

A SYNOPSIS OF ARMED GROUPS AND POLITICAL PARTIES IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

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The following is an alphabetical listing of many of the armed groups and political parties recently active within the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), each with a short description. Due to the exceptionally fragmented nature of such groups in the DRC, some have undoubtedly been omitted in error.

This list has been compiled in order to provide an aide to humanitarian workers active in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and neighbouring regions, by providing them with reference material that is useful in deciphering the security context within which they must work.

ADF - Allied Democratic Forces - A western Ugandan rebel group with rear bases in the DRC. Now thought to have been largely wiped out.

AFDL – Alliance des Forces Démocratiques pour la Libération du Congo-Zaïre (also known by English acronym, ADFL) – Coalition of opposition groups led by Laurent Kabila which toppled Mobutu. Disintegrated in 1998 as the constituent groups began to fight amongst themselves.

ALiR- Armée pour la Libération du Rwanda – A rebel group operating in the DRC made up from Interahamwe fighters and elements of the Rwandan Armed Forces that had been involved in the Rwandan genocide in 1994. Involved in attacks against both Rwandan and Ugandan backed militias in the late 1990s. Merged with the FDLR in 2000.

ANC- Armée Nationale Congolaise – A military wing of the various RCD groups.

APC - Armeé du peuple congolais or Armeé populaire congolaise. The armed wing of the RCD-K-ML led by Mbusa Nyamwisi.

FAPC – Force Armée du Peuple Congolaise – Formed in 2003, and led by General Jerome Kakawave Bukande. Active in Ituri, primarily around Ari and Ariwara. Currently being demobilized.

FAZ – Forces Armée Zaïroises – troops formerly loyal to Mobutu who adopted banditry as a means of support after Laurent Kabila's victory. Some believed to remain in the jungle, though they are not taking active part in the conflict.

FDLR - Forces Démocratiques de la Libération du Rwanda – The principle Hutu anti-Rwandan group in the eastern DRC, formed in 2000. Composed of some Interahamwe members, this group was backed by Laurent Kabila as a proxy force against the RCD and Rwandan Army. The FDLR have agreed to disarm and return to Rwanda, though this has not happened to date.

FDD – Forces pour la Défence de la Démocratie – A Burundian Hutu movement present in the DRC, Tanzania and Burundi. Once allied with Laurent Kabila, who gave them a base of operations in Katanga. The FDD largely left the Congo in 2001, and signed a peace agreement with the Burundian government in 2003. Pierre Nkurunziza became the elected President of Burundi in late 2005.

FIPI – Front for Integration and Peace in Ituri– an umbrella group formed from PUSIC, FNI and FPDC that enjoyed Ugandan support until it's eventual collapse. Opposed the UPC.

FLC - A merger between MLC, RCD-ML and RCD-N formed under Ugandan tutelage in November 2000 and headed by the MLC's Jean-Pierre Bemba. Collapsed in August 2001.

FLN - Front de Liberation National – also known by the acronym FROLINA – a Burundian Hutu group that is also a political party in Burundi. Continues opposition to current Burundian government. Allegedly involved in attacks on refugees within the DRC.

FNI – Front of National Integrity – A Lendu organization in Ituri that is led by Peter Karim. Opposes the UPC and claims broad community support. Involved in several incidents with MONUC in which peacekeepers were either killed or captured. Has announced that it will integrate into the national army, and Karim has recently been appointed as a Colonel.

FNL – Forces Nationales de Libération – no other information available.

FPDC – Force Populaires pour la Democratie en Congo – A Ugandan backed group operating against the UPC in Ituri. Believed to have close links with Peter Karim and the FNI.

FRPI – Force de Resistance Patriotique en Ituri – A Lendu group with links to the FNI. Started in 2002, led by Dr Adirodo.

FUNA - Former Ugandan National Army - no longer believed to be operational.

Interahamwe – “Those who fight together” – The Rwandan Hutu militia responsible for the genocide in 1994. Fled into the DRC as the Rwandese Patriotic Front (RPF) seized Kigali. Members now form part of a number of militias in the east of the DRC. Organization is now known as the ALiR.

LRA – Lord’s Resistance Army – Approximately 400 rebels, along with their leader Joseph Kony, have taken refuge in a national park in northeastern DRC. Control over the LRA in Sudan, Uganda and the DRC is likely very fragmented. Currently negotiating with the Ugandan government. Kony is wanted by the ICC for crimes against humanity.

Mai-Mai – A traditional self-defence militia present primarily in the east of the country. Many groups have been used as proxies by both Kabilas, though they also forge local ties with other groups for pragmatic reasons. Despite their origins, they are also known to resort to banditry.

MLC - Mouvement de liberation du Congo. Formed in 1998 with extensive Ugandan backing. Led by Jean-Pierre Bemba. Headquartered in the northern DRC's Equateur Province. Both an armed group and a political party, Bemba is of course the opponent of Joseph Kabila during the second round of the presidential elections.

MONUC - United Nations Organisation Mission in the Congo – Approximately 17,000 peacekeepers spread across the country. World’s largest peacekeeping operation. Currently acting under a “Chapter VII” mandate, meaning that they are able enforce the current peace agreement.

MRC – Mouvement Revolutionnaire Congolais – A Ugandan backed group active in Ituri.

NALU - National Army for the Liberation of Uganda - Ugandan rebel group now largely wiped out.

PALU – Political party led by Joseph Gizenga. Currently allied with Kabila.

PPRD - Parti du Peuple pour la Reconstruction et le Démocratie – Founded in 2002 by Joseph Kabila. Comprised of many members of the former Laurent Kabila government, and members of the present transitional government. Does

not have an armed wing per se, but uses proxies such as the Mai Mai and controls certain elements of the national army.

PRA – Peoples Redemption Army – A Ugandan dissident group present in Ituri that has ties with both Hema and Lendu groups, including the UPC. Alleged to be backed by Rwanda. Some suggest that this group is fictitious, and has been created by the Ugandan government for the purpose of manipulating public opinion.

PUSIC – Parti pour la Unité et le Sauvegarde de l'Integrite du Congo – A Hema militia led by Kahwa Mandro. Believed to have support from Ugandan government, but also ties to the Kabila government.

RCD-G - Rassemblement Congolais pour la Démocratie – Goma – A Banyamulenge dominated party with extremely close ties to the Rwandan government. Essentially the most powerful militia in the eastern DRC. Likely to lose significant power in the presidential election. Is a splinter group of the original RCD, splitting off in 1999. Currently led by Azarias Ruberwa.

RCD-K - Rassemblement Congolais pour la Démocratie – Kisangani - Wamba dia Wamba formed this party when he was ousted from the original RCD in May 1999. It was shortlived and became the RCD-ML in September 1999.

RCD-K-ML - Rassemblement Congolais pour la Démocratie – Kisangani – Mouvement de Liberation – The Kisangani faction of the RCD-ML led by Mbusa Nyamwisi with control of areas in North Kivu and Ituri. Based in Bunia. It is allied with local Mayi-Mayi groups as well as the central government. Another well known leader of the party is Jean-Baptiste Tibasima.

RCD-National - Led by Roger Lumbala, formed during the splintering of the RCD-ML in mid-2000. Originally based in Barwasende, which contains a great deal of wealth in the form of diamonds. Now allied with the MLC and supported by Uganda.

UDPS - Union pour la Démocratie et le Progrès Social – Party led by Etienne Tshisekedi. Opposes both the MLC and the PPRD. Not generally thought to support any armed groups.

UNITA - União Nacional para a Independência Total de Angola – Angolan rebel group that has since signed a ceasefire with the Angolan government. Small pockets of UNITA rebels still believed to be living in the DRC.

UPC - Union des patriotes congolais - Hema-dominated. Came to prominence after taking Bunia in August 2002. Sometimes referred to as UPC-FRP (Front for

Reconciliation and Peace). Ongoing internal power struggle between Thomas Lubanga and Chief Kahwa Mandro of PUSIC.

UPDF - Ugandan People's Defence Forces – Regular army of Uganda. Believed to operate in DRC in support of Ugandan aligned militias and to combat anti-Ugandan groups.

TPD – Tous pour la Paix et le development – A political party with ties to RCD-G, who are allegedly involved in distributing arms to local defence groups.