser les couloirs humanitaires pour le retour de tous les réfugiés chez eux.

06. Le gouvernement de la République du Zaïre qui ne fait plus désormais de distinction entre réfugiés civils, éléments des ex-FAR et milices INTERAHAMWE, s'étonne par ailleurs de constater que la déclaration du Porte-parole du Secrétaire Général ne se préoccupe que de la sécurité des réfugiés et du personnel humanitaire et non du sort des déplacés zaïrois et des populations sinistrées.

Ce traitement discriminatoire est incompatible avec les missions de l'ONU, en général, et du HCR, en particulier.

07. L'expérience tirée des guerres d'invasion dans la région des Grands Lacs montre que le cessez-le-feu demandé à des belligérants non identifiés tend généralement à légitimer l'agression et à transformer une guerre d'invasion en une guerre civile en vue de procéder, de l'intérieur, à la destabilisation du régime politique visé.

C'est pourquoi, le gouvernement de la République du Zaïre ne peut accepter un cessez-le-feu entre belligérants non identifiés alors que l'agression dont le Zaïre est victime, est aujourd'hui de notoriété publique, plusieurs États dans le monde et notamment des membres du Conseil de Sécurité, détenant les preuves de cette agression.

Le probleme qui se pose ici est de tirer toutes les consequences de cette agression.

08. Tout cessez-le-feu entre le gouvernement de la Republique du Zaire et les armees regulieres de l'Ouganda, du Rwanda et du Burundi, doit etre assorti du retrait immediat de toutes les troupes etrangeres, comme l'a demande la declaration du President du Conseil de Securite du 7 fevrier 1997.

Le gouvernement de la Republique du Zaire deplore egalement qu'a ce jour, l'Ouganda et le Rwanda n'aient pas repondu a la declaration du President du Conseil de Securite les invitant a retirer leurs troupes du territoire zairois. Le gouvernement constate, en revanche, que ces pays poursuivent leur agression.

09. Le gouvernement de la Republique du Zaire considere que la declaration du Porte - parole du Secretaire General du 14 fevrier 1997 (Doc. SG/SM/6158) est en contradiction avec la declaration du President du Conseil de Securite ci-dessus rappee.

10. Demander aux belligerants non identifies un cessez-le-feu qui accorde "le temps necessaire a la reprise des negociations", suppose qu'il y ait eu prealablement negociations.

Le gouvernement de la Republique du Zaire n'est partie prenante a aucune negociation et n'en a engage aucune a ce jour, avec qui que ce soit et reaffirme que sa souverainete nationale, son integrite territoriale, l'inviolabilite de ses frontieres et le probleme de la nationalite, qui sont des problemes de politique interieure, ne peuvent souffrir d'aucune ingerence exterieure et ne sont pas negociables.

11. Le gouvernement de la Republique du Zaire invite la Communaute internationale a constater que la declaration du Porte - parole du Secretaire General de l'ONU a donne lieu a un ultimatum qui demontre que la pretendue rebellion zairoise n'est, en realite, qu'un groupe d'executants tutsi qui poursuivent une politique d'extermination des refugies hutu sur le sol zairois.

III. Le gouvernement de la Republique du Zaire demande, en consequence, au Conseil de Securite:

- de se reunir instamment pour examiner sa plainte contre l'Ouganda et le Rwanda, a la lumiere de tous les elements a sa disposition, y compris le rapport de l'Envoye Special du Secretaire General de l'ONU et du Secretaire General de l'OUA a l'issue de sa tournee dans la region des Grands Lacs, afin de prendre des mesures de nature a mettre fin a l'agression perpetree par ces Etats contre le Zaire;
- de condamner en termes energiques l'agression dont le Zaire est l'objet;
- d'ordonner l'evacuation des troupes etrangeres du territoire zairois;
- d'instituer les mecanismes de controle a cet effet requis;

- de prendre des mesures appropriées pour mettre fin à l'extermination des réfugiés hutu sur le territoire zaïrois, afin que, demain, la République du Zaïre n'en soit pas rendu responsable par ceux - là même qui aujourd'hui les mettent à mort;

- de mettre hors du territoire zaïrois tous les réfugiés rwandais, les ex-FAR et les miliciens INTERAHAMWE inclus.

IV. Le gouvernement de la République du Zaïre déplore que le HCR, après la visite - éclair de Madame Sadako Ogata, Haut-Commissaire des Nations Unies pour les Réfugiés, n'ait pas attiré l'attention du Secrétaire Général de l'ONU et de la Communauté internationale sur le danger d'extermination auquel les réfugiés rwandais sont exposés, alors que la tentative d'encerclement des réfugiés à Katshungu et à Shabunda, au Sud - Kivu, en vue de leur élimination, par les troupes d'agression, est de notoriété publique.

Le gouvernement est d'autant plus inquiet de cette attitude que le HCR qui est à la base de la déclaration du Porte - parole du Secrétaire Général, il y a quelques mois encore, avait soutenu les déclarations faisant état du retour de tous les réfugiés dans leur pays alors qu'aujourd'hui il se rend à l'évidence qu'il y a des réfugiés rwandais en République du Zaïre.

C'est cette attitude de deux poids deux mesures, qui contribue à accroître la confusion et à aggraver la situation des réfugiés et des personnes déplacées à l'Est du Zaïre.

Fait à Kinshasa, le 16 février 1997

Pour le gouvernement de la République du Zaïre

Me. Gerard KAMANDA wa KAMANDA

VICE-PREMIER MINISTRE,  
MINISTRE DES AFFAIRES ETRANGERES

[ENDS]

[Transcribed by UN DHA IRIN Nairobi.]

[Via the UN DHA Integrated Regional Information Network "Wire" mailing list. The material contained in this communication may not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its agencies. UN DHA IRIN Tel: +254 2 622123 Fax: +254 2 622129 e-mail: irin@dha.unon.org for more information. If you re-print, copy, archive or re-post this item, please retain this credit and disclaimer.]

Date: Mon, 24 Feb 1997 17:44:17 +0300  
From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes <irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

**Zaire: IRIN Briefing Part I, 24 FEB 1997 97.02.24 (fwd)**

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To: irinlist@dha.unon.org  
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Zaire: IRIN Briefing - Zaire Part I: List of Key Political Players, 24 Feb 1997

Editors Note: The following is a list of key players in Zairean politics. The original document was prepared in table format on Microsoft Word 6 and is available from e-mail address: joanne@dha.unon.org.

The information below is separated by commas in the following order: Name, Ministerial Post, Affiliation/Party, Region of Origin, M/O (refer to key) - Relevant information

List of Key players in Dec. 1996 Zairean Crisis Government: Leon Kengo wa Dondo\*, Prime Minister, UDI/URD, Equateur,M/O

Deputy/Vice-Prime Minister with portfolio: Gerard Kamanda wa Kamanda\*, Foreign Affairs, FCN/URD, Bandundu, M/O General Likulia Bolongo\*, Defence, no declared party, Haut Zaire, M - former member of MPR

Lambert Mende Omalanga, Transport & Comm., MNCLO/USORAL, Kasai Oriental, M/O - former Lubumbist but not member of PALU Baudouin Banza Mukalay Nsungu\*, Mines, MPR, Shaba, M - political mouthpiece of Mobutu

Minister of:

Charles Muando Nsimba, Interior,UNADEF/URD, Shaba (Moba), M/O - ex-member of UFERI

Tshibwabwa Ashila Pashi, Justice, PDSC/?, Kasai Occidental, M/O - he was expelled from USORAL

Wivinne NíLandu Kavidi, Intern. Cooperation, UFERI-Nguz/FPC, Bas Zaire, M - wife of Karl-I-Bond,  
 Koloni Longo Abwaisasa\* , Infor. & Press, MPR, Haut Zaire, M Tabianna Ngasia,  
 Planning, PDSC, Bandundu, M/O - ex-turk of USORAL, expelled  
 Marco Banguli Nsambwe, Finance, UDI/URD, Kinshasa/Kasa, M/O  
 Bolenge Mokesomo, Budget, MPR, Bandundu, M Mambu Ma Khenzu Makuala,  
 Economy,UDI/URD,Bas Zaire, M/O Kitenge Yezu\*, Foreign Trade, FCN/FPC, Kasai  
 Oriental, M - FCN expelled, Mobutu mouthpiece  
 Adrein Yeki Bampende, Agriculture,?, ?,? Mboso Nkodia Mpuanga, Industry, MPR,  
 Bandundu, M Managa Dintoka Pholo, Energy, MPR, Bas Zaire, M Tambwe Mwamba,  
 Public Works, UDI/URD, Maniema, M/O - UDI president  
 Kayumba Bin Amany, Lands, FPC, Maniema, M Moshobekwa Kalimba wa Katana, Higher  
 Education,RSFC/URD, South Kivu,M Epee Gambwa, Sec. Education, FPC, Haut Zaire, M  
 Kasongo Numbi, Health, SC, North Shaba, ? - member of HCR-PT Armanc Beta Kalambe,  
 Social Affairs, UDPS/Kibassa, Kasai, M/O - ex-turk of USORAL  
 Leopold Bandobasc Nadeto, Social Security, FDR/URD, Haut Zaire, M/O  
 Kasereka Kasai, Civil Service, DCF/N/FPC, North Kivu, M Nyindu Kitenge, Post & Tel.  
 Comm., RSFC-Ally/URD, Kasai, M/O - an independent allied to RSFC  
 Tshibanda Ntungamulongo, Environment, ?, Kasai, ? Kisombe Kiaku Muisi, Youth & Sports,  
 MPR, Bas Zaire, M - president of MPR/Kinshasa  
 Mbonzi Matayako, Arts & Culture, FPC, Equateur, M

#### Vice-Minister of:

Thomas Lokondo Yoka, Foreign Affairs, FPC, Bas Zaire, M Yamba Yamba, National  
 Defence, none declared, Equateur, M - military Lumanga Manga Ramazani, Interior, Maniema  
 Lumaya Ekwok, Justice, Bandundu  
 Mujinba Sha Kalau, Intern. Coop., Shaba  
 Luzanga Shamandevu, Info. & Press, Haut Zaire Kubiya Misizi, Planning  
 Mme Nkankolongowa Ndaye, Finance, MPR, Kasai Oriental Mbumba Kanda, Budget  
 Kasongo Mukeya , Economy, Kasai  
 Nyemba Dikemba, Agriculture, PDSC, Bas Zaire Boboy Nyabaka, Mines, Equateur  
 Liamba Likinda, Energy, Haut Zaire  
 Ntumba Shabani, Industry , Kasai  
 Econgombe Bohuli, Public works, Equateur Kanyaongogote Mbangazenbe, Transport &  
 Comm., South Kivu Lungu Kasongo, Higher Education,Bandundu Mme Kahemba Batila,  
 Secondary Ed., Bandundu

#### OTHER KEY PLAYERS

General Mahele Niekoo, Army Chief of Staff, none declared, Equateur, ?, very popular military  
 leader

#### Union Sacree (USORAL)

Etienne Tshiskedi\*, leader, UDPS, Kasai, O - ex-MPR, most popular opp. leader  
 Antoine Gizenga, leader of PALU, PSA, Bandundu, O - PALU party is associate member  
 Joseph Olenghankoy, pres. opp. group, UDPS, Kasai, O - young Tshisekedi turk, US ed.

Jacque Matanda, in exile, Bandundu, O - in exile, Tshisekedi turk George Nzongole Ntalaja, ex-CNE, UDPS, Kasai, O - Tshisekedi turk  
MeMukendi wa Mulumba, UDPS spokesperson, UDPS, ?, O - key Tshisekedi counsellor

Haut Conseil de la Republique-Parlement de Transition (HCR-PT) Vacant, President - was Archbishop Laurent Monsengwo Pasinya, not replaced due to controversy  
Andre Bo-Boliko, vice-President, PDSC, O - left Union Sacree Feb. 96, now viewed as Mobutist  
Celestin Anzuluni Bembe Isinyonyi, vice-President, MPR, M - implicated in anti-Tutsi government policy

#### KEY MOBUTU AIDES

Honore Ngbanda Nzambo Atumba, Counsellor, MPR, Equateur, M - security advisor FÈlix Vunduawe Tepe Mako, Counsellor, MPR, Equateur, M - influential political advisor  
Banza Mukalay Ngungo, Chief of MPR, MPR, Shaba, M - Kabilaís tribe, tried to rejuvenate party

#### KEY

\* - key players

M - Mobutu supporters

M/O - Claims to be part of the opposition forces but believed to be a Mobutu supporter

O - Claim to be part of anti-Mobutist opposition forces

#### SIGNIFICANT PARTIES

There are over 450 parties registered in Zaire, many of which are financed by Mobutu and have only a handful of members. Hence only definitions for key parties are included in this document.

Union Sacree de l'Opposition Radicale et Allies (Union Sacree or USORAL) - The Union Sacree is an alliance of opposition parties, initially numbering 130 of which the three most powerful were the UDPS, UFERI and PDSC, was created in September 1991 to coordinate and consolidate opposition pressure on Mobutu to reconvene the National Conference(CNS). Political affiliations within the alliance remain a fluid concept with members frequently changing from one party to another both within and outside of the Union Sacree. However, it remained united until 1994 despite several successful efforts by Mobutu to co-opt members and divide member parties. In April 1994, the party divided between Tshisekediís radical opposition and moderate elements who supported Kengo who formed the URD. No members of the current Union Sacree were included in the December 1996 crisis government.

Union pour la Republique et la Democratie (URD) - In April 1994, a schism developed within the alliance of key opposition forces Union Sacree between Tshisekediís radical elements and those labeled as moderates, including the powerful DPSC. This led to the creation of the Union pour la Republique et la Democratie (URD) which supported Kengo in a compromise government to end the existence of parallel governments, Tshisekediís and Mobutuís. Some members of the URD are thought to be Mobutu plants in the opposition -- never true opposition members.

Forces Politique du Conclave (FPC), a.k.a. Mouvance Presidentiale (MP) - The FPC, sometimes referred to as the Mouvance Presidential, is an informal alliance of pro-Mobutist forces, the Movement Populaire pour le Renouveau (MPR) being the largest party. It was created as a counter to the opposition alliance Union Sacree. As of the end of 1996 Karl-I-Bond, leader of the UFERI, headed the FPC alliance.

Partie d'Alliance des Lubumbists Unies (PALU) - Alliance of new and old Lubumbist forces led by Antoine Gizenga. ADFL leader Kabila was also a Lubumbist in the 1960s. Kabila has proposed the PALU leader as president in a new government.

Turk - A term used to refer to young politicians who become protégés of key parties of politicians. They are often used to muster public support (demonstrations, protests, etc). Most arrived on the scene post-MPR dominance (after 1990) and are therefore untainted by Mobutu's previous politics. Those who deserted to Mobutu's government are seen as traitors to the radical opposition.

DISCLAIMER: The above information is a composite of the best available information garnered from news and wire services to facilitate the humanitarian community's comprehension of the Zairean political situation, and in no way reflects the views of the United Nations.

Nairobi, 24 February 1997, 14:30 gmt  
[ENDS]

[Via the UN DHA Integrated Regional Information Network. The material contained in this communication may not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its agencies. UN DHA IRIN Tel: +254 2 622123 Fax: +254 2 622129 e-mail: [irin@dha.unon.org](mailto:irin@dha.unon.org) for more information. If you re-print, copy, archive or re-post this item, please retain this credit and disclaimer.]

Date: Wed, 26 Feb 1997 17:53:43 +0300  
From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes <irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

## **Zaire: WFP News Release 25 Feb 97 97.2.25**

Sender: owner-irinwire@dha.unon.org  
To: irinwire@dha.unon.org  
MIME-version: 1.0  
Precedence: list  
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dha.unon.org!owner-irinwire using -f

Source: World Food Programme

February 25, 1997

### **More Food Reaches Zairean Refugee Camps Amid New Constraints**

The onset of the rainy season in eastern Zaire will create further obstacles in reaching some 170,000 Rwandans in refugee camps, said the United Nations World Food Programme today.

WFP sends significant quantities of food by air to refugee camps such as Tingi Tingi, but growing problems of heavy cloud cover will limit the number of flights WFP can make each day. Land routes from Kisangani to the camps are also expected to become even more problematic as bad patches in the road become impassable due to rain which has already started in some areas.

Recent reports of insecurity in eastern Zaire are also having an impact on humanitarian operations. Reports of insecurity in the region may negatively affect WFP deliveries of food from Lusaka to Kisangani which is a 2,000 km journey using road, rail, and barge. Over the weekend, WFP sent 200 tons of food from Kindu to Kisangani by barge, and a further 300 tons is on wagons south of Kindu. WFP presently has an additional 1,000 tons of food in Lubumbashi in transit to Kisangani. These supplies represent at least 20 days' worth of food for the 170,000 refugees in Eastern Zaire, the highest in-country stockpile of food since December 1996 when the crisis began.

"It is ironic that in a moment when we have overcome many complex problems affecting food deliveries, other uncontrollable constraints like poor weather and insecurity are threatening to curb our operation," said WFP spokesman Trevor Rowe.

Yesterday WFP completed the largest food distribution to-date in Tingi Tingi camp where some 170,000 Rwandan refugees received a seven-day food package containing maize, beans, corn-soya blend and vegetable oil. In order to undertake such a large distribution, WFP had to

haul most of the food 240 kms overland. This involved contracting 55 trucks and 39 pick-up vehicles - virtually every commercial truck and pick-up available for miles in the Kisangani area. The now-ample WFP food stocks in Tingi Tingi camp will be bolstered by more convoys set to leave Kisangani tomorrow with 210 tons of food, which is a three-day supply for the camp population.

As refugees continue to flee locations in Eastern Zaire, their health progressively deteriorates and relief agencies such as WFP are forced to shift their operations in order to respond. Last weekend, some 25,000 refugees from Kalima camp fled on the heels of a rebel advancement.

WFP today sent in its first airlift of emergency food supplies (six tons) to Punia, an outpost town some 170 kms south of Tingi Tingi where 4,000 Rwandan refugees have arrived in poor nutritional condition, and an estimated 160 refugees are arriving daily. The decision to send food follows a WFP/UNHCR mission to Punia on Sunday

WFP flies in an average of 15-20 tons of food daily from Kisangani to Tingi Tingi on DC-3 turbine planes. The planes make three to four trips each day, landing on Tingi Tingi's main road, which also serves as an airstrip. Over the weekend, WFP tested the makeshift runway's ability to handle larger cargo planes by dispatching an Andover aircraft which can carry 50 percent more cargo than the DC-3 aircraft. After a successful landing on Sunday, WFP immediately began using the plane to airlift food supplies to the camps, sending to Tingi Tingi three flights on Monday with a total of 18 tons of relief food.

"No matter how much we try, relief operations to Eastern Zaire continue to be hampered by tremendous logistical constraints," said Rowe. "Impassable roads, small airstrips, scarce fuel supplies and insecurity are still major hurdles."

Problems in the initial phase of the WFP operation to Eastern Zaire were also compounded by limited availability of Government approved aircraft to fly in food supplies and reduced numbers of WFP staff to assist in the operation due to Government delays in issuing authorized travel clearances to aid workers.

For more information:

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[ENDS]

Date: Thu, 27 Feb 1997 08:53:16 +0300  
From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes <irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

## **Zaire: IRIN Briefing Part II, 27 Feb 1997 97.02.27**

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Zaire: IRIN Briefing Part II: Historical Overview of Zaire 27 Feb 1997

### **A. GEOGRAPHY**

Zaire, home to some 45 million people, is Africa's third largest country covering 2,345,409 square kilometers. It is divided into ten regions (Bas Zaire, Bandundu, Kasa-Occidental, Kasai-Oriental, Equateur, Haut Zaire, Shaba, Maniema, Nord Kivu and Sud Kivu) plus the capital, Kinshasa, each of which are defined by distinct economic and ethnic differences. It is surrounded by nine neighbours, Congo, Central African Republic, Sudan, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Zambia and Angola whose populations share ethnic ties, which complicate national loyalties and boundaries. The 36 km long coastal area of the Bas Zaire region, home to the main port facility at Matadi, is all that protects Zaire from being a land-locked country. In addition it provides lucrative rights to rich undeveloped petroleum reserves off the coast. The Zaire river, formerly the Congo, and its tributaries, the life source from which colonial and present day Zaire was created. Geographically and historically, the Zaire river unified the country from west to east facilitating economic development and exchange.

### **B. POLITICAL**

Formally known as the Congo, Zaire has been under Belgian influence since 1876 and was officially recognized as a Belgian colony at the 1884 Berlin Conference. In the pre-independence years, the liberalizing of colonial controls in 1957 led to the formation of special interest groups and political parties along indigenous lines. With the exception of Patrice Lumumba's left-wing Movement National Congolais (MNC), most of these parties were tribal or secessionist -- intent on the dissolution of the Congo. Only the autocratic colonial rule

followed by that of Mobutu kept the country from splintering along regional and ethnic lines, which many believed would result in an explosion of tribal boundary-wars. Moreover, there were also only six university-educated graduates in the whole of Zaire at independence, too few to administer even one country.

On 30 June 1960, the Congo was officially declared independent. Within five days the army mutinied, followed by secessionist attempts in both the Kasai and Katanga (Shaba) regions and a power struggle between President Joseph Kasavubu and Prime Minister Patrice Lumumba. Three months after independence, Colonel (later Marshal) Mobutu staged his first coup, banning all political activities and ruling with the assistance of technocrats. In 1961, Prime Minister Lumumba was killed by Katanga (Shaba) secessionist rebels led by Moïse Tshombe. Supporters of Lumumba fled to Kisangani where they established a rebel government. In 1961, while the country was riddled by secession movements and the Lumumbist civil war in the east, Mobutu permitted parliament to reconvene under a national unity government led by interim Prime Minister Moïse Tshombe. The newly elected assembly, which immediately divided along ethnic and regional lines, became locked in a stalemate over the choice of prime minister. On November 24th, 1965, Mobutu staged his last coup, proclaiming himself President of the Second Republic and outlawing all political parties.

Since the 1965 coup, the social, political and economic situation in Zaire has been marked by two distinct phases and more recently, a possible third phase.

The first phase from 1965 to 1990, known as the Second Republic, is defined by the military repression of rebellions in Shaba and Kasai, strong international support, and economic growth. Mobutu outlawed all political parties for five years and in 1966 founded the Mouvement Populaire de la Révolution (MPR), the only legal party, whose organisation was superimposed on the state administrative structures. Access to key political and military positions was strictly controlled by Mobutu who frequently changed nearly all of his senior political advisors and ministers. From 1965 to 1990, government ministries went through 43 reorganisations headed by nine different Mobutu-appointed prime ministers. Through the political monopoly of the MPR, Mobutu was elected unopposed to three-seven year terms of office (1970, 1977 & 1984). Despite charges of flagrant human rights abuses during this period, international support for Mobutu continued.

Zaire's economic situation took a downward turn in the late 1970s. Like most developing countries, Zaire had received large amounts of multilateral aid fuelled by an abundance of OPEC petro-dollars (1). Aid which resulted in a dramatic increase in Zaire's debt servicing at a time when world market prices for Zairian commodities were falling. The economic downturn also coincided with the loss of support and financial aid from the Americans, following the election of Democratic President Jimmy Carter. The situation was further compounded by the nationalization, dubbed "Zaireanization", of key industries in Zaire. During the 1980s, the loss of international support, a flagging economy and charges of rampant corruption lead to the growth of a credible opposition movement and a demand for democratic reforms.

The second phase, dubbed the Third Republic, began in 1990 with the transition to political pluralism. On 24 April 1990, faced with increasing internal and international pressure Mobutu

ended the MPR hegemony launching the Third Republic and legalizing the creation of political parties. By 1991, some 130 new parties, mainly ethnic in origin, had applied for registration. Several of the new parties were believed to be pro-Mobutu. By March 1991, the opposition forces had pressured Mobutu into calling a constitutional conference, the Conference Nationale Souveraine (CNS).

The CNS, which began on August 7, 1991 with 2,850 delegates from some 200 political parties, drew up the Act of Transition and a draft constitution. Opposition parties in the CNS, supported by strikes and civil protests, threatened to boycott the the CNS proceedings unless Mobutu agreed to step down. On September 23, 1991, civil unrest allegedly sparked by underpaid and unpaid soldiers but soon joined by a disillusioned public, ending in the looting of Kinshasa. As a result of the insecurity the CNS was postponed. Shortly thereafter, the strongest opposition party in the CNS, Union pour la Democratie et le Progres Social (UDPS), split into two fractions under Etienne Tshisekedi and Kibassa Maliba, who later joined Mobutu.

Frustrated at the suspension of the national unity conference and Mobutu's successful efforts to weaken their ranks, CNS opposition parties, notably the Union des Federalistes et des Republicains Independants (UFERI), Partie Democratique et Sociale Chretien (PDSC) and the Tshisekedi's UDPS, finally united under the Union Sacree. Members of the new alliance called for the CNS to be reconvened and Mobutu's resignation. Under increasing internal and international pressure, Mobutu reconvened the CNS in September 1991. The CNS elected Tshisekedi as its prime minister, giving only four posts to Mobutu supporters.

Tshisekedi was removed by Mobutu after only three months, following a confrontation over the payment of soldiers' wages. Mobutu named Mungul Diaka as the next prime minister under whom key portfolios returned to the hands of pro-Mobutu politicians. Additionally, most members of Mobutu's new government were from Shaba and Kasai, strongholds of the UDPS and the UFERI. The Union Sacree, claiming Mobutu had no constitutional authority to remove the CNS-elected government, continued with their now parallel government under Tshisekedi. In November 1991, Mobutu named Jean Nguza Karl-I-Bond of the UFERI as prime minister. This move drew support from other opposition parties effectively undermining support for the Tshisekedi-led parallel government. Both Nguza Karl-I-Bond and the UFERI, one of the main founding parties, were immediately expelled from the Union Sacree.

President Mobutu's term of office officially ended December 4th 1991; however, the September 1991 riots and the continued government crisis destabilized Zaire, postponing elections indefinitely. In January 1992, Karl-I-Bond again suspended the CNS due to financial constraints and charges that its members were inciting tribal violence. In a February 1992 demonstration aimed at forcing the resumption of the CNS, several protesters were killed by soldiers. Following international protests, Mobutu allowed the CNS to resume in April 1992 under the chair of Monsignor Laurent Monsengwo Pasinya. The CNS immediately declared itself sovereign, limiting Mobutu's power to suspend it again. In May, the CNS ended the two parallel parliaments and established the Haut Conseil de la Republique (HCR) to act as a legislative body during the transitional phase. The HCR agreed that President Mobutu would

remain in power for the transitional period and Mobutu agreed to recognize a HCR-elected prime minister in exchange for his retaining control over the armed forces.

In August 1992, Tshisekedi was again made prime minister, this time by the HCR. Once again a financial disagreement broke out over the introduction of new Nouveau Zaires (NZ) banknotes, which Mobutu had had printed in Germany. Tshisekedi, supported by the international community, demonetized the new banknotes, refusing to allow them into circulation because of their potential inflationary impact on the economy. At the end of August, Mobutu withdrew from the CNS and HCR, announcing he would not participate in a Tshisekedi-led government. The armed forces prevented the holding of HCR meetings and ethnic tension erupted in Tshisekedi's region, Shaba. Mobutu paid soldiers with the new 5m NZ banknotes. These were rejected by traders inciting the second looting of Kinshasa on 28 January 1993. Opposition forces claim several of their homes were targeted during the looting.

In February 1993, Mobutu again dismissed Tshisekedi, appointing former UDPS member Faustin Birindwa in his place with Karl-I-Bond as defense and deputy prime minister in a parallel parliament which he encouraged to adopt its own transitional constitution. Tshisekedi refused to recognize Mobutu's authority to dismiss his government which, once again, led to the creation of two governments, two parliaments and now two constitutions.

At the end of 1993, UN-sponsored negotiations between the alliance of pro-Mobutu opposition parties, the Force Politiques du Conclave (FPC), and the Tshisekedi-led HCR resulted in the merger of the HCR with the old MPR-dominated Second Republic National Assembly (elected under the one-party era) to form a new 780-member government based on a single constitution and a new parliament called the Haut Conseil de la Republique - Parlement de Transition (HCR-PT). On 14 January 1994, both the Tshisekedi and Birindwa cabinets were dismissed and the HCR-PT held its first meeting on 24 January. Once again, the main stumbling block was the appointment of a new prime minister capable of uniting the two rival governments. The HCR-PT was given a 15 month mandate in which to establish elections set for December 1994 - January 1995, and a mechanism for choosing the transitional prime minister. As a conciliatory gesture the moderate wing of the Union Sacree, including moderate-elements of the UDPS, agreed to accept Kengo wa Dondo as prime minister, giving him 72% of the vote in the HCR-PT. As a result, Tshisekedi's supporters in the UDPS refused to recognize the legitimacy of the HCR-PT. This created a schism in the Union Sacree and the UDPS, further weakening the opposition alliance. Claiming that elections were impossible because of the presence of over one million Rwandan refugees in the Kivu regions, the transitional period was again prolonged and elections re-set for June 1997.

The election of Kengo, followed by the arrival of Rwandan refugees in July 1994, renewed international support for Zaire because of Kengo's economic policies and the need for Zaire's cooperation in the delivery of humanitarian assistance to the refugees. However, Kengo's economic reforms were hampered by his failure to take control of the central bank and other fiscal authorities. In July 1995, Kengo reached the end of his transitional mandate in which time he had been unable to organize a constitutional referendum or elections, or even a pre-election census.

Throughout the period 1990 to 1996, all ten regional governors remained appointees of the MPR-Mobutu era. Regional and ethnic conflicts erupted in Masisi (1993, 1994 & 1996) and Shaba (1992-1994). These conflicts not only delayed the electoral process but also divided ethnically aligned opposition parties such as the UDPS and UFERI. The instability created by the transitional period resulted in political stagnation and decline, strike actions, generalized insecurity, social tension, a dramatic drop in the standard of living, steady erosion of purchasing power, and ethnic unrest.

The fuelling of ethnic unrest in the Kivu regions also led to the current rebellion by the Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire (ADFL). The 1981 MPR government passed decree law No. 81-002 retroactively removed Zairean nationality on a collective basis from many Banyarwandans (Tutsi and Hutu) living in the Kivu regions. The law was later upheld by the 1991 CNS. In 1996, combined Rwandan and Masisi Hutu forces drove Tutsis out of the Kivu regions into Rwanda. Prominent government officials in the Kivu regions and in Kinshasa made statements upholding the view that Tutsis were not citizens and should thus leave Zaire. As a result, thousands of Zairean Tutsis refugees fled to Rwanda where they formed and became the nucleus of the ADFL rebels.

The launching of the successful ADFL attack, whose stated aim is the removal of Mobutu, coupled with Mobutu's illness appears to mark a new phase in Zaire's political history. Both the Kengo government, whose mandate had expired, and the Zairean army, ill-equipped and undisciplined, were unequal to the ADFL threat. As a result, Zaire's central government suffered substantial territorial losses in both South and North Kivu.

Mobutu's departure for medical treatment in late 1996 left a political vacuum. Kinshasa residents, looking for catalyst for political change, have vacillated between supporting ADFL rebels, Tshisekedi and Mobutu. Upon his return to Zaire, Mobutu responded to the crisis by appointing General Mahele as the new army chief-of-staff. General Mahele is thus the first general, outside Mobutu, to have control over all the military units. He is also popular with soldiers, civilians and the international community alike. Mobutu also announced a government reshuffle and the creation of a "crisis government". Amid heightened speculation about the removal of Kengo in favour of Tshisekedi, Mobutu reaffirmed Kengo as prime minister. In addition to the war in the east, the crisis government has the task of organizing a constitutional referendum to bring in the Third Republic, promised since 1990, and general and presidential elections for July 1997.

## C. ECONOMIC

### C.1 General

Zaire's vast natural wealth and varied geographical terrain offers an opportunity for the development of a strong and diversified economy, which could be forged through the strengthening of internal trade and economic inter-dependence, enabling Zaire to become totally independent of foreign imports. However, ethnic conflicts and neglect of the various regions and basic infrastructure have impeded economic cohesion, reinforcing the call for economic regional independence within Zaire. Most of the economic sectors have been

gradually deteriorating since the 1970s; however, the rate of economic decline accelerated following the initiation of the transitional period in 1990 and is in a state of near collapse(2).

Communication and transportation infrastructure (roads, riverways, airstrips, ports, telephone and radio networks), the main artery for economic development and internal union, as well as the electoral process, has been in an overall state of deterioration since the inauguration of the 1990 transitional period. As a result, most internal economic activities between the various regions of Zaire and Kinshasa have disappeared except for a few key towns which have maintained commercial activities through air transport. Moreover, as infrastructure erodes beyond use there has been a resurgence in subsistence farming due to a loss of access to larger internal and external markets. Many areas are now isolated from Kinshasa, both economically and politically. Moreover, the loss of major internal infrastructure has in some areas encouraged the development and greater reliance on cross-border infrastructure and trade between isolated regions of Zaire and neighbouring countries (North Kivu-Rwanda, South Kivu-Burundi, Shaba-Zambia).

Until 1976, the growth of GNP had been positive; however, in 1976 the GNP stagnated and by 1989 registered a negative growth rate: 1989-1.3%, 1990-2.4%, 1991-7.2%, 1992-10.6%, & 1994-16.2% (3). By 1994, the annual GNP per capita was \$125 US, some 70% less than that of 1958, making Zaire the fourth poorest country in the world (4). The negative GNP performance is attributed to the acute political and constitutional crisis. The climate of general instability and charges of corruption surrounding the HCR-PT and the transitional period also discouraged much-needed foreign investment, which was cut off altogether in 1993. In mid-1994, the existence of two parallel governments and the lack of a consolidated effort towards economic reform resulted in Zaire's suspension from the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The decline in GNP was also a direct result of the declining state of Zaire's production infrastructure which was and is for the most part outdated, obsolete and beyond repair. In 1971, the "Manifeste de la Nsele" nationalized almost all foreign businesses in a process called "Zaireanization", which led to the further decline of the business sector (4). The 1991 and 1993 looting sprees struck a further blow by destroying what little production capacity remained.

Devaluation of the Zairean currency has plagued Zaire since independence but was exacerbated by the transitional period, which fueled hyperinflation through the 1990s. The new currency, Nouveau Zaires (NZ), was introduced in 1993 at a time when the old Zaire (Z) note was trading at over 8 million Zs to \$1 US. Since 1994, Zaire has experienced an annual inflation rate of 24.000% and a monthly rate of 9.000% (5). By December 1996, the new currency was trading at 140,000 NZ to \$1 US; however, the currency of most commercial transactions is the US dollar. In support of Tshisekedi's fight with Mobutu over the issuing of bank notes, the Kasai region refused to accept the new currency and continues to use the old Zairean notes that are now pegged to Kasai's diamond production. Ironically, because of the lucrative diamond production and an overall increase in prosperity, prices remained stable in Kasai's capital, Mbuji-Mayi, despite soaring inflation in other parts of Zaire (5).

The capture of eastern Zaire has not only demoralized the population but has also created commodity shortages and further price hikes. Residents of Kinshasa have already been forced to substitute beans for meat following the outbreak of ethnic conflicts in the Masisi (North Kivu) cattle region and are now being forced to seek a further substitute for Kivu beans with the fall of the Kivu regions to ADFL rebels. Pay raises granted to civil servants in 1990 have been eaten up by hyper-inflation. By June 1996 civil servants earned the equivalent of \$5.75 a month, fueling both corruption and stagnation.

### C.2 Mineral Sector

Mineral exports have always been the principle contributor to GNP and the black market economy. Frequently, four main minerals alone have accounted for 60-80% of Zaire's overall exports (4). Much of the mineral wealth: copper, tin, silver, uranium, cobalt (60% of global production), manganese ore & tungsten is located in the Shaba region, while most of the diamond reserves are in the Kasai region and gold in Haut Zaire.

In 1960, the Shaba mineral giant Gecamines, known as Union Miniere du Haut Katanga prior to nationalization, accounted for 60% of Zaire's exports. Production from Gecamines, already suffering from a lack of international investment as well as outdated and obsolete equipment, was further hit by the loss of a substantial portion of its miners in the ethnic violence that erupted in the Shaba region from 1992-3. As 10,000 Kasai workers fled the region, copper and cobalt production slumped. Copper production fell by 90% from 1976 (502,000 tons) to 1993 (50,000 tons) (6). Overall mineral receipts have dropped and diamond smuggling is booming; some 80% of the diamond production is believed to be exported illegally (5). Much of the gold fields are currently under the control of ADFL rebels who have so far been unable to exploit their potential.

### C.3 Agricultural Sector

Zaire has the potential to be not only self-sufficient, but a net exporter of food. The agricultural sector's contribution to GNP, which has historically been weak, has been in a steady rate of decline over the last 30 years. Overshadowed by the abundance and easy accessibility of mineral wealth, the development of Zaire's potential agricultural wealth has never been a government priority. Food crops are mainly cassava, maize, plantains, peanuts and rice; while cash crops include coffee, tea, sugar, cocoa, rubber, oil-palm and tobacco (5).

Prior to 1960, this sector contributed 30% to GNP and employed 70% of the work force (7). In the post-colonial period large plantations were appropriated by the state and allowed to deteriorate from a lack of investment. Competition from more lucrative mining jobs drained away the pool of agricultural workers. By 1991, 40% of the population lived in urban centers as compared to 24% in 1966. As a result, agriculturally fertile regions became increasingly dependent on exports from other regions. As infrastructure declined and access to distant markets became impossible, rural populations in many regions such as Equateur, Haut Zaire and Bandundu reverted to subsistence farming and agriculturally-rich Zaire became a net importer of food.

North and South Kivu, now under control of ADFL rebels, were the only remaining agricultural regions with a significant export capacity. Because of the favourable climatic

conditions, the Kivu regions have always attracted an unequal percentage of international agricultural development programmes and investments. Hence, its production capacity did not mirror the dysfunctional state of other regions. Despite the loss of foreign investment in 1993 and the deterioration in the road network, it remained a significant export region providing basic staples via air transport to the regions of Kinshasa, Kasai and Shaba as well as with neighbouring countries.

#### C.4 Hydroelectric Power

The Zaire river (ex-Congo) carries the second largest volume of water in the world. The undeveloped Equateur region's hydroelectric capacity could potentially provide enough electricity to cover all of Africa's current and future electrical needs. The Inga hydro-electric dam built in 1987 near the port of Matadi, Bas Zaire, currently provides power for the Shaba and Kasai mining industry; however, further industrial growth was hampered by an erratic and insufficient electrical supply. Zaire currently exports power to the Congo, and South Africa has also expressed an interest in purchasing power. A smaller hydro-electric power station was built at Mobayi-Mbongo in the Equateur region on the border with the Central African Republic in 1989 but has not been significantly exploited.

#### D. SOCIAL

Zaire's education system in most rural areas has come full circle. As in the early colonial period, the education system is, for the most part, once again run by religious agencies and only available to the few who can afford it. The non-payment of teachers' salaries resulted in the closure of schools in many rural areas throughout the early 1990s. Precarious health services continue to exist in some rural areas. Medical personnel have survived the non-payment of salaries through fee or barter-for-service arrangements and the sale of medication. Moderate malnutrition rates are as high as 40-50% in some areas, even in agriculturally-rich Kivu. Vaccination programmes have been halted with the expectation that Zaire will see a resurgence in preventable childhood diseases (4). The loss of health and education services have further fuelled the desire for greater economic autonomy from Kinshasa.

#### E. MILITARY

While the armed forces are estimated at 60,000 strong, many speculate that a significant number of the soldiers registered on the payrolls are false names whose salaries go to their officers. Although Mobutu came to power through an army coup, he maintained his power through the Israeli-trained Division Special Presidentielle (DSP) most of whom originate from his Nbandi tribe in Equateur. Relative to other military units DSP soldiers are well paid and better equipped, which has ensured their loyalty and superiority when called on to quell rebellions by other army units.

Mobutu divided control of the various military units among generals, whom he shuffled frequently. Few commanding generals were considered professional soldiers and, although feared, they commanded little respect from their soldiers.

Mobutu's control over the rank and file has been waning since 1990. Salaries for some units have not been paid in years. Resentment and anger have festered among soldiers who are unable to support their families, lack essential equipment and supplies, and are poorly trained

for combat. Extortion of the local population, who view them more as an occupation force, is often their only source of income. Because of growing animosity towards the government, arms stores are closely controlled by the officers.

#### ENDNOTES

Most of the above information was gathered from news and wire services, the journal 'Africa Confidential' and interviews with various local sources. Other sources include:

1. 'Zaire', Africa South of the Sahara, Europa publication Ltd., 1994, p.946-956
2. Unpublished Report by UNDP Kinshasa, 1996
3. Africa Confidential, 19 Jan. 1996, Vol. 37 No.2, p.7
4. 'Zaire-Country Profile', The Economist Intelligence Unit 1995-96
5. Africa Confidential, 16 Dec. 1994, Vol 35 No.23, p.1
6. Africa Confidential 7 Dec. 1990, Vol.31 No.24, p.5
7. Untitled Document, Country profile of Zaire
8. 'Ethnic Conflict in North Kivu', Law Group Report, 1996
9. 'Che Guevera and the Congo', The New Left Review, No.220, Nov./Dec. 1996, p.1-35
10. 'Report on the Situation of Human Rights in Zaire', UNCHR, 16/09/96
11. 'The Coming of Kabila', NewAfrican, No.349, Feb. 1997, p.12-13

This report is part of a series of briefs designed to assist the humanitarian community understand the complexity and history of the current situation in Zaire. Part I: List of Key Political Players was released on 24.02.97. Part III: Zaire Who's Who and Part IV: Eastern Zaire Who's Who will be released 27.02.97.

The above has been compiled from varied sources and in no way reflects the views of the United Nations.

Nairobi, 27 February 1997

[ENDS]

[Via the UN DHA Integrated Regional Information Network. The material contained in this communication may not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its agencies. UN DHA IRIN Tel: +254 2 622123 Fax: +254 2 622129 e-mail: [irin@dha.unon.org](mailto:irin@dha.unon.org) for more information. If you re-print, copy, archive or re-post this item, please retain this credit and disclaimer.]

Date: Thu, 27 Feb 1997 23:11:53 +0300  
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Zaire: IRIN Briefing Part III: Zaire Who's Who, 27 Feb 1997

Editors Note: The following document was written as a quick and complete reference source to key political players, thus there may be repetition in some of the biographies.

#### **A. TRANSITION TO DEMOCRACY - Historical Note**

On 24 April 1990, Mobutu ended the MPR one-party hegemony and legalized opposition parties. The transition to political pluralism in the 1990s, called the Second Republic, was undertaken through the creation of a national conference, Conference Nationale Souveraine (CNS), convened in September 1991, in which over 130 parties participated. The CNS drew up an Act of Transition which created an interim parliament, however, before it could get off the ground the CNS was repeatedly suspended and reconvened by Mobutu. Finally in April 1992, the then President of the CNS, Archbishop Laurent Monsengwo Pasinya, had the CNS declare itself sovereign, limiting Mobutu's ability to suspend it. Members of the CNS also drafted a constitution that has yet to be ratified. On three separate occasions Etienne Tshisekedi was elected prime minister of the parliament only to be dismissed by Mobutu, who then nominated his own government. On each occasion, Tshisekedi refused to acknowledge Mobutu's authority to remove him, resulting in the creation of parallel cabinets, paralyzing the government. Following each compromise aimed at reconciling the parallel governments, the name of the parliamentary governing body was changed from the Assemblée Nationale to that of the Haut Conseil de la République (HCR) and finally Haut Conseil de la République - Parlement de Transition (HCR-PT). The most recent compromise was in 1994 when many of the opposition parties agreed to support Kengo's nomination as prime minister, ending parallel Tshisekedi and Mobutu governments. This led to a major split in the

opposition alliance, Union Sacree, with Tshisekedi supporters refusing to recognize the legitimacy of the Kengo government. In December 1996, amid speculation that Mobutu would reinstate Tshisekedi as prime minister, Kengo was reconfirmed as head of the new crisis government which was established to deal with the Allied Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire (ADFL) attacks in the east and the transition to general elections. General Mahele was also nominated as army chief-of-staff charged with restructuring the army and leading a counter-offensive against the rebels. General elections have once again been postponed because of the war in the east and Zaire continues to lose more and more territory to ADFL forces.

## B. MOBUTIST FORCES

### B.1 President Mobutu Sese Seko

Mobutu, who is 66, is from the Ngbandi tribe, one of the smaller ethnic groups located around Gbadolite in northern Equateur. Mobutu, who was perceived to be a bulwark against communism in the region, ultimately seized power in 1965 with the aid of the army -- his second coup since independence. Through the organ of the Mouvement Populaire de la Revolution (MPR), Mobutu was elected unopposed for three consecutive seven-year terms: 1970, 1977 & 1984. From 1965 to 1990, independence movements were militarily suppressed, opposition leaders disappeared from the political scene or were brought into the MPR, and the economy prospered. Mobutu consolidated and maintained his power through the specially trained military unit Division Speciale Presidentielle (DSP) and the MPR. He maintained his monopoly on power until 1990, when he was finally forced through internal and international pressure and a plunging economy, to legalize opposition parties. (refer to section A)

Mobutu's recovery from prostate cancer (latter part of 1996), rumoured to be malignant, is the source of much speculation bearing on his continued control of Zairean politics. Historically, Mobutu has surrounded himself with promising political leaders like Kengo and Kamanda wa Kamanda whose popularity and political power has been limited or intrinsically tied to his own. More recently, in the political arena, he appears to have delegated more and more to two key advisors, Felix Vunduanwe and Honore Ngbanda. Despite the emergence of over 400 political parties, no national leader or cohesive opposition movement capable of electorally challenging Mobutu's has appeared. However, growing frustration with the war and perceived government corruption is now generating broader based popular support for opposition leader Tshisekedi and army chief-of-staff General Mahele among others.

B.2 Prime Minister Leon Lobitsch Kengo wa Dondo Prior to 1990, Kengo had twice served as prime minister under Mobutu's MPR one-party state. After 1990, Kengo and his UDI party joined the opposition alliance, Union Sacree. In 1994, Kengo was elected prime minister by the Haut Conseil de la Republique - Parlement de Transition (HCR-PT) in an effort to end a stalemate caused by the existence of two parallel governments, Tshisekedi's and Mobutu's. This divided the Union Sacree between radical elements, led by Tshisekedi, and moderate elements who supported Kengo's nomination. Under Kengo the breakaway moderate elements formed the Union des Republiques et des Democrates (URD) which eventually became allied

to Mobutu's Force Politique du Conclave (FPC). Kengo's selection not only won the support of many opposition forces, but also restored the confidence of the international community. Following his defection from the Union Sacree and his inability to implement promised financial reform, Kengo, who was initially considered to be a moderate, was perceived more and more as a Mobutist. This belief was reinforced by the fact that one of Kengo's children is to marry into Mobutu's family. Additionally, Kengo's attempted budgetary reforms have increased resentment against him amongst senior officers and key advisors, mainly from Mobutu's Ngbandi tribe, including General Baramoto, General Nzimbi and Jean Bemba Saolona. Kengo's future political career has been limited by the draft constitution drawn up by the Conference Nationale Souveraine (CNS). A tactical alliance between militants of the MPR and members of the Union Sacree in the HCR-PT introduced an amendment to the constitution stating that both parents of a presidential candidate must be Zairean. If Kengo, whose father is Polish and mother of mixed parentage -- one parent was reportedly from Mobutu's Ngbandi tribe and the other a Rwandan Tutsi -- is to be re-elected the constitution must be amended which will necessitate a delay in elections. Anti-Kengo sentiments amongst the population continue to grow with the failure of the counter-offensive in the east and growing accusations of diverted war-funds. The rebel leader of the Allied Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire (ADFL), Laurent Kabila, has repeatedly refused to recognize Kengo's political authority and has called for his removal as a precondition to negotiations.

### B.3 Gerard Kamanda wa Kamanda

Kamanda wa Kamanda, a lawyer by profession and professed socialist, is from the west Bandundu region. He is number two in the current crisis government and considered to be intelligent, but intransigent once he has made a decision. In 1972, he was the assistant secretary of the Organization of African Unity (OAU). After 1990, having worked closely with Mobutu since the 1960s, he became a member of the Zairean opposition and a Tshisekedi supporter. However, he broke with Tshisekedi when he allied himself with Kengo and joined the 1994 compromise government, firmly branding himself as a Mobutu supporter. Under Kengo's government he held the post of Minister of the Interior and is currently the Minister of Foreign Affairs. As a member of the HCR-PT, he was a key player in the removal of nationality from the Kivu Banyamulenges which fuelled the Masisi conflict that eventually contributed to the birth of the ADFL rebel forces. He is also strongly against negotiating or even talking with the ADFL forces.

B.4 Felix Vunduawe Tepe Mako (a.k.a. VTP) Felix Vunduawe, who is from Mobutu's Ngbandi tribe, was a professor of law and one-time director of Mobutu's presidential Cabinet during the days of the MPR one-party state. According to many observers, since 1990, he has held the role of key political advisor to Mobutu and will continue to be a key player in political events as long as Mobutu retains power. In this capacity, he works closely with Mobutu's security advisor Honore Ngbanda. While he was Minister of the Interior, he orchestrated the tactical alliance between militants of Mobutu's Mouvement Populaire de la Revolution (MPR) and the Union Sacree which introduced the article to the draft constitution stating that both parents of a presidential candidate must be Zairean. (refer to section B.2)

B.5 Honore Ngbanda Nzambo Ayumba (a.k.a. the Terminator or Bulldozer) Honore Ngbanda, who is in his late-40s to early-50s, is Mobutu's nephew from the same Ngbandi tribe, and has

been a close member of Mobutu's entourage for a number of years. Prior to the early 1990s, he held various posts, including Minister of the Interior, head of the Service Nationale d'Intelligence et de Protection (SNIP) and ambassador to Israel. He has served Mobutu mainly as his security advisor but has, on a number of occasions, also acted as Mobutu's spokesperson. He reportedly oversees a secret service and is considered to be second only to Vunduawe in his influence over Mobutu. In 1988, Ngbanda, as the head of SNIP, was implicated in a diplomatic scandal, leading to open hostility between Uganda and Zaire. Many feel that he was also responsible for Mobutu's apparent December 1996 about-face in his reconciliation with Tshisekedi, which he publically criticized. On Sunday mornings, he can be seen on Zairean TV directing a bible study group.

#### B.6 Jean Bemba Saolona

Jean Bemba Saolona, president of the Zairean business association, Association Nationale des Entreprises du Zaire (ANEZA, french-NZAR), which he represents on the HCR-PT, is a member of the MPR and a close financial advisor to Mobutu. Saolona, who is the owner of SCIBE-Zaire, is also considered to be one of the wealthiest men in Zaire. Some have also speculated that he has managed Mobutu's financial fortune, allowing Saolona to simultaneously enhance his own. Despite his close ties with Mobutu, he is a political adversary of Kengo, who has repeatedly tried to remove his tax-exempt status. As the current president of ANEZA, he conducted a media campaign, separate but concurrent to one launched by opposition forces, criticizing the crisis government's monetary policies and the issuing of new Zairean banknotes in January 1997. He stands to lose a great deal of wealth and influence if Mobutu is removed from power.

#### B.7 Jonas Muamba Kadiata Nzemba

Jonas Muambe is considered to be an influential Kasai member of the MPR. He is president and chief-executive of Miniere de Bakwanga, Zaire's richest mining company following the decline of Gecamines. It is 80% state owned with the remaining 20% owned by Sebeka, a subsidiary of Societe Generale de Belgique. Miniere de Bakwanga is also considered to be an important financial resource to Mobutu.

#### B.8 Jean de Dieu Nguza Karl-I-Bond

Karl-I-Bond is a member of the Lunda tribe from Shaba and the nephew of secessionist and former Mobutu-appointed Prime Minister Moise Tshombe, who led Shaba in the 1960s rebellion against Kinshasa. He is currently the leader of the Union des Federalistes des Republicaines Independantes (UFERI), whose popularity, as well as his own, has been eroded through incessant flip-flopping from that of a radical opposition force to a Mobutu ally. Mobutu nominated him as prime minister for the first time in the 1970s only to imprison and then exile him in the early 1980s. While in exile he strongly criticized Mobutu. However, upon his return to Zaire in 1985, Mobutu made him ambassador to Washington and later, in 1986, Minister of Foreign Affairs. In early 1991, his UFERI party joined the Union Sacree; however, when Mobutu named Karl-I-Bond as prime minister in November 1991, creating a parallel government to Tshisekedi's, the UFERI was expelled from the Union Sacree. In 1994, he was forced to withdraw temporarily from public life due to a stroke. Although he has not regained his former political stature or health, he remains the leader of Mobutu's FPC in the HCR-PT. His wife, Wiwine N'landu Kavidi, who is from Bas Zaire, was the Minister of

Agriculture and is now Minister of International Cooperation in the December 1996 crisis government.

#### B.9 Frederic Kibassa Maliba

Kibassa was at one time imprisoned by Mobutu. While in prison he met Tshisekedi and joined him in the creation of the Union pour la Democratie et le Progres Social (UDPS). In 1991 the UDPs split into two parties, Etienne Tshisekedi's UDPS-Orthodoxe and Kibassa Maliba's UDPS-Legale. He is currently the leader of the Union Sacree and considered to be the leader of the moderate elements of the HCR-PT parliament.

### C. PROMINENT MILITARY OFFICERS

#### C.1 General Dona Mahele Bokungu

Like most of Mobutu's officers General Mahele, a former carpenter and devout Jehovah's witness, is from the Equateur region. However, he is one of the few generals not related to or from the same tribe as Mobutu. He is from the Mbuza tribe and is a cousin of General Eluki. He received his military training in France, and in the 1970s was a member of Mobutu's body guard. Like many officers he came to prominence during the 1978 Shaba rebellion, distinguishing himself as a commander of a unit of Berets Rouges. Among soldiers he is respected for his leadership skills and is seen as a professional officer who earned his rank rather than being promoted through political patronage. Following the Shaba rebellion he was promoted to general and given command of the Berets Rouges among whom his popularity grew, marking him as a potential political rival to Mobutu.

In October 1990, Mahele was given a contingent of DSP, normally commanded by Etienne Nzimbi, and sent to Rwanda to assist Habirama's Hutu-dominated government in repelling Ugandan Tutsi rebels. During the fighting Mahele was reportedly shot by a DSP soldier. He returned to Zaire to convalesce, keeping a low profile until the 1991 looting of Kinshasa. During the September 1991 riots, Mobutu gave Mahele command of a contingent of DSP and Service d'Action et de Renseignement Militaires (SARM) soldiers and ordered him to restore order. Most of those rioting and looting were poorly paid soldiers, including his own Berets Rouges. Many of the soldiers heeded his call for a cessation of looting; however, he was forced to make an example of some Berets Rouges soldiers to bring the looting to an end. Despite being forced to kill soldiers from his own unit, Mahele's popularity diminished only slightly amongst soldiers but increased with civilians.

Following the suppression of the looting, Mobutu nominated Mahele as army (FAZ) chief-of-staff, with orders to restructure the army. In 1992, as commander of the FAZ, Mahele made a presentation to the CNS in which he stated unequivocally that the army should remain apolitical, accountable to the people not the head of state. Moreover, he denounced the conditions faced by Zairean soldiers -- under-trained, lacking in equipment and unable to financially provide for their families. Mobutu, who retained political control over the army, immediately replaced him with General Eluki and scattered the Berets Rouges throughout Zaire under the pretext that they were plotting a rebellion. Mahele was made an 'attache a la presidence'-- a title with no job. For the next three years he kept a low profile pursuing business opportunities.

The ADFL rebellion and the subsequent flight and looting by FAZ forces again propelled Mahele to the forefront. Upon Mobutu's return to Kinshasa, Mahele replaced Baramoto as army chief-of-staff. Mahele insisted on control of all the military units including the DSP, a position previously held exclusively by Mobutu and the appointment of his own generals, Amela Lokima, Mokobo Mundende & Ipoma Bansheli. Mahele has been given the Herculean task of reforming the Zairean army and defeating the ADFL rebels.

### C.2 General Eluki Monga Aundu

Like Mahele, General Eluki, who is from Equateur province but not of Mobutu's tribe, is a professional soldier who also came to prominence during the 1978 Shaba rebellion. His tactical success made him popular within the military ranks; however, his popularity waned after 1990 when he countered Mahele's speech to the CNS, stating that the military should first and foremost be accountable to Mobutu, not the people. Eluki, who had been called back for the CNS from his post as ambassador to Israel, replaced Mahele as chief-of-staff in 1992. Following his promotion to chief-of-staff, opposition forces, notably Tshisekedi's UDPS, complained of increased military harassment. During the 1993 looting of Kinshasa, Eluki used DSP troops to quell riots. Many opposition members claim their homes were fired on by DSP troops during the suppression of the unrest. On 20 November 1996, following the successful October rebellion of the ADFL rebels, Eluki was removed as chief-of-staff for criticizing the Kengo government. He claimed that the government had not given the military the equipment and financial means to battle ADFL rebels. He also insinuated that logistical support to the army was denied when it was most crucial, because Kengo, shares ethnicity with the Tutsi rebels. Upon Mobutu's return, Eluki was made 'attache a la presidence', available should Mobutu need him.

### C.3 General Kpama Baramoto Kata

General Baramoto is a former police officer with little to no military training. He was promoted to general because he is Mobutu's brother-in-law, by marriage to Mobutu's first wife's sister, and is from the same Ngbandi ethnic tribe. As a political appointee he never had the support of the rank and file soldiers. Described as a hardliner, since 1988 Baramoto commanded the Garde Civile, who are dispersed nationwide and are the most feared of Zaire's armed forces by the civilian population. A close ally of Mobutu, he has also acted as one of his chief security counsellors. He is best known and resented in Shaba for the military massacre of some 150 students at Lubumbashi University following anti-government protests in 1990. He is still head of the Garde Civile, which now nominally answers to Mahele.

C.4 General Etienne Nzimbi Ngbale Kongo wa Bassa General Nzimbi, who many believe received his military command because he is Mobutu's nephew, is the commander of the elite DSP troops. He is considered to be very authoritarian and is popular with DSP soldiers. Despite Mahele's official authority over the DSP, Nzimbi remains an influential player who answers only to Mobutu.

### C.5 General Bolozi Gbudu Tanikpama

General Bolozi, who is from Equateur, is Mobutu's brother-in-law and is said to have gained promotion through his family connections. He was the former head of the Gendarmerie and is

now head of SARM, which nominally answers to General Mahele. He was briefly popular in the late 1970s when he eliminated several of Kinshasa's gangsters.

#### C.6 General Likulia Bolongo

General Bolongo, who is from Haut Zaire, was a former law professor at Kinshasa University. As with Mahele, his popularity grew throughout the 1980s because of his professionalism. He was the head of SNIP until 1991, when he was accused of preparing a coup against Mobutu and sidelined from politics. He threw himself into his business ventures until he was brought out of enforced retirement by Mobutu to assume the role of Minister of Defence in the December 1996 crisis government. Despite having once been sidelined by Mobutu, many consider him to be a member of Mobutu's FPC.

### D. ZAIREAN MILITARY UNITS

#### D.1 Force Armee Zairois (FAZ)

Prior to the nomination of General Mahele as army chief-of-staff, the position included control over all the units listed below except the DSP, SARM and the Garde Civile. Although Mahele is the nominal head of all the military units, generals loyal to Mobutu still head individual units. Officially the total force is supposed to be 100,000; however, more accurate estimates place the number at some 60,000 strong. It is difficult to establish an exact number as many fictitious names, including retired soldiers, are believed to have been recorded on the payrolls and many soldiers have since deserted.

D.2 Division Speciale Presidentielle (DSP) Commanded by Mobutu's nephew General Nzimbi, the DSP is an elite Israeli-trained force estimated at some 10-15,000 strong, whose headquarters are located at Camp Tshatshi, Mobutu's main residence in Kinshasa. Most DSP soldiers originate from Mobutu's Ngbandi tribe in Equateur; however, soldiers from other tribes exist amongst their ranks. Mobutu created this elite unit to consolidate his power following his first coup in 1961. They are well trained and equipped, having access to heavy arms where other units are barely armed. DSP members form part of Mobutu's special guard and are used to defend Gbadolite, Equateur's capital and Mobutu's primary residence. In the 1990s, they were known as 'les Hiboux' (the owls) because of their alleged nocturnal activities against opposition parties. DSP soldiers were recently employed by the UN from 1995-96 to provide security in the Kivu refugee camps. Despite their superior training and equipment, they were forced to flee advancing ADFL rebels, contributing to the looting of towns in their wake. Although most of the DSP are considered to be loyal to Mobutu, there has reportedly been growing dissent in their ranks since the 1990s.

#### D.3 Garde Civile

Estimated at some 10,000 strong, the Garde Civile has been headed by Mobutu's brother-in-law, General Baramoto, since its creation in 1986. The original members of the unit were trained by Germans to emulate the German police force. Garde Civile soldiers are considered to be comparatively well trained and better fed than the regular army. They are also feared the most by the general population as the unit has often been used to quash local disturbances.

D.4 Service d'Action et de Renseignement Militaires (SARM) Once trained by the US, SARM is the most recent unit created by Mobutu, who took an active interest in its development. Members are specially selected from all the military units to form an elite force estimated at 1,500 to 2,000 strong. Scattered throughout Zaire, their primary function, in addition to a combat role, is to gather information which is then channeled to Mobutu. SARM is currently lead by General Bolozi.

#### D.5 Gendarmerie

The Zairean Belgian-trained police force, which has existed since pre-independence, is estimated at some 21,000 strong. Like the army, its members are poorly equipped and have not been paid on a regular basis. Thus, it is not considered to be a very powerful force.

D.6 Berets Rouges - 31st Parachutiste Regiment The Berets Rouges and Berets Verts units form the bulk of the rank and file soldiers, who were considered to be fierce fighters in the 1960s and 1970s. In the 1970s they were led by, and greatly respected, General Mahele. As anti-Mobutist sentiments grew from their frustration at not being paid, equipped or trained, they were increasingly thought of as the opposition's army. On the grounds that they were organizing a coup under General Mahele, Mobutu dispersed the Berets Rouges throughout Zaire in 1992. They were sent to the Kivu regions where they were neither paid nor provisioned, forcing them to rely on extortion of the local population in order to support their families. They soon became mercenary units for hire in the Masisi crisis, which further undermined their reputation among Kivu residents and the general Zairean population.

#### D.7 Beret Vert -- Para-Commandos

The Beret Vert is the Chinese-trained infantry unit of the FAZ, with soldiers stationed in Kisangani and Kinshasa. Under-trained, ill-equipped, and irregularly paid, if at all, they have always been strong supporters of their perceived champion, General Mahele.

D.8 Service National d'Intellegence et de Protection (SNIP) The Zairean national intelligence service, which has gone through seven name changes, is not, at present, considered to be very powerful. Most of its members have not been paid in years, relying in stead on extortion and fees for service to support their families. It is currently headed by pro-Mobutist Tshimbombo Mukuna.

### E. MEMBERS OF THE OPPOSITION

#### E.1 Etienne Tshisekedi wa Malumba

Tshisekedi, who is 64, is a member of the Muluba tribe from the Kasai region. He is said to be related by marriage to Mobutu through his elder brother, Bonaventure Kalonga, who is married to a cousin of Mobutu's first wife. For 19 years he was a chosen aid to Mobutu, holding the post of Minister of the Interior in the Second Republic. However, like many in Mobutu's entourage, he fell out of grace and was imprisoned for several years. Following his release from prison, Tshisekedi formed the influential opposition party Union pour la Democratie et le Progres Social (UDPS). During the Third Republic (post-1990) he was elected to the post of prime minister on three different occasions; each time he was sacked by

Mobutu over financial differences. On these occasions he refused to recognize Mobutu's authority to dismiss him, resulting in the creation of parallel governments on three occasions. At one point, Mobutu offered Tshisekedi the post of prime minister over a Mobutu-controlled Cabinet, which he refused. Following his November 1996 visit with a convalescing Mobutu in France, Tshisekedi claimed that they had reconciled their differences and that Mobutu had promised to restore him as prime minister. Mobutu denied any such agreement, reconfirming Kengo as prime minister in the 1996 crisis government. In a move aimed at undermining the new crisis government, members of the radical opposition allied to Tshisekedi called for a total boycott of the new banknotes issued in January 1997.

Tshisekedi has surrounded himself with politically astute and intelligent young men whom many refer to as his 'young turks'. These are men who came into politics after 1990 and therefore, having never been members of the MPR, remain untouched by pre-1990 MPR politics. Young turks like Joseph Olengakhoy, Jacques Matanda and George Nsongola are most often used to muster public and union support for the UDPS.

Analysts feel that his current popularity can be attributed more to a growing sense of frustration amongst Zaireans, notably Kinshasa residents, who are ready to support the most likely vehicle for change -- any change no matter what the cost. Thus Tshisekedi's supporters have often vacillated between support for him and Kabila's ADFL rebels. He also continues to receive strong support from trade union movements. Tshisekedi's rhetoric has always been that of an opposition force, based on criticism of the government. As it is easier to be a government critic than a policy maker, it is difficult to determine what kind of leader he will make.

Throughout December 1996, Tshisekedi strongly supported negotiations with rebel leader Kabila, but let the matter drop when journalists hinted at a possible collusion between the two. Since February 1997, he has again renewed his push for negotiations. Paradoxically, Kabila has indicated that he would be prepared to negotiate with a new government in which Tshisekedi was prime minister; however, Kabila also refused to see Jacques Matanda, a Tshisekedi affiliate, when he recently paid a visit to Goma.

## E.2 Antoine Gizenga

Gizenga, who is in his 60s, is from the Bandundu region. In the 1960s, he was a member of former Prime Minister Patrice Lumumba's left-wing Movement National Congolese (MNC). Following Lumumba's death, he retreated to Kisangani with other MNC members where they formed an independent secessionist government in which he was prime minister. Kabila was also a fellow member and rebel leader of the Lumumbist secessionist movement. Following the defeat of the Lumumbist movement in the 1960s, Gizenga went into exile moving to Sudan, Egypt, Moscow and West Germany, returning to Zaire in 1991 following the granting of immunity to all those in exile. He refused Mobutu's and Tshisekedi's advances, forming his own opposition party, *Partie Solidaire Africaine* (PSA). He also formed and is the leader of the *Partie de Lumumbist Unite* (PALU), which is an alliance of old and new Lumumbist supporters. Rumours about the former Lumumbist movement resurfaced upon his return, inflaming old grudges between opposition forces from Shaba and Kasai. Since his return to Zaire, Gizenga has maintained a relatively low profile in the HCR-PT. In his recent call for a

negotiated solution to the war in the east, Kabila proposed an interim government with Gizenga as president. Gizenga reportedly responded by denouncing Kabila.

### E.3 Georges Nzongola Ntalaja

Like Tshisekedi, Nzongola is from the Kasai region and considered to be anti-Mobutu. He was a professor in the USA until returning to Zaire in 1992. Soon after, he was nominated deputy chairperson of Zaire's national electoral commission (CNE), which consists of 44 members chosen among supporters of Mobutu and opposition forces. Nzongola was Tshisekedi's and the UDPS' representative on the CNE. He resigned on 3 September in protest of what he described as obstacles deliberately placed in the way of the election process by Mobutu supporters on the CNE. Nzongola, who is greatly respected by many Zaireans, is considered to be one of Tshisekedi's 'young turks' and likely to have a significant role in any Tshisekedi-led government.

### E.4 Joseph Olengakhoy

Olengakhoy, who moved to the USA with his mother when he was only ten, is originally from the Kasai. He returned to Zaire at the age of 29 following his father's death. When he tried to assume his father's business interests he found himself imprisoned for two years where he reportedly met Tshisekedi. He soon became one of Tshisekedi's young turks' and has often aided in the mobilization of popular support. He is currently the president of the opposition group in the HCR-PT.

### E.5 Jacques Matanda

Matanda is from the Bandundu region. His father was sentenced to death by a military tribunal and executed in 1968, for which he holds Mobutu responsible. He is believed to be one of Tshisekedi's 'young turks' and was a member of the Zairean CNS opposition until 1993 when he withdrew, frustrated at the ineptitude of the CNS. He then went to Angola where he allegedly aided the MPLA government, leading a contingent of exiled Zairean soldiers against UNITA forces. He recently appeared in Goma, North Kivu, requesting an interview with Kabila. Instead of an interview, Kabila gave him 48 hours to leave the rebel-held area.

E.6 Archbishop Laurent Monsengwo Pasinya Laurent Monsengwo Pasinya is the Catholic archbishop for Kisangani, who became president of the Haut Conseil de la Republique-Assemblee Nationale (HCR-later called the HCR-PT) in 1993. His perceived neutrality and dynamism propelled the HCR through many attempts to sabotage it. He often criticized the US and the international community for not putting enough pressure on Mobutu to improve the pace of the preparations for general elections. However, he eventually earned the scorn and distrust of Tshisekedi and the radical elements of the Union Sacree by failing to convene the April 1993 session of the HCR and later advocating in its stead the acceptance of the 1994 Kengo compromise government, which called for Tshisekedi to step down as prime minister. Under what many believe was pressure from the Catholic church, he partially resigned on 22 July 1994 and was finally voted out as president of the HCR-PT by Mobutu's FPC and the Union Sacree in 1995. His post remains vacant because of a conflict of interests. Normally he would have been replaced by one of the two vice-presidents, Andre Bo-Boliko of the PDSC or Celestin Anzuluni Bembe of the MPR; however, the Act of Transition specifies that the prime minister should come from a party other than the HCR-PT president's. Bo-Boliki's

PDSC party left the Union Sacree joining Kengo and the URD; thus, both vice-presidents can be said to be in Mobutu's FPC, which would require Kengo to step down if one of them was made president. The post remains unfilled with the unlikely hope that the archbishop will return.

## F. POLITICAL ALLIANCE PARTIES

F.1 Mouvement Presidentielle (MP) / Forces Politique du Conclave (FPC) The FPC, sometimes referred to as the Mouvement Presidential, is an informal alliance of pro-Mobutist forces, the MPR being the largest party. It was created as a counter to the opposition alliance Union Sacree. Almost all members of the December 1997 crisis government were drawn from this alliance. As of the end of 1996, Karl-I-Bond, leader of the UFERI, is head of the FPC alliance.

F.2 Union Sacree de l'Opposition Radicale et Allies (Union Sacree or USORAL) The Union Sacree is an alliance of opposition parties, initially numbering 130, of which the three most powerful were the UDPS, UFERI and PDSC. It was created in September 1991 to coordinate and consolidate opposition pressure on Mobutu to reconvene the CNS. Political affiliations within the alliance remain a fluid concept with members frequently changing from one party to another both within and outside of the Union Sacree. It has persevered despite several successful efforts to co-opt members and divide member parties. However, in April 1994, a schism developed when the moderate elements of the Union Sacree, including the Bo-Boloko's PDSC, created the Union pour la Republique et la Democratie (URD) supporting Kengo in a compromise government to end the existence of parallel Tshisekedi and Mobutu governments. In February 1996, the PDSC boycotted the Union Sacree general assembly and left the alliance. Bo-boloko also holds one of the two vice-presidents posts on the HCR-PT, that of the opposition. In March 1996, Lambert Mende's Mouvement National Congolais-Lumumba (MNC-Original) refused to recognize Tshisekedi's authority. The alliance finally split in September 1996 between the current president Frederic Kibassa Maliba, who is head of the UDPS-Legale and Tshisekedi's UDPS-Orthodoxe. No members of the Union Sacree were included in the December 1996 crisis government.

F.3 Union pour la Republique et la Democratie (URD) In April 1994, a schism developed within the Union Sacree between Tshisekedi's radical elements and those labeled as moderates, including the PDSC. This led to the creation of the Union pour la Republique et la Democratie (URD) which supported Kengo in a compromise government to end the parallel Tshisekedi and Mobutu-led governments. Those remaining in the Union Sacree accused members of the URD of having been Mobutu plants in the opposition -- never true opposition members.

F.4 Partie d'Alliance des Lubumbist Unies (PALU) Alliance of old and new Lumumbist forces led by former Lumumbist Antoine Gizenga. No members of the PALU were included in the current government.

## G. POLITICAL PARTIES

It should be noted that as of the end of 1996 some 450 parties have been registered in Zaire. Many of the opposition parties are believed to have been created or funded by Mobutist

forces to divide and weaken the ranks of the 'true opposition'. Some parties have no more than a handful of members. The following is a list of the key parties.

**G.1 Mouvement Populaire de la Revolution (MPR)** The MPR was created in 1966 by Mobutu. Chaired by Mobutu, it progressively grew to engulf political parties, unions and all social associations, eventually duplicating and replacing all state administrative structures. Thus, prior to 1990, Zaire was a one-party state in which all political leaders were by necessity members of the MPR. Under the monopoly of the MPR, Mobutu was elected to three seven-year terms of office. On 24 April 1990, faced with increasing internal and international pressure, Mobutu ended the MPR hegemony, launching the Third Republic and permitting the creation of political parties. The MPR split into two fractions and was renamed the *Mouvement Populaire pour le Renouveau* (as opposed to *Revolution*). As of January 1997, Baza Mukday Nsungu is the deputy chairperson of the MPR.

**G.2 Union pour la Democratie et le Progres Social (UDPS)** Lead by Etienne Tshisekedi, the UDPS is considered to be the most powerful political party. However, it is viewed primarily as a Baluba (Tshisekedi's ethnic tribe) party although some attempts have been made to include members of the Bakongo tribe (first president Joseph Kasavubu's tribe). Although not unblemished, it has the most consistent record of opposition to Mobutu. In 1991, the party split between the Frederic Kibassa Maliba from Shaba who is head of the UDPS-Legale and Tshisekedi's UDPS-Orthodoxe.

**G.3 Union des Federalistes des Republicaines Independantes (UFERI)** Lead by Nguza Karl-I-Bond, who is considered to be pro-Mobutist, the party draws its support from the Shaba region. On 21 September 1996, the party split with the creation of UFERI-origenelle, lead by Antoine Gabriel Kyungi wa Kumwanza, who accused Nguza Karl-I-Bond of 'deviationism'. He stated that unlike Karl-I-Bond, who had fixed a deadline of 2010 for a federal state of Shaba, 'UFERI-origenielle' push for it now. Kyungi wa Kumwanza has also distanced himself from Mobutu.

**G.4 Parti Democratic et Social Cretien (PDSC)**

One of the three main opposition parties, it is led by Andre Bo-Boliko, who holds one of the two vice-president positions in the HCR-PT. Until February 1996, PDSC was aligned with Tshisekedi's UDPS. It is now considered to be part of Mobutu's FPC.

**G.5 Lumumbist Movement**

The Lumumbist movement has its roots in the 1960s forming around Patrice Lumumba's *Movement National Congolese (MNC)*; the only party not considered to be tribalist or secessionist. Lumumba and the MNC were considered to be left-wing and Marxist in orientation. Following independence in 1960, Lumumba was made Prime Minister and Joseph Kasavubu President. Independence was immediately followed by an army mutiny, the launching of the allegedly Belgian-backed Moise Tshombe's secessionist movement in Katanga (Shaba), Belgian military intervention to evacuate nationals in Shaba and the arrival, at Lumumba's request, of UN troops to deal with the rebellions. However, when Lumumba requested additional military assistance from the Soviet Union, he was immediately deposed

by President Kasavubu and army chief-of-staff Mobutu. Lumumba was assassinated in January 1961 by secessionist led by Tshombe, who was later nominated prime minister of the interim government following Mobutu's first coup.

In October 1963, Lumumbist forces eventually united under the leftist-umbrella group the National Liberation Council of the Congo Zaire (NLC), financially aided by China and the Soviet Union. Its most significant achievement was made by Nicholas Olenga and members of the 'progressive MNC' who seized Stanleyville (Kisangani), forming an independent government rivaling that of President Joseph Kasavubu, in Leopoldville (Kinshasa) from August to November 1964. In Kisangani, the new government, the People's Republic of the Congo, was led by President Christof Nbgonye and Prime Minister Antoine Gizenga. A second rebel advance composed of Mai-Mai warriors was led by Pierre Mulele, ex-Minister of Education under Lumumba, who also had close ideological and financial ties with the Chinese. In January 1964, he launched his rebellion in the province of Kwilu east of Kisangani. The third rebellion began in the east under Gaston Soumaliot and his associate Laurent Kabila, who also established diplomatic and financial arrangements with China and supply lines through a friendly Tanzania. Soumaliot and Kabila were viewed more as opportunist than true revolutionaries. In April 1964, they launched the 'Simba' rebellion in the Rusizi lowlands near Uvira.

Eventually, low morale, dissention and charges of betrayal within the ranks of the NLC soon led to its collapse, following a military offensive aided by US military aircraft and Belgian paratroopers brought in by Mobutu to save Zaire from 'communism'. The division of the country between two governments, one identified as communist, provided Mobutu with the confusion and excuse he needed for his second coup. With the aid of foreign mercenaries Mobutu was able to suppress the secessionist movement, driving most of its members into exile.

In October 1967, Soumaliot and Kabila founded a second movement, the People's Revolution Party (PRP), with an armed wing the People's Armed Forces (PAF). The rebel group was based in Fizi and the Baraka mountains, near lake Tanganyika, and were more infamous for their interest in gold than revolution. Their ranks also included a contingent of Chinese-trained Tutsis who had fled Rwanda, following a Hutu-led massacre at the time of independence, and over 100 Cuban soldiers led by Che Guevara, who soon became disillusioned with the rebel leadership and cause. The Cubans were responsible for the rebel group's limited successes up until 1966 when they pulled out; however, the rebels continued until they were finally driven from the area in 1977.

#### H. 1995 POPULATION STATISTICS

Source: Zairean Institut National de la Statistique REGION POPULATION %

Kinshasa	4,787,000	11%
Bas Zaire	2,835,000	07%
Bandundu	5,201,000	12%
Equateur	4,820,000	11%
Haut Zaire	5,566,000	13%

North Kivu	3,564,434 09%
Shaba	4,125,000 10%
Kasai East	3,830,000 09%
Kasai West	3,337,000 08%
Maniema	1,246,787 03%
South Kivu	2,837,779 07%

## ENDNOTES

Most of the above information was gathered from news and wire services, the journal Africa Confidential and interviews with various local sources. Other sources include:

1. Zaire, Africa South of the Sahara, Europa publication Ltd., 1994, p.946-956
2. Zaire-Country Profile, The Economist Intelligence Unit 1995-96
3. Ethnic Conflict in North Kivu, Law Group Report, 1996
4. Che Guevera and the Congo, The New Left Review, No.220, Nov./Dec. 1996, p.1-35
5. Report on the Situation of Human Rights in Zaire, UNCHR, 16/09/96
6. The Coming of Kabla, NewAfran, No.349, Feb. 1997, p.12-13

This report is part of a series of briefs designed to assist the humanitarian community understand the complexity and history of the current situation in Zaire. Part I: List of Key Political Players was distributed 24.02.97. Part II: Historical Overview of Zaire was distributed on 27.02.97 and Part IV: Eastern Zaire Who's Who will be distributed 28.02.97.

The above has been compiled from varied sources and in no way reflects the views of the United Nations. It should not be quoted in direct attribution.

Nairobi, 27 February 1997

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Zaire: IRIN Briefing Part IV: Eastern Zaire Who's Who, 28 Feb 1997

Editors Note: The following document was written as a quick and complete reference source to key political players, thus there may be repetition in some of the biographies.

### **A. REGIONAL HISTORY**

Ethnic clashes in the Kivu (Zaire) regions, have been a regular occurrence for some generations. During the colonial period boundaries were repeatedly changed, leaving members of several ethnic groups, including Banyarwandans -- Kinyarwandan speakers encompassing Hutus and Tutsis -- divided by artificially created international borders. Over the centuries, the Kivu regions have seen the influx of several groups of Banyarwandans, either seeking political or economic asylum or through deliberate colonial immigration policies related to plantation labour needs. As a direct result of this, some 50% of the North Kivu area had linguistic and cultural ties to Rwanda. Prior to the 1994 Rwandan refugee influx, Banyarwandans were estimated to be as much as 80% of the population in Masisi, numbering between 450,000-600,000 (1). North Kivu was said to have a population of 3.5 million, 50% of whom were Banyarwandan (2). Other tribes, Bakonjo, Banduda, Bahunde (singular: Hunde), Bapere, Bakomo, Babira, Banyanga, Banande, Balendu and Batembo (3), were seen as "original inhabitants", whose principal enemy was the Hutu. Historically, disputes over land tenure and ownership lie at the heart of most ethnic clashes in the area. Colonial powers settled Banyarwandans on vacant lands, which according to local traditions belonged to indigenous customary Hunde chiefs. Following independence, the Hunde chiefs, reasserting their rights, extorted high taxes and fines and sold land deeds at exorbitant prices, which enraged the Banyarwandans. Moreover, because of a highly developed work ethic and financial savvy the

Banyarwandans prospered while the original Zairean "inhabitants", the Hunde, stagnated. In 1963, a group of Banyarwandans revolted in what was known as the "Kanyarwandan" movement, demanding an independent Rwandan state in North Kivu. During the 1960s and 1970s, the Hunde also saw their political power being undermined by Banyarwandans who were more frequently chosen for government posts.

The Banyarwandan political influence ended when the Zairean parliament passed decree law No. 81-002 on 29 July 1981, amending law No. 71-020 of 26 March 1971, which had granted nationality on a collective basis to the Banyarwanda. The new law retroactively removed Zairean nationality and hence property rights from many Banyarwandans by granting nationality to only those who could prove that their ancestors had lived in Zaire since 1885. In 1989, the loss of nationality and the resulting need for a new census was then used by Mouvement Populaire de la Revolution (MPR) government to suspend national elections (4). The Banyarwandans hoped that the nationality question would be resolved following the move to political pluralism and the opening of the 1991 National Conference (CNS). However, the CNS upheld the law. Following the Banyarwandan's loss of Zairean nationality, the Hunde, later aided by the presence of unpaid units of Zairean soldiers, tried to drive the Hutu and Tutsis out of the region.

Ethnic conflicts, erupted in the North Kivu Masisi region from March to June 1993 and again in 1996 in repeated bloodshed between the Hunde and Banyarwanda populations. The arrival of some 1.5 million Hutu refugees in 1994 further widened the internal regional conflict to that of an international cross-border conflict. Rwanda accused the Zairean government of aiding ex-FAR and Interhamwe militia to establish military bases of operation in the Masisi area, assisting them in the procurement of arms, and cross-border attacks on Rwandan targets.

The gradual integration of the ex-FAR and Interhamwe militia into the Masisi Hutu 'Combatant' forces around mid-1995 shifted the balance of power within the Masisi region. Where previously the Hunde had had the upper hand, they were defeated and an estimated 250,000 were pushed off their lands by the combined Hutu militias (5). The attacks also culminated in the virtual removal of the Tutsis from the Masisi area. In April 1996, the government launched the military operation "Kimya" to restore order. In reality, armed engagements between the two forces were avoided when the Hutu forces systematically removed themselves from areas targeted by the "Kimya" operation.

Corresponding to the change in the power dynamics in this area, the idea of a Hutu homeland in the Masisi became more pronounced amongst the 1994 Hutu refugees. The proposed integration into the Masisi area of Hutu refugees, would also have ensured continued destabilization of the area. The Hutu would have had a lucrative base from which to rebuild their army and launch attacks into Rwanda, ensuring continued international instability in the region for decades.

>From July 1994 to mid-1996, some 250,000 Tutsis had arrived in Rwanda because of the instability in the Masisi area and, to a lesser extent, a desire to repatriate (6). Initial returnees were granted 1.5 hectares of land per family. Given the land crunch in Rwanda even this policy was considered unsustainable. Moreover, within a generation or less, taking

into account Rwandan inheritance laws and the high birth rates, these holdings would have been subdivided amongst the deed holder's sons until they were too small to support even one person. Compared to the large and fertile tracts of land the Tutsis had been forced to abandon in Masisi, many believe this would eventually have led to discontent and agitation for the return of their Masisi lands.

In March 1996, the integrated Hutu forces launched a northern offensive aimed at the removal of the last Tutsi enclaves in the Rutshuru area. Tutsi refugees claimed the attacks were conducted with the complicity of Zairean soldiers, who also relieved them of their identity cards. On 7 October 1996, the Deputy Governor of South Kivu, Lwasi Ngabo Lwabanji, announced that the more than 200,000 Banyamulenge had one week to leave Zaire. Following this offensive, Zairean Tutsis began arriving in Rwanda in the thousands. The Rwandan government declared the new arrivals to be refugees and established a refugee camp on the Goma-Gisenyi border. This was aided by the fact that most of the fleeing Tutsis strongly identified themselves as refugees not returnees. Zaire charged that Rwanda was training and arming refugees from this camp and local Zaireans claimed that the Tutsi refugees regularly attacked Zairean villages.

In October 1996, Banyamulenge (Tutsi) rebel forces invaded the Kivu regions from Rwanda, justifying the invasion on the basis of their revoked nationality and the illegal expulsion from their homes. Locals claim that the ADFL forces advanced with the precision and organization of a well-trained army. Several weeks later, Laurent Desire Kabila, a non-Tutsi Zairean, emerged as the acclaimed leader of what he called the Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire (ADFL). The initial attacks forced Hutu refugees to flee eastward into the rainforest; however, in November 1996 the refugees from the Goma area were abruptly routed back towards the Rwandan border, effectively eliminating the need for the deployment of a large multinational force. As international attention was drawn to the thousands of returning refugee in Goma, those from Bukavu were being pursued further eastward, some 250-300,000 eventually arriving in areas near Shabunda and Lubutu. A significant number of Hutu intellectuals and leaders were among the Bukavu refugees who were not permitted to return.

According to locals, hundreds of residents in Goma and Bukavu were killed in the fighting and systematic settling of accounts with those whom they claim had assisted in the Tutsi expulsion. Shortly thereafter, civil order was restored with ADFL troops demonstrating a discipline not seen amongst Zairean soldiers. Civil servants' salary arrears were paid and commercial life resumed.

Prior to January 1997, ADFL forces had seemed to stagnate with the capture of a corridor extending north to Bunia and south to Fizi. However, following the launching of the Zairean counter-offensive in February, ADFL forces doubled the rebel-held territory. As of the end of February 1997, the front had advanced just outside of Kindu and Kisangani.

## B. REBEL ALLIANCE

Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire (ADFL) It is also known as the Alliance des Forces Democratiques pour la Liberation du Congo Kinshasa (AFDL). Formed 18 October 1996 at Lemera, South Kivu, the main force is composed of :

- 1) Partie de la Revolution Populaire (PRP), a self-proclaimed "marxist-orientated" rebel group founded by Kabila in 1967 during the Lumumbist rebellion. It was based in the Fizi and Baraka mountains and is also referred to as the "Simba" of "Muleliste" movement. The PRP also claims it can call on support from John Garang's Sudanese People's Liberation Army if needed (7).
- 2) Alliance Democratique des Peuple (ADP,) led by Deogratias (Deo/Douglas) Bugera from Rutshuru, is primarily composed of Zairean Tutsis -- Banyamulenge and Banyamasisi --who have been driven out their homes in North and South Kivu. Muller Ruhimbika is considered to be a prominent Banyamulenge member. Their overall population, not only soldiers, is estimated at some 300,000.
- 3) Mouvant Revolutionnaire pour la Liberation du Zaire (MRLZ), led by Masusu Nindaga, draw their ranks from the Bashi tribe around Bukavu, South Kivu.
- 4) Conseil National de Resistance pour la Democratie (CNRD) is composed of rebel fighters from the eastern Kasai, they were led by Andre Kisase Ngandu, a Luba (or Muluba) from Lumumba's Kasai-Oriental tribe.
- 5) Hunde and Ngilima Mai-Mai from the North Kivu region (groups of the Mai-Mai have fought on both sides of conflict)
- 6) Local recruits from rebel-held areas, whose numbers are growing
- 7) FAZ deserters, whose numbers are also said to be increasing.

Mobutu and the Zairean government claim that the ADFL is a surrogate for Rwandan and Ugandan, as well as Burundian, aggression. Zaire claims that ADFL forces received and continue to receive a substantial amount of logistical support, including soldiers, from Rwanda and possibly Uganda. Uganda has also launched counter-attacks on Ugandan rebel strongholds in North Kivu. These have coincided with ADFL advances in the same area. Kabila has since said that some Ugandans and Rwandans were fighting with ADFL forces because of ethnic solidarity, claiming that the soldiers in question originate from tribes that cross national boundaries. Rwandan strongman Paul Kagame claimed the soldiers were deserters.

Analysts speculate that ADFL is looking for a way to become financially independent of their backers. The captured gold mines offered such an opportunity, but flooding and sophisticated equipment have to date prevented ADFL forces from effectively exploiting this resource.

## C. KEY PLAYERS

### C.1 Laurent Kabila

Laurent Kabila, who is 63, was born to the Luba tribe in the town of Ankoro, Shaba, along the Zaire river. He studied philosophy in France and then became a member of the North Katanga (Shaba) assembly, supporting then Prime Minister Patrice Lumumba. As with other members of the Lumumbist movement, Kabila was considered to have a Marxist/Maoist orientation. Following Lumumba's death, he joined the Lumumbist rebel movement, the National Liberation Council of the Congo Zaire (NLC), and in April 1964 joined Gaston Soumaliot in launching the "Simba" rebellion in the Rusizi lowlands near Uvira. However, low morale, accusations of betrayal and dissension within the ranks of the NLC soon led to its collapse, following a military offensive aided by US military aircraft and Belgian paratroopers brought in by Mobutu to save Zaire from "communism" - the rebels fled Zaire in 1964. The division of the country between two governments, one identified as communist, was used by Mobutu to justify his second coup.

In October 1967, Soumaliot and Kabila founded the People's Revolution Party (PRP) with an armed wing called the People's Armed Forces, a rebel group based in Fizi and the Baraka mountains, near lake Tanganyika. They received financial and logistical support from the Soviet Union and China, which was channeled through a 'sympathetic' Tanzania (4). Their numbers also included a contingent of Rwandan Tutsis, lead by Mandandi, and some 100 Cuban soldiers. Cuban revolutionary Che Guevara, having spent over a year with the PRP, was disillusioned with the rebels' incompetence, disorganization and the perpetual absence of Soumaliot and Kabila, who were referred to as "tourists" by their own troops. Che Guevara felt sorry for the peasants who were victimized and ill-treated by the rebels (4). Following their defeat in 1977, Kabila fled to Tanzania from where he continued his guerrilla warfare in the Fizi area until 1988. Prior and subsequent to this defeat, Kabila had spent a great deal of time in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, where he is said to have met with Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere (7 & 8).

Initially, many believed that Kabila would be able to draw support from his Shaba region. However, many in the Shaba do not remember Kabila's PRP days favourably. In fact, Shabans from his own Luba ethnic tribe blame Kabila for the death of popular Mulubakat leader Jason Sendwe, secessionist Moise Tshombe's rival. While Shaba is interested in greater political and financial autonomy, many still want to remain in Zaire. They are more likely to maintain a neutral stance until Kabila is clearly winning. While this does not assist Kabila, tactically, it means he may not have to conquer Shaba.

C.2 Colonel Andre Kisase Ngandu (a.k.a. Kassasse) ADFL military commander Andre Kisase Ngandu, sometimes referred to as "Colonel" or "Major-General", was leader of the National Resistance Council for Democracy (CNRD), one of the Alliance's key member groups and a veteran foe of President Mobutu. He was a Luba from Patrice Lumumba's Kasai tribe. Rumours of his death began circulating in Goma in early 1997. Locals claim he was killed by Rwandan/ADFL soldiers over a dispute about gold spoils taken from one of the northern towns and destined for Rwanda. Two weeks later a second rumour, believed to have been circulated by Kabila, claimed Kisase had been gravely wounded in a January 8th Mai-Mai

ambush in Butembo. A statement, purporting to come from the CNRD, claimed Kisase was assassinated by "armed elements in the service of Kabila". In a third account of his disappearance, he was reportedly evacuated to Uganda following a serious injury and has not been heard from since. No other leader has emerged to replace Kisase as Kabila's trusted second-in-command.

### C.3 Kipulu Waluwalu

Kipulu Waluwalu, who is from another political party, is deputy military commander of the ADFL forces. As Kisase's second-in-command he is the most likely replacement.

### C.4 John Ilunga

John Ilunga is Kisase's nephew and the current head of the former Zairean intelligence services, SNIP, in Goma.

### C.5 Cubaka Anatole Bishikasabo

Anatole Bishikasabo, who is an old ally of Kabila, was named provincial governor of the rebel-held territories.

### C.6 Moise Nyarubebo Mahizi

Kabila's secretary and aid.

## D. OTHER PLAYERS

### D.1 Mai-Mai Warriors (a.k.a. Mayi-Mayi)

The Mai-Mai are guerrilla warrior groups originally set up by the Hunde tribe. They originated in the 1960s as part of a nationalist and Marxist guerrilla group under the leadership of Patrice Lumumba, who was succeeded by Pierre Mulele. In the 1960s, the Mai-Mai movement also attracted deserters from Sergeant Mobutu's Congolese Armed Forces. They have a strong belief in magic, hence the name Mai-Mai, meaning "water", which is based on their belief that special potions neutralize bullets by turning them into water. Mulele's group was defeated in 1964. More recently, the term Mai-Mai is often preceded by another name linked to the region of origin of a specific group of warriors, such as Ngilima (Hunde) Mai-Mai, Bangirima Mai-Mai, etc. As a group they generally hate both Rwandan and Zairean Hutu, because of skirmishes over land ownership, however many have not supported attacks on Tutsis as some Mai Mai view the Tutsis as fellow victims of Hutu aggression.

Following the capture of Zairean territory by ADFL forces, Mai-Mai warriors, most of whom were young untrained boys, soon joined their ranks. Frequent fighting broke out between the two groups leading to ADFL orders to eliminate elements of the Mai-Mai leadership and retrain the warriors. A 'truce' between the two parties was announced on rebel radio in early 1997.

### D.2 Banyamulenge (and Banyamasisi)

The Banyamulenge (singular: nyamulenga) are members of the Tutsi (plural: Batutsi) ethnic group from the South Kivu and the Banyamasisi (singular: Nyamasisi) are Tutsis from the

North Kivu area. They are also referred to collectively as the Banyamulenge, 'rebels' or 'Tutsi rebels' and are believed to form the nucleus of the ADFL forces.

>From 1991 to 1996 anti-Banyamulenge sentiments were espoused not only by the Kivu military and political leadership but by those in Kinshasa as well. Thus conflict resolution, which must include settlement of the nationality question and the sharing of land, political power and wealth, will have to occur on a national as well as regional level.

## E. HUTU INFLUENCES

### E.1 Forces Armees Rwandais (Ex-FAR)

The ex-FAR was the Rwandan army, which was composed mainly of Hutu soldiers and was a major player in the 1994 genocide. At the time of their defeat by RPF forces in mid-1994, their numbers were estimated at some 20,000. Most fled to North Kivu where they regrouped their families in Mugunga refugee camp, establishing a military training camp further west. According to military sources, Service d'Action et de Renseignement Militaires (SARM) provided training and weapons to the ex-FAR. From bases in Masisi they launched cross-border attacks into Rwanda. Starting in May 1996, local sources in the Kivu regions reported significant ex-FAR movements towards Burundi, where they were allegedly preparing an offensive in conjunction with Burundian Hutu rebels (Palipehutu & FDD), which was preempted by the military coup in Burundi. The ADFL offensive in October 1996, cut ex-FAR supply lines and some believe also preempted a large scale Hutu attack on Rwanda.

Many members of the ex-FAR and their families are believed to be among the refugees who fled to the Shabunda and Lubutu areas. The estimated 300,000 refugees in this area also include innocent refugees who claim they are being held hostage by ex-FAR forces and have expressed a desire to return to Rwanda if a safe corridor can be arranged. Local sources report that elements of the ex-FAR are now fighting alongside Zairean soldiers in the counter-offensive against ADFL forces.

### E.2 Interahamwe

The term initially referred to village work brigades established to allow villagers to work off their taxes. This organizational unit was co-opted by Hutu extremists in the Rwandan Habyarima government as a means of training a Hutu militia force. Their exact numbers are unknown. Members of the Interahamwe units were trained to kill using machetes and instructed to prepare their villages for the genocide. They are credited with the organization of most commune and village level killings. Members of the Interahamwe are also believed to be fighting with Zairean soldiers in the counter-offensive.

E.3 Rally for the Return of Refugees and Democracy in Rwanda (RDR) The RDR is considered to be the new Rwandan Hutu leadership, a political organization issuing out of the South Kivu refugee camps, where most of the Hutu intellectuals were based.

E.4 Zairean Hutu (MAGRIVI or Combattants) Another group of Hutu is the Zairean Hutu, who having joined forces with the Rwandan Hutu, is often included under the general 'Hutu' label. However, care should be taken to distinguish between these two groups as they have

different political objectives which temporarily coincided. The Zairean Hutus have been in Zaire for generations and consider themselves to be Zairean. Local authorities estimated the Hutu population at some 4-500,000 in North Kivu (5). In the Kivu regions some Hutu had formed a Virunga Farmers and Herders Association, Mutuelle des Agriculteurs et Eleveurs du Virunga (MAGRIVI), which was reportedly indirectly implicated in the 1994 Rwandan genocide. MAGRIVI, which was founded in 1989 by Sekimonyo wa Magango, the former Minister for Higher Education and Scientific Research, allegedly supported Rwandan President Habyarima's regime and the Interahamwe financially. Following the exodus of the Rwandan Hutus to eastern Zaire, MAGRIVI consolidated itself into a militia group, the Hutu Combatants, who worked in close collaboration with the ex-FAR and Interhamwe militia, whose apparent objective was the establishment of a racially pure Hutuland (1&8).

Since the ADFL attack on the Kivu regions, these Hutus have disappeared from the public eye. It is possible that they are hiding in the rainforest or form part of the internally displaced who fled west with the refugees. Like the Banyamulenge situation, any resolution of the crisis must eventually address the question of Zairean Hutu nationality.

#### ENDNOTES

Most of the above information was gathered from news and wire services, the journal 'Africa Confidential' and interviews with various local sources. Other sources include:

1. 'Report on the Situation of Human Rights in Zaire', UNCHR, 16/09/96
2. Figures provided by local authorities in 1996, based on the Zairean Institut National de la Statistique studies up to 1991.
3. 'Ba' is the Swahili prefix used to make a word plural. In the above document the singular or plural form of certain tribes are used based on their most common usage to date.
4. 'Che Guevara and the Congo', The New Left Review, No.220, Nov./Dec. 1996, p.1-35
5. Figure based on unofficial estimate made by NGO and UN sources in the area.
6. Rwandan government statistics provided by UNHCR Goma in 1996
7. 'The Coming of Kabila', New African, No.349, Feb. 1997, p.12-13
8. 'Ethnic Conflict in North Kivu', Law Group Report, 1996
9. IRIN 1996 Report on Masisi and South Kivu

This report is part of a series of briefs designed to assist the humanitarian community understand the complexity and history of the current situation in Zaire. Part I: List of Key Political Players was distributed 24.02.97. Part II: Historical Overview of Zaire and Part III: Zaire Who's Who were distributed 27.02.97.

The above has been compiled from varied sources and in no way reflects the views of the United Nations.

Nairobi, 28 February 1997

[Via the UN DHA Integrated Regional Information Network. The material contained in this communication may not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its agencies.

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Date: Wed, 05 Mar 1997 20:25:39 +0300  
From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes <irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

## **ZAIRE: COMMUNIQUE DU GOUVERNEMENT**

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To: irinlist@dha.unon.org  
MIME-version: 1.0  
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X-Authentication-warning: ic.utando.com: uusasa set sender to  
dha.unon.org!owner-irinlist using -f

### COMMUNIQUE DU GOUVERNEMENT

#### DES MEMBRES DU PERSONNEL DES ORGANISMES HUMANITAIRES EXPULSES DU ZAIRE

Un ordre de quitter le Territoire Zairois vient d'etre pris a l'encontre de 40 agents des organismes humanitaires du systeme des Nations Unies charges de l'action humanitaire a l'Est du Zaire ce mardi 04 mars 1997.

En effet, le depart precipite de ces operateurs humanitaires du site de Tingi-Tingi et de la Ville de Kisangani suite a l'accord qu'ils ont obtenu du Secretaire General des Nations Unies le 28 fevrier dernier est considere par le Gouvernement comme directement responsable d'une hecatombe qui vient d'emporter en moins de 48 heures plus de 25,000 vies de deplaces et refugies attaqués par les envahisseurs et leurs laquais alors qu'ils se repandaient en desordre a travers routes et forets.

Le Gouvernement de la Republique ne peut continuer a cautionner le comportement irresponsable de certains agents humanitaires qui, apres avoir refuse leur assistance au Zaire dans le gestion des problemes securitaires lies a l'afflux inedit des refugies rwandais dans le Nord et le Sud Kivu ont assiste en silence aux executions massives perpetrees par l'armee rwandaise dans les camps de refugies de ces Provinces places sous leur responsabilite. Il leur est en outre reproche de provoquer et d'entretenir par leurs declarations incessantes dans les medias un climat de panique et d'insecurite parmi les populations zairoises et refugiees des Zones ou ils exercent leurs activites. De nombreuses localites de l'Est du pays se sont ainsi vides de leurs habitants civils ou militaires avant d'etre occupees sans combats par les agresseurs a la suite de campagnes de remeurs alarmistes de ces agents humanitaires qui ne font aucun cas de la neutralite et de l'obligation de reserve qui sied a leurs fonctions.

Le Gouvernement apprecie a sa juste valeur la generosite et la solidarite de la Communaute internationale a travers le systeme des Nations-Unies en faveur des populations sinistrees du Zaire.

Il exprime néanmoins le vœu de voir dorénavant le personnel affecté sur ce terrain de la solidarité internationale avec le Zaïre s'abstenir de tout acte ou déclaration qui risque de transformer l'aide qu'ils nous apportent en un remède pire que le mal.

Fait à Kinshasa, 04 mars 1997

Le Secrétaire Général,  
Porte-Parole du Gouvernement,

Jean Claude BIEBIE EKALABO.

[Via the UN DHA Integrated Regional Information Network. The material contained in this communication may not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its agencies. UN DHA IRIN Tel: +254 2 622123 Fax: +254 2 622129 e-mail: [irin@dha.unon.org](mailto:irin@dha.unon.org) for more information. If you re-print, copy, archive or re-post this item, please retain this credit and disclaimer.]

Date: Wed, 12 Mar 1997 15:52:57 +0300  
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## **Zaire: UN Security Council Resolution 1097 97.2.18**

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[IRIN Note: IRIN regrets the delay in distributing this item.]

Source: UN Headquarters

United  
Nations

S/RES/1097 (1997)

18 February 1997

RESOLUTION 1097 (1997)

Adopted by the Security Council at its 3741st meeting,  
on 18 February 1997

The Security Council,

Gravely concerned at the deteriorating situation in the Great Lakes region, in particular eastern Zaire, and expressing serious concern over the safety of refugees and displaced persons whose lives are in danger,

Welcoming the letter dated 18 February 1997 from the Secretary-General to the President of the Council (S/1997/136) regarding progress in the efforts to resolve the crisis in the Great Lakes region,

Reaffirming the Statement by the President of the Council of 7 February 1997 (S/PRST/1997/5),

Reaffirming also the obligation to respect national sovereignty and territorial integrity of the States of the Great Lakes region and the need for the States of the region to refrain from any interference in each other's internal affairs,

Underlining the obligation of all concerned to respect strictly the relevant provisions of international humanitarian law,

Reiterating its support for the joint United Nations/Organization of African Unity Special Representative for the Great Lakes region in the fulfilment of his mandate, and underlining the need for all Governments in the region and the parties concerned to cooperate fully with the mission of the Special Representative,

1. Endorses the following five-point peace plan for eastern Zaire, as set out in the letter from the Secretary-General of 18 February 1997:

- Immediate cessation of hostilities;
- Withdrawal of all external forces, including mercenaries;
- Reaffirmation of respect for the national sovereignty and the territorial integrity of Zaire and other States of the Great Lakes region;
- Protection and security for all refugees and displaced persons and facilitation of access to humanitarian assistance;
- Rapid and peaceful settlement of the crisis through dialogue, the electoral process and the convening of an international conference on peace, security and development in the Great Lakes region;

2. Calls on all Governments and parties concerned to cooperate with the joint United Nations/Organization of African Unity Special Representative for the Great Lakes region to achieve lasting peace in the region;

3. Decides to remain actively seized of the matter.

-----  
[ENDS]

Date: Tue, 18 Mar 1997 10:17:04 +0300  
From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes <irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

**Zaire: HRW: Investigate charges of massive abuses 97.3.14**

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Source: Human Rights Watch

----- Forwarded message -----  
Date: 14 March 1997  
From: hrwatchnyc@igc.org  
Subject:

**Zaire-- Investigate charges of massive abuses of civilians**

(New York, March 14, 1997) Human Rights Watch today called upon Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, Chair of the EU Presidency and Dutch Foreign Minister H.A.F.M.O. van Mierlo, Secretary-General Kofi Annan, U.N. and OAU Special Envoy Ambassador Mahmoud Sahnoun, and OAU Secretary-General Salim A. Salim to redouble their efforts to protect the tens of thousands of noncombatant refugees, many of them women and children, caught in the Zairean war. The refugees, the rest of some one million Hutu who fled Rwanda after the defeat of the genocidal government in 1994, are facing attack by the Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire (ADFL) that drove them from camps in eastern Zaire several months ago. The international human rights organization also insisted on a prompt and thorough investigation of charges of massive killings of civilians and other violations of international humanitarian law in eastern Zaire.

The letters follow.

March 14, 1997

The Honorable Madeleine Albright Secretary of State U.S. Department of State Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Albright:

Human Rights Watch/Africa asks that you immediately use the full weight of U.S. influence with parties to the Zairean conflict to insist that they protect noncombatants, particularly the elderly, women and children, threatened by the advance of troops of the Alliance of

Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire (ADFL). Faced with the impossibility of fleeing further west, the refugees also face death from exhaustion, hunger and disease.

The United States, in conjunction with France and other major international actors, should insist upon a cease-fire to permit the delivery of humanitarian aid and the evacuation of noncombatants from this region.

Testimonies collected by Human Rights Watch and the International Federation of Human Rights Leagues, as well as information from other sources, indicates that ADFL forces as well as ex-FAR have slaughtered unarmed civilians in eastern Zaire. Such violations of international humanitarian law heighten concerns that all sides are prepared to sacrifice the civilians now at Ubundu, either by using them as shields or by attacking them indiscriminately.

A full and independent international investigation of accusations of massive slaughter of civilians, as has been requested by the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, should also be undertaken immediately. In its discussions with the parties to this conflict, the U.S. should insist that they guarantee the free access and security necessary for such an inquiry.

The failure to investigate accusations of large-scale killings of civilians and to hold authorities responsible for such abuses will only perpetuate the impunity that has encouraged continuing violence in this region.

We would be happy to provide you with any additional information that you might request. In the meantime, thank you for your attention to these important matters.

H.E. Secretary-General Kofi Annan  
The Honorable Mahmoud Sahnoun  
United Nations  
New York, NY 10017

H.E. Secretary-General Salim A. Salim  
Organization of African Unity  
P.O. Box 3243  
Addis Ababa  
Ethiopia

Dear Secretary-General Annan and Ambassador Sahnoun and Secretary-General Salim:

Human Rights Watch/Africa asks that you urgently redouble efforts to protect the noncombatants, particularly the elderly, women and children, threatened by the advance of troops of the Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire (ADFL). Faced with the impossibility of fleeing further west, the refugees also face death from exhaustion, hunger and disease.

In conjunction with major international actors with influence in this region, including particularly the United States and France, the U.N. and the O.A.U. should insist upon a cease-fire to permit the delivery of humanitarian aid and the evacuation of noncombatants from this region.

Testimonies collected by Human Rights Watch and the International Federation of Human Rights Leagues, as well as information from other sources, indicates that ADFL forces as well

as ex-FAR have slaughtered unarmed civilians in eastern Zaire. Such violations of international humanitarian law heighten concerns that all sides are prepared to sacrifice the civilians now at Ubundu, either by using them as shields or by attacking them indiscriminately.

A full and independent international investigation of accusations of massive slaughter of civilians and other violations of international humanitarian law, as has been requested by the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, should also be undertaken immediately. In negotiations concerning this conflict, the U.N. and the O.A.U. should act as the voice of the international community in insisting that the parties guarantee the free access and security necessary for such an inquiry.

The failure to investigate accusations of large-scale killings of civilians and to hold authorities responsible for such abuses will only perpetuate the impunity that has encouraged continuing violence in this region.

We would be happy to provide you with any additional information that you might request. In the meantime, thank you for your attention to these important matters.

H-E EU Presidency Chair and Dutch Foreign Minister H.A.F.M.O. van Mierlo P.O. Box 20061 2500 EB The Hague The Netherlands

Dear Foreign Minister van Mierlo:

Human Rights Watch asks that you immediately use the full weight of E.U. influence with parties to the Zairean conflict to insist that they protect noncombatants, particularly the elderly, women and children, threatened by the advance of troops of the Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire (ADFL). Faced with the impossibility of fese.

The European Union and other major international actors should insist upon a cease-fire to permit the delivery of humanitarian aid and the evacuation of noncombatants from this region.

Testimonies collected by Human Rights Watch and the International Federation of Human Rights Leagues, as well as information from other sources, indicates that ADFL forces as well as ex-FAR have slaughtered unarmed civilians in eastern Zaire. Such violations of international humanitarian law heighten concerns that all sides are prepared to sacrifice the civilians now at Ubundu, either by using them as shields or by attacking them indiscriminately.

A full and independent international investigation of accusations of massive slaughter of civilians, as has been requested by the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, should also be undertaken immediately. In its discussions with the parties to this conflict, the European Union must insist that they guarantee the free access and security necessary for such an inquiry.

The failure to investigate accusations of large-scale killings of civilians and to hold authorities responsible for such abuses will only perpetuate the impunity that has encouraged continuing violence in this region.

We would be happy to provide you with any additional information that you might request. In the meantime, thank you for your attention to these important matters. Sincerely,

/s/      /s/

Kenneth RothPeter Takirambudde

Executive Director      Executive Director, Human Rights Watch/Africa

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Website                      Address:                      <http://www.hrw.org>                      Gopher                      Address:  
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Date: Wed, 19 Mar 1997 22:53:58 +0300  
From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes <irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

## **Zaire: IRIN Briefing Part V: Shaba 19 Mar 1997 97.03.19**

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Integrated Regional Information Network

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Zaire: IRIN Briefing Part V: Shaba 19 Mar 1997

### A. History

Shaba, which covers some 500,000 square kilometres, is home to 10% (4,125,000) of Zaire's population, some 586,000 of whom live in its capital Lubumbashi (1). Isolated from Kinshasa by a distance of 1,500 km, the Shaba people have long harboured a resentment against the national government for what it sees as the continued exploitation of their lucrative mining receipts by Union Miniere de Haut Katanga (UMHK), later nationalized under the name Gecamines, by Kinshasa officials and foreign companies and governments. As a result, Shaba has had a strong independence movement and a history of revolt.

Shaba's first secessionist movement occurred in 1960 with Moise Tshombe's Belgium-supported declaration of independence for the Shaba region, which was then known as Katanga. Tshombe, whom neighbouring Kasaians hold responsible for the 1961 death of Zaire's first prime minister, Kasaiian Patrice Lumumba, was named by Mobutu as interim prime minister of the National Unity Government convened in 1961. Despite the inclusion of its leader into Kinshasa's political leadership, the Shaba rebellion was not quelled until 1963, and only then through the intervention of UN troops.

In 1977 and 1978, Katanga exiles, often referred to as the Gendarmes Katangaise, staged two invasions and several crossborder raids from their bases in Angola. The first invasion was suppressed with the help of foreign troops (French, Belgium and Moroccan), some of whose countries had vested interests in Shaba mining operations. The second rebellion required the

intervention of an inter-African peacekeeping force, which finally drove the exiles back into Angola. More limited, but unsuccessful, attacks were again launched in 1984 and 1985.

Since the 1960s, ethnic tension in the Shaba region has created instability and undermined political cohesiveness through the fomenting of dissension within its Kinshasa-based political parties such as the UFERI. In 1993, the regional governor, Antoine Gabriel Kyungu wa Kumwanza, with the backing of anti-Kasaian speeches made by his fellow UFERI member and pro-Mobutist Nguza Karl-I-Bond, proclaimed Shaba's autonomy, launching a wave of ethnic pogroms against the Kasai Luba (Baluba) people. This resulted in hundreds of deaths and thousands of expulsions. As a result, some 10,000 Kasai immigrants to Shaba, most of whom had been brought in to work the UMHK mines were forced back into the Kasai regions. UFERI members also made public speeches demanding that 70% of overall mining receipts remain in the Shaba region. Kyungu was eventually suspended as governor in 1995, following accusations that he was importing arms in a new bid for secession.

More recently, fearing a Shaba rebellion in favour of Laurent Kabila, leader of the Allied Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire (ADFL), local authorities have accused the regional leader of the UFERI, Lukonde Kyenge, of complicity with Kabila. Lukonde has denied these allegations emphasising that elections will provide Shaba with the federalism they want.

The fact that Kabila, has his origins in Shaba has raised fears both in Kinshasa and internationally that instability might once again spread to this region. Initial predictions foresaw Shaba residents rebelling in favour of the ADFL. However, this fear did not immediately materialize as many Shabans do not remember the 1961 to 1988 Kabila-led rebel movements favourably (2). They also hold Kabila responsible for the death of Tshombe's rival, Jason Sendwe, during the 1960 Mulelist rebellion (3). More recently, popular support has been growing for Kabila and the ADFL because of their successful advancement.

While Shaba has the strongest history of secessionist movements within Zaire, most residents appear to favour greater political and financial autonomy within a federated Zaire. Thus, they are more likely to maintain a neutral stance until Kabila is clearly winning. While this does not directly assist Kabila; tactically, it has meant that he has not had to devote many troops to holding his southern flank along the Shaba border.

At present, insecurity in Shaba is increasing as FAZ soldiers retreat from rebel-held areas. Growing insecurity, coupled with the delays in the move towards elections, could spark a revolt amongst local populations similar to that which has already occurred in Moba, Manono and Kabola.

## B. Economic

Over time, Shaba has developed a substantial degree of autonomy as a result of the steady collapse of national infrastructure, following years of corruption and mismanagement. In trade terms it looks much more to Zambia and South Africa than it does to Kinshasa. Economically Shaba could survive as an independent state from Zaire; however, it would be a landlocked

country, increasing its vulnerability and reliance on its foreign neighbours. Additionally, it is currently dependent on power from the hydro-electric station in Bas Zaire to power its mining operations.

Shaba's history has been intrinsically tied to the exploitation of its large mineral deposits, notably copper and cobalt. Except for diamonds, most of Zaire's mineral wealth and productive mines are located in the Shaba region near the towns of Kolwezi and Likasi. Already suffering from the lack of international investment as well as outdated and obsolete equipment, Gecamines was further hit by the loss of a substantial portion of its miners in the ethnic violence that erupted in the Shaba region from 1992-4. As workers fled and copper and cobalt production slumped, falling by 90% from 440,600 tons in 1989 to 48,300 tons in 1993 (4).

Despite the fall in production, Gecamines remains the dominant operative in the mining sector; a sector which has always been the principle contributor to Zaire's GNP. The Belgium company Societe Generale Belgique (SGB) retains interests directly or indirectly through a network of associations and subsidiaries. Since 1988, France's Suez Group has also held a controlling interest in SGB (5).

Given assurances of protection for their investments coupled with favourable incentives, foreign mining companies have demonstrated that they would once again be interested in exploiting Shaba's vast mineral resources. In an effort to attract investors back into Zaire, the 1993 government embarked on a course to denationalize Gecamines and other state-owned industries. However, following scrutiny from the World Bank, privatization was shelved and emphasis was shifted towards the promotion of joint ventures with foreign investors and companies (6). The resulting revenue was expected to contribute significantly to Zaire's balance of payments, facilitating Zaire's debt servicing by the end of 1997 (7). As most of the investors have been lured to Zaire by lucrative incentives and concessions, there were concerns that the government was selling out Zaire's or, as some believe, Shaba's resources in order to compensate for a deficit in domestic savings. Prior to the ADFL offensive, Gecamines had entered into several joint ventures to exploit Shaba mining opportunities with investors from the USA, Canada, Belgium, China and South Africa. Former soldiers from South Africa were recruited to protect mines in Kolwezi and were reinforced by 1,000 soldiers from Mobutu's elite Division Speciale Presidentielle (DSP) troops in November 1996.

## C. Shaba Who's Who

### C.1 Antoine Gabriel Kyungu wa Kumwanza

Antoine Gabriel Kyungu wa Kumwanza co-founded the Shaba-based party Union of Federalists and Independent Republicans (UFERI) with Nguza Karl-I-Bond. Kyungu followed Karl-I-Bond's lead and joined Mobutu's Force Politique du Conclave (FPC) in 1991. Mobutu then named Karl-I-Bond as prime minister (8) and Kyungu, who is from the northern Luba-Katanga tribe, as governor of Shaba, breaking the precedent of not appointing governors who had tribal ties to the region. In addition to inciting the war of ethnic cleansing against Kasaiian immigrants from 1992 to 1994, Kyungu was also reported to have favoured members

of his tribe in the delegation of government posts. Although less visible since his 1995 suspension as governor, Kyungu still retains a significant following in Shaba. In September 1996, the UFERI membership split between the two leaders, Kyungu and Karl-I-Bond. The group led by the more popular and outspoken Kyungu is now known as the UFERI-Origenielle, whose stated goal is the immediate recognition of Shaba as a federated state. In February 1997, Kyungu defected from the FPC, severing his overt political ties with Mobutu. At present, rumours are circulating in Lubumbashi that Mobutu may have offered to re-instate Kyungu as governor of Shaba.

## C.2 Nguza Karl-I-Bond

Karl-I-Bond is the leader of the Mobutist alliance FPC in the HCR-PT parliament. He has seen his popularity in Shaba wane following his 1994 heart attack and subsequent sabbatical from politics, during which time he turned over the administration of the UFERI to his wife, who is from Haut Zaire - a non-Kasaian. His health is reportedly still delicate. For a more detailed history refer to Zaire: IRIN Briefing Part III, 27 Feb 1997 97.02.27.

## C.3 Union of Federalists and Independent Republicans (UFERI)

Main Shaba political party. For more detailed information refer to Zaire: IRIN Briefing Part III, 27 Feb 1997 97.02.27

## C.4 Lukonde Kyenge

Kyenge is the regional leader of UFERI and, along with Kyungu, is said to enjoy a large degree of popular support in Shaba.

## C.5 Frederic Kibassa Maliba

Kibassa is a co-founder of Tshisekedi's UDPS and its representative in Shaba. In 1991, the UDPS membership split between Tshisekedi and Kibassa, with most of the non-Kasain party members following Kabassa. For more detailed information refer to Zaire: IRIN Briefing Part II.

## C.6 Atundu Liongo

Originally from Shaba, he has acted as Mobutu's security advisor for the interior. He was formerly head of the Zairean security agency, SNIP, ambassador to Rwanda and the director of Gecamines and is said to have shares in the influential Zairean airline, Shabair.

## C.7 (Ex-) Gendarmes Katangaise (a.k.a Tigers of the Front Nationale du Congo)

The Gendarmes Katangaise is an anti-Mobutu rebel group, which has been based in Angola since the 1960s. The initial group was composed of gendarmes (police) from the Katanga (Shaba) region, who fought with Tshombe in the 1960 secessionist wars. Following their defeat they formed a mercenary group for hire, under the leadership of Maxist Nathanael

Nbumba, Tshombe's cousin. Mobutu accused Angolan President Neto of financially and logistically supporting the rebels in their 1977 and 1978 invasions of Shaba. Angola, in counter-charges, has long claimed that Mobutu provided covert assistance to anti-government UNITA rebels in Angola.

Although the original members would now be in their 60s, the movement has continually attracted new recruits, including new exiles and the children of the original members. They also changed their name to the Tigers of the Front de Liberation Nationale du Congo (FLNC) and are said to number some 5,000 strong with a 1,800 operational force. In 1992, they claimed UFERI leader, Karl-I-Bond, who had made several public statements supporting them and their cause, as their political leader. Some of the aging veterans, who had retired in Shaba, were recently reported to have been recruited by General Mahele to fight along side the FAZ in the war against the ADFL rebels. However, because of their antipathy towards Mobutu and their previous support for the current Angolan government, their natural alliance would be with ADFL forces. In December 1996, members of Kabila's entourage claimed that the Tigers, who were said to be on standby near the Zairean towns of Diloto and Tshikapa, would invade Zaire when Kabila called on them (9). More recently, some of their members reportedly arrived in rebel-held Bukavu just prior to the fall of Kisangani. Their presence on the side of the ADFL raises the possibility that UNITA forces, who fought the Gendarmes in Angola and have long used the Shaba and Kasai regions as a safe haven, have also enter the conflict. ADFL alleges that some 2,000 UNITA troops are already fighting with the FAZ.

#### ENDNOTES

Most of the above information was gathered from news and wire services, the journal 'Africa Confidential' and interviews with various local sources. Other sources include:

1. Institut National de la Statistique, Kinshasa Zaire -1995 figures
2. refer to Zaire: IRIN Briefing Part IV
3. Africa Confidential (AC), 29 Nov. 1996, Vol37, No.24
4. Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU), Zaire, 1995-96, p.22
5. EIU, Zaire, 1995-96, p.12
6. EIU, 4th Quarter Report 1996, p.19
7. EIU, 4th Quarter Report 1996, p.24
8. refer to Zaire: IRIN Briefing Part I
9. AC, 13 Dec 1996, Vol 37, No25, p.5

This report is part of a series of briefs designed to assist the humanitarian community understand the complexity and history of the current situation in Zaire.

Part I: List of Key Political Players, 24.02.97

Part II: Historical Overview of Zaire, 27.02.97

Part III: Zaire Who's Who, 27.02.97

Part IV: Eastern Zaire Who's Who, 28.02.97

Part V: Shaba, 19.03.97

Part VI: Kasai, 20.03.97

Part VII: Equateur, 21.03.97

The above has been compiled from varied sources and in no way reflects the views of the United Nations.

Nairobi, 19 March 1997

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Date: Thu, 20 Mar 1997 11:16:21 +0300  
From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes <irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

**Zaire: IRIN Special Feature on Monkeypox 20 Mar 1997 97.03.20**

Sender: owner-irinlist@dha.unon.org  
To: irinlist@dha.unon.org  
MIME-version: 1.0  
Precedence: list  
X-Authentication-warning: ic.utando.com: uusasa set sender to  
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Zaire: IRIN Special Feature on Monkeypox 20 Mar 1997

A rare disease related to smallpox has broken out in eastern Zaire, and threatens in particular children under 15. Monkeypox (French: Orthopoxvirose simienne), a viral infection acquired by humans from wild animals but occasionally spread through human contact, is reported from areas near Katako-Kombe, in the Sankuru region of eastern Kasai. Since the disease was identified in 1970, the vast majority of reported cases have occurred in Zaire. Between 1982-1986, 331 known cases were reported in Zaire.

A surveillance system was set up in late 1981 but had identified only small clusters of cases with little evidence of any inter-human transmission. However, missions by experts from Medecins sans Frontieres Belgium, the World Health Organization and the US Centres for Disease Control (CDC), undertaken in August 1996 and followed up in February 1997, have found evidence of a more serious outbreak with possible public health implications.

Last year's outbreak in Katako-Kombe started in February, but was only reported in July. Seventy-one cases were reported up to 30 August, of which six proved fatal. Specimens collected at the time and tested at the WHO Collaborating Centre for Smallpox and other Poxvirus Infections at the CDC, confirmed monkeypox infection.

An international mission was sent to Lodja and Katako-Kombe in the Sankuru region of Eastern Zaire from February 17 to March 1 1997 to investigate a possible further outbreak. The mission, which was led by the World Health Organization, included experts from the

Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta, the European Union, Medecins Sans Frontieres-Belgium (MSF) and local health and research authorities.

Unfortunately, the second mission was interrupted because of the retreating Zairean soldiers (FAZ) who looted several of the affected villages, killing at least 30 people in Katako-Kombe following the rebel Allied Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire (ADFL) advance on Kindu, some 280 kms east of Katako-Kombe. There is speculation that fleeing soldiers may become infected and spread the disease if they continue to travel beyond the area. Rapes by retreating FAZ soldiers have often been reported elsewhere in eastern Zaire, and might be a source of human to human monkeypox infection in this area.

Despite its premature end, WHO reported that the mission had identified some 98 cases. The average age of the victims was about 12. The illness has afflicted all ages from 1 month old to 62 years old, but children under 15 are the most susceptible. This is attributed to the fact that vaccinations against smallpox, which appear to provide some protection against monkeypox, were stopped some 15 years ago. Smallpox was widely considered to have been eradicated in 1980. Three-quarters of the cases examined by the team did not have the smallpox vaccination scar. Although the observed death to case ratio was 10% in the 80s, amongst 88 current cases that were traced only 3.4% had died by March 1.

Initially, the viral infection was believed to be transmitted only from wild animals (its natural hosts include chimpanzees, monkeys and squirrels) to humans. However there is a high incidence of cases amongst family members and findings suggest that two-thirds of the current cases originated with other infected people. Monkeypox is now believed to be transmitted more through human contact than once thought.

The possibility of increased inter-human transmission coupled with the difficulty in reaching the affected areas in order to provide treatment increases the possibility that it will become a serious public health problem. However, despite the rise in the number of cases, the WHO claims that actual inter-human transmission remains poor. A WHO report in 1988 states that the longest chain of human transmission appeared to be four person-to-person infections in a row without animal contact.

According to the WHO and CDC, to prevent an escalation in the number of affected people all cases need to be isolated, and cared for by one person who is vaccinated against smallpox. Humanitarian sources claim this could be problematic given the current advancement of the war in Zaire. Moreover, aid workers are concerned that the possible arrival of the Rwandan refugees, who are for the most part in poor health and are currently fleeing towards Sankuru region, could contribute to an escalation in the number of cases and its spread. However, CDC cautions that "it is not known whether this newly identified person to person transmission potential of the disease is sufficient for monkeypox to sustain itself in human populations in an area where there is no introduction of the virus from wild animals".

WHO also recommends that scratches from animals should be avoided, and that meat from wild animals should be eaten well-cooked.

The WHO has requested that all suspected cases be reported immediately to the nearest WHO representation.

Nairobi, 20 March 1997

[ENDS]

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Date: Fri, 21 Mar 1997 18:06:49 +0300  
From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes <irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

## **Zaire: IRIN Briefing Part VI: Kasai 21 Mar 1997 97.3.21**

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Zaire: IRIN Briefing Part VI: Kasai 21 Mar 1997

### A. History

Kasai, which covers some 325,000 square kilometres encompassing 17% (7,167,000) of Zaire's population, is divided into two regions: Occidental (west) and Oriental (east). The capital of Kasai Oriental, Mbuji-Mayi, is the most economically significant and has a population of 3,830,000. The capital of Kasai Occidental, Kananga, has a population of 3,337,000 (1). As the birthplace of Zaire's first prime minister, Patrice Lumumba, a Pan Africanist who led Zaire's only national based party at independence, the Kasains have no love of Mobutu. Along with Shaba secessionists leader Moise Tshombe, they indirectly blame for Lumumba's death. Tshisekedi, Zaire's most influential opposition leader, and his political party, Union pour la Democratie et le Progres Social (UDPS), derive much of their support from Kasai Oriental and his Luba ethnic group (2). In 1993, in a show of support for deposed Prime Minister Tshisekedi, both of the Kasai regions refused to accept the new currency, Nouveau Zaires, and have continued to use the old Zairean notes.

In an attempt to undermine support for the UDPS in Kasai, internal and regional ethnic tensions have been periodically enflamed. However, despite interference from Kinshasa, Kasai has persevered and prospered. Following the 1992-94 expulsion of Kasaiian workers from Shaba, Kasai grew significantly in economic power, becoming Zaire's second largest economic centre, rivaling that of Shaba. Expelled intellectuals, former professors at Lubumbashi University and the business elite, formed the Conference pour le Developpement Economique de Kasai Oriental (CDEKO). Its first act was to initiate a boycott of Shaba beer and maize,

leading to the development of a brewery and an increase in overall agricultural output for the Kasai regions. It also promoted the creation of a locally controlled airline, Wetrafa. Moreover, in 1990 a university was established in Mbuji-Mayi; jointly sponsored by the two main power brokers, the Catholic church, and the mining company Minière de Bakangu (MIBA). CDEKO, which was strongly supported by Tshisekedi, was incorporated into the university and is presided over by MIBA director Jonas Mukambu Kadiate Nzema (3). It is model of successful regional development that many regions had hoped to emulate.

The success of the CDEKO's economic development activities fueled Kasaians demands for greater autonomy and economic independence. Kasaians however, notably the Lubas, do not want separatism but, instead, favour greater economic autonomy within a federated Zaire. They fear that a push for independence would result in a backlash, similar to the Shaba expulsions, against the Luba migrants who are spread throughout Zaire. Thus, a principle aim of CDEKO has been to build up Kasai's economy to strengthen its bargaining position for the 1997 elections. However, there is always the possibility that internal ethnic rivalry between Bena Mutu wa Mukuna (people of the upper plateau), Tshisbanga and Mukamba's people, and Bena Tshibanda (people of the lower plateau), Tshisekedi's people, could interfere in this process.

Outside of Tshisekedi's call for a negotiated solution to the current crisis, Kasaians have no direct ties with Kabila's ADFL forces. However, their animosity towards Mobutu and Kinshasa, exasperated by the arrival of fleeing FAZ soldiers from Kindu, who have reportedly looted Kasai towns in the region of Sankuru (4), has encouraged popular sympathy for the ADFL movement.

## B. Economic

The Kasai regions derive their principal wealth from diamonds. The main diamond area is located around Bakwanga in Kasai Oriental. Diamonds are so pervasive to the market that the old Zairean banknotes, which are only in use in Kasai, are now pegged to the region's diamond production with a rate of exchange that has remained stable despite soaring inflation in other parts of Zaire.

Founded in 1991, the main diamond company, MIBA is 80% state and 20% SGB-Sibeka (Belgium/French) owned and accounts for 50% of the Zaire's national diamond production (5), the receipts of which account for a substantial portion of Zaire's active economy. Following a drop in production in the early 1990s, diamond production started to recover from 1993 onward. The fall of SOMINKI in Maniema and Kilo Moto in Haut Zaire to ADFL forces increases the political and economic importance of both MIBA and Shaba based Gecamines.

Although the CEDKO has advanced Mbuji-Mayi as the second most important economic capital, neither of Kasai's two regions has developed strong independent links with neighbouring countries. To reach Zambia, Kasai trade must pass through Shaba province and Angola's civil war has prevented the development of the necessary infrastructure to facilitate a lucrative cross-border trade. Because of this, both Kasai Oriental and Kasai Occidental remain

hemmed in, dependent on the good will of their neighbours. Kasai is also dependant, to a limited degree, on the hydro-electric station in Bas Zaire to run some of its mining operations.

## C. Kasai Who's Who

### C.1 Jonas Mukamba Kadiata Nzemba

Nzemba, who is Kasaian, is considered to be an influential member of the Mobutu's party, Mouvement Populaire pour le Revolution (MPR), who paradoxically calls himself a "brother" of Tshisekedi (6). For the past ten years he has been president and chief executive of Miniere de Bakwanga (MIBA), Zaire's richest mining company following the decline of Shaba based Gecamines. According to Zairean opposition paper le Soft, Nzemba said he would willingly work for Kabila if he arrived in Kasai (7). For more detailed information refer to Zaire: IRIN Briefing Part II.

### C.2 Bishop Tarcisse Tshibangu

As bishop of Mbuji-Mayi, Tshibangu is the leader of the Catholic church in Kasai, which is considered to hold considerable political influence and power. He was significant in the development of CEDKO and the establishment of the University of Mbuji-Mayi.

### C.3 Etienne Tshisekedi

Tshisekedi is Zaire's most influential opposition leader. Key members of his party, UDPS, and entourage have recently undertaken negotiations with Kabila (8). For more detailed information refer to, Zaire: IRIN Briefing Part II for more information.

## ENDNOTES

Most of the above information was gathered from news and wire services, the journal 'Africa Confidential' and interviews with various local sources. Other sources include:

1. Institut National de la Statistique, Kinshasa Zaire -1995 figures
2. refer to Zaire: IRIN Briefing Part II
3. Africa Confidential (AC) 19 Jan., vol. 37. No.2, p.7
4. LePotentiel (Zairean opposition papers), 05/03/97
5. Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) Zaire 1995-96,p.21
6. AC 19 Jan. p.6
7. Le Soft (independent Zairean newspaper), 14 March 1997
8. refer to IRIN Update No. 125

This report is part of a series of briefings designed to assist the humanitarian community understand the complexity and history of the current crisis in Zaire.

Part I: List of Key Political Players, 24.02.97 Part II: Historical Overview of Zaire, 27.02.97

Part III: Zaire Who's Who, 27.02.97

Part IV: Eastern Zaire Who's Who, 28.02.97 Part V: Shaba, 19.03.97

Part VI: Kasai, 20.03.97

Part VII: Equateur, 21.03.97

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Nairobi, 20 March 1997

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Date: Fri, 28 Mar 1997 10:21:21 +0300  
From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes <irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

**Zaire: Refugees International report from south of Kisangani 97.3.27**

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REFUGEES INTERNATIONAL  
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Report #26 Contact: David Shorr  
March 27, 1997 (202) 828-0110

**SOUTH OF KISANGANI: A FOUR MONTH FLIGHT NEARS A TRAGIC END**

After a day's delay, an aid convoy set out from Kisangani by rail on the morning of March 27 to attempt to deliver emergency assistance to refugees south of the city.

At the first stop, Kesea Bandu, a town some 25 kilometers from Kisangani, approximately 5,000 people were spread out along both sides of the tracks. "I saw the most emaciated children I've ever seen in my life," said Refugees International's field representative. "Many of them won't last another day without urgent medical attention. **THESE PEOPLE ARE NOT GOING TO MAKE IT BACK TO UBUNDU.**" The convoy had to move out again in an effort to reach groups farther south by nightfall. While some food was left behind with the refugees at Kesea Bandu, there was no medical assistance for this group. Among the refugees were some who had suffered gunshot wounds during a reported attack by rebels a few days earlier.

Biario, 41 kilometers from Kisangani, was the second stop. "This stop made the people at the last place look like they were healthy." One tiny child died just minutes after a medical worker arrived by its side, too late to help. Another child, perhaps four or five years old, lay nearby, shot in the face, and as yet untreated. Along the side of the road, other children were retching uncontrollably, too weak even to lift their heads from the ground. **THE REFUGEES DESPERATELY NEED WATER.** Realizing that many more would die if the people tried to move out again, UNHCR officials told everyone to stay put.

By the time the train reached the third stop, it was beginning to get dark. There were no refugees in sight, but aid officials learned that a large group was nearby, perhaps a kilometer away. As the train had no lights, nothing more could be done, and it soon departed.

The convoy made its fourth and final stop of the day at a location 82 kilometers south of Kisangani, where a large concentration of refugees had been spotted by plane two days earlier. Unfortunately, the refugees were no longer there, and the consensus among the aid officials was that the group was probably trying to make its way further north toward Kisangani. The day's delay in reaching this location was undoubtedly a matter of life and death for many in this group.

At each succeeding stop, the refugees were in much worse shape than the last, because the weakest (mostly women and children) are lagging behind. Some of the young men who had originally been in these groups may have continued on ahead, but it is clear that the situation of the women and children is the most critical. For each day that the access problem remains unresolved, an increasing number of these most vulnerable will die.

\* Not surprisingly, after four months of arduous cross country flight, the refugees are at the end of their strength. Refugees International urgently recommends that:

\* the ADFL leadership immediately drop its demand that these refugees return to Ubundu;

\* the ADFL leadership permit the site at Lula to serve as a transit point from which refugees can begin their trip home (These people can later be moved by truck through Kisangani and eastward on their journey home without stopping in the city);

\* the ADFL leadership permit air evacuation of the most vulnerable via Kisangani; and

\* the international community provide additional resources to aid agencies on an emergency basis so that more refugees can be reached with food and water before it is too late. Clean water should be a special priority.

=====  
=== Refugees International -- 2639 Conn. Ave, NW, Washington, DC 20008 Phone: 202-828-0110 Fax: 202-828-0819 www: <http://www.refintl.org>  
=====  
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Date: Wed, 02 Apr 1997 22:13:22 +0300  
From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes <irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

## **Zaire: IRIN Briefing Part VII: Equateur 2 April 1997 97.4.2**

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X-Authentication-warning: ic.utando.com: uusasa set sender to  
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Zaire: IRIN Briefing Part VII: Equateur 21 Mar 1997

### A. History

Equateur encompasses some 403,292 square kilometres and 11% (4,820,000) of Zaire's population (1). Ubangi du Nord, or as it is sometimes called Equateur du Nord, is a sub-region of Equateur whose capital, Mbandaka (population 185,000), has long been neglected in favour of Gbadolite (population 124,500). Ubangi du Nord is also home to Mobutu's ethnic tribe the Ubangi, who comprise a minority of the region's ethnic population. Most of Mobutu's key generals and advisors originate from the Ubangi tribe (2).

Gbadolite, Mobutu's home village located some 1,000 km from Kinshasa near the Central African Republic (CAR) border post of Zongo, has been transformed into a modern city with an international airport, satellite communications and several presidential palaces. A hydro-electric dam built just east of Gbadolite at Mobayi-Mbongo provides it with all its power needs. Non-Ubangi are required to obtain visas in order to visit the area. Mobutu is said to run Gbadolite as a city state out of his own pocket (at one point estimated at \$15 million US monthly), employing some 7,000 people. During the 1991-2 national conference, Mobutu, in an open threat of secessionism, supported demands that Ubangi du Nord be declared an autonomous region with Gbadolite as its capital. Mobutu went as far as to hail the 1993 Francophone summit in Mauritius as signalling a new era between Gbadolite and Paris.

Gbadolite is rumoured to have the best stocked weapons arsenal in Zaire and most of the 15,000-strong DSP, many of whom originate from Ubangi du Nord, were reportedly relocated to Gbadolite in January and February of 1997 to ensure its defence. The Zairean airforce was

also said to have been redeployed here (3). Gbadolite's location near the CAR border raises the possibility of a back door exit in the event that it falls to the ADFL or, conversely, a potential conduit for channeling military support to its defenders.

Except for Ubangi du Nord and Gbadolite, Mobutu has for the most part ignored the rest of Equateur. As a result, the once prosperous agricultural area has returned to subsistence farming as more and more of its basic infrastructure eroded over time, isolating many of the communities from Kinshasa both economically and politically. Most of the roads are now impassable to motorized traffic and almost impassable to foot traffic during the rainy season. Economically, the region represents an, as of yet, untapped hydro-electric resource. Moreover, in 1993 diamonds were discovered in the region suggesting a further untapped source of wealth (4).

## B. Gbadolite Who's Who

Refer to Zaire: IRIN Briefing Part III for more detailed information

### B.1 President Mobutu Sese Seko

### B.2 Prime Minister Leon Lobistsh Kengo wa Dondo

### B.3 Felix Vunduawe Tepe Mako - key political advisor to Mobutu

### B.4 Honore Ngbanda Nzambo Ayumba - key security advisor to Mobutu

### B.5 General Dona Mahele Bokungu - army chief-of-staff

### B.6 General Eluki Monga Aundu - former army chief-of-staff

### B.7 General Kpama Baramoto Kata - commander of the Garde Civile

### B.8 General Etienne Nzimbi Ngbale Kongo wa Bassa - DSP commander

## ENDNOTES

Most of the above information was gathered from news and wire services, the journal 'Africa Confidential' and interviews with various local sources. Other sources include:

1. Institut National de la Statistique, Kinshasa Zaire -1995 figures 2. refer to Zaire: IRIN Briefing Part III 3. Le Phare (Zairean opposition paper), 05/03/97 4. Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU), Zaire 1995-96, p.21

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Nairobi, 19 March 1997

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## **Zaire: Joint Communiqué of talks in South Africa 97.4.8**

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### COMMUNIQUE

In the general discussions which took place from 5 to 8 April 1997, and during which the two Zairian delegations i.e. the delegation of the Government of Zaire and that of the Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire (ADFL) made their presentations on the situation in their country, the following points of convergence emerged:

1. Though the parties had different points of view on the nature and source of the crisis in Zaire, they agreed on the fact that there were serious issues of political structures and governance which must be addressed as a matter of urgency.
2. Both parties agreed on negotiations to bring about a peaceful, political solution to the conflict. This necessitates a complete cessation of hostilities and other measures consistent with the implementation of the UN/OAU Peace Plan.
3. Both parties expressed commitment to the principles of territorial integrity, inviolability of borders, the unity and sovereignty of Zaire within recognised international borders. They agreed that this was not an issue between them as they both shared this commitment.
4. The parties underlined the need for fundamental and democratic change in Zaire. In this regard, they concurred on the need for a process of transition leading to transparent, fair and inclusive elections which would be organised and supervised by an independent body and monitored by the International Community.
5. The parties considered that peace and stability, both in Zaire and in other countries in the region were crucial for peace in the region as a whole. Therefore, it was important to examine ways and means of promoting good inter-state relations in the region.

DONE AT PRETORIA ON 8 APRIL 1997

For the delegation of the Government of Zaire  
Forces for the Liberation Of Congo-Zaire (ADFL)

For the delegation of the Alliance of Democratic  
Forces for the Liberation Of Congo-Zaire (ADFL)

Me Gerard Kamanda wa Kamanda  
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs

Dr Bizima Karaha  
General Commissioner for Foreign Affairs and  
Cooperation

[ENDS]

[Transcribed by UN DHA IRIN.]

[Via the UN DHA Integrated Regional Information Network "Wire" mailing list. The material contained in this communication may not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its agencies. UN DHA IRIN Tel: +254 2 622123 Fax: +254 2 622129 e-mail: irin@dha.unon.org for more information. If you re-print, copy, archive or re-post this item, please retain this credit and disclaimer.]

Date: Mon, 21 Apr 1997 18:43:39 +0300  
From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes <irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

## **Great Lakes: IRIN Update 154 for 19-21 Apr 1997 97.4.21**

Sender: owner-irinlist@dha.unon.org  
To: irinlist@dha.unon.org  
MIME-version: 1.0  
Precedence: list  
X-Authentication-warning: ic.utando.com: uusasa set sender to  
dha.unon.org!owner-irinlist using -f

UNITED NATIONS  
Department of Humanitarian Affairs  
Integrated Regional Information Network  
for the Great Lakes

Tel: +254 2 622147  
Fax: +254 2 622129  
e-mail: irin@dha.unon.org

IRIN Emergency Update No.154 on the Great Lakes (Saturday-Monday 19-21 April 1997)

\* Increasing confirmation of Angola's assistance to Zairean rebels came to light over the weekend, after a BBC journalist reported seeing Angolan troops in Lubumbashi over the weekend. According to the report, the Angolans were seen at the airport and eating in restaurants in town. However, when questioned, the rebels denied the presence of Angolan troops, telling journalists they were suffering from delusions. Luanda's profile in the Zairean conflict is gaining prominence as, according to unconfirmed reports, several thousand Rwandan refugees, among them a large number of ex-FAR and Interahamwe militia, have crossed over to Angola into an area where Angolan government-UNITA sensitivity is high.

\* After many setbacks and much frustration, aid workers again began preparing for the delayed repatriation of 80,000 Rwandan refugees from camps in the Kisangani area, only to be stymied again today as food supplies were looted once more. WFP said a train carrying 120 MTs of food to Biaro camp was stopped and looted by local people early this morning, just south of Kisangani, in what was described as a "violent attack". In another incident, a WFP storekeeper saw local people looting a WFP warehouse in Kasese village around 3am local time today. UN officials later said everything had been pillaged from the depot. Precise details are unclear because the rebel authorities today prevented aid workers from travelling to the camps. There was speculation that the violence was in retaliation for the killing of up to eight local Zaireans, which according to the Haut-Zaire provincial governor Yagi Sitolo, was carried

out by Rwandan refugees. Local residents claimed the killers were Hutu militiamen among the refugees.

UN High Commissioner for Refugees Sadako Ogata today issued a statement calling on the authorities in Kisangani to take urgent action so that the airlift could go ahead. "This is not good enough," she said. "We must have access and we must begin the airlift. Every day's delay means more lives lost. Repatriation is the only solution for these people, the only way to guarantee their safety. If we cannot reach the refugees, neither can we reach the local population, who also badly need our assistance."

The repatriation operation was put on hold Friday, after security incidents and rebel concerns of a cholera outbreak in Biaro camp, which is reportedly free of the disease prevailing in nearby Kasese camp. The first repatriations of 80 unaccompanied children were due to take place from Biaro. The governor of Haut Zaire province, Yagi Sitolo, told Reuters that the operation should not take place until May 5 at the earliest because of the cholera outbreak which, he said, threatened local Zaireans. On Friday, rebels in Goma requisitioned 60,000 litres of aviation fuel used for planes chartered by UNHCR for the repatriation, UNHCR said. It said this was in addition to 24,000 litres taken earlier on, and would hamper the airlift.

\* Regional support for the rebels gathered pace as Zimbabwe's ruling ZANU-PF party congratulated ADFL leader Laurent Kabila on his successful campaign. "We hail the victories being scored by our dear brother...Laurent Kabila," the party said. The comments were contained in a statement to mark Zimbabwe's 17th independence anniversary, issued by Tirivanhu Mudariki, the party's publicity secretary for the Harare region. "We appeal to our dear brother Kabila to extend the hand of reconciliation while swimming in victory," the statement added. However, Foreign Minister Stan Mudenge noted that the message did not necessarily reflect the official government position. He said ZANU-PF, led by President Robert Mugabe, was an institution on its own and entitled to its own opinion "which is not necessarily the government position". Zimbabwe denies allegations that it has been supplying the rebels with arms and other military equipment.

Elsewhere in the region, Kenyan opposition forces were drawing inspiration from Kabila's victories. The weekly 'Economic Review', which reflects opposition sentiments, ran a feature headlined "The Last of a Vanishing Breed", dubbing President Daniel arap Moi as the last of the "old guard" of African leaders. Kabila, for his part, has described Moi as "another Mobutu". Moi has never invited the rebel leader to Nairobi-based regional summits aimed at discussing the Zairean conflict, meetings criticised by the Kenyan opposition as a waste of time and expense which offered few concrete results. Last month, 12 opposition MPs published a statement pledging their "total" support for Kabila.

\* Hopes of a negotiated settlement to the conflict withered over the weekend as Kabila pledged to continue battling until Kinshasa fell. In an address to thousands of Lubumbashi residents on Saturday, he reiterated that any talks with Mobutu would be to discuss the Zairean leader's departure from office. "He should give up power, give up his army, put down the arms so there can be a peaceful transfer of power," he said. He demanded that Mobutu return "all the money he has taken from the people", adding: "we cannot kill him because he is

already finished". At the end of last week, South African officials were optimistic that face-to-face talks between the two men would take place in Cape Town early this week, but despite Mobutu's agreement in principle to such a meeting, Kabila has remained firm that he will only negotiate Mobutu's departure.

\* With the situation in Kinshasa looking increasingly unsettled, the USA on Saturday recommended its nationals to leave Zaire. "The [State] Department strongly urges US citizens in Zaire to depart the country," it said in a statement. It warned against travelling to Zaire "due to the uncertain political and security situation and the potential for unrest throughout the country". Kabila has predicted that his troops will be in the capital within three weeks.

Washington also discounted claims by Zairean rebels that Mobutu had ordered the killing of expatriates in Kinshasa. "We have approached Mobutu's people about this and they've said it's absolute nonsense. It would make no sense," a State Department official said on Friday. "Give it no credence. We're discounting it."

\* The Zairean authorities today announced new measures regarding foreign reporting in the country. These included demanding renewed accreditation from all journalists by Wednesday and the formation of an ad-hoc "ethics" committee to rule on "misinformed and unbalanced" articles. Information Minister Mulumba Kin-Kiey said the move was intended to make life easier for journalists some of whom, he claimed, had not given a "balanced" view of events.

\* Negotiations on the release of 46 Lebanese, held by rebels in Mbuji-Mayi, were due to open in Lubumbashi today, diplomats said. Kabila was to meet two delegates representing the captives, and a commercial plane, chartered by wealthy Lebanese citizens, was on standby waiting to fly them out, probably to Kigali initially. Lebanon's immigration ministry says Kabila has agreed to drop the huge ransom demands for the hostages and allow them to leave soon.

\* With the Arusha summit barely over, the spiral of violence continued in Burundi as the army reported a massacre of some 100 civilians, which it said was carried out by extremist rebels. Army spokesman Col. Isaie Nibizi said troops "found the bodies of about 100 civilians. The rebels called them out and killed them". The slaughter, he said, took place at Kayogoro in the troubled southern province of Makamba. According to a defence ministry statement, reported by Burundi radio on Friday, CNDD rebels "backed by elements of the former Rwandan armed forces and fugitives from the Zairean armed forces" had been infiltrating from Tanzania and across Lake Tanganyika since April 5. The statement said they had carried out killing and looting attacks in the Nyanza Lac, Vugizo, Mabanda and Kibago communes of Makamba province.

\* Meanwhile, according to Radio Tanzania, the Hutu-dominated FRODEBU opposition party in Burundi called on mediator, former Tanzanian president Julius Nyerere, to convene an urgent meeting to discuss peace in Burundi. FRODEBU spokesman Simba Rushatsi told the radio the meeting should concentrate on restoring democracy in Burundi with an aim to stopping the killings. He also commended the easing of sanctions against the country, a decision, he said, which was taken on "humanitarian grounds".

\* The 'East African' weekly today gave a behind-the-scenes look at the Arusha summit, which according to sources close to the meeting, was far from cohesive. As regional leaders attempted to iron out their differences, the meeting stretched on for three hours instead of the allocated half hour. The sources revealed that Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni criticised Buyoya for "polarising Burundi along ethnic lines" and for a "lack of national patriotic consciousness". This viewpoint was apparently echoed by Rwandan premier Pierre-Celestin Rwigyema. Observers have pointed to the two countries' worsening relations with Burundi. Buyoya denied that the regroupment camps in Burundi were aimed at dividing people according to their ethnicity. "There is propaganda that these camps are for elimination, but this is not true. We are only keeping people for their own safety. I have the credentials of a moderate and not of dividing people on ethnic lines," he said. According to the sources, Buyoya revealed that secret talks were being held in Rome with Hutu groups under the auspices of a Catholic peace organisation led by Don Matteo Zuppi. He also declared that his government had begun an internal dialogue with Burundians, holding five seminars in rural areas and three in Bujumbura.

Another article in the 'East African' quotes senior Rwandan officials as saying they cannot sacrifice the region's broader interests for the sake of the "disorganised leadership class in Burundi". Analysts note that both Rwanda and Uganda see Buyoya as a "spoiler" in their attempts to dominate the region. According to the newspaper, Rwandan officials accuse Buyoya of "being out of tune with the geopolitical setup". "With democratisation sweeping across the region, you cannot afford to monopolise power," one unnamed official was quoted as saying.

\* Troubled relations between Sudan and Uganda intensified over the weekend, with reports that Uganda had stepped up its fight against Sudan-based rebels of the Lord's Resistance Army. Uganda's independent 'Sunday Monitor' said military officers, including Northern commander Maj-Gen Salim Saleh, had shifted their operational bases further north from Gulu to Kitgum. Last week, Uganda said it had killed 60 Sudanese troops and captured 114 in fighting between the countries' armies. The Sudanese prisoners were reportedly being held captive, along with 64 LRA rebels, at Ngomoromo, just near Uganda's border with Sudan. Two Ugandan soldiers, on an intelligence mission, were confirmed missing inside Sudan by Ugandan State Minister for Defence Amama Mbabazi.

Nairobi, 21 April 1997, 15:30 gmt

[ENDS]

[Via the UN DHA Integrated Regional Information Network. The material contained in this communication may not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its agencies. UN DHA IRIN Tel: +254 2 622123 Fax: +254 2 622129 e-mail: irin@dha.unon.org for more information. If you re-print, copy, archive or re-post this item, please retain this credit and disclaimer. Quotations or extracts from this report should include attribution to the original sources mentioned, not simply "DHA".]

Date: Tue, 22 Apr 1997 16:54:55 +0300  
From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes <irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

## **Zaire: UNHCR Calls for Urgent Airlift of Refugees in Zaire 97.4.21**

Sender: owner-irinwire@dha.unon.org  
To: irinwire@dha.unon.org  
MIME-version: 1.0  
Precedence: list  
X-Authentication-warning: ic.utando.com: uusasa set sender to  
dha.unon.org!owner-irinwire using -f

Source: UNHCR

21 April 1997

### UNHCR CALLS FOR URGENT AIRLIFT OF REFUGEES IN ZAIRE

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees today called on the Kisangani authorities in Eastern Zaire to take urgent action to airlift Rwandan refugees home, saying that each day's delay would lead to more deaths.

In a statement, High Commissioner Sadako Ogata also urged the Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire to allow aid workers to resume their work in the makeshift camps south of Kisangani. Since Friday, violence and looting have prevented relief workers from conducting emergency programs for more than 100,000 malnourished and desperate refugees in the area and for neighboring villages.

#Since April 5 when the Alliance originally approved the airlift, we have done our best to get the operation off the ground. But our every effort has been frustrated, # Mrs. Ogata said .

#Since Friday a series of security incidents, including the looting of foodstocks, has blocked our access to the camps. Today the military told us that we would not be allowed in the camps because of a security operation in the area,# she said.

#This is not good enough. We must have access and we must begin the airlift. Every day's delay means more lives lost . Repatriation is the only solution for these people, the only way to guarantee their safety. If we cannot reach the refugees, neither can we reach the local population, who also badly need our assistance.# .

Local authorities in Zaire have been delaying the beginning of the airlift, saying the presence of cholera in the makeshift camps would contaminate the city. UNHCR maintains that the cholera outbreak is containable and that the refugees stand more risk of contracting life-threatening illnesses from conditions in the overcrowded camps.

Crowds of civilians have been attacking aid vehicles and looting food aid over the last four days. In the border town of Goma, the other end of the proposed airbridge from Kisangani, local authorities commandeered jet fuel earmarked for the airlift. The latest security operation, mounted in response to the alleged killing of Zairean nationals by refugees, follows an aggressive radio campaign against the refugees in the region.

UNHCR is calling for security guarantees for its staff to carry out their urgent humanitarian work in the camps and to begin the much-delayed airlift. It also expects the local authorities to do their part to defuse tensions between the refugees and the local population.

[ENDS]

[Via the UN DHA Integrated Regional Information Network "Wire" mailing list. The material contained in this communication may not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its agencies. UN DHA IRIN Tel: +254 2 622123 Fax: +254 2 622129 e-mail: [irin@dha.unon.org](mailto:irin@dha.unon.org) for more information. If you re-print, copy, archive or re-post this item, please retain this credit and disclaimer.]

Date: Wed, 23 Apr 1997 10:36:11 +0300  
From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes <irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

## **Zaire: UNICEF Calls on African Leaders to Help ... 97.4.22**

Sender: owner-irinwire@dha.unon.org  
To: irinwire@dha.unon.org  
MIME-version: 1.0  
Precedence: list  
X-Authentication-warning: ic.utando.com: uusasa set sender to  
dha.unon.org!owner-irinwire using -f

Source: UNICEF

Simultaneously released in Geneva and New York

CF/DOC/PR/1997-13  
22 April 1997

### **UNICEF CALLS ON AFRICAN LEADERS TO HELP RESCUE CHILDREN IN EASTERN ZAIRE**

NEW YORK, April 22 --- UNICEF Executive Director, Carol Bellamy, issued a strong call for action today as the situation in eastern Zaire deteriorated further into tragedy.

"As the world watches and waits, hundreds of children are at death's door," she said. "But food and medicine are close at hand. These innocent children can be saved."

Bellamy appealed to African leaders to use their influence with the Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire. In particular, she urged South African President, Nelson Mandela, to intercede directly with Laurent Kabila, to ensure the care and protection of refugee children and the immediate evacuation of the most vulnerable unaccompanied children.

"With his overwhelming influence and his unique moral stature worldwide, Nelson Mandela might well turn this desperate situation around," she said.

UNICEF is also contacting several African regional leaders to encourage them to use their influence to halt the looming catastrophe, and has spoken to the UN/OAU Special Representative, Mohamed Sahnoun, to convey a rising crescendo of alarm.

For four days the threat of violence has prevented aid workers from reaching the refugees who are scattered in camps between Kisangani and Ubundu. Humanitarian aid has been looted, fuel

for aid flights taken, aid workers threatened and local villagers massacred by parties unknown. Reports of an attack on the refugee camp at km 25 on Monday have raised fears that thousands of refugees living in the camp may have fled into the surrounding forest.

"There is no doubt that if aid workers are not allowed access to the refugees, hundreds of children and their families will die of neglect," Bellamy said. "The senseless deaths of innocent victims must be prevented."

More than 5,000 unaccompanied children were to be airlifted from Kisangani to Goma beginning last Friday. They were to be the first group in an operation to evacuate 80,000 to 100,000 people over the next three months. But local authorities delayed the evacuation, first saying that there was a risk of spreading cholera to other cities, and then arguing that the airlift would congest the airports.

Aid workers maintain that the cholera outbreak is containable and that evacuation is the population's only chance of survival. Transit centres in Goma, run by NGOs and supported by UN agencies, have been set up to care for unaccompanied children, who are registered and given food and medical assistance, before being reunited with their families.

Recent events run contrary to promises from Alliance leaders. UNICEF Deputy Executive Director, Stephen Lewis, on mission in the region last week, received assurances that the evacuation could proceed as planned, and that aid workers would not be prevented from working in the camps.

Aid agencies have also consistently assured local authorities that the needs of internally displaced people and the local population are being addressed. Basic services, rehabilitated by UNICEF and other humanitarian agencies, are already functioning in eastern Zaire, offering health and educational facilities to local communities.

"I urge the Alliance to make the evacuation possible," said Bellamy. "Time is running out for innocent children caught in the conflict."

\* \* \* \*

For further information, please contact: Penelope Lewis, Division of Communication, UNICEF New York (212) 326-7259

[ENDS]

[Via the UN DHA Integrated Regional Information Network "Wire" mailing list. The material contained in this communication may not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its agencies. UN DHA IRIN Tel: +254 2 622123 Fax: +254 2 622129 e-mail: irin@dha.unon.org for more information. If you re-print, copy, archive or re-post this item, please retain this credit and disclaimer.]

Date: Wed, 23 Apr 1997 13:12:49 +0300  
From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes <irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

**Zaire: Refugees International Report 22 Apr 97 97.4.22**

Sender: owner-irinwire@dha.unon.org  
To: irinwire@dha.unon.org  
MIME-version: 1.0  
Precedence: list  
X-Authentication-warning: ic.utando.com: uusasa set sender to  
dha.unon.org!owner-irinwire using -f

----- Forwarded message -----

Date: Tue, 22 Apr 1997 21:27:55 -0400 (EDT) From: Refugees International <ri@clark.net>

=====  
===  
REFUGEES INTERNATIONAL  
=====  
===

Report #30 Contact: Kirk Day  
April 22, 1997 (202) 828-0110

**REBELS POSTPONE REPATRIATION, ACCESS TO REFUGEES CUT**

On April 5 after weeks of delay -- during which hundreds of refugees died due to the lack of food and medical care -- the Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire (ADFL) granted access to the refugees in squalid camps south of Kisangani and agreed in principle to an air evacuation. In the following weeks, life-saving aid was provided to the nearly 80,000 refugees and death rates were cut in half.

On April 21, unfortunately, rebel authorities in Kisangani announced that the repatriation of Rwandan refugees had been postponed until May 5. The reason given for the delay was concern over the possible further spread of cholera -- despite assurances from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and World Health Organization representatives. Aid workers on the ground have begun to question whether this is a deliberate attempt by the rebels to undermine the plans for repatriation. Also, in Goma 60,000 liters of jet fuel intended for use in the repatriation were requisitioned from the UNHCR by the rebels.

Simultaneously -- apparently with the encouragement of the rebels -- local villagers have rioted over what they view as an unfair preference shown to the refugees with regard to aid, thus impeding aid workers' access to the refugees. Since April 18, little or no assistance has reached the refugees and, given their weakened state, deaths rates could quickly rise from the combined affects of malaria, malnutrition, dehydration, dysentery and cholera. The refugees

were expected to have exhausted their supplies from the last distribution as of April 22. It is feared that this may prompt them to set off in search of food, further complicating the efforts of aid workers to provide life-saving assistance. Refugees may also be forced to flee as tension with local villagers rises. On April 22, villagers wielding machetes attacked the camps in retaliation for the rumored killing of six villagers by refugees.

During the past six months, the ADFL has shown a callous disregard for the well-being of Rwandan and Burundian refugees and displaced Zairians. It is becoming increasingly apparent that the continued denial of access is part of a systematic attempt by the rebels to inflict unnecessary suffering on refugees in dire need of assistance who desperately wish to return home. This policy is exacting an immediate toll in lives lost.

Perhaps nowhere is their intention more evident than in the reports of rebel atrocities against refugees and Zairians. With greater frequency, mass killings of refugees in rebel areas are being reported. Many of the sources, however, are not able to present their evidence publicly for fear of retribution by the rebels.

Under these circumstances, Refugees International recommends that:

- \* the ADFL grant immediate, unfettered access to refugee locations;
- \* the international community press rebel leader Kabila to move ahead with the agreed-upon air evacuation of refugees from Kisangani and to allow a sustained human rights monitoring mission throughout ADFL territory, including granting full access to the human rights investigative team to be deployed in May;
- \* the international community lend political and financial support to the UNHCR so that it can fulfill its protection mandate.

=====  
=== Refugees International -- 2639 Conn. Ave, NW, Washington, DC 20008 Phone: 202-828-0110 Fax: 202-828-0819 www: <http://www.refintl.org>  
=====  
===

[ENDS]

[Via the UN DHA Integrated Regional Information Network "Wire" mailing list. The material contained in this communication may not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its agencies. UN DHA IRIN Tel: +254 2 622123 Fax: +254 2 622129 e-mail: [irin@dha.unon.org](mailto:irin@dha.unon.org) for more information. If you re-print, copy, archive or re-post this item, please retain this credit and disclaimer.]

Date: Thu, 24 Apr 1997 13:26:54 +0300  
From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes <irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

## **Zaire: Amnesty International "Condemns AFDL Abuses ..." 97.4.23**

Sender: owner-irinwire@dha.unon.org  
To: irinwire@dha.unon.org  
MIME-version: 1.0  
Precedence: list  
X-Authentication-warning: ic.utando.com: uusasa set sender to  
dha.unon.org!owner-irinwire using -f

Source: Amnesty International

News Service 71/97  
AI INDEX: AFR 62/12/97  
23 APRIL 1997

Zaire: Amnesty International Condemns AFDL Abuses against Rwandese Refugees in Eastern Zaire

Amnesty International condemns actions of the Alliance des forces d'Âmocratiques pour la lib^Âration du Congo-Zaire (AFDL), Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire, which are exacerbating the already intolerable situation of Rwandese refugees in eastern Zaire.

About 80,000 refugees camped at several locations south of Kisangani, the capital of Haut-Zaire region, are reported to be severely weakened by starvation, disease and exhaustion.

"How many refugees have to die or suffer human rights abuses at the hands of the AFDL before world governments and intergovernmental organizations send a clear message to the AFDL that they would be held accountable for any further deaths ordered or condoned by their leaders," Amnesty International said today.

"The international community should put pressure on the AFDL to recognise that refugees have a right to life and other human rights," the organization said. "The deliberate violation of these rights is totally unacceptable under any circumstances."

Humanitarian agencies, including the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), have been attacked and supplies for refugees looted by Zairian civilians while members of the AFDL looked on. The AFDL has stopped providing security for relief supplies and aid workers. Lack of security inside and on the way to the camps has stopped relief work and refugees are left to die from starvation, disease and exhaustion.

Amnesty International has learned that as many as 90 refugees were dying each day before the assistance was disrupted by violence at the end of last week. The organization is concerned that many more may be massacred during attacks by Zairian civilians and the AFDL, which have been reported in recent days. The exclusion of humanitarian agencies from the camps means that there are no independent witnesses to these abuses.

"The deliberate disruption of humanitarian assistance to the refugees amounts to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment. We expect the international community to condemn this and call for an immediate and unconditional end to this inhumane behaviour of the AFDL," Amnesty International said.

At the start of April the AFDL authorized an airlift of the refugees to Rwanda. However, the Rwandese authorities have reportedly said that they will not allow the refugees to be flown direct to Rwanda, although most of the refugees reportedly come from areas close to Kigali international airport. In recent days AFDL leaders have claimed that an airlift now would spread cholera among the Zairian population.

Amnesty International is concerned that the ill-treatment and attacks on Rwandese refugees appear to be part of a pattern of human rights abuses by the AFDL against Rwandese refugees. The organization has received numerous and consistent reports of human rights abuses, including deliberate and arbitrary killings and "disappearances", of Rwandese Hutu refugees and Zairian Hutu since the armed conflict began in September 1996. The refugees being targeted have since then been roaming the forests of Zaire to escape attacks and are unable to flee any further.

On 18 April, in an apparent move to further disrupt humanitarian work for the refugees, the AFDL forcibly took 60,000 litres of UNHCR fuel reserves in the eastern Zairian town of Goma. The fuel would have been used to reach and transport Rwandese refugees. On the same day, the AFDL failed to prevent the looting of about 120 tons of humanitarian supplies being transported to the camps. Further looting has been reported at Kasese. The AFDL has also reportedly threatened to close Kisangani airport to humanitarian traffic.

Sources in eastern Zaire have told Amnesty International that AFDL leaders are inciting the local population against the refugees and humanitarian organizations.

An aid worker told Amnesty International: "This is part of an orchestrated campaign by the AFDL. They have been using their radio to blame the refugees for the cholera and to emphasise that humanitarian agencies only help Rwandese refugees. This is not true. We have assisted displaced Zairians and the UNHCR has flown many of them to eastern Zaire, something they are refusing to be done for the Rwandese".

Aid agencies have also told the organization that they fear attacks on the refugees will result in many deaths and drive many others further south and away from any assistance.

Amnesty International is also concerned about reports that tens of thousands or other refugees still hiding in the forests or congregating in open spaces may be attacked by armed

groups. The AFDL has imposed severe restrictions on the movement of humanitarian agencies and there are no independent witnesses to reports of killings and other abuses against refugees and displaced Zairians. Refugees are reported to be still hiding in parts of North and South-Kivu regions. Amnesty International has received reports that some direct or indirect witnesses are failing to report any abuses for fear of severe reprisals by the AFDL.

[ENDS]

[Via the UN DHA Integrated Regional Information Network "Wire" mailing list. The material contained in this communication may not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its agencies. UN DHA IRIN Tel: +254 2 622123 Fax: +254 2 622129 e-mail: [irin@dha.unon.org](mailto:irin@dha.unon.org) for more information. If you re-print, copy, archive or re-post this item, please retain this credit and disclaimer.]

Date: Fri, 25 Apr 1997 16:04:15 +0300  
From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes <irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

## **Zaire: UN Security Council Presidential Statement on Zaire 97.4.24**

Sender: owner-irinwire@dha.unon.org  
To: irinwire@dha.unon.org  
MIME-version: 1.0  
Precedence: list  
X-Authentication-warning: ic.utando.com: uusasa set sender to  
dha.unon.org!owner-irinwire using -f

UNITED NATIONS  
SECURITY COUNCIL

### **PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT ON ZAIRE**

24 April 1997  
12:30 p.m.

The Security Council is increasingly alarmed at the deterioration of the situation in Zaire and at the humanitarian consequences this is having on the refugees, displaced persons and other affected civilian inhabitants. It expresses its deep concern at the lack of progress in efforts to bring about a peaceful and negotiated settlement of the conflict in Zaire.

The Security Council once again underlines the obligation of all concerned to respect the relevant rules of international law, including those of international humanitarian law.

The Security Council is dismayed by the continued lack of access being afforded by the Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo/Zaire (ADFL) to United Nations and other humanitarian relief agencies, and by the recent acts of violence which have hampered the delivery of humanitarian assistance. It reiterates the statement of its President of 4 April 1997 (S/PRST/1997/19) and in particular calls in the strongest terms upon the ADFL to ensure unrestricted and safe access by all humanitarian relief agencies so as to allow the immediate provision of humanitarian aid to those affected, and to guarantee the safety of humanitarian relief workers, refugees, displaced persons and other affected civilian inhabitants in the areas which the ADFL control.

The Security Council also expresses its concern at the obstruction of the repatriation plan of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) for eastern Zaire. It called upon the ADFL and the Government of Rwanda to cooperate fully and without delay with UNHCR to enable the early implementation of the plan.

The Security Council is particularly alarmed by reports of massacres and other serious violations of human rights in eastern Zaire. In this context, it calls upon the ADFL and other

concerned in the region to cooperate fully with the recently established United Nations investigative mission by ensuring unimpeded access to all areas and sites under investigation, as well as the security of the members of the mission.

The Security Council reiterates its full support for the United Nations five-point peace plan, endorsed by its resolution 1097 (1997) of 18 February 1997. It calls for an immediate cessation of hostilities and calls upon the Government of Zaire and the ADFL to engage seriously and fully in the search for a speedy political solution to the problems in Zaire, including transitional arrangements leading to the holding of democratic and free elections with the participation of all parties. In this context, it calls upon the President of Zaire and the leader of the ADFL to meet as soon as possible.

The Security Council warmly commends the efforts of the joint United Nations/Organization of African Unity (OAU) Special Representative for the Great Lakes region. It calls upon all States, in particular those in the region, to support these efforts and to refrain from any action that would further exacerbate the situation in Zaire.

The Security Council reaffirms once again the importance of holding an international conference on peace, security and development in the Great Lakes region under the auspices of the United Nations and the OAU.

The Security Council expresses its gratitude to the Secretary-General for keeping it informed of developments in the Great Lakes region and requests him to continue to do so on a regular basis.

The Security Council will remain seized of the matter.

[ENDS]

[Unofficial transcript by UN DHA IRIN Nairobi.]

[Via the UN DHA Integrated Regional Information Network "Wire" mailing list. The material contained in this communication may not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its agencies. UN DHA IRIN Tel: +254 2 622123 Fax: +254 2 622129 e-mail: irin@dha.unon.org for more information. If you re-print, copy, archive or re-post this item, please retain this credit and disclaimer.]

Date: Thu, 08 May 1997 09:28:41 +0300  
From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes <irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

## **Zaire: Ten Volunteers of the Zairean Red Cross Killed (ICRC) 97.5.7**

Sender: owner-irinwire@dha.unon.org  
To: irinwire@dha.unon.org  
MIME-version: 1.0  
Precedence: list  
X-Authentication-warning: ic.utando.com: uusasa set sender to  
dha.unon.org!owner-irinwire using -f

ICRC Communication to the press No. 97/15 7 May 1997

### **ZAIRE: TEN VOLUNTEERS OF THE ZAIRIAN RED CROSS KILLED IN KENGE**

Geneva (ICRC) - The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) was deeply shocked to learn of the death of 10 first-aid workers of the Red Cross Society of the Republic of Zaire, killed some hours ago in Kenge, a town 200 km east of Kinshasa. According to information received by the ICRC delegation in the Zairian capital, the tragedy occurred as the volunteers were assisting people wounded in the fighting which had been raging in Kenge. Some 200 civilians were reportedly killed in the clashes, and 126 wounded have been admitted to hospital, 25 of them in critical condition.

The ICRC calls on the belligerents to respect all persons not taking part in the fighting, in particular civilians, prisoners and the wounded, and also the staff and buildings placed under the protection of the Red Cross emblem. ICRC delegates and Zairian Red Cross personnel will attempt to reach Kenge in the coming hours to provide medical assistance to the hospital.

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Date: Thu, 08 May 1997 17:54:08 +0300  
From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes <irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

## **Zaire: Communique from the SAS Outeniqua talks 4 May 97 97.5.4**

Sender: owner-irinwire@dha.unon.org  
To: irinwire@dha.unon.org  
MIME-version: 1.0  
Precedence: list  
X-Authentication-warning: ic.utando.com: uusasa set sender to  
dha.unon.org!owner-irinwire using -f

[Text transcribed from a facsimile by UN DHA IRIN, Nairobi.]

### COMMUNIQUE

On the 4th of May, 1997, the President of the Republic of South Africa, Mr. Nelson Mandela met the President of the Republic of Zaire, Mr. Mobutu Sese Seko and the President of the Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire, Mr. Laurent Kabila, on board the South African ship the SAS Outeniqua, to discuss the crisis in Zaire. To address the situation, the President of the Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire Mr Laurent Kabila proposed that

- The ADFLC should assume power as the transitional authority; - the ADFLC would decide who else should be part of this authority; - President Mobutu should cede power to such an authority; and - the termination of hostilities would be a consequence of this process.

President Kabila also handed over a document to President Mobutu containing the proposals of the ADFLC.

He also explained that as a gesture of goodwill, he had ordered his troops to stop their advance on all fronts. They would however, defend themselves and reciprocate if they were attacked.

For his part, President Mobutu proposed that the following steps be taken:

- A cease-fire should be agreed;
- a transitional authority should be established to organise elections, including the election of a President and
- that he would hand over power to such an elected President.

After a long and frank exchange of views, it was agreed that the two sides would consider each others' proposals and communicate their conclusions to President Mandela.

They agreed that President Mandela would convene a meeting of the two sides within 8-10 days during which period such consideration would have taken place.

Both President Mandela and the Special Representative of the United Nations/Organisation of African Unity Ambassador Mohamed Sahnoun, welcomed the decisions arrived at and expressed the hope that these will open the way for a peaceful solution of the conflict and serve as an important encouragement to the people of Zaire-Congo, Africa and the world.

[ENDS]

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Date: Mon, 12 May 1997 12:29:52 +0300  
From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes <irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

## **Zaire: UN human rights investigators urge ADFL to reconsider 97.5.9**

Sender: owner-irinwire@dha.unon.org  
To: irinwire@dha.unon.org  
MIME-version: 1.0  
Precedence: list  
X-Authentication-warning: ic.utando.com: uusasa set sender to  
dha.unon.org!owner-irinwire using -f

Source: UN Office at Geneva

DPI-RELEASES

HR/97/25

9 May 1997

### **HUMAN RIGHTS INVESTIGATORS URGE ADFL TO RECONSIDER POSITION**

The following statement is issued by the three members of the United Nations Joint Investigative Mission for eastern Zaire: the Special Rapporteur for Zaire, Roberto Garret'n (Chile); the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, Bacre Waly Ndiaye (Senegal); and Jonas Foli (Ghana), member of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances.

We deeply regret that the Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo/Zaire (ADFL) has so far declined to allow the United Nations Joint Investigative Mission for eastern Zaire to enter the territory under its control. We urge the leadership of the ADFL to reflect on its responsibilities and reconsider its current position.

Since the Joint Mission was established by a consensus vote of the Commission on Human Rights on 15 April 1997, the United Nations Security Council, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and of the Organization of African Unity, diplomatic representatives of Member States and senior officials of the United Nations have urged the ADFL to cooperate fully with the Mission.

On 8 May, the ADFL provided our envoy in Lubumbashi with a paper setting out its views on the Mission and proposing that a team of "national experts" should work with our Joint Investigative Mission. The paper also notes "serious reservations" regarding the participation of Mr. Garret'n in the Mission.

In our view, the paper indicates the ADFL's desire to be *juge et partie* (members of its own jury) in this investigation which we should conduct with regard to all allegations regarding massacres and other grave and massive violations of human rights by all parties in the area of conflict.

We are bound by the mandate determined by the Commission on Human Rights and by the standard terms of reference established for investigative procedures of the Commission and aimed at ensuring their independence, impartiality and security. Accordingly, we ask the ADFL to give our Mission its full and unconditional cooperation to enable it to fulfil its mandate, which, we believe, remains a priority issue for the international community.

It is generally accepted that there have been massacres and other grave violations of the right to life and international humanitarian law in eastern Zaire since September last year. Many of the victims have been refugees from Rwanda, but Zaireans have also been targeted. There is evidence that various groups are responsible for such attacks. It is also clear that violations of human rights are continuing.

The purpose of our Mission is to investigate a number of the more serious and credible allegations with a view to ascertaining whether massacres have been carried out in a systematic and planned manner. We are also charged with investigating which individuals or groups have been responsible for such killings.

We believe such investigations are an essential part of the restoration of the rule of law for Zaire and also for its neighbours, Burundi and Rwanda. It is evident to all that the culture of impunity, in which one group kills another without fear of the consequences, only breeds more killings, instability and a perpetuation of the cycle of tragedies we have seen unfold in recent years.

The Mission, with its team of forensic experts, has been Kigali, Rwanda, for the past five days hoping for final clearance from the ADFL to begin its work. Despite the considerable preparations already undertaken, we believe that there is no longer enough time for the Mission to conduct sufficient investigations in Zaire in order to present a substantive report to the United Nations General assembly by 30 June 1997.

In these circumstances, the report we will now prepare for the General Assembly will reflect our efforts to date and the most recent evidence available of human rights violations in eastern Zaire, as well as make recommendations for the remaining period of our mandate.

Our hope is that the ADFL will reconsider its current position and allow the Mission to carry out investigations in eastern Zaire in the coming months in order to provide a comprehensive report to the Commission of Human Rights at its next session in March-April 1998 or to another session of the General Assembly if it so decides.

\* \* \* \* \*

For further information, please contact the information officer attached to the Joint Investigative Mission, John Mills, on Kigali 250-72892.

\* \* \* \* \*

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END OF BRIEFING

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Date: Tue, 13 May 1997 17:19:50 +0300  
From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes <irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

## **Zaire: Declaration de Libreville 8 Mai 1997 97.5.8**

Sender: owner-irinwire@dha.unon.org  
To: irinwire@dha.unon.org  
Reply-to: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes <irin@dha.unon.org> MIME-version: 1.0  
Precedence: list  
X-Authentication-warning: ic.utando.com: uusasa set sender to  
dha.unon.org!owner-irinwire using -f

### DECLARATION DE LIBREVILLE

A la demande de Son Excellence le Marechal MOBUTU SESE SEKO, President de la Republique du Zaire et sur invitation de Son Excellence EL HADJ Omar BONGO, President de la Republique gabonaise, s'est tenue a Libreville, le 08 Mai 1997, un sommet extraordinaire des Chefs d'Etats d'Afrique centrale.

Ont pris part a ce sommet, leurs Excellences:

- Monsieur MOBUTU SESE SEKO, President de la Republique du Zaire, - EL HADJ Omar BONGO, President de la Republique gabonaise, - Monsieur OBIANG NGUEMA MBAZOGO, President de la Republique de Guinee Equatoriale,  
- Monsieur Idriss DEBY, President du Tchad, - le Professeur Pascal LISSOUBA, President de la Republique du Congo, - Monsieur Ange Felix PATASSE, President de la Republique Centrafricaine, - Monsieur Ferdinand Leopold OYONO, Ministre des Relations Exterieures, representant du President Paul BIYA de la Republique du Cameroun, President en exercice de l'OUA.

[indistinct: Les Chefs d'Etat d'Afrique centrale ont examine l'evolution de la crise au Zaire aux vues des conclusions de l'entrevue entre ] le President MOBUTU et Monsieur Laurent Desire Kabila, sous les auspices de Monsieur Nelson MANDELA, President de la Republique Sud-Africaine et de Monsieur Mohamed SAHNOUN, Representant Special de l'ONU et de l'OUA, le 04 Mai 1997 a Pointe Noire.

Les Chefs d'Etat d'Afrique centrale ont entendu l'expose exhaustif du President MOBUTU qui a fait l'historique de la crise zairoise.

Apres un echange de vues approfondi, les Chefs d'Etat reaffirment leur ferme attachement a une solution politique negociee du conflit et rejettent tout recours a la violence comme mode de reglement des conflits et rappellent les principes de l'OUA, notamment la declaration du 16 de juillet 1964 au Caire, sur l'integrite territoriale des Etats et l'intangibilite des frontieres heritees de la colonisation.

En consequence Chefs d'Etats reaffirment leur adhesion au plan de paix de l'ONU et de l'OUA consacre par la resolution 10/97 du Conseil de securite des Nations Unies du 18 Fevrier 1997.

Les Chefs d'Etat appellent instamment les deux parties a respecter les engagements librement souscrits aux termes du Communique final du Sommet extraordinaire de l'OUA a Lome du 27 Mars 1997 et du Communique de Pretoria du 08 Avril 1997.

Les Chefs d'Etat d'Afrique centrale ont pris acte de l'importante declaration faite par le President MOBUTU SESE SEKO, selon laquelle, en raison de ses problemes de sante, il ne sera pas candidat a sa propre succession, ouvrant ainsi des perspectives nouvelles d'un reglement politique negocie du conflit. Ils saisissent cette occasion pour reaffirmer leur attachement au processus democratique de mise en place des institutions.

Les Chefs d'Etat invitent instamment les forces politiques zairoises sous la direction du Haut Conseil de la Republique, Parlement de transition, a proceder a l'election de son President pour permettre un fonctionnement regulier des institutions et favoriser une transition ordonnee et democratique conformement a l'Acte constitutionnel de la transition.

Tirant les lecons de la crise zairoise et afin de renforcer la securite, la paix et la stabilite en Afrique centrale, les Chefs d'Etat ont decide de creer une structure de concertation et de gestion des crises en Afrique centrale dont les articulations seront fixees par les Chefs d'Etat.

Les Chefs d'Etat ont par ailleurs decide d'entreprendre des missions de mediation et de paix aupres des Chefs d'Etat des pays concernes par le conflit au Zaïre.

Les Chefs d'Etat lancent enfin un vibrant appel aux parties en conflit pour la cessation immediate des hostilites afin de creer les conditions d'un reglement politique negocie a la crise zairoise.

Fait a Libreville, le 08 Mai 1997.

[signed]

MOBUTU SESE SEKO  
Omar BONGO  
OBIANG NGUEMA MBAZOGO  
Idriss DEBY  
Pascal LISSOUBA  
Ange Felix PATASSE  
Ferdinand Leopold OYONO

[Transcribed by UN DHA IRIN, Nairobi]

Date: Wed, 14 May 1997 13:51:33 +0300  
From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes <irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

## **Zaire: Attack on UNICEF staff in Goma (Press Statement) 97.5.13**

Sender: owner-irinwire@dha.unon.org  
To: irinwire@dha.unon.org  
MIME-version: 1.0  
Precedence: list  
X-Authentication-warning: ic.utando.com: uusasa set sender to  
dha.unon.org!owner-irinwire using -f

Source: UNICEF  
Subject:  
CF/DOC/IN/1997-06 -- Attack on UNICEF staf in Goma, E. Zaire

The following statement was released at the press briefing in Geneva this morning.

CF/DOC/IN/1997-06  
13 May 1997

### Attack on UNICEF staff in Goma, Eastern Zaire

Shortly after 0700 on the morning of Monday 12 May, five armed men dressed in military uniforms entered a house in Goma where two UNICEF international staff were living. The armed men threatened the two UNICEF and the three domestic staff who were in the house at the time. They initially said they were searching for weapons, but later demanded money. Money and a few portable valuables were stolen by the armed men. One UNICEF staff member and one of the domestic staff were beaten. Both the UNICEF staff and the domestic staff were then tied up and gagged. The assailants left the house shortly after 0800.

For reasons of confidentiality, the identities of the staff members involved in the incident have not been disclosed.

UNICEF Executive Director, Carol Bellamy, has condemned the attack which follows two other security incidents involving UN staff and vehicles in the area over the weekend.

"Whatever the motive may have been, it is absolutely unacceptable that UNICEF staff should be subjected to such acts of terror. It is a total affront to the fundamental principles of humanitarian assistance," she said.

The AFDL authorities in Goma have been informed of the attack. AFDL officials have said that it is possible the assailants were trying to discredit the Alliance by wearing Alliance-style uniforms.

"It is imperative that the AFDL authorities responsible for the maintenance of law and order in the area do everything within their power to identify and apprehend those responsible for this barbaric behavior," said Bellamy.

\* \* \* \*

For more information contact:

Patrick McCormick, UNICEF Geneva on Tel: 41 22 909 5509 Anna Wright, UNICEF New York on Tel: 1 212 326 7566

[ENDS]

[Via the UN DHA Integrated Regional Information Network "Wire" mailing list. The material contained in this communication may not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its agencies. UN DHA IRIN Tel: +254 2 622123 Fax: +254 2 622129 e-mail: [irin@dha.unon.org](mailto:irin@dha.unon.org) for more information. If you re-print, copy, archive or re-post this item, please retain this credit and disclaimer.]

Date: Fri, 23 May 1997 17:36:22 +0300  
From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes <irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

## **DR Congo: IRIN Briefing VIII - Who's Who 23 May 1997 97.5.23**

Sender: owner-irinlist@dha.unon.org  
To: irinlist@dha.unon.org  
Reply-to: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes <irin@dha.unon.org> MIME-version: 1.0  
Precedence: list  
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UNITED NATIONS  
Department of Humanitarian Affairs  
Integrated Regional Information Network

Tel: +254 2 622147  
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Democratic Republic of Congo: IRIN Briefing Part VIII: ADFL Government Who's Who 23 May 97

The leader of the Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire (ADFL) Laurent-Desire Kabila proclaimed himself president changing the country's name back to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) on 17 May 1997. A new government was announced on 22 May which is comprised of 9 ADFL, 2 UDPS and 2 Patriotic Front members; seven more posts remain to be filled. For the moment, key "opposition" players such as HCR-PT president Archbishop Laurent Monsengwo Pasinya, PALU leader Antoine Gizenga and UDPS leader Etienne Tshisekedi remain outside the government.

### **New appointees in the DRC Government**

President: Laurent-Desire KABILA - self-proclaimed DRC (ex-Zaire) President Kabila, a 56 year old from Shaba, has led a life that has generated mixed reviews. He studied in France and later East Germany. He was also a member of the North Katanga (Shaba) assembly, supporting then Prime Minister Patrice Lumumba. As with other members of the Lumumbist movement, Kabila was considered to have a Marxist/Maoist political orientation. Following Lumumba's death, he joined the Lumumbist rebel movement, the National Liberation Council of the Congo Zaire (NLC), and in April 1964 joined Gaston Soumaliot in launching the "Simba" rebellion in the Rusizi lowlands near Uvira. However, low morale, accusations of betrayal and dissension within the ranks of the NLC soon led to its collapse and following a US and Belgian-aided Zairean military offensive the rebels fled Zaire in 1964.

In October 1967, Soumaliot and Kabila founded the People's Revolution Party (PRP) with an armed wing called the People's Armed Forces, a rebel group based in Fizi and the Baraka mountains, near lake Tanganyika. Cuban revolutionary Che Guevara, having spent over a year with the PRP, was disillusioned with the rebels' incompetence, disorganization and the perpetual absence of Soumaliot and Kabila. Following their defeat in 1977, Kabila fled to Tanzania from where he continued his guerrilla warfare in the Fizi area until 1988.

Several weeks following the ADFL October 1996 attack on the Kivu regions, Kabila emerged as first spokesman, then leader of the four-party Tutsi-influenced ADFL.

Foreign Affairs Minister: Bizima KARAHA - A 29-year-old South African-trained medical doctor, he is a Banyamulenge Tutsi and member of the ADP. He is considered to be very influential and held the post of Foreign Affairs for Africa, America and Oceania in the ADFL.

Home Affairs Minister: Mwenze KONGOLO - Kongolo is an ethnic Mukongo from Katanga and was a member of ANACOZA in exile in the US. Previously held the post of "commissioner-general for justice" in the ADFL.

Finance Minister: Dr. Mawapanga Mwana NANGA - Before joining the ADFL, the 45 year old agronomist, a Mukongo who originates from Lower Zaire, had been living in exile in the US where he worked as a researcher at the University of Kentucky. Prior to this he had studied in the US on three separate occasions sponsored by USAID study grants. He was an active member of ANACOZA, joining the ADFL in October 1996. His Zairean wife remains in the US.

Under Nanga, who also has a doctorate in economics from Penn State University and held the post of economy and finance commissioner in the ADFL, administrative corruption is said to have declined in rebel-held areas. Kabila has included him in recent negotiations with international mining corporations.

Information Minister: Raphael NGENDA - A lawyer and member of former president Lumumba's Tetela ethnic group. Recently returned from a long exile in France and Belgium.

Mines Minister: Matakula KAMBALE - Former english language professor at Beni university. Trained in New York.

Planning and Development Minister: Babi MBAYI - Spent 10 years in France. Quoted on "free market social economy" this week.

Justice Minister: Celestin LWANGI

Telecommunications Minister: Paul KINKELA - A Kinshasa lawyer. Imprisoned several times for political protests. Founded "Patriotic Front" party in 1990.

Transport Minister: Henri MOVASAKANI

Health and Social Affairs Minister: Jean-Baptiste NSONJI - Medical doctor, fired from Gecamines for anti-Mobutu stance. Member of Kinkela's party.

Education Minister: Prof. Kamara ROKAHIKARA - From Ituri, northeast Zaire.

Minister of Agriculture: Paul BANDOMA - Not a member of the ADFL. He was a member of the UDPS and considered to be one of Tshisekedi's right-hand men. Had been appointed Minister of Public Works in Tshisekedi's ill-fated April 1997 government. Twice served as defence minister. From Equateur province.

Civil Service Minister: Justine KASUVUBU - Kasuvubu is the daughter of Zaire's first president Joseph Kasuvubu. She has remained in exile since her father's death in 1961. Tshisekedi brought her into the UDPS. Since then she has been the UDPS representative in Brussels. Although she did visit Kabila in Goma, she was not part of the ADFL. Presently, she is the only woman in Kabila's government.

#### ENDNOTES

Most of the above information was gathered from news and wire services (particularly Reuters) and interviews with various local sources. This document has been compiled for the benefit of the humanitarian community and in no way reflects the views of the United Nations.

Nairobi, 23 May 1997

[ENDS]

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Date: Fri, 30 May 1997 12:35:47 +0300  
From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes <irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

**DR Congo: UN Security Council Presidential Statement 29 May 97  
97.5.29**

Sender: owner-irinwire@dha.unon.org  
To: irinwire@dha.unon.org  
Reply-to: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes <irin@dha.unon.org> MIME-version: 1.0  
Precedence: list  
X-Authentication-warning: ic.utando.com: uusasa set sender to  
dha.unon.org!owner-irinwire using -f

Source: UN DPI New York

Security Council  
SC/6377  
3784th Meeting (Night)  
29 May 1997

**SECURITY COUNCIL EXPRESSES SUPPORT FOR PEOPLE OF DEMOCRATIC  
REPUBLIC OF CONGO AS 'NEW PERIOD IN THEIR HISTORY' BEGINS**

**Presidential Statement Also Calls for Immediate End to Violence Against Refugees,  
Cooperation with UN Mission Investigating Reported Massacres**

The Security Council, this evening, expressed its support for the people of the Democratic Republic of the Congo as "they begin a new period in their history", its respect for their legitimate national aspirations to achieve progress to the benefit of all, and opposed any interference in the internal affairs of that country.

Through a statement read out by its President, Park Soo Gil (Republic of Korea), the Council also reiterated in the strongest terms its call for complete cooperation with the United Nations mission investigating reports of massacres, other atrocities and violations of international humanitarian law in the country, including to provide its full and immediate access and to ensure its security. It expressed particular concern over reports that refugees in the east of the country were being systematically killed and called for an immediate end to the violence against refugees.

Further by the statement, the Council, in accordance with the United Nations five-point peace plan, called for the rapid and peaceful settlement of the crisis through dialogue and the convening of an international conference on peace, security, and development in the Great

Lakes region of Africa under the auspices of the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity (OAU). It reaffirmed its statement of 30 April calling for rapid agreement on peaceful transitional arrangements leading to the holding of democratic and free elections with the participation of all parties.

The Council also reaffirmed the national sovereignty and the territorial integrity of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and called for the withdrawal of all external forces, including mercenaries.

The five-point peace plan set out in a letter of the Secretary-General dated 18 February was endorsed by the Council in resolution 1097 (1997). It calls for immediate cessation of hostilities; withdrawal of external forces, including mercenaries; respect for the national sovereignty and territorial integrity of the countries of the region; protection and security for all refugees and displaced persons; and rapid and peaceful settlement of the crisis through dialogue.

The meeting began at 6:26 p.m. and adjourned at 6:33 p.m. Presidential Statement

The full text of the statement, which will be issued as document S/PRST/1997/31, reads as follows:

"The Security Council expresses its support for the people of the Democratic Republic of the Congo as they begin a new period in their history. The Council respects the legitimate national aspirations of the people of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to achieve peace, national reconciliation and progress in the political, economic and social fields to the benefit of all, and opposes any interference in its internal affairs.

"The Security Council recalls its resolution 1097 (1997) of 18 February 1997 which endorses the United Nations five-point peace plan.

"The Security Council welcomes the end of the fighting and expresses its satisfaction that stability has begun to return to the country.

"The Security Council reaffirms the national sovereignty and the territorial integrity of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and calls for the withdrawal of all external forces, including mercenaries.

"The Security Council, in accordance with the United Nations five-point peace plan, calls for the rapid and peaceful settlement of the crisis through dialogue and the convening of an international conference on peace, security, and development in the Great Lakes region. The Council also reaffirms the statement of its President of 30 April 1997 (S/PRST/1997/24) calling for rapid agreement on peaceful transitional arrangements leading to the holding of democratic and free elections with the participation of all parties.

"The Security Council believes that the convening of an international conference on peace, security and development in the Great Lakes region under the auspices of the United Nations

and the Organization of African Unity will be essential in promoting regional peace and stability.

"The Security Council, in accordance with the United Nations five-point peace plan, calls for protection and security for all refugees and displaced persons and facilitation of access to humanitarian assistance. It reiterates its call for full respect for the rights of refugees and displaced persons, and for access and safety for humanitarian relief workers. It also reiterates in the strongest terms its call for complete cooperation with the United Nations mission investigating reports of massacres, other atrocities and violations of international humanitarian law in the country, including to provide it full and immediate access and to ensure its security. It is particularly concerned by reports that refugees in the east of the country are being systematically killed. It calls for an immediate end to the violence against refugees in the country.

"The Security Council expresses its deep appreciation to the Secretaries-General of the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity and their Special Representative, to the Government of South Africa, and to all those inside and outside the region for their efforts to facilitate a peaceful solution to the crisis in the Democratic Republic of the Congo."

\* \* \* \* \*

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Date: Tue, 03 Jun 1997 14:47:30 +0300  
From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes <irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

### **DR Congo: WFP News Release 3 June 1997 97.6.3**

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News Release

#### **WFP PHASES DOWN UNIQUE "FOOD IN - PEOPLE OUT" AIRLIFT OPERATION**

Nairobi, 3 June 1997 -- The United Nations World Food Programme has begun phasing down one of its most unique and cost-effective air operations ever undertaken in a humanitarian crisis. Known as the "food in-people out" airlift, WFP has been using its cargo aircraft, which have been ferrying emergency food supplies into Eastern Zaire, to carry-back refugees in a massive airlift operation organized and operated jointly by WFP and the United Nations High Commission for Refugees.

Some 45,000 refugees have been airlifted from the former Zaire back to their homes in Rwanda since the repatriation began on 30 April 1997. More than 50 percent of those airlifted out have been flown on returning WFP food planes at limited added cost to the UN.

"At a time when UN budgets are dwindling, operations like this prove that the UN can save lives and still find ways of keeping costs to a bare minimum," says Pierre Carrasse, WFP's Air Logistics Officer for the Great Lakes Region.

WFP began airlifting relief food into Kisangani on 18 December 1996 when the first group of refugees that had fled their camps in eastern Zaire were spotted in Tingi Tingi and Amisi. Since then approximately 10,000 metric tons of food has been airlifted to Kisangani, which became the base of operations for all humanitarian agencies trying to reach refugees within the interior of the country.

The initiative, which has been underway for the past six months, has been one of WFP's most complex operations - costing an estimated US\$ 14 million and involving more than 1,300

hours of flight time, nine different air bases in six countries, and utilizing thirteen WFP aircraft including a Boeing 707, two Ilyushin 76s, two Hercules C-130s, a Buffalo, two DC-3s, two Andovers, a Twin Otter, a Caravan and a King Air.

During the crisis, WFP was able to borrow aircraft from its other operations in neighboring regions such as southern Sudan. This gave WFP an added advantage in that aircraft capacity could be rapidly increased when needed and planes could be replaced with little delay when due for maintenance.

\* \* \*

WFP is the main logistical arm of the United Nations. WFP aircraft carry an estimated 60,000 travelers, mostly relief workers, each year to 14 countries mostly in Africa. As the lead logistics agency for many emergency operations in highly insecure countries, WFP pilots undertake as many as four emergency personnel evacuations each week.

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Date: Wed, 04 Jun 1997 16:56:59 +0300  
From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes <irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

**DRCONGO: Amnesty International - "Mineral wealth should not overshadow human rights record" 97.6.2**

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AI INDEX: AFR 62/14/97  
2 JUNE 1997 - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Democratic Republic of Congo: Mineral wealth should not overshadow country's shameful human rights record

Amnesty International is urging African leaders -- who are meeting at an Organization of African Unity (OAU) summit in Harare -- to demand that President Laurent Kabila of the Democratic Republic of Congo (formerly Zaire) investigates the latest massacre in his country.

As many as 123 unarmed civilians were reportedly gunned down on 26 May by members of President Kabila's new army in South-Kivu region's Uvira town.

"President Kabila should immediately initiate an independent and impartial inquiry into the massacre and bring to justice any soldiers found responsible," Amnesty International said today.

"We are appealing to African leaders to show at the OAU summit that the safety and physical integrity of human beings in ex-Zaire are more important than the country's mineral wealth."

Sources in Uvira have informed Amnesty International that about 10 people were shot dead on the night of 25 to 26 May by gunmen believed to be members of the Alliance des forces de[m]ocratiques pour la libe[ ]ration du Congo-Zaire (AFDL), Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire. On 26 May several hundred people gathered in Uvira town to demonstrate against these and other killings by the AFDL in and around Uvira.

Demonstrators, apparently carrying the bodies of the people killed the previous night, came from Kasenga, Kabindula and other localities of Uvira. The demonstrators met up at Kakungwe where they were reportedly intercepted by members of the AFDL. One soldier is said to have

talked to his superiors on radio and soon after, the soldiers opened fire, killing as many as 123 demonstrators. The Uvira District Commissioner (Commissaire de zone) was reportedly shot and

wounded in the incident. The circumstances are however unclear. He is reportedly hospitalized at

Roi Khaled Hospital in the Burundian capital, Bujumbura.

Amnesty International is concerned that many world leaders have chosen to ignore the AFDL's shameful human rights record. Most of them have pledged support to rebuild the shattered infrastructure of ex-Zaire, but virtually none have committed themselves to help the country's new leaders improve their human rights record.

"In the wake of the military victory of Laurent Kabila and his forces, there has been an eagerness to welcome the new government and to downplay widespread human rights violations,"

Amnesty International said.

Laurent Kabila and the AFDL leadership have persistently denied reports of massacres by the AFDL, yet they have refused to accept independent and impartial inquiries. At the start of

May 1997 they refused to allow a United Nations (UN) mission led by Roberto Garreton, the UN

Special Rapporteur on (ex-) Zaire, to investigate reports of widespread massacres and other human rights crimes committed in eastern Zaire by the AFDL and other forces. After the UN Security Council expressed at the end of May 1997 concern at massacres of Hutu refugees by the

AFDL, Kabila's government reportedly said in an official statement, "These so-called continuing

massacres of refugees are defamatory and invented by those who failed to prevent the fall of the

dictatorial regime in our country".

"Kabila cannot be allowed to hide behind the dark veil of the very poor human rights record of former President Mobutu Sese Seko," Amnesty International said.

"Gross human rights violations by Mobutu's forces cannot serve as an excuse for the AFDL and its allies to massacre thousands of unarmed refugees and ex-Zairian civilians with impunity.

A population which has suffered human rights abuses for decades deserves and must expect better."

This massacre is the latest in a series of deliberate and arbitrary killings by the Tutsi-dominated AFDL since October 1996 when they launched an attack against forces of former President Mobutu Sese Seko. Thousands of unarmed civilians, mostly Rwandese

Hutu refugees

and (ex-) Zairian Hutu, are reported to have been deliberately and arbitrarily killed. Congolese

(ex-Zairians) from other ethnic groups suspected or known to be sympathetic to the Hutu and others thought to be hostile to the Tutsi have also been targeted.

Around Uvira, tensions between the AFDL and members of the Vira, Bembe and Fulero ethnic groups considered to be opposed to Tutsi domination have been high. The AFDL is reported to have summarily executed members of these ethnic groups in South-Kivu on suspicion of belonging to armed groups opposed to the AFDL. ENDS\

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Date: Tue, 10 Jun 1997 10:18:01 +0300  
From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes <irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

## **DR Congo: UN Preparing Human Rights Investigation 97.6.9**

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Source: UN Office at Geneva

HR/97/35  
9 June 1997

United Nations Preparing for Human Rights Investigation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

The Officer-in-Charge of the High Commissioner/Centre for Human Rights, Mr Ralph Zacklin today welcomed the agreement reached between the United Nations Secretary-General and the President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo for an investigation into allegations of gross violations of human rights.

Following a request from the Secretary-General to arrange such an investigation, Mr Zacklin this morning met with his senior staff to begin preparations for sending an advance team to the Democratic Republic of the Congo on June 20. This team will comprise human rights officers, other Secretariat officials, investigators and forensic experts.

Mr Zacklin has spoken with the Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights on these developments. The Office of the High Commissioner has also informed the three members of the Joint Investigative Mission established by the Commission on Human Rights. The report of that Mission, which was prevented from entering the then eastern Zaire, is due for submission to the United Nations General Assembly by the end of this month.

Mr Zacklin emphasised that the United Nations' primary objective is to ensure an independent and thorough investigation of the grave allegations of human rights violations in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

\* \* \* \*

[ENDS]

Date: Tue, 10 Jun 1997 17:06:46 +0300  
From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes <irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

## **DR Congo: Civil Society Meeting on Reconstruction ... 97.6.10**

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Source: Synergies Africa Geneva

### **CIVIL SOCIETY MEETING ON THE RECONSTRUCTION AND DEMOCRATISATION OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO**

16 - 20 june 1997 Kinshasa

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Organised by :

CNONG  
Synergies Africa  
International Human Rights Law Group

---

#### **I. MEETING OBJECTIVES**

1.To contribute to strengthening Congolese civil society as a participant in the democratisation and reconstruction of the country.

2.To promote constructive dialogue between the leaders of civil society and the other players in national life around certain key questions concerning the future of the country:

- economic, social and moral reconstruction of the country - political transition to a State of law - intercommunity dialogue.

## II. EXPECTED RESULTS

1. A strong impetus given to initiatives to rebuild the country and to social mobilisation of the people at the grass roots.
2. Civil society is moderately involved in the process of political reflection concerning the future of the country.
3. Cooperation between civil society and all political actors is reinforced in a spirit of constructive dialogue.
4. The international community is made aware of the priorities of reconstruction and rehabilitation of the Congo.
5. The question of relations between the various ethnic components of the country is approached in political, peaceful terms of social consensus with the aim to avoid extremism, to restore a climate of durable mutual confidence and to encourage regional integration of the countries of the Great Lakes region.

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### The meeting

Civil society meeting on the reconstruction and democratisation of the Democratic Republic of Congo will take place from June 16 to 20 1997. It will be divided into 2 phases:

First phase: from June 16 to 18 1997:

The first phase will regroup only the leaders of the civil society of Congo.

Second phase: from June 19 to 20 1997:

Members of the congolese civil society will meet the representatives of international governmental and non-governmental organisations (i.e outside partners)

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[ENDS]

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Date: Thu, 26 Jun 1997 18:05:11 +0300  
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**DRC: List of Government Ministers as of June 26 97 97.6.26**

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UNITED NATIONS  
Department of Humanitarian Affairs  
Integrated Regional Information Network

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Democratic Republic of Congo: Government List 26 June 1997

The following is a list of Ministers so far appointed by President Laurent-Desire Kabila. The details have been compiled by UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes on the basis of press reports and other publicly-available sources.

This list comprises 20 ministers and two vice-ministers. Thirteen ministers were nominated on 22 May, two ministers and one vice-minister nominated on 6 June, and five ministers and one vice-minister were nominated on 13 June 1997.

President and Minister of Defence: Laurent-Desire KABILA

Foreign Affairs Minister: Bizima KARAHA

Home Affairs Minister: Mwenze KONGOLO

Finance Minister: Dr. Mawapanga Mwana NANGA

Information Minister: Raphael NGENDA

Mines Minister: Matakula KAMBALE

Planning and Development Minister: Babi MBAYI

Justice Minister: Celestin LWANGI

Telecommunications Minister: Paul KINKELA

Transport Minister: Henri MOVASAKANI

Health and Social Affairs Minister: Jean-Baptiste NSONJI

Education Minister: Pr Kamara ROKAHIKARA

Minister of Agriculture: Paul BANDOMA

Civil Service Minister: Justine KASUVUBU

Minister of International Co-operation: Thomas KANZA

Minister of Reconstruction and Urgent Works: Etienne MBAYA

Vice-Minister of Information: Julianne LUMUMBA

Public Works Minister: Tchubaka BISHIKWABO

Economy Minister: Pierre-Victor MPOYO

Energy Minister: Pierre Lokombe KITETE

Youth and sports Minister: Mutob TSHIBAL

Environment and Tourism Minister: Eddy Angulu MABANGI

Vice Minister of social affairs: Milulu MAMBOLEO

[ENDS]

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Date: Thu, 03 Jul 1997 09:08:59 -0300 (GMT+3) From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes <irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

## **DRC: Final Declaration of the Civil Society Meeting 16-20 Jun 97 97.7.1**

Sender: owner-irinwire@dha.unon.org  
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### FINAL DECLARATION OF THE MEETING OF THE CIVIL SOCIETY OF DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Kinshasa

16-20 June 1997

The civil society of the Democratic Republic of Congo with the support of CNONGD, Synergies Africa and the International Human Right Law Group met from the 16th to the 20th of June 1997 at the Nganda centre on the subject of "Reconstruction and Democratisation of the Congo".

These sessions were held at a particularly important historic moment for the Congolese people; they were held in a spirit of tolerance, which was open to dialogue and constructive. The civil society considers the diagnosis of the present situation and put forward general and specific recommendations.

#### I. DIAGNOSIS

##### I.1. THE LEGACY OF YEARS OF DICTATORSHIP

The present catastrophic situation of the Congolese people is the legacy of thirty two years of dictatorship, of looting the nation's wealth and the absence of a State of law. The effects of this sad situation can be felt at all levels and in all sectors of activity of national life:

- the dilapidation or absence of basic public utility infrastructure (roads, bridges, public buildings, factories, etc.)
- the dislocation of the economic and financial circuit
- the absence of policy or even of infrastructure for communication, training, education, protection of the environment and promoting health and social welfare of woman and man
- corruption and inadequate administration
- systematic violations of human rights resulting in widespread insecurity of the population
- social precariousness for all levels of the population (unemployment)
- aggravation of inter-ethnic tensions by political manipulation and the presence of vague and incoherent laws.

##### I.2. WAR AND TRANSITION

The war that our country has got through was seen at the outset by people as a liberation and was received with great enthusiasm. Unfortunately it was accompanied by huge suffering by the people (notably for refugees and displaced persons).

Today, two contradictory feelings are present in the Congolese in this situation: hope and fear. The note of hope concern the departure and fall of the dictatorial regime, which represents a window of opportunity for much awaited change; they also concern improvement of security in certain cases, for example in the immigration service.

However, civil society has also noted many fears and preoccupation relating to safeguarding national and social peace, fundamental liberties and finally safeguarding the democratic process as a whole.

With regard to national and social peace, the following concerns were noted: · the climate of political tension related to the absence of dialogue between the forces present, the continuation if not the aggravation of inter-ethnic antagonisms, the movement of arms, the failure to solve the question of refugees; · the question of the army remains a major preoccupation, particularly as these concern problems of discipline, breakdown of military command, the absence of clear relations between the Alliance and the State; · social order could be threatened if salaries are still not paid.

As regards fundamental liberties, increasing violations of human rights have been noted here and there (for example summary and extra judicial executions) as well as violations of the fundamental liberties of free association, opinion and expression.

With regard to the democratic process, concern was noted regarding the absence of a clear separation between the army on the one side and justice and police on the other. Furthermore, one notes the absence of a constitutional framework providing principles and sign posts for government action during the transition phase.

## II. PRINCIPLES AND GUIDELINES OF ACTION

Civil society should work in this particularly delicate context by remaining faithful to the principles of independence, responsibility, and by reaffirming the need for constructive dialogue with the authorities.

The main concern of civil society relates to the following five needs: · the need to safeguard and reinforce the State of law as a condition for citizen participation, maintaining peace and development; · the need to focus the activity of reconstruction on the human capital that the Congo possesses by placing emphasis particularly on training, education, promotion of social well-being and information; · the need to design and implement a process of decentralisation of public power in order to stimulate grassroots participation; in the present stage of transition, there is a need to reinforce local administration; · the need to manage public funds in a

transparent and fair manner; · the need to approach the problems of the country with a pan-African concern as well as one of regional integration.

### III. RECOMMENDATIONS

With the concern of involving the grassroots in the reconstruction process, civil society suggests the following:

1. The organisation of provincial reconstruction conferences, notably involving local competencies and capable of providing a framework of dialogue between the government, the people and civil society.
2. The urgent promotion of a major campaign of civic education of citizens bearing on the positive values of the Congolese people against intolerance and in favour of peace and the sense of the inter-regional. This campaign should bring together the live forces of the country.
3. Rebuild the basic infrastructure needed by all: roads, bridges, schools, hospitals, etc.
4. Promote new policies of health, education and environmental protection in urban and rural contexts.
5. Reinforce and organise systems of social protection.
6. Define food supply strategies for the urban centres which do not prejudice the interests of rural development.
7. Define a regulatory and ethical framework for media and sects with a concern for protecting citizens and defending the liberty of expression.
8. Reform the Congolese administration by rehabilitating the civil service, defining the role and attributions of ministerial cabinets and encouraging a salary policy based on merit.
9. With regard to the State portfolio, the choice of managers should be based on competence; in addition to making the inventory of the State's property ownership, a legal mechanism for recuperating improperly alienated property should be privileged.
10. At the financial and economic level, it is urgent to rehabilitate the banking system, to encourage and strengthen small and medium companies (notably their access to credit) and to help the base communities to obtain credit.
11. Promote the defence of the rights of consumers.
12. Urgently put in place a programme to mobilise the young through the creation of a system involving them in the realisation of major works of reconstruction.

13. At the humanitarian level, to encourage the return of refugees and assist displaced Congolese persons.

14. Promote women as essential players in the process of innovation and change in the Congo. For this to be achieved, it is important to translate, to implement and to familiarise people with the family code, to improve legislation, particularly as this relates to the lack of coherency between the work and family codes, so as to remove any forms of discrimination, and to revitalise the mother and child programme.

15. To fight against social exclusion by rehabilitating vulnerable children and by establishing a national coalition of invalidity.

16. Promote a new security policy notably by:

- removing the present confusion between the AFDL and the security forces and the army on the one hand, and between the police and justice on the other; in other words progress gradually from a State of exception to a State of law;
- establishing a genuinely national army in the context of a new development policy;
- paying soldiers' salaries and managing the number of military personnel; · rehabilitating the military audit system; · promoting training in human rights and maintaining public order among the personnel of the armed and security forces; · creating a national police force;
- establishing a programme to demobilise minors; · conceiving and implementing a policy of reconverting the ex-Faz within the essential constraints of national security.

17. Reinforcing the State of law in the Democratic Republic of Congo by:

- identifying and punishing violations of human rights; · strengthening and encouraging the work of associations for the defence of individual human rights;
- reforming the judicial system to give it the necessary independence, social credibility and proximity to the citizen involved.

18. Promote good government practice by:

- encouraging transparency in relations between Statesmen and people; by encouraging for example the declaration of income by a person taking up a ministerial position;
- putting in place a body to control the executive during the transition phase, according to modalities to define; · by establishing a gradual electoral process with local, legislative and presidential elections. These elections should be carefully prepared with an electoral census, the establishment of a democratic electoral code, the creation of an independent national electoral commission and the promotion of a campaign for electoral education.

19. Financing reconstruction:

This funding should be both internal and external. Multinational companies should meet their social obligations by paying dues to the local authorities within which they are situated. In

addition, incentives should be put in place by the government to attract private investors in the context of a genuinely attractive investment code.

It is important to establish a transparent tax policy which improves the volume of funds received by the State. This should be done to break with the long practice of tax evasion by certain individuals with regard to the State. It would be wise to put forward a two-tier tax policy at the local and national levels in order to allow local communities to benefit directly from a part of the public funds received.

It is urgent to establish a means of recuperating misappropriated funds invested abroad by making use of Congolese and non-Congolese professional capabilities; in this task, the western partner organisations should approach their governments to take the necessary steps to help return embezzled property.

Re-negotiating the external debt of the Congo should be given priority; in this context, the role of partner agencies is vital.

20. Local and national mechanisms should be established to resolve conflicts including the establishment of a national plan for preparation for catastrophes. It would also be wise to enhance the status of traditional conflict resolution mechanisms while bearing in mind the role and importance of traditional chiefs.

A national mediator should be appointed, a national programme should be established to educate for peace in schools, the multi-ethnic composition of NGOs should be encouraged, and care should be taken to ensure that those responsible for words or deeds inciting to hatred or genocide should be punished.

21. We propose the establishment of a Truth Commission on Corruption and misappropriated property. The Commission would have the task of establishing the history of corruption in the country, of identifying its causes by examining specific cases and of proposing the pardon or referral of suspects to the judicial authorities according to established criteria. It would hold public meetings in which people will be invited to witness and provide evidence. For this, it should consider the formidable work carried out by the commission of the National Sovereign Conference which followed the model of commissions in other countries such as South Africa, Chile and Argentina to handle questions of corruption and to identify the misappropriated property. Since this idea is new, we propose a commission made up both of Congolese and non-Congolese to study the example of other States and to propose operating procedures for such a commission.

#### IV. SPECIFIC RECOMMANDATIONS

In the next few weeks, civil society will take all steps necessary to encourage a dialogue between the political forces and the government with a view to reducing the present tension, to maintain social order and to prevent conflicts from breaking out.

Civil society hopes that a permanent framework of co-ordination between itself and the government will be put in place in order to consider constructively the questions concerning the future of the nation.

With regard to the inter-community dialogue, civil society will undertake initiatives in a number of directions:

- organisation of meetings from dialogue between the base communities in Kivu, Shaba and Kasai;
- contribute to the process of the census of citizens in order to modify the code of nationality;
- promote fundamental reflection on the origins of the conflicts between the Katanga and Kasai people.

## V. FOLLOW-UP

These sittings recommended the immediate organisation of provincial conferences for reconstruction conducted by civil society and in co-operation with the government. During these conferences, delegates will also be appointed to form a national follow-up committee in charge of co-ordinating the efforts of civil society and of maintaining dialogue with the central authorities.

[ENDS]

[Supplied to IRIN subscribers by Synergies Africa.]

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## **DRC: Communiqué Conjoint - Gouvernement-UNHCHR 4 Jul 97 97.7.4**

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Source: UNHCHR/UNOG Geneva

Communiqué publié conjointement par le Gouvernement de la République Démocratique du Congo et le Bureau du Haut Commissaire des Nations Unies pour les Droits de l'Homme

Lors de ses rencontres avec le Secrétaire Général des Nations Unies, Kofi Annan, et le Représentant permanent des Etats Unis auprès l'Organisation des Nations Unies , Bill Richardson, le Président Laurent-Desiré Kabila a exprimé son accord sur l'importance et l'urgence d'une enquête sur les allégations de graves violations des droits de l'homme et du droit international humanitaire.

Il a été convenu que la mission d'enquête puisse procéder en deux temps: une équipe préparatoire arriverait à Kinshasa le 20 Juin tandis que l'enquête commencerait le 7 Juillet 1997.

Au cours de leurs pourparlers durant les dix derniers jours, l'équipe préparatoire des Nations Unies et le Gouvernement de la République Démocratique du Congo sont parvenus à un accord sur un certain nombre de principes et modalités pratiques concernant la conduite de l'enquête. Ces éléments ont été formulés dans un projet de protocole d'accord qui est annexé au présent communiqué et dont la présentation indique les passages agréés et les dispositions sur lesquelles il n'a pas été possible de trouver un accord.

Les deux parties ne sont pas parvenues à un accord concernant:

a) deux éléments relatifs au mandat de la mission d'enquête qui ont été spécifiés dans la Résolution 1997/58 adoptée par consensus le 15 avril 1997 par les 53 Etats membres de la Commission des droits de l'homme des Nations Unies.

Le premier élément concerne la composition de la mission d'enquête conjointe établie par la Résolution sus-mentionnée. En outre, le Gouvernement exige que tous les membres de la mission d'enquête aient son approbation préalable.

Le second élément concerne la période sur laquelle devrait porter l'enquête. La Résolution spécifie que l'enquête doit couvrir les événements survenus à partir de septembre 1996, tandis

que le Gouvernement demande que l'enquête couvre la période allant du 20 mars 1993 au 17 mai 1997.

b) La position du Gouvernement de la République Démocratique du Congo selon laquelle:

\* l'enquête pour être objective et impartiale doit viser les allégations des violations graves des droits de l'homme et du droit international humanitaire dont la commission a eu lieu au moment où l'Etat Zaïrois exerçait la souveraineté sur l'ensemble du territoire;

\* les éventuelles responsabilités internationales qui en découleraient ne pourraient être imputables qu'aux autorités de l'Etat de l'époque concernées par la Résolution 1997/58;

Le Gouvernement a été avisé du fait que l'équipe préparatoire des Nations Unies n'avait aucune autorité de négocier les deux premiers éléments de divergence en raison du fait qu'ils sont spécifiquement mentionnés dans un mandat formel décidé par un organe inter-gouvernemental compétent des Nations Unies.

En conséquence, le Gouvernement de la République Démocratique du Congo demande à l'ONU que le mandat de l'enquête soit redéfini.

Les deux parties se sont mises d'accord pour rapporter à l'attention du Secrétaire Général des Nations Unies et à la Commission des Droits de l'Homme les résultats de leurs discussions.

Fait à Kinshasa, le 4 juillet 1997

POUR LE HAUT COMMISSAIRE DES NATIONS UNIES AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME

LE CHEF DE L'EQUIPE PREPARATOIRE POUR LA MISSION D'ENQUETE

GEORG MAUTNER-MARKHOF

POUR LE GOUVERNEMENT DE LA REPUBLIQUE DEMOCRATIQUE DU CONGO

POUR LE MINISTRE DE LA RECONSTRUCTION NATIONALE ET CHARGE DE LA  
PLANIFICATION DES URGENCES

KAMBALI EMMANUEL

[ENDS]

[IRIN Note: Accents transmitted using Quoted-Printable encoding.]

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Date: Fri, 18 Jul 1997 11:55:27 +0300  
From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes <irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

## **DRC: UN investigation into massacres 97.7.16**

Sender: owner-irinwire@dha.unon.org  
To: irinwire@dha.unon.org  
MIME-version: 1.0  
Precedence: list

Source: Amnesty International  
AI INDEX: AFR 62/21/97  
16 JULY 1997

Democratic Republic of Congo: UN investigation into massacres must not be based on concessions with government

Attempts within the United Nations (UN) to placate the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) could compromise the quality and independence of investigations into the gross human rights violations which have occurred in the country, Amnesty International said today.

"The UN should not allow the DRC government to dictate the composition, terms of reference and mandate of any mission to investigate serious human rights violations in the country," the human rights organization said. "Any investigation into massacres which are alleged to have been committed must be impartial and independent."

Thousands, possibly tens of thousands of Rwandese Hutu refugees and other unarmed civilians, including Congolese (ex-Zairian) citizens and Burundian Hutu refugees are reported to have been deliberately and arbitrarily killed by armed combatants since September 1996. Killings were still being reported in June 1997.

Amnesty International has learned that the UN Secretary-General intends to replace the Joint Investigation Mission -- which was set up by the Commission on Human Rights in April 1997 "to investigate allegations of massacres and other issues affecting human rights which arise from the situation prevailing in eastern Zaire (now DRC) since September 1996" -- with his own mission. Sources at the UN have indicated that some UN member states are putting pressure on the UN to be "flexible" about the investigation.

"We hope that the attempts by the UN Secretary-General to ensure that an investigation in eastern DRC proceeds does not undermine the authority or effectiveness of the Commission or its Special Rapporteurs," Amnesty International said.

"We are extremely concerned that while member states of the UN are publicly expressing concern about massacres of thousands of Rwandese refugees and other unarmed civilians, they

are asking the UN behind the scenes to compromise its own human rights principles by acceding to the demands of the DRC."

Discussions in late June 1997 between a UN Advance Team and the DRC government on the practical modalities necessary for the investigation to fulfill its mandate failed to resolve major issues preventing the investigation from going ahead. The Advance Team visited the DRC after the government indicated in early June 1997 that it would allow the Joint Mission to carry out the investigation. While the DRC has publicly expressed a willingness to cooperate with any UN investigation, it has repeatedly placed obstacles in the way of the investigations being conducted.

"We question whether the government of the DRC is genuinely committed to such investigations and would urge UN member states to support the organization and exert pressure on the DRC to ensure that effective and impartial investigations are undertaken," Amnesty International said.

Sources close to the UN and the DRC Government have revealed that major obstacles still remain in the way of carrying out a full, competent, independent and impartial investigation. These are in addition to the publicly stated objection by the DRC Government to the participation of Roberto Garreton, Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the DRC, and a demand by the government that the investigation covers the period from March 1993.

The DRC government is reported to have rejected the inclusion of UN security officers in the UN investigation team and has insisted on the right to reject members of the mission appointed by the UN.

"The investigation team has to be able to work in a reasonably secure environment to enable it to conform with the highest standards of independence, impartiality and objectivity expected of the UN -- and which could be used to bring perpetrators to justice," Amnesty International said. "Any compromise on the independence and security of the investigation would seriously affect the quality of its findings."

Other obstacles placed by the DRC government in the way of an effective investigation include its insistence that it will not accept responsibility for human rights abuses committed before it came to power on 17 May 1997. Amnesty International is concerned about the implication that the new government would like to evade responsibility for bringing to justice members of the Alliance des forces de[m]ocratiques pour la libe[/]ration du Congo-Zaire, AFDL, who committed abuses before 17 May.

DRC government officials are also reported to have told the UN Advance Team that the new government is not party to international treaties ratified or acceded to by its predecessor. International law clearly places responsibility on the successor government of President Laurent-De[sire/] Kabila to abide by treaties ratified by the previous government unless it decides to renounce such ratification.

Amnesty International is calling for investigations into the alleged massacres in the DRC to proceed urgently to prevent evidence from being obliterated -- following reports that bodies of victims are being burned or thrown into rivers in various parts of the country. Furthermore, the report of the investigation must be made public soon after the investigation has been completed.

The organization is also urging the UN to ensure adequate resources for all the recommendations of the investigation team to be fully implemented, especially those relating to the bringing to justice of those suspected of committing human rights violations. ENDS\

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Date: Tue, 22 Jul 1997 15:16:11 -0300 (GMT+3) From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes <irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

## **DRC: Joint Communique of the Kinshasa Meeting 20 Jul 97 97.7.20**

Sender: owner-irinwire@dha.unon.org

To: irinwire@dha.unon.org

MIME-version: 1.0

Precedence: list

### JOINT COMMUNIQUE OF THE REGIONAL HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT MEETING HELD IN KINSHASA ON 20TH JULY 1997

1. At the invitation of the current OAU chairman and President of the Republic of Zimbabwe, H.E. Comrade Robert G. MUGABE, the Heads of State and Government of Democratic Republic of the Congo, H.E. L.D. KABILA, the Republic of Zambia, H.E. F. CHILUBA, the Republic of Namibia, H.E. S. NUJOMA, the Republic of Ethiopia, H.E. M. ZENAWI, The State of Eritrea H.E. I. AFEWERKI, The Republic of Uganda, H.E. Y. MUSEVENI, The Central African Republic, H.E. A.F. PATASSE, The Vice-President of the Republic of Gabon, H.E. DIVANGI DI NDINGE, The Republic of Mozambique, H.E. J. CHISSANO and the Republic of Rwanda, H.E. P. BIZIMUNGU met in Kinshasa on 20th July, 1997.
2. The leaders welcomed the political changes in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, after a liberation struggle supported by the Congolese people.
3. The regional leaders re-affirmed their determination to work for peace and stability in the region and emphasized the significant role to be played by the region in this undertaking.
4. The Heads of State and Government noted with dismay the persistent unsubstantiated disinformation campaign against the Democratic Republic of the Congo and other countries in the region. They viewed this as an attempt to undermine the leadership in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. They therefore condemned this campaign of vilification and the unjustified pressures that are being exerted on the Democratic Republic of the Congo.
5. Furthermore, the Heads of State and Government noted with appreciation the total repatriation of the few remaining refugees who were scattered in various parts of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.
6. The Heads of State and Government welcomed the setting up of the UN Commission to investigate alleged violations of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The leaders reiterated the demand for a neutral and independent Commission. They supported the Democratic Republic of the Congo's demand for widening the scope to include crimes committed since 1993, and offered their active participation in the investigation.

7. The Heads of State and Government affirmed their total and unequivocal support for the people and Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in their effort to establish sound administration, economic recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction of their country as well as their efforts at consolidating their revolution. Furthermore, the Heads of State and Government appealed to all the African leaders and the International Community to fully support the people and the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, as they face the challenges ahead.

8. The Heads of State and Government committed themselves to providing, within their means, concrete material and financial support to the RDC, fully aware that while Congo does not require continual assistance, it needs timely support without attached strings and preconditions to overcome urgent challenges.

9. The Heads of State and Government expressed their full support and confidence in President KABILA as well as the people and the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and are fully aware of the fact that ample time will be required to reverse 30 years of decline and destruction in order to build effective national institutions.

10. They commended H.E. President LAURENT DESIRE KABILA for his tireless efforts to restore normalcy in Democratic Republic of the Congo and the region at large.

11. The regional leaders expressed their sincere gratitude to H.E. Comrade ROBERT MUGABE, current chairman of the OAU and President of the Republic of Zimbabwe for his stewardship of our organization and his initiative in convening the Summit in Kinshasa.

12. The Heads of State and Government expressed appreciation for the warm hospitality accorded them and their delegations by the Government and people of Democratic Republic of the Congo during their pleasant stay in the country.

[ENDS]

[Transcribed by UN DHA IRIN, Nairobi.]

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Date: Fri, 05 Sep 1997 08:51:09 -0300 (GMT+3) From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes <irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

## **DRC: UNHCR condemns refugee expulsion from ex-Zaire 97.9.4**

Sender: owner-irinwire@dha.unon.org  
To: irinwire@dha.unon.org  
MIME-version: 1.0  
Precedence: list

Source: UNHCR Geneva

4 September 1997

### **UNHCR CONDEMNS REFUGEE EXPULSION FROM EX-ZAIRE**

Soldiers today forcibly expelled Rwandan and Burundi refugees and asylum seekers from the former Zaire in a predawn operation the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees vehemently condemned as a "blatant breach of international refugee treaties."

As a result of the incident, High Commissioner Sadako Ogata will review with the UN Secretary-General UNHCR's continued operations in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Meanwhile, Mrs. Ogata sent a protest letter to DRC President Laurent Kabila. She is also urging Rwanda to ensure UNHCR's unhindered access to these people.

One aircraft carrying the first group thrown out of Kisangani in central DRC arrived in the Rwandan capital, Kigali, at mid-morning. The rest are expected to be flown to Rwanda before the end of the day. The soldiers surrounded the UNHCR transit center in Kisangani at 4 a.m., herded all the occupants except for a few pregnant women to the airport. They sealed off the route to the airport and denied UNHCR access to the group.

The facility held 336 Rwandans and 353 Burundi awaiting screening to determine who among them deserved formal refugee status.

In a statement issued in Geneva, Mrs. Ogata condemned the expulsion in the strongest possible terms, saying "it shows a wanton disregard for basic rights and represents a blatant breach of international treaties including the OAU (Organization of African Unity) Refugee Convention."

"The DRC Government has simply ignored our pleas to allow these people to be screened to establish if they were genuine refugees deserving international protection. Such actions are completely unacceptable." She said initial interviews indicated many of these people may have had valid claims to be refugees.

Some of the refugees in Kisangani were survivors of a bloody attack in April in which more than 80,000 Rwandans and Burundi were dispersed by the military from two encampments south of the city. Since then, there have been persistent reports of refugees being harassed or even killed.

Thursday's expulsion followed a stepped up hate campaign against the Rwandans in Kisangani on local radio and threats to expel them by the military. There are more than 2,500 Rwandans in 10 different UNHCR facilities in the DRC -- about half of them are awaiting

screening. Tens of thousands more are unaccounted for. UNHCR last week dispatched two teams of legal officers to the region for the interviews. Last month, Gabon expelled more than 150 Rwandans, including eight recognized as refugees by UNHCR.

[ENDS]

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Date: Wed, 10 Sep 1997 12:17:29 -0300 (GMT+3) From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes  
<irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

## **DRC: IRIN background brief on Kivu 10 Sep 1997 97.9.10**

Sender: owner-irinlist@dha.unon.org  
To: irinlist@dha.unon.org  
MIME-version: 1.0

UNITED NATIONS  
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Integrated Regional Information Network  
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### **DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO: IRIN BACKGROUND BRIEF ON THE CURRENT SITUATION IN KIVU - 10 September 1997**

Mai Mai warriors, backed by soldiers from the defeated Rwandan and former Zairean armies, are reported to be playing a central role in a fresh outbreak of insecurity in the Masisi region in the east of the Democratic Republic of Congo (former Zaire). Meanwhile, a second group of fighters, with vaguer origins and believed to be operating independently, has emerged in the Fizi region of South Kivu. The situation is further complicated by reports of growing tensions between units of Rwandan and Congolese troops which have sparked sporadic exchanges of gunfire and unconfirmed reports of deaths.

Humanitarian sources say the situation in the region is now confused and chaotic, but overall it appears anti-Tutsi groups, made up of Rwandan, Burundian, and Congolese fighters, are forming loose alliances directed at the Tutsi-dominated forces of President Laurent-Desire Kabila and his Rwandan allies.

Aid workers report both the towns of Goma and Bukavu to be "very tense" with gunfire heard at night and reinforcements of strategic points by government troops. One Bukavu-based aid worker said Bunyakiri, about 80 km north of Bukavu, was occupied by rebels at the end of last week and attacks were also reported in the towns of Sake and Minova. Other reports said the government had moved heavy artillery to Tshibanda, some 35 km from the town on the main Bukavu-Bunyakiri axis.

Mai Mai fighters, sporting necklaces of "gri-gri" (charms) and heavily influenced by witchcraft, earlier this year helped the-then rebel army of Kabila take power, but fell out

shortly afterwards as his administration sought to impose the authority of central government in the area.

Named after the Swahili word for water (*maji*) with which they sprinkle themselves before combat believing it brings immortality, their reemergence coincides with the creation last month of a new rebel group 'Alliance pour la Resistance Democratique' (Democratic Resistance Alliance - DRA) with the stated aim of 'liberating' eastern DRC.

Local sources say the new movement is made up largely of Bembe peoples and one of its leaders is Celestin Anzaluni Bembe, a politician from the Fizi region who held the post of 'first vice-president' in Mobutu's last government and is allegedly well-known for his anti-Tutsi sentiments. The movement, reportedly based in Tanzania, groups opposition forces from the DRC, Burundi, Rwanda and Uganda, according to the DRC newspaper 'La Reference Plus'. Another leader is reportedly Leonard Nyangoma, head of Burundi's rebel Conseil national pour la defense de la democratie (CNDD), dedicated to the overthrow of the Tutsi-led government in Bujumbura. Africa Confidential also recently reported that another Bembe-dominated opposition group -- the Conseil de resistance et de liberation du Kivu -- was recently set up in Kigoma.

In Fizi, the rebels are thought to be local people in alliance with Burundian Hutus from the CNDD's armed wing, the Front pour la defense de la democratie (FDD), supplemented by some former soldiers from Rwanda's defeated Hutu-run army, the Forces Armees Rwandaises (FAR), and their hardline allies from the Interahamwe militia. A few stragglers from the defeated Forces Armees Zairoises (FAZ) of former Zairean president Mobutu Sese Seko could also be involved. One leader of the Fizi group, and reputed to be a founding member of the DRA, has taken the name of Simba and is known as Charles Simba.

Regional experts say many local rebel groups, resentful at the dominance of the Banyarwanda Tutsis within Kabila's army, could use the name 'Simba' and have little or no contact with each other. 'Simba' -- meaning 'lion' and implying strength -- has been employed by several rebel groups over the years in former Zaire and was the name of 1960s rebellion, in which Kabila played a leading role and which held Kisangani for a short while before central government reimposed its writ.

Regional sources say there is currently no evidence the groups in Fizi and Masisi are coordinating their attacks. Both areas are in fact now home to several distinct rebel movements which may occasionally clash as well as fight alongside each other. Consequently, they say it is not possible at the moment to gauge whether the current unrest poses a serious threat to the new government.

Much of the region is now a no-go area for UN personnel. UN staff in Goma are not allowed to move outside the town. In Goma, a UN curfew is also in operation from 23.00 hours to five am local time. No curfew is in place in Bukavu, but over the weekend NGOs reported several attacks on vehicles using the main Bukavu-Uvira link road. The sources also report the military commander of Bukavu airport and his bodyguard were killed in an attack lasting several hours on the night of September 4-5. It was not clear who was responsible for the

attack. Local sources say forces from the Tutsi-dominated Rwandan Patriotic Army (RPA) currently hold the airport. Increasing tensions between Congolese troops and RPA soldiers, who supported Kabila's Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo (AFDL) takeover of the country, have also been cited as one of the causes of growing insecurity in the area. The shooting in Goma appeared to coincide with the arrival of 10th brigade Congolese troops allegedly to replace Rwandan soldiers.

Under the headline, "War resumed with a vengeance in the East", the DRC daily 'Le Palmars' newspaper also reported the Mai Mai -- made up of Hunde, Tembo, Nande and Nyanga local 'autochtone' tribes with a long history of conflict with the Tutsi and Hutu people -- had launched an offensive against "Rwandan populations" in the Masisi area. Regional analysts say Congolese Tutsi support for both the AFDL and RPA has increased the suspicion of the 'autochtones' (original peoples of the region) within the Mai Mai towards the Congolese people of Rwandan origin. The paper reported another cause of their anger against the government as being the recent assassination of one of their leaders, Major Kara Mbengi, in Kololo camp in Kinshasa. The Congolese Press Agency (ACP) reported a delegation led by North Kivu provincial governor Leonard Kanyamuhunga Gafundi visited Masisi last week and called for calm and peaceful coexistence in the area.

The agency blamed the current "unstable" situation on a "few Mai Mai pockets of resistance". The agency also said the South Kivu governor had met a Mai Mai delegation in Bukavu on August 30 and a list of their grievances had been passed on to the provincial authorities. The agency said the Mai Mai delegation admitted to siding with Hutus from Rwanda's ex-army and militias in the Kalehe area, but had pledged to renounce all "underground activities".

Masisi has for several years been a hotbed of conflict between the Banyarwanda, who comprise both Hutus and Tutsis, and the 'autochtones' -- most of whom are from the Hunde ethnic group although Tingo and Yanga are also present. Between March and July 1993, serious fighting took place and some 14,000 Banyarwanda were killed while several thousand others fled to Rwanda. After the 1994 Rwandan genocide the local tribes -- infected by the propaganda of escaping Rwandan Hutu killers -- tended to target their attacks more on Banyarwanda Tutsis, prompting further exoduses. Indeed, another explanation for some of the current unrest has been the return of expelled Masisi Tutsis who -- helped by fellow Tutsi soldiers in the RPA -- have returned to reclaim their properties.

The conflicts in Masisi also played an important role in sparking the rebellion by South Kivu Tutsis which ultimately ousted Mobutu from power. In 1996, these Zairean Tutsis, known as the Banyamulenge, came under attack from both the Zairean army and local people. The Banyamulenge, keenly aware of the fate of their Masisi kinsmen, were well-prepared. They fought back and helped by their Rwandan army allies quickly secured control of the region. Forming alliances with other anti-Mobutu groups, including the Mai Mai, they swept through the country and installed Kabila in power in May 1997.

On Monday, Kabila warned he would not tolerate the reorganisation of anti-government forces. A report from the Rwanda News Agency, monitored by the BBC, quoted him as

saying he would quickly take action to crush "islets of harmful forces which spilled blood in Rwanda (and) in our country (and) which are reorganising".

Nairobi, 10 September 1997

[ENDS]

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Date: Sat, 04 Oct 1997 09:37:01 -0300 (GMT+3) From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes  
<irin@dha.unon.org>  
Subject:

**DRC: Amnesty: Truth about massacres suppressed 2 Oct 97 97.10.2**

Sender: owner-irinwire@dha.unon.org  
To: irinwire@dha.unon.org  
MIME-version: 1.0  
Precedence: bulk

\* News Release Issued by the International Secretariat of Amnesty International \*

AI INDEX: AFR 62/30/97  
2 OCTOBER 1997

Democratic Republic of Congo: Truth about massacres suppressed as government blocks UN human rights investigations

The continual refusal of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) to cooperate with the UN team investigating reports of widespread massacres of refugees and other civilians will only serve to exacerbate the climate of insecurity and fear in the country, Amnesty International said today.

"There can be no lasting peace and security in the region unless human rights abuses are investigated and the perpetrators brought to justice," the organization said. "President Kabila's government is preventing the country from moving into a new era -- an era in which people can live without fear and have confidence in the government to protect their basic, fundamental rights."

The UN investigators have been stuck in the capital, Kinshasa, since the middle of August 1997. They have been refused access to various parts of the country including areas in the east where thousands of Rwandese refugees and other unarmed civilians are alleged to have been killed by troops of Alliance des forces de[m]ocratiques pour la libe[r]ation du Congo-Zaire (AFDL), Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire, as the AFDL took control of the region.

The UN Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, set up a new commission of inquiry with the agreement of the DRC Government after the Congolese authorities refused to cooperate with the UN Commission on Human Rights investigation into the killings. On 1 October, the UN Secretary-General recalled the investigation team to New York for consultations awaiting clarification from the DRC Government on whether the investigative work can commence.

"President Kabila's continued refusal to cooperate with the investigation team despite repeated promises is a direct snub to the international community," Amnesty International said.

"Serious human rights abuses will be a recurring feature in the DRC unless the truth is uncovered and the cycle of impunity is broken," the organization said. "The longer the investigation is delayed, the greater the risk that refugees and other unarmed civilians will continue to be killed in the DRC. Tens of thousands of refugees still remain unaccounted for, while their families have no information about their fate."

In May the UN Security Council expressed its support for the investigation of alleged massacres in the DRC and reiterated "in the strongest terms its call for complete cooperation with the UN mission investigating reports of massacres, other atrocities and violations of international humanitarian law in the country, including to provide it full and immediate access and to ensure its security".

"It is time for the UN Security Council to put its words into action. The investigation must proceed without hindrance from the DRC Government," Amnesty International said.

Amnesty International is urging the UN Secretary-General to present an interim report of the investigation mission to the Security Council and to make this report public as soon as possible. This interim report should include recommendations to the Security Council on steps it could take to insist that the DRC Government allows the investigation team access to all parts of the DRC without any hindrances, and enables it to work independently, without fear of reprisals while ensuring the full protection of witnesses.

"The Organization of African Unity and African states, especially those neighbouring the DRC, must assume responsibility for convincing President Kabila and his government that lasting peace and stability in the region, which is crucial for development, cannot be achieved without accountability for past and present human rights abuses," Amnesty International said. ENDS.../

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Date: Sat, 04 Oct 1997 10:05:22 -0300 (GMT+3) From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes <irin@dha.unon.org>  
Subject:

**DRC: Ministry of Interior orders refugee agencies out of Goma 97.10.3**

Sender: owner-irinwire@dha.unon.org  
To: irinwire@dha.unon.org  
MIME-version: 1.0  
Precedence: bulk

Source: UN New York

3 October 1997

DAILY PRESS BRIEFING OF OFFICE OF SPOKESMAN FOR SECRETARY-GENERAL

[...]

Mr. Eckhard then read the following UNHCR statement:

"The Interior Ministry of the Democratic Republic of the Congo has ordered all agencies dealing with refugees to leave the Goma area with immediate effect. We regret this decision, but our colleagues are preparing to leave. The same instruction from the Ministry of the Interior also ordered the local authorities to close the border between North Kivu and Rwanda. It instructed them to expel any Rwandan refugees who have entered the area. We are deeply concerned about the implications this announcement will have for Rwandan refugees who have begun crossing the border again in recent days to avoid renewed fighting in Western Rwanda."

Asked to comment on a statement by the Foreign Minister of the Democratic Republic of the Congo yesterday, concerning "some sort of agreement" by which his country had sent troops to Brazzaville, Mr. Eckhard replied that word was being awaited from the Special Representative of the United Nations/Organization of African Unity (OAU) to the Great Lakes region, Mohamed Sahnoun. He was monitoring the situation from Geneva and would be in New York on Monday. At this time, the Spokesman had no comments.

To a question on the UNHCR statement on Rwandan refugees which he had just read, he said he did not know how many people were being expelled from Goma.

[...]

[ENDS]

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Date: Tue, 07 Oct 1997 12:03:30 +0300 (GMT+0300) From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes <irin@dha.unon.org>  
Subject:

## **DRC: Report on children-soldiers 97.10.7**

Sender: owner-irinwire@dha.unon.org  
To: irinwire@dha.unon.org  
MIME-version: 1.0  
Precedence: bulk

### **PILOT PROJECT ON THE SOCIAL REINTEGRATION OF DEMOBILIZED CHILD-SOLDIERS IN EASTERN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO**

#### **I. BACKGROUND**

At the start of the civil war in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) (former Zaire) in October 1996, the Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire (ADFL) invited young people to join the fighting force and encouraged parents to send their children into the rebel army to help liberate the country from dictatorship. This message was frequently repeated at community meetings in newly-captured areas. Radio programmes for the recruitment of children into the army were also regularly broadcast in eastern DRC during the war.

As large areas of the country rapidly fell under the control of the ADFL forces, the number of child-soldiers grew considerably. Some of these child-soldiers performed non-combat functions, such as carrying equipment. Others were stationed on the front-lines and were directly involved in the fighting. Some of these children were believed to be as young as 10 years old, and possibly younger. Information on the total number of children who joined the ADFL is presently not available.

In May 1997, some nine months after the start of the civil war, the ADFL reached Kinshasa and a new Government of the DRC was formed a few days later. With the end of the civil war, the ADFL no longer required the large numbers of soldiers that had been trained or that were still under training. In addition, the military did not have the means to provide for the basic necessities (lodging, food, equipment, etc.) of all the enlisted soldiers. The ADFL then began demobilizing some of its child-soldiers, who either returned to their families or drifted onto the streets of eastern DRC's towns and cities. It is clear that not all child-soldiers handed in all their military equipment upon their "demobilization."

In the city of Bukavu, South Kivu, the number of armed robberies and other acts of crime increased in May and June, creating a wave of panic among the city's population. Many of these security incidents were reported to be committed by groups of young men, at least some of whom were recently-demobilized former child-soldiers. In view of the situation, local authorities in Bukavu asked UNICEF to help initiate a project to reintegrate demobilized

child-soldiers into civil society. The Mayor of Bukavu subsequently presented a full project proposal for UNICEF consideration. The project agreement between UNICEF and the Mayor of Bukavu was signed in July 1997. UNICEF's support to the project is considered an important element in the promotion of Articles 38 and 39 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child related to the responsibility of State-parties to limit the recruitment and participation of children in armed conflicts and to assure the right of children in situations of armed conflict to physical and psychological rehabilitation and social reintegration.

Following project approval, military authorities in Bukavu provided the Mayor with a list of demobilized former child-soldiers from the area. The list contained the names, addresses and ages of the demobilized child-soldiers, as well as the names of the camps where they had been trained. At the same time, UNICEF began training a team of psycho-social workers who would take care of the children at a residential centre where the project would be based. The Ibanda complex in Bukavu was made available free-of-charge by the Mayor of Bukavu to serve as the project site for the first phase. The children began arriving at the centre - voluntarily - on 28 July, and the project was officially launched on 29 July.

## II. ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

Presently, there are about 100 children residing at the centre. The youngest ones are 12 years old. The centre is run by a Project Director supported by three Team Leaders. One of the Team Leaders is responsible for the psycho-social workers, one for administration and logistics, and one (whose team is seconded by the military) for discipline and security. A coordination committee, composed of six members, meets once a week to review and plan project activities and resolve implementation problems. The committee is composed of the Mayor, the Project Director, the three Team Leaders and a UNICEF CEDC Officer. There is also an enlarged committee open to interested international agencies, local social affairs and education authorities, a representative of the military, a representative of the demobilized child-soldiers and a representative of the parents of the children. The enlarged committee meets every two weeks to monitor project progress and to make suggestions and recommendations.

## III. PROJECT OBJECTIVE AND ACTIVITIES

The main objective of this pilot project is to reintegrate about 150 demobilized child-soldiers into civil society, including into their families or other care-givers, and into educational systems or vocational training programmes. If successful, it is hoped that the project will be expanded and extended to other areas of eastern DRC to provide similar reintegration assistance to a larger number of demobilized child-soldiers. This pilot project has three phases:

Phase I: Two months duration. The children are housed at the Ibanda centre where psycho-social workers organize regular group and individual discussion and counselling sessions aimed at encouraging the children to communicate what they experienced as soldiers as well as to freely express how they feel and what their ideas, ambitions and goals are for their own future. Sports, educational, cultural and religious events are organized, and family visits are

encouraged. As the children begin to feel more at ease and to develop closer relationships with individual psycho-social workers, the gathering of pertinent personal information from the children is made easier, thus facilitating individualized preparations for their social reintegration. This also permits the identification of any traumatized children, who will require specialized care and attention. While at the centre, the children are housed, fed, clothed and provided with medical and other basic services. The children participate in household chores at the centre.

Another goal of the first phase is to identify, evaluate and propose systems and modalities for increasing the capacity of the Mayor's office and other local authorities in Bukavu for the further demobilization of child-soldiers and their smooth reintegration into civil society.

UNICEF is providing technical support and advice for the implementation of the first phase and is also covering the costs of the food, materials and other running expenses. WFP and UNHCR have also contributed some food and non-food items for the first phase.

Phase II: Six months duration. The children are reintegrated into their families or, where this is not possible, into other care-giving structures (i.e. extended families). Depending on their circumstances, expressed wishes, previous educational experience and literacy levels, the children are either reintegrated into formal schooling or are provided with literacy training and placed in an existing vocational training programme (i.e. carpentry, mechanics). Psycho-social workers continue to closely monitor the situation of the children during their reintegration process and provide guidance and other assistance to the children and their care-givers during this phase.

Phase III: Duration to be determined. Close psycho-social monitoring of the situation of the children continues, focusing on the progress and problems of their reintegration into family, educational, vocational and other social structures. During this phase, the project may also provide materials and equipment to those children who have completed their vocational training programmes in order to assist them in taking up their new professions. Additional measures and modalities for strengthening local capacities for demobilization and reintegration activities will also be proposed and evaluated at the conclusion of this phase, based on the experiences of the pilot project.

18 August, 1997

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Date: Mon, 13 Oct 1997 15:30:18 +0300 (GMT+0300) From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes <irin@dha.unon.org>  
Subject:

**DRC: List of Government Ministers as of 13 October 97 97.10.13 (fwd)**

Sender: owner-irinlist@dha.unon.org  
To: irinlist@dha.unon.org  
MIME-version: 1.0

Democratic Republic of Congo: Government List 13 October 1997

Since assuming office last May, DRC President Laurent-Desire Kabila has reshuffled his government several times. The latest team is made up of 20 ministers and four deputy ministers. Former exiles now head nine ministries. People from Katanga hold most positions followed by those from Kasai province.

The following is a list of leading figures in the current administration. The details have been compiled by UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes on the basis of press reports and other publicly-available sources.

President - Laurent-Desire Kabila

Kabila, 56, is a Baluba from Katanga (Shaba) and long-time opponent of late-dictator Mobutu Sese Seko. A former supporter of Patrice Lumumba, Congo's leftist first prime minister, Kabila studied in both France and then-East Germany. He took part in the notorious 1964 "Simba" rebellion before forming his own rebel movement, the Parti de la revolution populaire (PRP), based in Fizi and the Baraka mountains. He spent much time out of the country and reputedly has extensive business interests.

Several weeks after the 1996 uprising in South Kivu, Kabila emerged first as spokesman, then leader of the four-party Tutsi-influenced Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo/Zaire (ADFL). He declared himself president of DRC on 17 May 1997 after the victorious ADFL forces swept into Kinshasa. Kabila is also Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces and Minister of Defence.

Foreign Affairs Minister - Bizima Karaha

A 29-year-old medical doctor, trained in South Africa, Karaha is a Banyamulenge Tutsi who enjoys very close relations with Rwandan Vice-President Paul Kagame.

Internal Affairs Minister - Mwenze Kongolo

Kongolo, originally from Katanga, was a member of the Zairean human rights group ANACOZA in the United States where he studied and later worked in the district attorney's

office in Pennsylvania. Before becoming minister, he held the ADFL post of Commissioner-General for Justice.

#### Finance Minister - Mawapanga Mwana Nanga

A 45-year-old agronomist from Bas-Congo province who previously worked as a researcher at the University of Kentucky. Another active member of ANACOZA, he joined the ADFL in October 1996.

#### Information Minister - Raphael Ghenda

A lawyer from Lumumba's Tetela ethnic group in Kasai, Ghenda recently returned from long years of exile in France and Belgium.

#### Economy, Industry and Trade Minister - Pierre Victor Mpoyo

Mpoyo, from Kasai, also spent many years in exile. He worked for the French oil company Elf, notably in Nigeria. He is married to Justine Kasavubu, daughter of the country's first president.

#### Mines Minister - Matutulo Kambale

Kambale, a former Professor of English at Beni university, trained in New York and later worked for a humanitarian organisation in North Kivu.

#### Planning and Development Minister - Babi Mbayi

A Baluba from Kasai, Mbayi spent 10 years in France.

#### Justice Minister - Celestin Lwangi

Lwangi, another Katanganese, lived in Belgium for many years where he graduated as a lawyer.

#### National Reconstruction Minister - Etienne Richard Mbaya

A medical doctor from Katanga, Mbaya spent several years of exile in Germany where he taught Law at Cologne University.

#### Posts and Telecommunications Minister - Paul Kinkela Vi Kan'si

A well-known Kinshasa lawyer from Bas-Congo province, Kinkela Vi Kan'si was imprisoned several times under Mobutu's rule for political activities. In 1990, he founded the Patriotic Front (PF) party and played a leading role in the Conference Nationale Souveraine.

#### Health and Social Affairs Minister - Jean-Baptiste Sondji

A medical doctor from Bandundu, Sondji was reputedly fired from Gecamines for his anti-Mobutu stance. He is a member of the PF party.

Agriculture Minister - Paul Bandoma

A leading member of the Union pour la democratie et le progres social (UDPS), Bandoma served three times in Etienne Tshisekedi's governments, twice as defence minister and once as minister of public works. He is from Equateur province.

Civil Service Minister - Paul-Gabriel Kapita Shanbangi

A founder member of UDPS, Shanbangi was minister of transport in Tshisekedi's government in April 1997.

International Cooperation Minister - Thomas Kanza

A veteran Congolese-Zairean politician, Kanza was minister of cooperation in the first Lumumba government in the early 1960's.

Public Works Minister - Tshiumbaka Bishikwabo

Previously a teacher at the Institut Superieur in Bukavu, Bishikwabo became governor of South Kivu after the ADFL takeover before rising to the rank of minister in June, 1997.

Energy Minister - Pierre Lokombe Kitete

Kitete was formerly governor of Maniema.

Education Minister - Kamara Rokahikara

Youth and Sports - Mutob Tshibal

Transport Minister - Henri Movasakani

Environment and Tourism Minister - Eddy Angulu Mabanga

#### DEPUTY MINISTERS

Information - Julienne Lumumba

Social Affairs - Milulu Mamboleo

Home Affairs - Faustin Munene

Without portfolio, reporting directly to the presidency - Kalumuntabi Biselele

## Governors

Bandundu - Marc Katshunga

Bas Congo - M Fukaunzola

Equateur - M Mola

Kasai-Oriental - Mbuyi Mulomba

Kasai-Occidental - Tshitoka Ngalamulume

Katanga - Gaetan Kakudji

Kinshasa City - Theophile Mbemba

Maniema - Musiembe Kese

North Kivu - Leonard Kanyamuhanga Gafundi

South Kivu - Jean Charles Magabe

Orientale (formerly known as Haut-Zaire) - Yagi Sitolo

## OTHERS

Cabinet Director, Office of the President - Aubert Mukendi Kizito

DRC Chief of Staff and ADFL Deputy-President - General Anselme Ningada Masusu

National Bank Governor - Jean Claude Masangu Mulongo

Ambassador to the UN - Andre Kapanga

Ambassador to the EU - Justine Mpoyo Kasavubu

ADFL Secretary-General - Deogratias Bugera

Deputy Chief of Staff in charge of Administration and Operations - Joseph Kabila

[ENDS]

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X-URL: <http://www.reliefweb.int/emergenc> Date: Wed, 26 Nov 1997 14:42:21 -0300 (GMT+3) From: UN IRIN - Central and Eastern Africa <irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

## **DRC: UN Secretary-General postpones withdrawal of team 97.11.25**

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MIME-version: 1.0  
Precedence: bulk

R e l i e f W e b <http://www.reliefweb.int>

Source: UN Secretary-General  
Date: 25 Nov 1997

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Secretary-General postpones for 48 hours decision on withdrawal of Congo  
investigative team

SG/SM/6405  
AFR/32

The following statement was issued today by the Spokesman for Secretary- General Kofi Annan:

I can confirm that this morning the Secretary-General was on the verge of pulling out his human rights investigative team from the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

He had sent the team to Kinshasa on 24 August, but they were not allowed to deploy into the field. He recalled them to New York for consultations. He sent them back to Kinshasa on 11 November, following an agreement with the Government brokered by United States Ambassador to the United Nations, Bill Richardson. There was no movement. He received a report from the team yesterday indicating there was still no progress, which triggered his decision to withdraw.

He was informed today by the United Nations Ambassador of the Democratic Republic of the Congo that a meeting had been set between the team and President Laurent Kabila tomorrow in Kinshasa, as well as with Etienne-Richard Mbaya, the head of the Liaison Committee that is to facilitate the work of the team. After consulting several Member States, he agreed to postpone his decision for 48 hours, to see if the obstacles raised by the Government would finally be lifted.

The Secretary-General feels he cannot justify much longer retaining the team in Kinshasa, if it cannot move into the field immediately to conduct the investigations it was sent there to carry out.

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Email ReliefWeb at: [comments@reliefweb.int](mailto:comments@reliefweb.int)

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X-URL: <http://www.reliefweb.int/emergenc> Date: Mon, 01 Dec 1997 16:37:42 -0300 (GMT+3) From: UN IRIN - Central and Eastern Africa <irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

## **DRC: Human Rights Watch urges human rights - aid link 97.12.1**

Sender: owner-irin-cea-extra@dha.unon.org To: irin-cea-extra@dha.unon.org  
MIME-version: 1.0  
Precedence: bulk

Source: Human Rights Watch Brussels

For Immediate Release  
December 1, 1997

For Further Information Contact:  
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Janet Fleischman (202) 371-6592  
Alison DesForges (518) 382-5540

Human Rights Watch Urges Donors to Link Aid to DRC to Human Rights (December 1, 1997) - As the World Bank prepares to meet in Brussels to discuss aid to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Human Rights Watch/Africa today urged donor nations not to repeat the mistake of funding a repressive government in the hopes of achieving stability in central Africa. Rather, the rights group called for aid to be linked to carefully calibrated benchmarks and based on an ongoing evaluation of human rights and democratization criteria. "The risk here is that donors will find themselves in the same position they were in under the Mobutu regime," said Peter Takirambudde, executive director of Human Rights Watch/Africa. "They are getting ready to contribute to the bank accounts of a regime that is violating basic human rights and has shown no commitment to democracy."

Donors can best achieve their goal of political stability in central Africa by continuing to demand accountability for the massive slaughter of civilians that took place as President Laurent Desire Kabila came to power and by insisting that the new government respect human rights and the rule of law. Attempting to buy stability by unconditioned infusions of bilateral and multilateral aid will only encourage the DRC government to continue its policies of repression, its politics of exclusion, and its rule by force. The continuation of these practices will lead to further bloodshed, as was shown by the military killings in the last few days, and in the devastation of the social and economic infrastructure built with foreign assistance.

The DRC government has both violated basic human rights and has hindered the U.N. investigation into the mass killing of civilians. Since May 1997, the Kinshasa authorities have successfully resisted international pressure, including numerous interventions by U.S. Ambassador Bill Richardson and U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan, to let the investigation

move forward. The same authorities deny the basic rights of Congolese and make little progress towards establishing a democratic state. In many parts of the country, they have engaged in brutal and arbitrary arrests of those whom they regard as political opponents and defenders of human rights. They have banned political activity by parties other than Kabila's Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo (ADFL) and they named only ADFL members to a commission recently created to draft Congo's new constitution. They have restricted freedom of association and freedom of assembly, and have threatened journalists, human rights activists, and members of the political opposition. On November 25, for example, a leader of an opposition party was arrested after giving a press conference critical of the Kabila government. A group of ten journalists, including members of the international press corps, who had attended the conference, were also detained and whipped by police. They have warned organizations of civil society - development NGOs, churches, human rights groups and others - that they should expect to play only a limited role in reconstructing and re-defining the new Congo, despite their Herculean efforts over the past several years to serve the population of the decaying Zairian state.

During the last years of the Mobutu regime, the European Union and other donors brought hundreds of millions of dollars of assistance to the Congolese population through international and national organizations of civil society, while avoiding government bank accounts. Human Rights Watch urges the European Union, the United States, and other donors to continue this practice until the human rights record of the current government improves. In this way, donors may assist the people without backing their repressive leaders.

Human Rights Watch called on donors to make bilateral and multilateral assistance to the central government contingent upon: 1) demonstrable and tangible progress in the field investigative phase of the U.N. Investigative Team and ultimately in bringing the perpetrators of the massacres to justice; and 2) improved respect for the rule of law, human rights, and democratic principles by the Congolese government. The latter would include measures such as lifting the ban on political activity; guaranteeing the participation of organizations of the Congolese civil society in the reconstruction and re-defining of the new Congo; ceasing harassment of independent voices among the political opposition, media, and civil society; and a clear commitment to holding the military accountable for human rights abuses. Periodic evaluation and monitoring to ensure that benchmarks in these areas are met will be essential to guarantee that financial aid is well spent and is not serving to reinforce repressive practices, as was the case under Mobutu. In order to discourage future rounds of massive civilian slaughter in the region, it will be particularly important to progressively monitor the Congolese government's cooperation with the U.N. investigation and subsequent efforts to bring to justice those implicated in crimes against humanity. Further bilateral aid, such as balance of payments support, should be contingent upon the progressive implementation of institutional and legal reforms to guarantee respect for human rights.

Human Rights Watch fears that the opportunity to have positive influence on Congo during its formative stages may be missed. Only a firm and consistent policy on human rights and the rule of law will limit abuses by those with military power and encourage those who are struggling to rebuild their societies.. To do otherwise risks creating the same destructive alliance that the West held with former President Mobutu; namely contributing to the bank

accounts of a corrupt government that trampled on the rights of its citizens and destabilized the region.

[ENDS]

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X-URL: <http://www.reliefweb.int/emergenc> Date: Wed, 03 Dec 1997 11:42:32 -0300 (GMT+3) From: UN IRIN - Central and Eastern Africa <irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

## **DRC: Oxfam Briefing on the Friends of Congo Meeting 97.12.2**

Sender: owner-irin-cea-extra@dha.unon.org To: irin-cea-extra@dha.unon.org

MIME-version: 1.0

Precedence: bulk

Source: Oxfam International

Oxfam International Press Briefing on Friends of Congo Meeting

26 November 1997

### Background

The Friends of Congo meeting takes place in Brussels on 3rd and 4th of December. It will be chaired by Callisto Madavo, Vice President of the World Bank, and attended by major multilateral and bilateral donors including the World Bank, EU, and IMF and US, UK, Dutch, Belgium governments. The agenda will be to review progress in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and to discuss the proposals for reconstruction from the DRC government. The donors are likely to meet by themselves at some point on the 3rd December.

### Oxfam International position

1. The meeting of the Friends of Congo on 3 and 4 December is a critical opportunity for donor governments and multilaterals (World Bank, EU and UN) to develop a more integrated and coherent donor strategy that aims to encourage progress on human rights, and humanitarian access and provide support for reconstruction and anti- poverty programs. We believe that only by developing a multifaceted strategy, that involves the different donors and includes the different issues, will progress be made on human rights.

2. While we recognize that the responsibility should clearly lie with the DRC to develop plans for addressing the countries problems, the international community has an important role to play in providing support and encouraging progress. The international community needs to demonstrate the seriousness of its commitment to address the root causes of the region's problems.

3. To engage in dialogue, the international community has to address the serious credibility deficit that they face in the eyes of the region, facing up to the new political realities of leaders seeking a more assertive relationship with the rest of the world, that allows the international community less influence on events on the regions. The Friends of Congo meeting provides an opportunity to begin to address this confidence deficit, to deepen the dialogue and to move the region towards peace

The donor strategy should include: -substantial new aid that is fast disbursing and flexible, including the World Bank utilizing its new adaptable lending instruments. In addition, donors should harmonize their procedures for disbursing the aid to take account of limited local capacity to deal with all the different donor reporting requirements. -debt relief, that takes account of DRC's post conflict needs. Existing debt relief measures, including the World Bank's Highly Indebted Poor Country Initiative (HIPC), are not designed for post conflict countries like the DRC. The meeting should mandate the World Bank to investigate what new instruments could be developed for post conflict countries like the DRC and agree a date, early in the new year, to discuss options. -commitment to provide substantive and timely backing for a program of action elaborated by the regional governments at a regional conference.

Resources from any new aid or debt relief should be targeted at poverty reduction programs and reconstruction of basic infrastructure. The onus should be on the DRC to develop plans for utilizing these resources.

For more information, please contact: Justin Forsyth 202.393.5332  
Bernice Romero 202.783.7302

Oxfam International is an international network of ten independent non-governmental organizations working in over 120 countries dedicated to fighting poverty and injustice around the world.

END

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X-URL: <http://www.reliefweb.int/emergenc> Date: Wed, 03 Dec 1997 15:20:51 +0000  
From: UN IRIN - Afrique Centrale et de l'Est <irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

**RDC: Projet de l'UNICEF pour la reintegration sociale des enfants**  
soldats, 3 dec 1997

Sender: owner-irin-cea-extra@dha.unon.org To: irin-cea-extra@dha.unon.org  
MIME-version: 1.0  
Precedence: bulk  
Source: UNICEF

PROJET PILOTE SUR LA REINTEGRATION SOCIALE DES ENFANTS SOLDATS  
DEMOBILISES DANS L'EST DE LA REPUBLIQUE DEMOCRATIQUE DU CONGO

3 decembre 1997

## I - HISTORIQUE/CONTEXTE

Au debut de la guerre civile dans l'est de la Republique Democratique du Congo (RDC), anciennement le Zaire, en octobre 1996, l'Alliance des Forces Democratiques pour la Liberation du Congo-Zaire (AFDL) a invite les jeunes gens et a encourage les parents a envoyer leurs enfants rejoindre les forces rebelles pour les aider a liberer le pays de la dictature. Ce message a souvent ete repris lors de reunions communautaires dans les regions nouvellement conquises. Des emissions radiophoniques, parlant du recrutement des enfants dans l'armee, etaient egalement regulierement diffusees dans l'est de la RDC pendant la guerre.

Au fur et a mesure de la prise rapide de regions par les forces de l'AFDL, le nombre d'enfants soldats a augmente considerablement. Certains de ces enfants soldats occupaient des fonctions autres que celles liees au combat, telles que porter l'equipement. D'autres etaient cependant stationnes sur les lignes de front, et etaient donc directement impliquees dans les combats. On pense que certains de ces enfants avaient dix ans, voire moins. Les informations concernant le nombre total d'enfants enroles par l'AFDL ne sont a ce jour pas disponibles.

En mai 1997, environ neuf mois apres le debut de la guerre civile, l'AFDL est arrivee dans Kinshasa, et quelques jours plus tard un nouveau gouvernement de la RDC a ete forme. A la fin de la guerre civile, l'AFDL n'avait plus besoin d'un grand nombre de soldats, qu'ils soient deja formes ou encore en formation. De plus, l'armee n'avait pas les moyens de pourvoir aux premieres necessites (logement, nourriture, equipement, etc..) de tous les soldats enroles. Elle a alors commence a demobiliser certains des enfants soldats, qui soit sont retournes dans leur famille, soit ont echoue dans les rues des villes et des agglomerations de l'est du pays. Il est evident que tous les enfants soldats n'ont pas forcement rendu leur equipement militaire au moment de leur "demobilisation".

Dans la ville de Bukavu, au Sud Kivu, le nombre de vols a main armée et autres crimes a augmenté pendant les mois de mai et juin, créant une vague de panique au sein de la population. Beaucoup de ces incidents de sécurité étaient, selon certaines sources, commis par des groupes de jeunes hommes armés, dont certains au moins étaient d'anciens enfants soldats récemment démobilisés. Aux vues de cette situation, les autorités locales de Bukavu ont demandé à l'UNICEF de les aider à commencer un projet afin de réintégrer les enfants soldats démobilisés dans la vie civile. Le maire de Bukavu a ensuite soumis une proposition de projet à l'UNICEF. Un accord de projet entre l'UNICEF et le maire de Bukavu a ainsi été signé en juillet 97. Le soutien de l'UNICEF à ce projet est considéré comme un élément important dans la promotion de l'Article 38 et 39 de la convention des droits de l'enfant, relatif à la responsabilité des États signataires de limiter le recrutement et la participation des enfants dans les conflits armés et d'assurer le droit de l'enfant en situation de conflits armés à la réhabilitation physique et psychologique et à la réintégration sociale.

Suite à l'approbation du projet, les autorités militaires de Bukavu ont donné au maire la liste des anciens enfants soldats démobilisés, originaires de la région. La liste comprenait leurs noms, leur adresse, et leur âge, ainsi que le nom du camp où ils avaient été formés. En même temps, l'UNICEF a commencé à former une équipe d'agents sociaux en psychologie afin qu'ils prennent en charge les enfants dans le centre où le projet allait être basé. Le complexe d'Ibanda à Bukavu a été mis gratuitement à disposition par le maire de la ville pour le déroulement de la première phase du projet. Les enfants ont commencé à arriver au centre, volontairement, le 28 juillet, et le projet a été officiellement lancé le 29 juillet.

## II - STRUCTURE ORGANISATIONNELLE

Une centaine d'enfants ont séjourné dans le centre. Les plus jeunes avaient 11 ans. Le centre était dirigé par un directeur de projet, secondé de trois chefs d'équipe dont un était responsable des agents psycho-sociaux, un autre de l'administration et de la logistique, et le dernier (dont l'équipe est secondée par l'armée) de la discipline et de la sécurité. Un comité de coordination, composé de six membres, s'est réuni une fois par semaine pour passer en revue les activités du projet, et résoudre les problèmes de mise en œuvre. Le comité est composé du maire, du directeur de projet, des trois chefs d'équipe et du responsable CEDC de l'UNICEF. Un comité élargi a aussi été mis en place, il était ouvert à toutes les organisations internationales intéressées, aux représentants locaux des affaires sociales et de l'éducation, et auquel ont participé un représentant de l'armée, un représentant des enfants soldats démobilisés, et un représentant des parents des enfants. Le comité élargi s'est réuni tous les quinze jours pour étudier les progrès effectués au sein du projet et pour faire des suggestions et des recommandations.

## III - OBJECTIFS DU PROJET ET ACTIVITES

L'objectif principal de ce projet pilote est de réintégrer environ 150 enfants soldats démobilisés dans la vie civile, aussi bien auprès de leur famille ou autres tuteurs que dans les systèmes éducatifs ou programmes de formation professionnelle. Si cela réussit, il est à espérer que le projet sera mis en œuvre dans d'autres régions de l'est de la RDC, afin de fournir une

assistance semblable a un plus grand nombre d'enfants soldats demobilises. Ce projet pilote est compose de trois phases :

Phase I : D'une duree de deux mois. Les enfants ont sejourne au centre d'Ibanda ou les agents psycho-sociaux ont regulierement organisent des sessions de discussions et de conseils, par groupes et individuellement, ayant pour but d'encourager les enfants a parler de leur experience en tant que soldat, ainsi qu'a exprimer librement leurs sentiments ou leurs idees, leurs ambitions et leurs buts pour leur propre avenir. Des activites sportives, educatives, culturelles, religieuses ainsi que des cours de rattrapage et des seances d'alphabetisation ont egalement ete aussi organisees. Les familles ont ete recherchees et ils ont ete encouragees a rendre visite aux enfants. Apres quelques temps au centre les enfants ont commence a se sentir plus a l'aise et plus proches des agents sociaux, ce qui a permis de compiler plus aisement des informations personnelles pertinentes sur les enfants, et a facilite la preparation individualisee de leur reintegracion sociale. Cela a egalement permis d'identifier les enfants traumatises qui ont besoin de soins et d'une attention particuliers. Au centre, les enfants ont ete loges, nourris, vetus et ils ont recu des soins medicaux de base, mais ont aussi participe aux taches menageres.

L'autre objectif de la premiere phase est d'identifier, d'evaluer et de proposer des systemes et des modalites pour augmenter la capacite du bureau du maire et des autres autorites locales de Bukavu a demobiliser davantage d'enfants soldats et a les reintegrer sans heurt dans la vie civile.

L'UNICEF a apporte un soutien et un conseil technique a la mise en oeuvre de cette premiere phase, et a egalement couvert les couts de nourriture, du materiels et autres depenses de fonctionnement. Le PAM et le HCR ont egalement contribue a cette premiere phase en fournissant des denrees alimentaires ainsi que d'autres materiels.

A la fin de la premiere phase, des recherches ont ete entreprises pour identifier les ecoles et les centres d'apprentissage fiables qui pourraient accueillir les enfants. Les enfants scolarisables ont regagne leur ecole d'antan et deux centres d'apprentissage professionnel ont ete retenus. A ce meme moment, les enfants ont ete remis a leurs parents ou leurs tuteurs. Mais il faut noter que 13 enfants ont encore besoin d'une familles d'accueil car les difficultes de rechercher et l'insecurite regne ou habitent leurs parents.

Une des reussites de cette premiere phase fut l'engagement d'une cinquantaine de parents qui ont tenu a rencontrer les autorites civiles et militaires pour insister sur la necessite d'autres demobilisations.

Phase II : D'une duree de six mois. Les enfants sont reintegres dans leur famille ou, si cela n'est pas possible, dans d'autres structures (par exemple les familles elargies). En fonction des circonstances, de leurs souhaits, du niveau d'education deja recu et de leur niveau d'alphabetisation, les enfants peuvent soit etre reintegres dans le systeme scolaire, soit suivre une formation scolaire de base et etre ensuite places dans des centres de formation professionnelle existants (ex: menuiserie, mecanique...). Les agents psycho-sociaux continuent de superviser de pres les enfants pendant ce processus de reintegracion, servent de guides et apportent toute l'assistance requise aux enfants et a leurs 'tuteurs' pendant cette phase.

Phase III : Duree non determinee. Avenir et suite du projet. Le suivi socio-psychologique de l'enfant continue, se concentrant sur les progres et les problemes lies a leur integration dans les familles, ainsi que dans les autres structures.

Cette phase concerne beaucoup plus les enfants qui ont opte pour les metiers. Apres leur formation professionnelle, ils pourront travailler individuellement ou en groupe tandis que d'autres pourront se faire engager au sein des differents services de l'Etat.

Vers la fin de la deuxieme phase la Mairie presentera a l'UNICEF la description du projet de cette phase et le budget y afferent. Ce qui permettrait a l'UNICEF de commander et de fournir les equipements necessaires a mettre a la disposition de nouveaux laureats.

Les partenaires de la province et l'UNICEF fondent un grand espoir sur les resultats de ce projet pilote et surtout a en realiser la duplication et la demobilisation des enfants soldats encore sous les drapeaux.

Les objectifs de l'UNICEF consistent entre autres a plaider aupres des autorites militaires et civiles, provinciales et nationales, pour qu'elles developpent une politique claire de demobilisation des enfants encore en uniforme et qu'elles mettent fin au recrutement des enfants dans l'armee.

#### IV - RESULTATS D'UNE ETUDE EFFECTUEE SUR LA SITUATION DES ENFANTS SOLDATS LORS DE LA PREMIERE PHASE

\* 72 % sont ages de 15 a 17 ans

- 5 ont 14 ans, 1 a 13 ans et 1 a 11 ans - Les autres ont 18 ans

\* Niveau d'etudes

- 12 sans niveau (illettres)

- Seulement 18 % au niveau secondaire

- 50 % entre la 4e et la 6eme primaire

\* Situation familiale

- Seulement 9 % ont une famille unie, la plupart proviennent de familles separees ou divorcees

- 18 % sont orphelins

- 13 % viennent d'une famille polygamique

\* Motivation a l'enrolement

- 2 etaient enroles de force a Uvira

- autres motivations cites par les enfants en ordre utile :

- manque d'occupation

- influence des autres enfants

- attentes financieres

- mauvais climat familial

- vengeance

- honneur
- liberation du pays.
- 76 % ont ete enroles sans l'accord de leurs parents

\* Vues sur leur participation dans l'armee - 11 sont satisfaits de leur participation - 82 % contents d'etre demobilises et ont exprime les opinions suivantes sur l'armee (par ordre d'importance):

- conditions mediocres
- mauvais traitement
- deception
- trop de risques
- non respect de droits.

\* Esperances pour leur avenir

- 6 % retourner a l'armee
- 14 % obtenir un emploi
- 35 % apprendre un metier
- 45 % retourner l'ecole. N.B. : Mais parmi les 78 % ont opte pour l'apprentissage a cause de la situation socio-economque de leur famille.

Ecrit par l'UNICEF, le 26 novembre 1997

\*\*\*\*\* Pour plus de renseignements, priere contacter: Beth Verhey, Administrateur des projets ESPD (Enfants en situation particulierement difficiles) UNICEF-Bukavu  
 Republique Democratique du Congo  
 Telephone: 871-161-1717  
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X-URL: <http://www.reliefweb.int/emergenc> Date: Wed, 03 Dec 1997 16:28:09 -0300 (GMT+3) From: UN IRIN - Central and Eastern Africa <[irin@dha.unon.org](mailto:irin@dha.unon.org)> Subject:

## **DRC: WHO report on Monkeypox 14 Nov 97 97.11.14**

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[IRIN Note: IRIN's Special Feature on Monkeypox, published 20 March 1997, is available on request or more quickly (and automatically) by sending an e-mail to [archive@dha.unon.org](mailto:archive@dha.unon.org) with the message:

GET monkeypox feature

You should then be sent the report by e-mail.]

R e l i e f W e b <http://www.reliefweb.int> Source: World Health Organization (WHO)  
Date: 14 Nov 1997

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### Human monkeypox in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

The WHO team investigating the extended outbreak of human monkeypox continued its mission in Kasai Oriental, Democratic Republic of the Congo in October 1997. It included representatives of the national government, Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre, London, Epicentre, Paris and European Programme for Intervention Epidemiology Training, Brussels and WHO Geneva and Kinshasa.

The team identified 419 suspect cases fitting the case definition of a possible or probable case, which, together with those identified in previous surveys, amounts to a total of 511 suspect cases of human monkeypox reported since February 1996. The highest number of suspect cases were in outbreaks in Akungula in August 1996, in Ekanga and neighbouring villages in March 1997 and several other villages in August 1997. Of the 419 suspect cases identified by the team in October 1997, 344 occurred in the Katako Kombe health zone and 75 in the Lodja health zone. Fourteen of them had active disease. Most (85%) of the 344 suspect cases resident in the Katako-Kombe zone were in children under 16 years of age. Thirty-one per cent had had moderate or severe rash, i.e. more than 100 skin lesions, and in 41% the eruption lasted longer than one week. Fever, diarrhoea, cervical lymphadenopathy, sore throat and mouth ulcers were the most common symptoms. Ten were hospitalised for up to 30 days and 54% were incapacitated for more than three days. Five died (case fatality ratio 1.5%). These individuals ranged in age from four to eight years and all died within three weeks of rash onset. Twenty had scar evidence of vaccinia vaccination and 19 reported a past history of chicken pox.

Twenty-two per cent of the 419 suspect cases identified during this mission were primary, the remainder were defined as secondary. Of these secondary cases, 48% reported contact with another suspect case in the compound, 42% in the household and 53% in the neighbourhood (some had more than one contact). Primary cases with no apparent connection to Akungula and Ekanga villages, were reported from 49 of the total 78 villages where cases were found. Thirty-five per cent of the 419 cases reported being outside their home village in the three weeks before disease onset - the majority in the forest.

This outbreak represents the largest ever reported cluster of suspect cases spread over a large area of the Katakomb and Lodja zones. The clinical disease was milder but household secondary attack rate was higher than previously documented, possibly due to an increased number of susceptible individuals after the cessation of vaccinia vaccination, rather than increased person to person transmission. Some of the serum specimens obtained from suspect cases have been positive for varicella, and final analysis will take this into account. Transmission seems to have now ceased at the original epicentre of the outbreak and the immediate surrounding villages. The more recently detected suspect human cases occurred in more geographically distant clusters, the majority with no apparent link to the original outbreak. These suspect cases of sporadic transmission may be due to independent introductions of virus into the human population through increased animal contact. Results of the final analysis will be published simultaneously when laboratory results are available in Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, the EuroSurveillance Bulletin and the Weekly Epidemiological Record.

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**RDC: Communiqué de presse de la Présidence de la République,  
29.11.97**

Sender: owner-irin-cea-extra@dha.unon.org To: irin-cea-extra@dha.unon.org  
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Communiqué de presse

Republique Democratique du Congo  
Présidence de la République  
Direction de la communication

La Présidence de la République démocratique du Congo tient à apporter la lumière sur les spéculations véhiculées par les médias étrangers au sujet de l'arrestation du commandant Masasu Nindaga.

La Présidence de la République démocratique du Congo souligne que le commandant Masasu Nindaga n'a jamais porté le galon de général. Jusqu'en juillet 1996, il était caporal de l'armée patriotique rwandaise.

Même pour les hauts faits de guerre, on ne peut pas passer du grade de Caporal à celui de Général en l'espace d'une année. Jusqu'à présent, tous nos officiers sont appelés commandants.

Par ailleurs, Masasu Nindaga n'a jamais été sur la table des opérations militaires ni dirigé sur le terrain une équipe combattante.

Les officiers qui ont conduit des troupes d'Uvira jusqu'à Kinshasa sont bien connus et le nom de Masasu Nindaga ne figure pas sur la liste. La Présidence de la République informe en outre l'opinion tant nationale qu'internationale que le commandant Masasu Nindaga a été arrêté pour des faits liés à la discipline militaire. Il s'agit notamment de :

- l'expropriation des biens d'autrui;
- la création d'une milice tribale;
- la création d'une prison privée où il opérait des arrestations arbitraires;
- la liaison avec les services de l'intelligence des pays étrangers; - la collaboration avec les ennemis du pays à savoir les Interahamwe qui se font passer pour des Mai-Mai; - La division de l'armée;
- la consommation régulière de chanvre.

La Présidence de la République démocratique du Congo qui a fait de la sécurité des personnes et des biens son cheval de bataille, attire l'attention de la population sur la violation de ce

principe. Elle souligne que quiconque tentera de diviser l'armee pour n'importe quel motif sera passible de sanctions tres severes.

Fait a Kinshasa, le 29 novembre 1997  
La Presidence de la Republique

[Communique de presse paru dans 'Le Palmares' du 1er decembre 1997, retranscrit par IRIN-CEA]

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X-URL: <http://www.reliefweb.int/emergenc> Date: Fri, 05 Dec 1997 13:57:43 -0300 (GMT+3)  
From: UN IRIN - Central and Eastern Africa <irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

## **DRC: Victims of Deadly Alliances - Amnesty Intl 3 Dec 97 97.12.3**

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\* News Release Issued by the International Secretariat of Amnesty International \*

AI INDEX: AFR 62/36/97  
3 DECEMBER 1997

Democratic Republic of Congo: Victims of Deadly Alliances - Time the International Community opened its Eyes

"The aggressors attacked this time in a U-formation... I saw Dathive behind me succumb to automatic fire... My lips trembled and a stream of tears flowed instinctively. I saw an inert female body and a child who cried on its side fingering her breasts!... What carnage! I saw before me bodies falling like banana trees cut down by a sharp machete".

The speaker: a Rwandese refugee. The scene: a massacre of Rwandese refugees by the forces supporting the current President, Laurent-Desire Kabila, at Wendji, northwestern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) on 13 May 1997.

"There can no lasting peace and security in the DRC while the government continues to deny the terrifying truth to the international community -- that its combatants carried out a deliberate and calculated policy to kill thousands of Rwandese refugees and Congolese civilians," Amnesty International said in a new report released today.

The Amnesty International report, DRC: Deadly alliances in Congolese forests, portrays a sustained pattern of atrocities committed primarily against Rwandese, Burundian and Congolese Hutu, as well as against Congolese nationals from other ethnic groups -- which have persisted after Laurent Kabila assumed power in May 1997. There is abundant evidence to support that the Alliance des forces democratiques pour la libération du Congo (AFDL) and its allies -- particularly the Rwandese Patriotic Army (RPA), as well as the Forces armées zairoises (FAZ) and other armed groups, including mercenaries -- were involved in the killings.

Various sources in the DRC have reported that the AFDL and its allies have been using various methods, including burning bodies and dumping them in rivers, to conceal evidence of the atrocities. The AFDL caused many of the victims to die from starvation, disease and exposure -- a fact that led the United Nations Secretary-General to speak of the " victims of slow extermination".

"There is an urgent need to carry out a thorough investigation to establish at what level these actions were ordered, encouraged or condoned by the AFDL leadership," Amnesty International said. "If the intent to kill or cause the death of all or many of the refugees is established, it could constitute evidence that genocide or other crimes against humanity were committed -- particularly against members of the Hutu ethnic group."

Although the DRC Government has finally allowed the UN investigative team back into the country to begin investigations into the massacres, the UN Secretary-General has been threatening to pull the team out as even after two weeks access has still not yet been allowed.

Instead of seeking means to protect hundreds of thousands of refugees and other unarmed civilians from human rights abuses, governments and intergovernmental organizations focussed almost exclusively on the repatriation of Rwandese refugees. Some governments even claimed that most of the refugees who failed to return to Rwanda were combatants which had the effect of making the AFDL and its allies believe that the international community considered Rwandese Hutu nationals left in the DRC as legitimate targets.

"The presence of armed elements among or close to unarmed Hutu refugees was usually given as justification for attacking the refugees," Amnesty International said "This had the effect of establishing a pattern of wanton killing of Hutu, initially men of fighting age, as early as December 1996."

Witnesses, interviewed by Amnesty International in June 1997, said as many as 140 refugees were killed by the AFDL at Wendji. One Congolese witness claimed to have counted 295 bodies lying along the road between Wendji and Mbandaka. Some sources have claimed that as many as 800 refugees may have been killed in and around Mbandaka.

"The AFDL has used all means, including denial of access by human rights and humanitarian agencies, to prevent a thorough investigation of the massacres," Amnesty International said.

Since the start of 1997, a number of humanitarian organizations have said, some confidentially and a few publicly, that they were being used by the AFDL to lure refugees from hiding to be killed. For example, in late May, a group of 30 refugees who had been encouraged by humanitarian workers to come out of their hiding in the forest around Wendji was reportedly massacred by AFDL soldiers travelling on a truck.

Critics of the AFDL and its leaders, including journalists, members of opposition political parties and human rights defenders, have also been targeted for arrest and ill-treatment since the AFDL assumed power. In some cases, arrest warrants were reportedly issued days or even weeks after the arrests to legalise otherwise arbitrary arrests and unlawful detentions.

Despite numerous appeals by Amnesty International -- including a 27-page memorandum submitted to President Kabila in August 1997 -- the DRC Government has consistently failed to address the organization's concerns. Amnesty International believes that the DRC Government, UN Member States, the Organization of African Unity and the wider

international community should take action now to end human rights violations condoned or ordered by government and other political leaders in the DRC.

"It is time that world governments accepted their role in legitimizing the killing, abduction, torture and rape of thousands of unarmed civilians and refugees accused of 'guilt by association' with the armed groups -- and in supporting President Kabila's denial of these atrocities," Amnesty International said. "Governments should not allow their past responsibilities to paralyze their much needed action now in putting an end to these abuses." ENDS.../

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For further information, please refer to the Amnesty International document: Democratic Republic of Congo: Deadly Alliances in Congolese forests, 3 December 1997, AI Index: AFR 62/33/97.

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X-URL: <http://www.reliefweb.int/emergenc/greatlak/latest.html> Date: Thu, 18 Dec 1997 15:49:11 -0300 (GMT+3) From: UN IRIN - Central and Eastern Africa <irin@dha.unon.org>  
Subject:

## **DRC: IRIN Update on Uvira zone, South Kivu 18 Dec 97 97.12.18**

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IRIN Update on Uvira Zone, South Kivu, Democratic Republic of Congo, 18 December 1997

### INTRODUCTION

Uvira zone, flash point of the 1996-97 Zaire war and long a troublespot in the post-colonial history of the Democratic Republic of Congo, once again faces an uncertain future. At the same time as thousands of Congolese are returning from Tanzania, and hopes for recovery from conflict and economic paralysis were rising, low-level conflict and political uncertainty threaten the region's peace again. Humanitarian agencies are working in relief and rehabilitation under conditions of considerable political tension and security risk.

Despite the overthrow of former president Mobutu Sese Seko, local tensions in South Kivu have endured, as they have in the Banyarwanda-populated regions of North Kivu. The rebellion of the ethnic Tutsi Congolese of South Kivu (the Banyamulenge) began in self-defence, but their uprising also provided the springboard for a collection of national and international alliances which ousted former president Mobutu Sese Seko. Since the war, many key military and administrative posts in the Uvira Zone of South Kivu have been taken by ethnic Tutsis, and the sole permitted political party, the former rebel Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire (ADFL) exercises control in all areas of government.

Resentment, rather than reconciliation, appears to characterize the reaction among many non-Tutsi in the region. Sources close to the Banyamulenge leadership expressed the frustration among the Tutsi community at the phenomenon: "overnight we seem to have gone from victims to oppressors". The right of the Banyamulenge Tutsi to Zairean nationality and threats to expel them from Zaire were one of the key catalysts for the formation of the ADFL in October 1996. However, the political advancement of the Banyamulenge, coupled with the presence of Rwandan and other forces within the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

seems to have reinforced prejudice against them as "foreigners". "Winning the peace" is the challenge for the Banyamulenge now, one administrator told IRIN.

Bazire Kushebana, the Administrator of Uvira Territory, (the post was formerly "Commissaire de Zone") in a recent open letter, acknowledges that the challenges for the government of Fizi and Uvira zones, which were seriously affected by fighting and looting during the war, include "corruption, chaos, embezzlement, xenophobia and tribalism". The letter also blames the Mobutu regime for these problems.

As well as disgruntlement, the government faces armed insurrection. The various armed groups operating against the ADFL in eastern DRC, some of whom are Rwandan and Burundian militia, while others are ethnically-based Congolese militia, have become known collectively as the "Mai-Mai". The term, meaning "water-water", originally referred to a superstitious belief that fighters are protected from bullets by water, and has been in use since the early part of the century. Rebel militia are known to operate northwest of Uvira (groups as large as 300) and south of Fizi, where armed members of the Bembe ethnic group have proved troublesome for the ADFL since the early days of the war. If anything, the Mai-Mai appear to have not only become more dangerous but more sophisticated in recent months, for example using a clandestine radio station to broadcast propaganda to Bukavu. Pockets of Mai-Mai activity are now also reported in a wider area.

ADFL forces have also been accused of abuses of human rights. Amnesty International has documented post-war incidents in the area and mentions attacks in the villages of Wimbi, Alela, Abanga and Talama on the South-Kivu-Katanga border, in August, in which up to 800 unarmed residents were killed, and the killing of dozens of demonstrators in May 1997 in Uvira town by government troops.

Banyamulenge sources further allege attacks and cattle theft in their heartland of the high plateau west of Uvira. For further background on insecurity in the Kivus this year, see IRIN Background Brief on Kivu, September 10 1997. For background on the situation in South Kivu, please refer to: IRIN Briefing on the conflict in South Kivu 10 September 1996, IRIN Update on the conflict in South Kivu 11 October 1996 and IRIN Update on South Kivu 26 October 1996.

Two incidents in November point to tensions within the DRC army - in both Kalemie and Baraka, units of the Congolese army clashed. Reliable sources indicate that in both cases, the clashes were between Tutsi and non-Tutsi soldiers. The formation of a unit called Detection Militaire des Anti-Patries (DEMIAP) was announced on 26 November on state radio. Its function is to maintain discipline within the DRC army. The arrest of Commander Masasu Nindaga, a founder member of the ADFL, at around the same time seems to have become a rallying point for the non-Tutsi soldiers of the DRC forces. President Laurent-Desire Kabila's statement on the arrest alleges that Masasu was collaborating with the Interahamwe.

The involvement of Rwanda and to a lesser extent, Burundi and Uganda in the Zairean civil war and their links with the Banyamulenge Tutsi of South Kivu seems to have led to a complaint that the region is "occupied". The only common theme of the Kivu opponents of

the AFDL is a threat to expel Tutsis. While "Mai-Mai" remains a catch-all expression for many disparate and uncoordinated groups, a political umbrella called the Alliance pour la resistance democratique (ARD) was announced in August 1997, according to a Kinshasa newspaper, linking the Burundi Hutu-dominated Conseil national pour la defence de la democratie (CNDD) and Bembe milita.

The attack by Mai-Mai on Bukavu on 11 December, followed by a major incursion into Rwanda and the grim massacre at Mudende camp the same week, possibly launched from within North Kivu, illustrate the continuing volatility of the eastern DRC and its significance for security in the Great Lakes region as a whole.

## POLITICAL AND SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT

The positive achievements of the post-war period are evident: people are particularly relieved the abuses of the Forces armees zairoises (FAZ) are a thing of the past. Officials say civil servants have been receiving salaries since September, and the military is paid. Water and electricity systems are restored, but supplies are intermittent in Uvira. Most roads are open, although occasional security incidents and fairly frequent military checkpoints add an element of uncertainty to the free movement of goods and people. Despite the sanctions on Burundi, Bujumbura offers a busy market for Congolese goods and a source of imported products, which benefits both the public and private sectors.

The Uvira zone was one of the worst affected in the country by the war. Rehabilitation programmes underway by international aid agencies include repairing public buildings such as schools and clinics as well as re-establishing health and agricultural systems. The human impact of the war was also widespread: a nutritional survey in and around Uvira showed a global (moderate and severe) malnutrition rate of about 13 percent among under-fives shortly after the end of the war. Thanks to interventions by UNICEF and NGOs, the rate has now declined to the point where no special feeding programmes are thought necessary in Uvira at present, according to the NGO Action Contre le Faim (ACF).

Real economic progress will be hard to deliver, and in the meantime, opponents of the ADFL have found fertile ground both among civilians and within the military. Local officials point to a hiatus in foreign assistance thanks to the long-delayed UN human rights investigation.

Until the recent 'Friends of Congo' meeting in Brussels and progress with the UN human rights team, few donors had made commitments to the DRC. Whatever conditions are attached to reconstruction aid and despite the role of the private sector in investment in DRC, it remains clear that in terms of basic infrastructure, the DRC remains ruined by 30 years of neglect and mismanagement which would test the ablest local administrator.

### Hopes for stability

The government of Laurent Desire Kabila has made a number of efforts to defuse tension in the region. However, the outright victory of the Tutsi-led ADFL, seems, if anything, to have

heightened long-standing antagonism between communities and genuine "peaceful cohabitation" seems a dim hope.

Missions by Commander Masasu and a General Lwecha of the ADFL, and a special commission headed by Ms Madishi Ramm, as well as efforts by civil society including a large christian meeting at Kinembwe (southwest of Uvira) in mid-September, have not yet borne fruit. However, reconciliation efforts have not yet been abandoned, and IRIN was told of several new mass meetings or Christian gatherings which aim to build confidence between divided communities in the area. A number of local NGOs include peace activities in their portfolios.

But gloom is not uncommon. A source close to the Banyamulenge leadership told IRIN that the neighbouring peoples were "preparing for war". The irony of the Tutsi-inspired Alliance victory, he said, is that the military victory was so swift (about eight months), that the political planning was left far behind. While a senior local administrator told IRIN that ethnic mistrust was a "false problem", he admitted that it was hard to convince the communities that life was improving in the absence of tangible economic improvement.

In the Uvira zone, it is apparent that a number of measures have been taken to counter the threat of insurgency or infiltration. In early November, many men in Uvira were rounded up by the authorities for questioning. Indirectly, this has led to the arrest of one of the two deputy Uvira administrators, who ordered the release of some suspects held after the roundup, and was then himself arrested. A house rented by an NGO on the lakeshore has been taken over by military (some sources claim they are Burundian), who intend to monitor the security situation on the lake. A system known as "chembe-chembe" has already been instigated in the region by the ADFL, which is a network of political and security cells at the local level.

## HUMANITARIAN OPERATIONS

### Internally displaced people

ICRC has been the agency most involved in the resettlement and support of displaced Congolese people. Up to 200,000 people (40,000 families) have been assisted by ICRC since the establishment of the office in Uvira in March 1997. ICRC believes that most displaced people who fled their homes during the war are now back and will be winding up the program - its largest in the country - at the end of the year. ICRC have also been involved in transporting displaced people who have ended up far from their original areas. The last group of displaced people in Kinshasa were recently brought to Kisangani by ICRC on barges.

### Repatriation of Congolese from Tanzania to DRC

About 74,000 Congolese remain from those who sought asylum in Tanzania during the war in the former Zaire. They have been returning home in larger and larger numbers during the course of 1997. UNHCR says thousands have made the trip under their own means so far, but stresses that protection and assistance on return is much easier when the returnees come in

organized "convoys". Almost all the refugee families depend on farming for their livelihood, according to UNHCR surveys.

On arrival, screening is conducted by the intelligence service Agence nationale des renseignements (ANR), and registration is done by UNHCR. Returnees have been searched thoroughly and a few temporarily arrested. ANR officials are said to pay particularly close attention to papers and documents carried by the refugees.

A recent UNHCR report declares that - apart from a month's suspension - the operation is running "very smoothly". UNHCR suspended repatriation from late October to late November following what it said was a deterioration of security in South Kivu.

However, both Tanzania and the DRC were keen to see the operation resume. Following a visit by DRC reconstruction minister Etienne Mbuya to Dar es Salaam on 16-20 November, a joint statement between the two countries called for the operation to resume. Organized repatriations from 1 September to 8 December 1997 have brought nearly 10,000 Congolese home. UNHCR expects to complete the repatriation of about 55,000 registered for return by June 1998. Hundreds of Congolese have also been returning spontaneously from Zambia.

While all organized repatriations have arrived in Uvira so far, UNHCR is investing in building a jetty at Baraka so that large boats can offload people and cargo directly, thereby cutting the road distance required for the truck transport of returnees. The onset of the rainy season this month will be an additional factor for agencies involved in the logistics such as WFP and World Vision. The facility at Baraka could also contribute to trade with Tanzania in future. Over half of the returnees will go to the Fizi zone, rather than the Uvira area. One of UNHCR's programmes is the rehabilitation of the road and bridges between Uvira and Fizi. The operation is expected to cost about \$500,000 and is executed by Oxfam Quebec.

#### Refugees and expulsions

On 18 November, UNHCR announced that several thousand mainly Hutu Rwandan and Burundian people had been rounded up, expelled from South Kivu and deposited at the Burundian and Rwandan borders. Humanitarian sources indicate that the operations were coordinated between the military on both sides of the border. In all, about 3,000 people were expelled in the first two weeks of the month. Between 800-1,000 were sent to Rwanda, while the rest went to Burundi. About 470 cases of "mistaken identity" - in which Congolese citizens were expelled along with Rwandans and Burundians have resulted in a low-key and successful effort to have them brought home again. Meanwhile, UNHCR believes "thousands" of genuine Burundian refugees may remain in DRC, keeping a low profile. If they come forward, UNHCR assists them to repatriate.

#### Unaccompanied children

Coopi, with funding from UNHCR and collaboration from UNICEF, runs a centre for unaccompanied children (UACs) in Uvira. An average of 50 Congolese, Rwandan and Burundian children stay at the centre while their families, immediate or extended, are traced, or

foster families can be found. Coopi works with ICRC and UNICEF to assist tracing. Mobile teams monitor the welfare of 365 more children living with foster families, and pick up newly-found UACs. About 300 children have passed through the Coopi centre since June. All have been re-united with family or placed in foster families. The sight of dozens of the children singing Christmas carols in a dusty yard is a bitter-sweet testament to the dislocation and conflict that has ripped through the region in recent years. See IRIN Special Feature - Unaccompanied Children 30 July 1997, for background on UACs.

#### Government - NGO/UN relations

Relations between aid agencies and the authorities remain cordial, but the recent seizure of a lakeside NGO house and store by the military has increased a sense of anxiety amongst international NGOs. News from North Kivu of the "suspension" of the activities of at least five international and two local NGOs has done little to allay the anxiety of NGOs based in Uvira. While government officials claim political bias and inefficiency in the work of international aid organizations, an NGO representative said the NGOs fear being viewed as "milking cows".

Minister Mbaya took the opportunity of his visit to Uvira last week to renew his warnings that the affairs of NGOs will be more tightly regulated in future. In an inter-agency meeting, later reported by Uvira radio, he posed the rhetorical question: "does the government of the DRC have a problem with NGOs?"

His answer was "yes, almost". He announced that legislation was on the way to "redefine" cooperation, with a distinct preference for bilateral and multilateral cooperation above that of NGOs. Mbaya acknowledged that NGOs have been a "positive revolution" in recent years, and he accepted their usefulness and the role of the churches during the Mobutu era "in the absence of the state". However, describing the current period as the "renaissance of the power of the state", in future he rejected "any aid that passes into the state without consultation." Kinshasa has for some time been warning that NGOs should be prepared for a re-organization.

In Uvira, a regional development committee has been set up and provides a forum for contact between the administration and aid agencies. In an interview, Uvira Administrator Bazire Kushebana urged "new ways of working", and expressed frustration at what he said was a lack of consultation between aid agencies and the government. He said the government did not like to be "surprised" at the formation of projects without prior consultation. Also, he stressed the importance the government gave to making sure local people were employed by the NGOs and UN agencies in Uvira.

#### Rehabilitation and development

The majority of humanitarian programmes in the Uvira and Fizi zones apart from the repatriation operation are for rehabilitation of structures and systems - anything from fishing to mushroom farming. Aid agencies are trying to repair damage done both by the war and by the presence of about 220,000 refugees in camps north of Uvira until late 1996. UNHCR has committed about \$6.7 million for rehabilitation programmes in the area, and currently has a

portfolio of about 60 projects under way. Some projects not directly related to the repatriation have been put on hold, pending clarification of relations between UNHCR and the DRC government. Activities by NGOs include: rehabilitation of health centres and hospitals, electricity and water systems, bridges and roads and markets. Other sectors covered are: health education and training, sanitation, agriculture and livestock development, fisheries, credit schemes, vocations training and reforestation.

## CONCLUSION

The irony of the victory of the ADFL is that the rebellion that began to protect the Banyamulenge of South Kivu has resulted in what local people agree is a spread of anti-Tutsi feeling. Opponents point to the strategic appointment of Banyamulenge administrators, commanders and other officials and complain of a young and inexperienced military. Aid agencies are working in a highly-charged political environment.

A regional analyst familiar with local Congolese NGOs told IRIN today that there is a lack of "space" for communities to find common ground and that the "fluid" situation is potentially dangerous for the DRC and the region as a whole. He says peace efforts are concentrating on "confidence-building", and urges a thorough examination of the causes of the inter-ethnic tension, which date back at least to the 1960s.

The only unifying theme among various armed threats to the ADFL government in the Kivus seems to be a rejection of Banyamulenge and Tutsi influence of any kind. The tension is also present within the DRC military. The Tutsi of South Kivu continue to look east for protection. The explosive mixture of Interahamwe, ex-FAZ, ex-Rwandan army, Burundian rebels and ethnically-based militia ranged against ADFL, Rwandan and possibly Burundian governmental troops has the potential for an alarming and long-running conflict. ADFL officials say the conflict is fuelled and funded by "Mobutists" in exile. Kabila's own history shows that the mountains of South Kivu are an ideal hideout for guerilla activities.

The situation in South Kivu will be an important test of the coherence of the Alliance nationally, as well as the effectiveness of humanitarian interventions in the post-war period.

Nairobi, November 18 1997

[ENDS]

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X-URL: <http://www.reliefweb.int/emergenc/greatlak/latest.html> Date: Wed, 07 Jan 1998 17:11:00 +0300 (GMT+0300) From: UN IRIN - Central and Eastern Africa <irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

## **DRC: List of Government Ministers as of 7 January 1998 98.1.7**

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Democratic Republic of Congo: Government List 7 January 1998

President and Defence Minister Laurent-Desire Kabila announced a new cabinet on 4 January. The reshuffled team consists of two ministers of state, 21 ministers and six deputy ministers. The following is a complete list of the current cabinet.

Minister of State for Internal Affairs - Gaetan Kakudji

Minister of State for Economy and Petrol - Pierre-Victor Mpoyo

Finance and Budget Minister - Fernand Tala Ngai

Agriculture Minister - Mawampanga Mwana Nanga

Small and Medium-scale Industry Minister - Babi Mbayi

Information and Culture Minister - Raphael Ghenda

Civil Service Minister - Paul Kapita Shanbangi

Environment and Tourism Minister - Eddy Angulu

Commerce Minister - Paul Bandoma

Justice Minister - Mwenze Kongolo

Foreign Affairs Minister - Bizima Karaha

Health Minister - Jean-Baptiste Sondji

International Cooperation Minister - Celestin Lwangi

Transport Minister - Henri Movasakani

Portfolio Minister - Kambale Matutolo

Youth and Sports Minister - Vincent Mutomb Tshibal

National Education Minister - Kamara Rokahikara

Public Works, Territorial Administration, Urban Development Minister - Anatole Tshumbiaka Bishikwabo

Mines Minister - Frederic Kibassa Maliba

Posts and Telecommunications Minister - Kinkela Vi Kan'si

Labour and Social Security Minister - Thomas Kanza

Energy Minister - Pierre Lokombe Kitete

Planning Minister - Etienne Richard Mbaya

Deputy Interior Minister - Mulumba Katchi and Commander Faustin Munene

Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister - David Mbwankiem

Deputy Culture and Art Minister - Julienne Lumumba

Deputy Social Affairs Minister - Milulu Mamboleo

Deputy Portfolio Minister - Kanumutambi Biselele

[ENDS]

X-URL: <http://www.reliefweb.int/emergenc> Date: Tue, 13 Jan 1998 13:07:14 -0300 (GMT+3) From: UN IRIN - Central and Eastern Africa <irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

## **DRC: Floods, DHA Geneva Sitrep No. 4 98.1.12**

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DHAGVA 98/0107

Democratic Republic of Congo - Floods

DHA - Situation Report No.4

12 January 1998

### SITUATION UPDATES:

1. The unsettled state of the weather, which affected other countries in the region (e.g., Somalia and Kenya) in the last two months, has reached the northern part of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). This resulted in very high water levels in the Congo River and its tributaries (Aruwimi, Tshopo, Lomami, and Lulu) and caused considerable damage to housing and crops in Kisangani as well as in an yet unknown number of villages, some of which are only accessible by boat. The region has experienced similar disasters in the past (in 1962 and 1979).
2. The Province Orientale, DRC's largest province, is 503,239 km<sup>2</sup> wide, with 6-7 million inhabitants. Agriculture (in a hostile environment, only permitting survival crops), fishing, gold mining, and small trade are its main activities.
3. The Tshopo and Congo Rivers have overflowed their banks, prompting out approximately 10,000 persons from their homes in Kisangani, DRC's largest northern city, and also affecting surrounding villages and towns. The flood situation is improving, as the level of the Congo River is decreasing in Kisangani since 29 December 1997. In Mbandaka (Equateur Province) no report has been received so far on major floods. In Kinshasa, the water level is at 5.20 meters, while the alarm level is at 6 meters.
4. Parallel to the effects of the floods, a cholera epidemic was declared on 18 December 1997 in a teen-ager training camp near Kisangani, causing since then the deaths of approximately 227 children. A military camp for adults located nearby has now become a second source of epidemic, due to a combination of general malnutrition and non-existent sanitary facilities. This, and difficulties in accessing the camps, led to the high death rate still prevailing (30 percent during the first days of January 1998), despite the establishment of a cholera camp by MSF and ICRC.

#### ASSISTANCE NEEDS:

5. The tentative working figure, originally put at 20,000, has now been revised to 13,000 as the identifiable caseload for food distribution in Kisangani. An accurate appraisal of the disaster is very much awaited, and assessment missions are currently underway by those organizations which have an established structure on the ground, i.e., UNICEF, the Red Cross, MSF, WHO, Caritas, and Memisa.

6. IFRC, in its information bulletin dated 9 January, elaborated its plan of action in Kisangani and four surrounding villages (Yakusu, Banalia, Isangi, and Ubundu), for the distribution of food and non-food aid to 10,000 of the most vulnerable, cleaning up of public places and markets, the rehabilitation of water points, an information campaign on cholera and other waterborne diseases, and the distribution of seeds and tools.

#### COORDINATION:

7. A Crisis Committee was formed at the central level at the Ministry of Interior and meets weekly on Thursdays. At the regional level in Kisangani, the sub-committees meet daily on food (chaired by UNICEF), sanitation (WHO), epidemiological surveillance (WHO/MSF), and shelters (Caritas).

#### NATIONAL RESPONSE:

8. The central government is leading the relief efforts, seeking to encourage domestic initiatives in relief operations, emanating from public and private bodies.

#### ONGOING RELIEF EFFORTS:

9. WFP sent 3 tons of BP5 biscuits and is preparing a further shipment of food worth USD 200,000. UNICEF has sent 13 tons of relief items (ORS, biscuits, jerrycans, and blankets) and is preparing a second shipment (kitchen sets and tents).

10. On 3 January 1998, Memisa (a Belgian NGO) and Caritas shipped 6 tons of clothes, 1.4 tons of blankets, and 3 rolls of plastic sheeting. ICRC has been supporting the national water company in Kisangani since March 1997, enabling 8-hour water supply a day, while efforts are being made to raise it to 10 hours a day.

11. In the cholera camp, ICRC and MSF are currently referring and treating patients. To avoid the further spreading of the disease, they requested the authorities to allow the re-opening of a former camp for displaced persons to accommodate the convalescents, thus avoiding their returning back to the infected camps. MSF has been treating cholera and other cases for one month with its own funds and those of ECHO, and have sufficient supplies (drug and food) for another month. UNICEF and WHO are running a street information campaign.

12. UNDP is seeking to charter aircraft to facilitate a concerted, coordinated shipment of relief supplies, assist in a comprehensive joint needs assessment mission in Province Orientale (and, if necessary, Equateur and Maniema Provinces), and support the work of the Crisis Committee at the central and regional levels.

13. Certain donor governments and organizations are reported to be willing to provide assistance, pending the elaboration of more detailed relief needs.

#### CHANNEL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS:

14. DHA is prepared to serve as a channel for cash contributions, to be used during the immediate relief phase, in coordination/consultation with relevant organizations of the United Nations system. DHA provides donors with written confirmation and pertinent details concerning the utilization of the funds contributed. Donors wishing to channel their contributions through DHA should transfer funds to DHA account no. CO.590.160.1 at the Swiss Bank Corporation, Case Postale 2770, CH-1211 Geneva 2, Switzerland, with reference: DRC - Floods.

15. For coordination purposes, donors are requested to inform DHA Geneva, as indicated below, of relief missions, pledges or contributions and their corresponding values by item.

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In case of emergency only: + 41 22 917 2010 Desk Officer: Ms. Kayo Gotoh, direct tel: +41-22-917-1258 Contact for medias: Ms M. Moulin-Acevedo, direct tel: + 41 22 917 2856 Telex 41 42 42 dha ch

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= DEPARTMENT OF HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS +

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X-URL: <http://www.reliefweb.int/emergenc> Date: Wed, 14 Jan 1998 09:32:59 -0300 (GMT+3) From: UN IRIN - Central and Eastern Africa <irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

## **DRC: ICRC denounces killing of employee in Kinshasa 98.1.13**

Sender: owner-irin-cea-extra@dha.unon.org To: irin-cea-extra@dha.unon.org  
MIME-version: 1.0  
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Source: ICRC Geneva

Communication to the press No. 98/02  
Geneva, 13 January 1998

### **ICRC DENOUNCES KILLING OF EMPLOYEE IN KINSHASA**

Geneva (ICRC) - On Monday 12 January Mr Sylvain Mutombo, a driver employed by the delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo, was murdered in the course of his duties. At about 4 p.m. he was in the city centre on official business when he was killed by gunmen who then stole the ICRC vehicle. An inquiry has been opened by the relevant authorities.

Sylvain Mutombo, who was 43, leaves a widow and five children. He had been working for the ICRC since November 1993 and was an especially loyal employee of the Kinshasa delegation. After the attack his body was taken to the Kinshasa general hospital and subsequently to his home. The funeral is due to take place in Kinshasa on 14 January and will be attended by ICRC staff.

The ICRC denounces this tragic event. Over the past six months ICRC employees have twice fallen victim to attacks aimed at stealing Red Cross vehicles. The international humanitarian organization has been working in Congo-Kinshasa since 1961 to bring aid to those affected by the different conflicts in the country.

[ENDS]

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X-URL: <http://www.reliefweb.int/emergenc> Date: Wed, 14 Jan 1998 16:05:39 -0300 (GMT+3) From: UN IRIN - Central and Eastern Africa <irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

## **DRC: UNICEF: Cholera strikes growing number of children 98.1.14**

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MIME-version: 1.0  
Precedence: bulk

Source: UNICEF

### **PRESS RELEASE**

Cholera strikes growing number of children in Kisangani

Nairobi, 14 January 1998 (UNICEF) -- UNICEF in Kisangani, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), reported as of 12 January the cholera epidemic--which escalated after heaving flooding in the region in late December--had claimed 231 lives and struck 1,235 people, including an estimated 80 per cent who are children. Some 80 per cent of these children are about 12 years of age. Dysentery had struck some 66 people and caused the deaths of nine persons. Unhygienic conditions exacerbated by weather conditions also have caused other illnesses including malaria and skin diseases. By 12 January these other maladies had affected 152 people and caused 10 deaths.

The majority of cases are from the Kapelata camp--located some 6 km from Kisangani and described as overcrowded with poor sanitation conditions. The cases have been reported among Mai-Mai children who arrived in Kisangani from Goma and Bukavu for a re-education programme following a reconciliation agreement between government and Mai-Mai leaders. The camp was reportedly lodging up to 4,000 children.

The children are receiving treatment at a cholera treatment site, some 2 km from the camp, which the humanitarian community established after a request from provincial authorities. UNICEF has provided the site with a temporary reservoir so patients have access to potable water. The agency also has assisted cholera patients by supplying sachets of oral rehydration salts, foodstuffs, plastic sheeting and blankets through the provincial medical inspector. These supplies were part of 13 mt of relief materials valued at US \$57,000 which UNICEF delivered to provincial authorities after flying them to the area from Kinshasa on 25 December.

UNICEF also supported the training of 74 health workers in identifying and treating diarrheal diseases at the end of December and provided financial resources to enable the water collection and transport to the local hospital from a source some 30 km from the city.

Reports say a limited number of cases have emerged among adults in the nearby Base camp, which accommodates former soldiers. There also have been very few reports of cases among

the 600,000 people living in the city of Kisangani despite the limited operations of the central hydro-electric station which closed due to rising flood waters of the Tshopo river on 21 December. This cut electricity and running water services which normally serves some 15 per cent of the city's population. Meanwhile, the water services have been operating on a part-time basis due to fuel donations which a local business association is donating to the water company. Electricity is still out.

Reports say the provincial governor estimated the flooding is the worst since 1963. Provincial authorities estimated floods have damaged or washed away 9,952 homes in the six communes of Kisangani, rendering many families homeless. The most affected villages in the region include Banalia (120 km north of Kisangani), Isangi (100 km west of Kisangani) and Ubundu (125 km south of Kisangani). There have been reports of 32 cases of bloody diarrhea in Banalia. Reports on Isangi indicate floods have displaced 2,749 people and the population has no access to potable water.

Cholera--caused by a bacterial infection acquired through ingesting contaminated water or food--has emerged as a serious health problem in more than half a dozen countries in eastern and central African since heavy rains began pouring throughout the region in October. UNICEF is working with authorities in the affected countries--including DRC, Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda--to provide medical and sanitation materials, train health workers in treating and preventing cholera and raising public awareness of precautions to take to prevent and recover from the disease.

###

For further information please contact:

Elizabeth Kramer      Willem Standaert  
Information Officer    Senior Programme Officer  
Emergency Unit, UNICEF ESARO UNICEF Democratic Republic of Congo  
Office: (254-2) 622316      Office: (243-12) 21025 / 23011 / 24023  
Home: (254-2) 520045      871-682-380-083  
871-682-380-756  
871-682-380-080

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X-URL: <http://www.reliefweb.int/emergenc> Date: Mon, 09 Feb 1998 11:42:21 -0300 (GMT+3) From: UN IRIN - Central and Eastern Africa <irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

## **DRC: 3000 children must leave cholera infested camp - UNICEF 98.2.6**

Sender: owner-irin-cea-extra@dha.unon.org To: irin-cea-extra@dha.unon.org

MIME-version: 1.0

Precedence: bulk

Source: UNICEF DRC

**UNICEF CALLS FOR IMMEDIATE TRANSFER OF OVER 3.000 CHILDREN FROM A CHOLERA INVESTED CAMP TO A SAFER PLACE.**

Kinshasa, 6 February 1998 . Over 3,000 children are living in dangerously unsanitary conditions and under military supervisions in the Kapalata camp near the city of Kisangani, in the Eastern Province of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Even though appropriate medical and other facilities are readily available nearby, the military authorities who control the Kapalata camps are refusing to let the children leave for a pre-arranged site near the hospital. "There is no reason whatsoever why these 3,000 children cannot be moved to a safer environment today" said the UNICEF Representative in the DRC, Mr. Ibrahim Jabr.

The Kapalata camp where the children are now housed is full of the dead and the dying; cholera-infected human faeces abound. The World Health Organization has declared a cholera epidemic in the camp. Of the 3,000 children in the Kapalata camp near half have suffered from cholera during the last four months and over 300 have already died of cholera. Dysentery is also present, resulting in 60 deaths to date.

Military authorities guarding the camp have consistently blocked the efforts of humanitarian agencies and the local health authorities trying to access and assist the children.

The children, apparently mostly from the neighbouring provinces of the Kivus, are said by military sources to be Mayi-Mayi rebels. Other sources believe that the children have nothing to do with the rebels and were simply picked up by the army during sweeps through the Kivus.

The average age of the children is 14, with some being as young as 8 years.

UNICEF has worked with the Red Cross, local health authorities and NGOs to prepare the so-called site H to accept the sick children. The UN World Food Programme (WFP) has provided food and the international NGO MSF-Holland is supervising medical care. Cholera kits and other supplies have recently been provided by the French Government.

The Site H in the centre of Kisangani, selected to accomodate these children, already hosted over 5,000 displaced persons during the war last year. The site is ready to receive the children at any time.

[ENDS]

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X-URL: <http://www.reliefweb.int/emergenc> Date: Wed, 18 Feb 1998 12:55:29 +0300 (GMT+0300) From: UN IRIN - Central and Eastern Africa <irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

**DRC: Amnesty International fears for UDPS members 17 Feb 98 98.2.18**

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EXTERNAL AI Index: AFR 62/10/98

17 February 1998

UA 54/98      Fear of ill-treatment/Fear for safety

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Leonard BOZI

Pierre KAFUNGI

Francois TSHIMBUMBA

Jean-Maire TSHIMANGA

Desire ELOMPASI

Alexandre KATAMBAYI

Willy KANKU

Democrate MUKANYA

Denis KANYINDA all members of the Union for  
Democracy and Social Progres (UDPS) and  
bodyguards of Etienne Tshisekedi

Etienne TSHISEKEDI, president of the UDPS,  
arrested and banished to his home village

Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of the men named above, following their arrest on 12 February 1998 at the home in Kinshasa of Etienne Tshisekedi, leader of the Union pour la Democratie et le Progres social (UDPS), Union for Democracy and Social Progress.

Etienne Tshisekedi was arrested without a warrant by members of the Forces Armees Congolaises (FAC), Congolese Armed Forces. He is accused of violating the ban on political activity imposed by President Laurent Kabila since he came to power. The UDPS had announced its intention to celebrate the 16th anniversary of the party on 15 February.

The other members of the UDPS named above, who were at the house at the time, some as bodyguards, were arrested after they tried to intervene to prevent the arrest of Etienne Tshisekedi. They were

reportedly beaten and ill-treated. There has been no confirmation of their place of detention, although, according to some reports, they may be held by the ANR (Agence nationale de renseignements, National Intelligence Agency) in Kinshasa. The ANR is notorious for torturing detainees, including subjecting people to electric shocks.

Following news of the arrest of Etienne Tshisekedi, a crowd of UDPS supporters gathered outside his house and the nearby office of the UDPS. Five of them were arrested and briefly detained on 13 February by members of the FAC.

Etienne Tshisekedi was reportedly detained for several hours at an ANR detention centre, ANR/3Z, in Kinshasa, shortly after his arrest. Subsequently he was relegated to his home village of Kabeya Kamwanga, Kasai Oriental, where he arrived on 15 February. Government officials announced that Etienne Tshisekedi had been relegated to his home to carry out agricultural work to help with the reconstruction of DRC, while the accusation against him is investigated. He has been provided with farming implements and seeds. The banishment of Etienne Tshisekedi is reminiscent of the policy of internal banishment, which was enforced under President Mobutu Sese Seko in the 1980s, in which many political prisoners were relegated to their home areas and placed under the surveillance of local authorities. Amnesty International remains concerned for his safety and is seeking assurances that he has access to family, medical care and legal counsel.

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Since it came to power in May 1997, the Alliance des forces democratiques pour la liberation du Congo-Zaire (AFDL), Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire, has committed numerous human rights violations against critics of the government and representatives of civil society, including church leaders. Hundreds of people are reported to have been arrested in various parts of the DRC since the government took power on 17 May 1997. The vast majority of these arrests are reported to be arbitrary, carried out without arrest warrants, by soldiers who do not have the legal power to make arrests under Congolese law. Detainees are often held incommunicado, sometimes in unofficial detention centres, such as private residences. Reports of ill-treatment and torture are common.

Those arrested include members of political opposition groups critical of the AFDL, journalists, human rights activists, as well as members of the former government. The AFDL has officially banned political party activity outside of the AFDL and suspended the

Zairian constitution, which guaranteed freedom of association and the right to hold peaceful demonstrations.

Furthermore, dozens of people have "disappeared" or have been extrajudicially executed. In January 1998, at least 30 UDPS supporters, around 15 of whom are still reported to be detained, were arrested at a new year's celebration for Etienne Tshisekedi. Dozens of UDPS supporters were beaten by the security forces, some were tortured with electroshock batons in detention.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Please send telegrams/faxes/express/airmail letters in French or your own language:

- calling on the authorities to make public the whereabouts of the UDPS supporters and bodyguards of Etienne Tshisekedi, following their arrest on 12 February 1998, and to allow them access to their families;
- urging that steps be taken to guarantee their physical safety and to prevent ill-treatment;
- asking that they be released if they are not to be charged with a recognizably criminal offence and brought to trial in accordance with international standards of fairness.

If you are able in the same fax or in separate telegrams :

- calling on the authorities to guarantee the well being of Etienne Tshisekedi, and for assurances that he has access to his family, medical care and legal counsel;
- calling for the measures taken against him to be dropped unless he is to be charged with a recognizable criminal offence and brought to justice in accordance with international standards of fairness;
- seeking information on the conditions under which he has been placed in Kabeya Kamwanga.

**APPEALS TO:**

President:

Son Excellence Laurent-Desire KABILA  
[Salutation: Monsieur le President de la Republique]  
President de la Republique  
Presidence de la Republique  
Kinshasa-Ngaliema

Democratic Republic of Congo  
Telegrams: President Kabila, Kinshasa DR Congo  
Fax: + 243 88 02120 (the fax may be temporarily out of service - you  
might have to try several times)

Minister of Justice:

M. Mwenze KONGOLO [Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre]  
Ministre de la Justice  
Ministere de la Justice  
BP 3137, Kinshasa-Gombe  
Democratic Republic of Congo  
Telegrams: Ministre Justice, Kinshasa, DR Congo

Minister of State for Internal Affairs:

Gatean KAKUDJI [Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre]  
Ministre d'Etat a l'Interieur  
Hotel du Conseil executif  
Kinshasa-Gombe  
Democratic Republic of Congo  
Telegrams: Ministre Interieur, Kinshasa, DR Congo

PLEASE SEND COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO: Embassy of Democratic  
Republic of Congo, 26 Chesham Place, London SW1X 8HH. Fax: 0171 235  
9048

AND, IF POSSIBLE, TO THE FOLLOWING:

M. Severin KABWE, Directeur de L'Agence Nationale des Renseignements  
Ministere de l'Interieur  
Hotel du Conseil Executif  
Democratic Republic of Congo

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Please do not send appeals after  
31 March 1998.

+-----+  
+ If you have any queries about this Urgent Action or about +  
+ the UA scheme in general, please contact:+  
+ Ray Mitchell / Becky Hess +  
+ Amnesty International UK Section +  
+ 99 - 119 Rosebery Avenue+  
+ London EC1R 4REemail: ua@amnesty.org.uk +  
+-----+

X-URL: <http://www.reliefweb.int/emergenc/greatlak/latest.html> Date: Tue, 10 Mar 1998 09:59:36 -0300 (GMT+3) From: UN IRIN - Central and Eastern Africa <irin@dha.unon.org>  
Subject:

### **DRC: List of IRIN reports on eastern DRC 98.3.10**

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MIME-version: 1.0  
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#### UNITED NATIONS

Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs Integrated Regional Information Network  
for Central and Eastern Africa

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Fax: +254 2 622129  
e-mail: [irin@dha.unon.org](mailto:irin@dha.unon.org)

List of IRIN reports on eastern Zaire and DRC, 1996 - present (list issued 10 Mar 98)

Given the continuing tension in eastern DRC, IRIN is distributing the attached list to readers who may want to pick up some earlier IRIN special reports for background information. Please drop us an e-mail or fax indicating which documents you would like to receive, or use our automatic document service by sending e-mail to [archive@ocha.unon.org](mailto:archive@ocha.unon.org).

Best regards,

IRIN-CEA  
Nairobi

1996

Situation Report: Masisi, Zaire, February 26 1996 Zaire: IRIN Report on Masisi and Rutshuru (96.5.10) UN DHA IRIN Masisi Report of 23 August 1996 96.08.23 Zaire: IRIN Briefing on the conflict in South Kivu 96.10.9 Zaire: IRIN Update on the conflict in South Kivu 11 Oct 96.10.11 Zaire: IRIN Update on South Kivu, 26 October 1996 96.10.26

1997

DRC: IRIN background brief on Kivu 10 Sep 1997 97.9.10 DRC: List of Government Ministers as of 13 October 1997 97.10.13 DRC: IRIN Update on Uvira zone, South Kivu, 18 Dec 97 97.12.18

1998

DRC: List of Government Ministers as of 7 January 1998 98.1.7

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