



Australian Government

Refugee Review Tribunal

Country Advice Democratic Republic of Congo (ex-Zaire)

Democratic Republic of Congo (ex-Zaire) –
COD36159 – Kinshasa – Politics – Security
update – Bazimbas – Muzimbaz – Botswana
– Residency permits

3 March 2010

1. Please provide a detailed map of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Attachment 1 is a 2009 report by the International Crisis Group which includes a detailed map of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).¹



¹ International Crisis Group 2009, *Congo: Five Priorities for a Peacebuilding Strategy*, 11 May 2009, p.22

http://www.crisisgroup.org/library/documents/africa/central_africa/150_congo_five_priorities_for_a_peacebuilding_strategy.pdf- Accessed 4 March 2010 - Attachment 1.

2. Please provide an update on the security and political situation in Congo.

Information for this question has been divided under the following two subheadings:

- [Background Political Information](#)
- [Current Security Situation](#)

Background Political Information

Between 1996 and 2003 the DRC experienced two major wars. The wars involved DRC government forces supported by Angola, Namibia and Zimbabwe fighting against rebels backed by Uganda and Rwanda for control of large areas of the eastern DRC. The war led to approximately 3 million deaths and 3.4 million internally displaced persons. A peace deal and a power-sharing transitional government was formed in 2003. A new constitution for the DRC was approved by referendum in 2005. The first multiparty presidential and legislative elections since independence were held in July 2006. Senate elections were held in 2007. Joseph Kabila leader of the People's Party for Reconstruction and Democracy (PPRD) won the vote for President. The National Assembly elections resulted in the creation of two broad alliances: the Alliance of the Presidential Majority (AMP), holding the majority of the seats and supporting President Kabila, and the Union for the Nation (UpN) supporting leader of Movement for the Liberation of the Congo (MLC), Jean-Pierre Bemba.²

According to Freedom House the 2006 and 2007 elections were marred by serious problems. These problems include a boycotting of the election by the opposition Union for Social Democracy and Progress (UDPS) party, voter registration irregularities, corruption, allegations of vote buying and clashes between opposition militants and government forces. An assassination attempt on the opposition leader Jean-Pierre Bemba led to exile in 2007. In June 2008 an MLC politician was also murdered by government soldiers indicating a lack of security for members of opposition political parties.³

The presence of armed rebel groups has continued to be a major source of instability in the DRC. On January 23, 2008, a peace agreement was signed by the DRC government and 22 armed groups including the National Congress for the Defence of the People (CNDP), an ethnic Tutsi rebel group. The FDLR, the largest armed group were not included in the agreement. The ceasefire was not respected and in August 2008 fighting intensified between government armed forces and the National Congress for the

² Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre & Norwegian Refugee Council 2010, *Democratic Republic Of The Congo: Over 2.1 million IDPs in the context of deteriorating humanitarian conditions*, 24 February <http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/pdfid/4b8794d12.pdf>- Accessed 5 March 2010 - Attachment 2; Freedom House 2009, *Freedom in the World – Democratic Republic of Congo* http://www.freedomhouse.org/inc/content/pubs/fiw/inc_country_detail.cfm?year=2009&country=7739&pf - Accessed 9 March 2010 - Attachment 3.

³ Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre & Norwegian Refugee Council 2010, *Democratic Republic Of The Congo: Over 2.1 million IDPs in the context of deteriorating humanitarian conditions*, 24 February <http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/pdfid/4b8794d12.pdf> - Accessed 5 March 2010 - Attachment 2; Freedom House 2009, *Freedom in the World – Democratic Republic of Congo* http://www.freedomhouse.org/inc/content/pubs/fiw/inc_country_detail.cfm?year=2009&country=7739&pf - Accessed 9 March 2010 - Attachment 3.

³ Freedom House 2009, *Freedom in the World – Democratic Republic of Congo* http://www.freedomhouse.org/inc/content/pubs/fiw/inc_country_detail.cfm?year=2009&country=7739&pf - Accessed 9 March 2010 - Attachment 3.

Defence of the People (CNDP), an ethnic Tutsi rebel group. This led to tension between the Rwandan and DRC governments. Freedom House has reported that the DRC government “accused Rwanda of cross-border incursions to support the CNDP, while the Rwandan government alleged official DRC tolerance of the FDLR and its deployment against the Congolese Tutsi minority”. According to Freedom House “these developments sparked fear that the fighting would again escalate into a wider regional war”.⁴

In January 2009 DRC President Joseph Kabila and Rwandan President Paul Kagame agreed to undertake a joint military strategy to neutralise the National Congress for the Defense of the People (CNDP) and eradicate the FDLR. The governments of Rwanda and the DRC undertook this joint military agreement due national security concerns as well as international pressure to end persistent instability in the Northern DRC.⁵ Under the joint military strategy, the Rwandan government was required to neutralise the rebellion by the CNDP by arresting the leader and forcing CNDP fighters to integrate with the Congolese army. The Congolese government, in return agreed to a five week joint military operation with Rwanda in the North Kivu province against the FDLR. These military offensives were launched on 20 January 2009. International Crisis Group have reported on the limited results of the offensive, called Operation Umoja Weto, in terms of disarmament of the FDLR.⁶

Current Security Situation

The current security situation in the DRC has been dominated by a series of military offensives launched by the Congolese army against the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR). These military offensives commenced in January 2009 and are expected to continue until April 2010. The military operations have been concentrated in North and South Kivu provinces in eastern Congo. Reports state that the Congolese army and the FDLR involved in this battle have committed serious human rights abuses against civilians during 2009 including killings, rape and the destruction of property. Violence in Orientale province and Equateur Province has also resulted in the killing of civilians.

Reports indicate that as a result of conflicts in 2009 the DRC has approximately 2 million displaced persons. As a result of military operations and armed groups many

⁴ Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre & Norwegian Refugee Council 2010, *Democratic Republic Of The Congo: Over 2.1 million IDPs in the context of deteriorating humanitarian conditions*, 24 February <http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/pdfid/4b8794d12.pdf>- Accessed 5 March 2010 - Attachment 2; Freedom House 2009, *Freedom in the World – Democratic Republic of Congo* http://www.freedomhouse.org/inc/content/pubs/fiw/inc_country_detail.cfm?year=2009&country=7739&pf - Accessed 9 March 2010 - Attachment 3.

⁵ The CNDP, a Congolese Tutsi group had engaged in renewed clashes with the Congolese armed forces. While the CNDP had benefited from active Rwandan support in the past, the leader Laurent Nkunda had been increasingly been viewed with animosity by the Rwandan government. The FDLR pose a serious security threat to the DRC. The FDLR are a Rwandan Hutu rebel group which the International Crisis Group (ICG) have described as “the most powerful and harmful political- military rebel organisation in the Congo”. According to the ICG the FDLR is also an armed threat to Rwandan territory due to its membership containing former Rwanda armed forces officers that took part in the 1994 genocide (International Crisis Group 2009, *Congo: A Comprehensive Strategy to Disarm the FDLR*, 9 July http://www.crisisgroup.org/library/documents/africa/151_congo_a_comprehensive_strategy_to_disarm_the_fdlr_english.pdf - Accessed 9 March 2010 - Attachment 4)

⁶ International Crisis Group 2009, *Congo: A Comprehensive Strategy to Disarm the FDLR*, 9 July http://www.crisisgroup.org/library/documents/africa/151_congo_a_comprehensive_strategy_to_disarm_the_fdlr_english.pdf - Accessed 9 March 2010 - Attachment 4; Human Rights Watch 2010, *World Report 2009 – Democratic Republic of Congo* <http://www.hrw.org/en/node/87600> - Accessed 5 March 2010 - Attachment 5.

IDPs have not received humanitarian assistance from international agencies. Available information also indicates that MONUC, the UN peace keeping force in the DRC, has had difficulty in adequately protecting civilians in the Congo. The future of MONUC is in doubt. The UN has begun negotiations with the DRC government regarding ending its peacekeeping operation. Congo's government has stated that it wants all the peacekeepers gone before the presidential election in mid 2011.

More detailed information on the security situation in the Congo has been provided under the following subheadings:

- [Eastern DRC](#)
- [Northern DRC](#)
- [Western DRC](#)
- [Internally Displaced Persons](#)
- [United Nations in the DRC](#)

Eastern DRC

As stated Operation Umoja Weto, a joint military offensive by the Rwandan and DRC government was launched on 20 January 2009 in the North Kivu province against the FDLR. International Crisis Group have reported on the limited results of the offensive, called, in terms of disarmament of the FDLR.⁷ The initial five week attack on the FDLR was followed by a second military operation by the Congolese army called Operation Kima II. This operation was undertaken in North and South Kivu and ran from March to December 2009. The Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) has reported that this military operation also included attacks on Mai Mai militias as well as the FDLR. MONUC, the UN peacekeeping mission in DRC provided logistical support to the Congolese army for this operation. According to Human Rights Watch, MONUC felt they "could better protect civilians by being part of the operations". Sources report that this military operation was of limited success in terms of significantly reducing FDLR numbers. Human Rights Watch have reported that by October 2009 military operations had demobilised 1,100 FDLR combatants from a total of 6,000⁸

On 26 February 2010 a third military operation initiated by the Congolese army against FDLR rebels was launched in the Kivu provinces. The operation is called Amani Leo (Peace Now, in Swahili). The UN have given conditional logistical support to the Amani Leo operation. The primary condition of UN is that the Congolese army respect human and humanitarian rights. Reports indicate that this operation was initially due to end in March 2010 but risks being extended into April 2010.⁹

⁷International Crisis Group 2009, *Congo: A Comprehensive Strategy to Disarm the FDLR*, 9 July http://www.crisisgroup.org/library/documents/africa/151_congo_a_comprehensive_strategy_to_disarm_the_fdlr_english.pdf - Accessed 9 March 2010 - Attachment 4; Human Rights Watch 2010, *World Report 2009 – Democratic Republic of Congo* <http://www.hrw.org/en/node/87600> - Accessed 5 March 2010 - Attachment 5.

⁸ Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre & Norwegian Refugee Council 2010, *Democratic Republic Of The Congo: Over 2.1 million IDPs in the context of deteriorating humanitarian conditions*, 24 February <http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/pdfid/4b8794d12.pdf> - Accessed 5 March 2010 - Attachment 2; Human Rights Watch 2010, *World Report 2009 – Democratic Republic of Congo* <http://www.hrw.org/en/node/87600> - Accessed 5 March 2010 - Attachment 5; DR.Congo army launches new operation against rebels' 2010, *Agence France Presse*, 4 March - Attachment 6; Refugees International 2009, *Field Report, Dr Congo: Protect Civilians & End Military Operations*, 15 September <http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/pdfid/4ab093e02.pdf> - Accessed 5 March 2010 - Attachment 7.

⁹ DR.Congo army launches new operation against rebels' 2010, *Agence France Presse*, 4 March - Attachment 6; Peuchot, E. 2010 'MONUC offers wary backing of DR Congo offensive', *Agence France Presse*, 12 February - Attachment 8.

Reliable reports indicate that these military operations have resulted in serious human rights violations against the civilian population in eastern DRC. Reports state that the FDLR and the Mai Mai rebels have conducted retaliatory attacks on civilians to punish them for the government's military operations. The Congolese army has failed to protect its citizens from these attacks and has also been accused of committing human rights abuses against civilians and targeting individuals perceived to be FDLR collaborators and Rwandan Hutu refugees. According to a report published by the IDMC, FDLR and government soldiers raped approximately 8,300 women in the Kivu district during 2009. Human Rights Watch has also reported that during 2009 FDLR and Congolese army have burnt down an estimated 7,000 houses. Human Rights Watch has reported that during 2009 thousands of civilians were abducted and put into forced labour and that "at least 2,500 civilians were slaughtered". According to the IDMC by the end of 2009 approximately 990,000 people were displaced in North Kivu and 690,000 were displaced in South Kivu.¹⁰

Northern DRC

Attacks in the north of the DRC by the Lord Resistance Army (LRA), a Ugandan rebel group, have also resulted in serious human rights violations during 2009. The IDMC have reported that since mid 2008 the LRA has attacked communities in the DRC, "killing abducting and looting from civilians". According to the IDMC the Ugandan, DRC and Southern Sudan armies have conducted military operations in Orientale Province against the LRA. In March 2009 however, the Ugandan army scaled back military operations in the DRC against the LRA. A report published by the *UN News Service* states that according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) during 2009 "the LRA killed 849 civilians and abducted a further 1,486, including 185 children". According to the available data Human Rights Watch have reported that LRA murders and abductions led to the displacement of over 200,000 people in 2009. This has reportedly brought the number of IDPs in Orientale Province to 450,000.¹¹

Western DRC

Inter communal clashes in western DRC's, Equateur Province has also contributed to the amount of displaced persons from the DRC. On 2 February 2010, *BBC Monitoring Africa* reported that rival ethnic communities had recently clashed over fishing territory. The report states that "more than 200 people have died and another 150,000 have fled to the neighbouring Republic of Congo since 2009, when fighting erupted between the Lobala and Boba clans in Dongou, Equateur Province".¹²

¹⁰ Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre & Norwegian Refugee Council 2010, *Democratic Republic Of The Congo: Over 2.1 million IDPs in the context of deteriorating humanitarian conditions*, 24 February <http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/pdfid/4b8794d12.pdf>- Accessed 5 March 2010 - Attachment 2; Human Rights Watch 2010, *World Report 2009 – Democratic Republic of Congo* <http://www.hrw.org/en/node/87600> - Accessed 5 March 2010 - Attachment 5

¹¹ Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre & Norwegian Refugee Council 2010, *Democratic Republic Of The Congo: Over 2.1 million IDPs in the context of deteriorating humanitarian conditions*, 24 February <http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/pdfid/4b8794d12.pdf>- Accessed 5 March 2010 - Attachment 2; Human Rights Watch 2010, *World Report 2009 – Democratic Republic of Congo* <http://www.hrw.org/en/node/87600> - Accessed 5 March 2010 - Attachment 5; 'More than 8,000 women raped last year by fighters in eastern DR Congo – UN' 2010, *UN News Service*, 8 February <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=33703#>- Accessed 5 March 2010 - Attachment 9

¹² 'UN mission terms conflict in northwestern DR Congo as "power keg"', *BBC Monitoring Africa*, 2 February - Attachment 10.

Internally Displaced Persons

Reports indicate that as a result of conflict in 2009 the DRC has approximately 2 million displaced persons. Reports state that as a result of military operations and armed groups during 2009 many IDPs have not received humanitarian assistance from international agencies. The OCHA stated that “aid operations are severely restricted by conflict and rampant banditry leaving many vulnerable populations without assistance” and that “the poor state of roads and other infrastructure have compounded the situation”.¹³

United Nations in the DRC

Available information also indicates that despite its size the UN peacekeeping force in the Congo has had difficulty in adequately protecting civilians. IDMC have reported that “MONUC is the largest UN peacekeeping mission in the world with 20, 000 troops” and that MONUC is authorised to use all necessary means to protect civilians from physical violence. According to Human Rights Watch “although the peace keepers made some notable efforts to protect civilians, which undoubtedly saved lives, in many cases they arrived too late or not at all”. Reports indicate that MONUC has also been criticised for supporting the DRC government’s military offensives. According to a report by the IDMC the UN Security Council have also noted that “MONUC’s competing roles of protecting civilians and supporting army led operations has humanitarian consequences”.

The future of MONUC in the DRC is in doubt. MONUC’s mandate is due for renewal at the end of May 2010. On 5 March 2010 *The Guardian News* stated that the UN has begun negotiations with the DRC government regarding ending its peacekeeping operation. The report indicates that Alain Le Roy, the UN under secretary-general for peacekeeping operations, has stated that peacekeepers would be ready for withdrawal from central and south-east Congo by June but that it was still vital MONUC backed Congolese military offensives against Rwandan Hutu rebels in the east and the Uganda-based Lord’s Resistance Army in the north. Congo’s government has stated that it wants all the peacekeepers gone before the presidential election in mid 2011.

3. Please provide information on the treatment of members of the Bazimba tribe and the Muzimba tribe both in Kinshasa and elsewhere in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Information on the ethnologue website indicates that in 1994 there were 120, 000 people of Zimba ethnicity.¹⁴ Undated information on the Joshua project website states that the population of the Zimba people in the DRC is 184, 000.¹⁵ According to information from the Congo Vision website there are 450 ethnic groups in the DRC.

¹³ Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre & Norwegian Refugee Council 2010, *Democratic Republic Of The Congo: Over 2.1 million IDPs in the context of deteriorating humanitarian conditions*, 24 February <http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/pdfid/4b8794d12.pdf>- Accessed 5 March 2010 - Attachment 2; ‘DR Congo: UN sounds alarm over armed attacks against camps for displaced’ 2010, *UN News Service*, 5 February <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=33686#> - Accessed 5 March 2010 - Attachment 11.

¹⁴ ‘Zimba’ 2009, Ethnologue website http://www.ethnologue.com/show_language.asp?code=zmb - Accessed 9 March 2010 - Attachment 12.

¹⁵ ‘Zimba of Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo’ (undated), Joshua Project website <http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php> - Accessed 9 March 2010 - Attachment 13.

The website states that the Bazimas are one of the ethnic groups found in the 'Grand Kivu' area, comprising of North Kivu, South Kivu and Maniema.¹⁶

No information was found in the English language sources consulted regarding the treatment of members of the Bazimba or Muzimba (also known as Zimba) tribes in the DRC. The only report found in the sources consulted regarding treatment of Bazimba or Muzimba (also known as Zimba) tribes in the DRC is a 2006 French language report by OCHA. The report states that in the South of the DRC people of the Muzimba tribe, along with ten other ethnic groups were forced to seek refuge in other localities due to fighting between the Congolese army and Mai Mai rebels. An English language version of this report was not found in the sources consulted.¹⁷

While limited information was found regarding the situation for members of the Bazimba or Muzimba tribes, reports indicate that discrimination between ethnic groups is widespread in the DRC.

The 2009 US Department of State *Country Report on Human Rights Practices* for DRC reports on societal discrimination between ethnic groups. The report also states that security forces have targeted some ethnic groups in Equateur, North Kivu and South Kivu provinces. The report states that:

Members of the country's more than 400 ethnic groups practiced societal discrimination on the basis of ethnicity, and discrimination was evident in hiring patterns in some cities. The government took no reported actions to address this problem.

The security forces in Kinshasa sometimes harassed, arbitrarily arrested, or threatened members of ethnic groups from Equateur Province, according to the UNJHRO. Security forces in North and South Kivu provinces sometimes harassed, arbitrarily arrested, or threatened members of many different ethnic groups resident there.¹⁸

A 2009 report by Freedom House also reports that "societal discrimination based on ethnicity is practiced widely among the country's 200 ethnic groups, particularly against the various indigenous Pygmy tribes and the Congolese Banyamulenge Tutsis. The ongoing fighting in the eastern Kivu region is driven in part by ethnic rivalries".¹⁹

- 4. Please contact the Botswana Embassy authorities to ask the following:**
- A. Would the holder of such a residence permit be certain to gain entrance into Botswana?**
 - B. Would the holder of such a residence permit be allowed to reside in Botswana?**
 - C. What is the definition of 'dependant child' for the purposes of this residence permit?**
 - D. What rights would the holder of such a residence permit be entitled to?**
 - E. Deleted.**
 - F. Does this residence permit give ... refugee status?**

¹⁶ Discrimination against the Banyamulenge in the Democratic Republic of Congo: a Tasteless Propaganda' 2007, Congo Vision website, 24 October

<http://www.congovision.com/nouvelles/litofe5.html> - Accessed 9 March 2010 - Attachment 14.

¹⁷ UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs 2006 *Situation humanitaire en RDC RAPPORT HEBDOMADAIRE, Du 17 au 23 juin 2006*, 28 June <http://www.grandslacs.net/doc/4119.pdf> - Accessed 9 March 2010 - Attachment 15.

¹⁸ US Department of State 2009, *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices 2008 – Congo*, 25 February, Section 2.d - Attachment 16.

¹⁹ Freedom House 2009, *Freedom in the World – Democratic Republic of Congo* http://www.freedomhouse.org/inc/content/pubs/fiw/inc_country_detail.cfm?year=2009&country=7739&pf - Accessed 9 March 2010 - Attachment 3.

On 3 February 2010 the Botswana High Commission in Canberra was contacted in relation to this matter.²⁰ On 9 March 2010 the Botswana High Commission replied and provided the following advice:

A. Would the holder of such a residence permit be certain to gain entrance into Botswana?

The Botswana High Commission did not provide an answer to this question on 9 March 2010.

B. Would the holder of such a residence permit be allowed to reside in Botswana?

Any Botswana residence permit allows the owner to reside in Botswana, as long as long as it is still valid.

C. What is the definition of ‘dependant child’ for the purposes of [a] ... residence permit?

A “dependant child” is not the main holder or applicant of the permit but is dependant on the main holder. A dependant may either be a child or a husband/ wife of a resident ...

D. What rights would the holder of such a residence permit be entitled to?

A residence permit entitles a foreigner to reside in Botswana, whether a dependant or the main holder of the permit.

...

F. Does this residence permit give ... refugee status?

Refugees are given a special permit. SPECIAL is usually indicated on the top left of a residence permit when issued to refugees. .²¹

On 17 March 2010 the Botswana High Commission provided the following further advice:

A. Would the holder of such a residence permit be certain to gain entrance into Botswana?

It’s not a guarantee that if you have a residence permit you will be allowed to enter this country. There can be some other reasons that may block one’s entrance to Botswana even if the person has been issued a residence permit.²²

5. Additional Information

Please see the following information regarding The Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR), National Congress for the Defense of the People (CNDP) and Mai Mai militia.

²⁰ RRT Country Advice Service 2010, Email to Botswana High Commission ‘Request for assistance from the Refugee Review Tribunal, Sydney (RRT ref: COD36159)’, 3 February - Attachment 17.

²¹ Botswana High Commission 2010, Email to RRT Country Advice Service ‘FW: [BULK] Re: Request for assistance from the Refugee Review Tribunal, Sydney (RRT ref: COD36159)’, 9 March - Attachment 18.

²² Botswana High Commission 2010, Email to RRT Country Advice Service ‘FW: [BULK] Re: Request for assistance from the Refugee Review Tribunal, Sydney (RRT ref: COD36159)’, 17 March - Attachment 19.

The Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR)

The International Crisis Group provides the following overview of the FDLR:

A Hutu rebel group set up in 2000 and mainly formed of members of the AliR [Rwanda Liberation Army - a Hutu rebel group] and other Hutu armed rebel groups. Its two main political leaders are Ignace Murwanashyaka and Callixte Mbarushimana.

...The FDLR are the most powerful and harmful political military rebel organisation in Congo. This movement has a highly organised command structure and socioeconomic base and a military force that, according to estimates by the United Nations Mission in DR Congo (MONUC), had 6,500-7000 fighters at the end of 2008. These fighters are known for the serious human rights abuses they have committed against the Congolese population and for their illegal exploitation of the natural resources of the territories under their control. The FDLR have also been sustained by the ideological support and political leadership provided by a network of active overseas members, living mainly in Europe and North America. Among its commanders and leading members, the rebel group includes officers of the former Forces armées rwandaises (FAR – Rwanda Armed Forces) and former civilian officials of President Habyarimana's regime who took part in the 1994 genocide.

The former FAR/Interahamwe and their civilian associates represent an armed threat just a few dozen kilometres from Rwandan territory. Efforts to neutralise them were one of the main drivers of the two regional wars that brought Kinshasa and Kigali into conflict in 1996-1997 and 1998-2003. During these conflicts, the Congolese authorities made extensive use of the Rwandan Hutu rebels who now constitute the FDLR leadership to fight Rwanda and the rebel movements supported by Kigali.²³

The 2009 US Department of State *Country Report on Human Rights Practices* for DRC states that:

The FDLR continued to be led by individuals responsible for fomenting and implementing the Rwandan genocide. Between 6,000 and 8,000 FDLR fighters remained in the provinces of North and South Kivu.²⁴

National Congress for the Defense of the People (CNDP)

The Political Handbook for the World provides the following 2006 description of the CNDP:

The CNDP was formed in late 2006 by rebel leader Gen. Laurent Nkunda, a Congolese Tutsi whose followers had aligned with Rwanda in the rebellion against the government of Laurent Kabila in the late 1990s. Nkunda described the CNDP as a “political-military movement” intended to protect the interests of Tutsis, who reportedly felt “marginalized” by the DRC government and threatened by Hutu rebels who had coalesced in eastern DRC as the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (*Forces Démocratiques pour la Libération du Rwanda*—FDLR).²⁵

The International Crisis Group also provides the following overview of the CNDP:

²³ International Crisis Group 2009, *Congo: A Comprehensive Strategy to Disarm the FDLR*, 9 July http://www.crisisgroup.org/library/documents/africa/151_congo_a_comprehensive_strategy_to_disarm_the_fdlr_english.pdf - Accessed 9 March 2010 - Attachment 4.

²⁴ US Department of State 2009, *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices 2008 – Congo*, 25 February, Section 2.d - Attachment 16.

²⁵ Banks, A.S., Muller, T.C., Overstreet, W.R & Isacoff, J.F. (eds) 2009, *Political Handbook of the World Online Edition: Democratic Republic of Congo*; CQ Press, Washington http://library.cqpress.com/phw/document.php?id=phw2009_DemocraticRepublicoftheCongo&type=toc&num=42 - Accessed 5 March 2010 - Attachment 20.

Since its creation in 2005 by the Rwandan Tutsi general Laurent Nkunda, the armed group known as the National People's Congress (Congrès national du peuple – CNDP) has named the FDLR as its main enemy and has benefited from active Rwandan support.²⁶

Mai Mai militia

The Political Handbook for the World provides the following 2006 description of the Mai Mai militia:

The Mai-Mai was an ethnic Bahunde militia whose members were described as “armed mystics” for their belief, among others, that the grass headgear they wore in battle possessed the power to turn their enemies’ bullets into water (*mai-mai* is the Swahili word for water). Credited with disarming Hutu fighters and Zairean soldiers at the start of the 1996 rebellion, the Mai-Mai was expected to coordinate their actions with the AFDL [Congolese army] as the fighting moved into northern Zaire; however, in December 1996 Mai-Mai was accused of attempting to assassinate AFDL commander Andre Ngandu KISSASSE, who allegedly wanted them to disarm and report for training. In early 1997 further clashes between the rebel groups were reported, and later in the year the Mai-Mai grouping was described as fully confrontational with the national army of the new Kabila regime in pursuit of regional autonomy for South Kivu. Thereafter, beginning in August 1998, the Mai-Mai was described as alternately cooperating with and clashing with elements of the RCD [Congolese Rally for Democracy], in addition to continuing its antigovernment military activities. However, by 2002 the Mai-Mai was widely considered to be supportive of the government of Joseph Kabila. The Mai-Mai became formally allied with the Kabila government during the Inter-Congolese National Dialogue that culminated in the Pretoria Accord, and Mai-Mai were subsequently given cabinet posts and seats in the transitional government. However, some Mai-Mai forces later turned hostile to the government under the leadership of a warlord identified as GÉDÉON and assumed control of regions of Katanga. After his forces were accused of attacks on civilians, Gédéon surrendered to MONUC in April 2006. The group presented candidates in the 2006 assembly balloting under the banner of the Mai-Mai Movement (*Mouvement Mai-Mai*—MMM).²⁷

Attachments

1. International Crisis Group 2009, *Congo: Five Priorities for a Peacebuilding Strategy*, 11 May
http://www.crisisgroup.org/library/documents/africa/central_africa/150_congo_five_priorities_for_a_peacebuilding_strategy.pdf – Accessed 4 March 2010.
2. Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre & Norwegian Refugee Council 2010, *Democratic Republic of the Congo: Over 2.1 million IDPs in the context of deteriorating humanitarian conditions*, 24 February
<http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/pdfid/4b8794d12.pdf> - Accessed 5 March 2010.
3. Freedom House 2009, *Freedom in the World – Democratic Republic of Congo*
http://www.freedomhouse.org/inc/content/pubs/fiw/inc_country_detail.cfm?year=2009&country=7739&pf – Accessed 9 March 2010.

²⁶ International Crisis Group 2009, *Congo: A Comprehensive Strategy to Disarm the FDLR*, 9 July
http://www.crisisgroup.org/library/documents/africa/151_congo_a_comprehensive_strategy_to_disarm_the_fdlr_english.pdf - Accessed 9 March 2010 - Attachment 4.

²⁷ Banks, A.S., Muller, T.C., Overstreet, W.R & Isacoff, J.F. (eds) 2009, *Political Handbook of the World Online Edition: Democratic Republic of Congo*; CQ Press, Washington
http://library.cqpress.com/phw/document.php?id=phw2009_DemocraticRepublicoftheCongo&type=toc&num=42 - Accessed 5 March 2010 - Attachment 20.

4. International Crisis Group 2009, *Congo: A Comprehensive Strategy to Disarm the FDLR*, 9 July
http://www.crisisgroup.org/library/documents/africa/151_congo_a_comprehensive_strategy_to_disarm_the_fdlr_english.pdf - Accessed 9 March 2010.
5. Human Rights Watch 2010, *World Report 2009 – Democratic Republic of Congo*
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