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**HIGHLIGHTS:**

- *Dutch Minister for International Cooperation and Development visits Goma*
- *Possible return of Dominique Bofondo as Rutshuru Territory Administrator provokes apprehension*
- *Security situation in Luofu area dire*
- *Several schools reportedly closed due to APCLS forceful recruitment*
- *Unconfirmed rumours about Bosco Ntaganda's designation as Deputy Commander of Operation Kimia II*

**I. Political Developments**

1. The Dutch Minister for International Cooperation and Development, accompanied by the Dutch Ambassador from Kinshasa, paid a brief visit to Goma on 8 April. During a working lunch with MONUC NK HoO and Eastern Coordination Stabilization Team, updates on the current political situation and the progress on the Stabilization Plan were presented and discussed. The delegation also met with NK Governor Paluku and Amani Coordinator Abbé Malu Malu. They also visited Goma military hospital before departing to Bukavu.

## II. Security and Military Developments

2. A JPT (CAS, HRS and PIO), deployed, from 31 March to 4 April, to Luofu (7km NW of Kanyabayonga), Miriki (7km W of Kanyabayonga), Kasiki (7km NW of Kanyabayonga) and Kirumba (7km N of Kanyabayonga) found that the security situation has deteriorated in all the visited locations, due to non-paid FARDC elements and the presence of FDLR within five to ten kilometres around the visited locations. Widespread distrust prevails among integrated CNDP, FARDC and PARECO elements while the population remains fearful of them altogether. The team was informed of FARDC systematic pillaging of fields, recurrent forced labour practice, exactions and harassment. FDLR elements are reportedly concentrated and active in Luhanga (7km S of Kasiki), Kasiki, Kanyatsi and Masita. They reportedly ambushed vehicles along the axis Luofu – Kasiki (the last ambush, targeting an FARDC truck took place on 2 April), abducted eight people in Kanyatsi (18km NW of Kanyabayonga) and stole livestock from a farm in Kasugho (10km SW of Lubero). All of which took place in the absence of local chiefs and PNC. Meanwhile, 2,370 IDPs families reportedly live with host families in Luofu, and another 5013 in Kirumba.
3. Radio Okapi on 7 April reported that FDLR launched an attack from 4 to 5 April, in Musasa ( 82km S of Butembo), where one man was killed and three people injured.
4. NK Brigade on 8 April reported that eight armed elements, suspected to be FDLR, carried out looting in Kiwanja (75km N of Goma). They stole food from two houses and injured one civilian, but fled upon noticing an approaching MONUC patrol. In Kahunga (16km N of Rutshuru), suspected FDLR elements allegedly abducted one boy but eventually fled upon sight of the MONUC patrol, allowing the boy to escape unhurt.
5. On 8 April, UNPOL informed that a total of 1480 elements from AGs were integrated into the PNC in Kitchanga (65km N of Goma) on 30 March and in Rubaya (60km NW of Goma) on 3 April. The newly integrated elements comprise of 792 from CNDP, 439 from PARECO, and 249 from different Mayi Mayi groups.
6. On 8 April, the FARDC Liaison Officer to MONUC reportedly disclosed that Bosco Ntaganda was designated as Deputy Commander of Operation Kimia II, which is under the overall command of General Amuli (see 7 April NK Daily Report). MONUC is closely following up.

**08/04/2009III Humanitarian and Civil Affairs**

7. Radio Okapi on 7 April reported that over the last three days, approximately 350 IPD families have arrived in Kitshombro (60km S of Lubero) from Ndoluma and Musasa, allegedly fleeing FDLR looting and killings (see 7 April NK Daily Report).

8. Radio Okapi on 7 April reported that several schools in the areas of Kilambo, Lutwe and Luhatu (along the border of Masisi and Walikale Territories) have been closed since two weeks, due to forced recruitments of children in those schools by APLCS elements. APCLS leader 'Colonel' Janvier rejected these allegations and stated that these recruitments were made by individuals not belonging to his group (see 7 April NK daily report). **ENDALL**

*(Drafted by PAS, cleared by HoO)*