

News Bulletin

19 – 26 October 2009

Highlights

- Nearly 250 new Congolese refugees in Zémio
- Ali Bongo, the new head of state of Gabon on a working visit to Bangui
- “Ask the court,” the new program of the International Criminal Court
- The University of Bangui has a reading room provided by the United Nations

Background and security

Refugees from the DRC in Zémio

According to the local authorities, 250 people from the town of Sukadji in Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) arrived 25 October to Zémio in the south-eastern of CAR.

With the arrival of this latest wave of Congolese refugees, there are now 400 in the city.

This influx of Congolese refugees into the city of Zémio began in 15 October. On this day, 158 escape the atrocities committed by elements of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA).

Ali Bongo in Bangui

On the 21 October the new Gabonese head of state, Ali Bongo, who succeeded to his late father, Omar Bongo Ondimba, has visited the CAR for a working visit. Omar Bongo used to mediate on behalf of the Central African Republic with regard to the Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa (CEMAC)

Does he take over from his father and become involved in the peace process CAR? *“I'll be at your side to continue the work of building peace in your country,”* said Ali Bongo at a press briefing in Bangui.

News

New program of the ICC

On 19 October, the *International Criminal Court* (ICC) launched its second outreach program, entitled “Ask

the Court” in the Central African Republic. This program will be broadcast on national TV and on ICC radio partners, as well as by community radio stations throughout the country. This program consisting of 13 episodes will be aired for a week between October and January 2010.

The first radio program was entitled “Understanding the ICC.” Broadcasted in Sango, CAR's national language, it was diffused widely from July through October 2009. It has reached about 700,000 people in the country and consisted of over 270 hours of broadcast information about the ICC in Sango.

In this second program, the floor will be given to Central Africans so they can ask their questions directly to senior officials of the Hague-based court. The President of the Court, Judge Sang-Hyun Song, the Clerk of Court Mrs. Silvana Arbia, the Director of the Jurisdiction, Complementarity and Cooperation Division in the Office of the Prosecutor, Ms Beatrice Le Fraper du Hellen have responded to questions from the Central African population.

Contact InfoRCA@icc-cpi.int for more information.

United Nations Hall at the University of Bangui

On 24 October, two documentation rooms named “United Nations Hall” were inaugurated at the library of the University of Bangui. The cost of setting up these rooms was 6 million CFA (~14,000 USD). The documentation center is home to nearly six thousand documents covering diverse areas of the UN agencies intervention in CAR. A large capacity multifunction copier as well as a reading area were also made available to students.



United Nations Hall at the University of Bangui

According to Mrs. Anne Marie Cluckers, Country Director of the *United Nations Development Programme* (UNDP), this space is a portal to the United Nations agencies at the University of Bangui. *"The University of Bangui does not have sufficient information on the role of and actions taken by the United Nations agencies in the Central African Republic. We noticed the difficulties facing the University of Bangui, including the lack of educational tools and documentation,"* she said.

The library of University of Bangui will be regularly supplied with information products by the UN agencies.

Coordination

The United Nations day commemorated in CAR

The United Nations Day, celebrated worldwide on 24 October was celebrated by the UN system in CAR on 23 and 24 October. The event was held at the Alliance Française and was designed to inform citizens of the city on the activities and missions of the UN agencies.

During her speech, Ms. Sahle-Work Zewde, Special Representative of the Secretary General (SRSG), has taken the words of the former Secretary-General Kofi Annan in these terms: *"In all corners of the world, the United Nations is living in the heart and minds of all those who struggle to eliminate violence and promote tolerance, foster development and equality, protect human rights and alleviate poverty"*

In her speech, the SRSG reminded people that the United Nations are present in CAR to support the government in its efforts towards peace and development because the CAR is part of the United Nations. She also added that the organization works primarily for the poor, displaced persons, and victims of all sorts of conflicts, minorities, children, and patients with HIV/AIDS.

"... We promise to do our best to earn that trust that our countries (the United Nations) placed in us to serve the world.", she concluded.

In Ndele, a town in the center-north prefecture of Bamingui-Bangoran, the sub-office of the *Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs* (OCHA) also organized and celebrated the festivities that day.

On this occasion, an open door at the United Nations base took place in the presence of local authorities, local organizations and charities and international NGOs working in the city.



Visitors at the base of the United Nations in Ndele

The guests welcomed the initiative and the various presentations that helped them better understand the UN agencies and activities of OCHA in the field. They also hoped that this day in the future will be extended to the entire population of Bamingui-Bangoran, the main beneficiaries of United Nations interventions.

Arrival of Mr. Bo Schack in CAR

On 22 October, Mr. Bo Schack, from Denmark arrived in Bangui to take over as the UNDP Resident Representative and Humanitarian and Resident Coordinator of the UN System in Central African Republic.

He was the Representative of the *United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees* (UNHCR) in Burundi before succeeding his predecessor, Toby Lanzer, who left over 1 year ago.

For more information, please contact:

UN OCHA CAR | Gisele Willybiro-Maidou | willybiro@un.org | +236 70 18 80 61

UNDP CAR | Tino Kreutzer | tino.kreutzer@undp.org | +236 75 57 50 34