

WAR, CONFLICT AND ORGANISED CRIME

DRC Country Presentation

22 – 23 March 2005

SAIIA

BACKGROUND

- Situated in GLR but part of SADC
- Vast Natural Resource
- Shares borders with nine countries
- Geographic area of 2 350 000 sq Km
- Population approx. 53 million
- 60% live in rural areas
- 80% of population live on less US \$0,20 per day
- Decline in average income
- Access to services limited
- Dependent on Aid-only 2% employed -

HISTORY

- Belgium involvement dates back to 1876
- 1908 as a result of Leopold's methods- admin transferred to Belgium government
- No development except for extraction of resources
- Republic of Congo declared in 1960
- 1961- Lumumba assassinated
- 1965- Mobutu comes to power
- Ban on political parties
- 1971 name changed to Zaire
- Political opponents imprisoned
- 1980s Opposition to Mobutu grows

HISTORY

- 1980s pressure on Mobutu and Western allies
- 1996 anti-government protests and aid begins to dry up
- 1994 Hutu genocide- subsequent Tutsi government installed in Rwanda
- Hutu cross into DRC and form Interhamwe. Mobutu supports them
- Rwanda sends army into DRC

HISTORY

- Uganda allege rebels using DRC as base
- AFDL formed and forms alliance with Rwanda, Uganda and Angola. Laurent Kabila- spokesperson
- Advance of Kinshasa
- Kabila sworn in as president
- Relations between Uganda and Rwanda sour
- RCD formed with assistance of Rwanda and Uganda
RCD captures towns
- Zimbabwe, Angola and Namibia pledge support for Kabila

HISTORY

- 1998 new rebel movement MLC formed- backed by Uganda
- Rebels control significant territory and strategic towns
- Ex FAR and Hutu's join forces with Kabila
- MONUC deployed
- 1999 Lusaka Accord signed
- 2000 Kabila states accord invalid
- 2001 Kabila assassinated and son takes power

HISTORY

- July 2002 Pretoria Agreement reached
- July 2003 Transitional government formed
- Elections to take place July 2005
- Since peace process there have been threats to the process

PRE – CONFLICT OC

- Pre Independence

- King Leopold ran DRC like personal company
- Ruthless plunder after Government took over

- Post Independence

- Assassination of Lumumba
- Diverting government resources
- Diverting foreign aid
- Buy off generals with concessions
- Peddling in concessions and influence
- Shadow markets
- Criminalised state

OC DURING THE CONFLICT

- State and allies
 - granting concessions, diverting funds for joint ventures, special licenses and tax exemptions
- Rebel forces and allies
 - revenue tax on resources, monopoly buyers, looting, enforced concessions, violence to displace people and acquire forced labour
- Multi nationals and companies
 - direct and indirect
- Shadowy groups linked to organised crime
 - arms, diamonds, fraud, money laundering

OC DURING THE CONFLICT

- Diversion of state resources
- Weapons trade
- Coltan trade
- Diamond trade
- Gold and copper trade
- Plunder of Forests
- Currency and Black Market trade
- Peddling in Influence
- Extortion
- Money Laundering

CURRENT SITUATION

- Demobilisation

- IMF -approx 180 000 formal and 170 000 informal required demobilisation

- Economic Reform

- Customs revenue reform
- Restructuring parastatals
- Investment codes and protocols
- Poverty Alleviation Programme

CURRENT OC

- Tax evasion
- Illegal Imports and Exports
- Smuggling
- Money Laundering
- COPS
- Abuse of Exemptions
- Pillage of state resources
- Piracy
- Assassinations and and extortion
- AFF schemes

SOME INITIATIVES

- Public service reform
- OFIDA reforms and targets
- Money Laundering legislation
- Auditor General investigations