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ORIGIN: SIDIKOU, MONUSCO, KINSHASA

DEADLINE :
SUBJECT: Recent events in Dibaya territory (Kasai Central)

Date: 27 Aug. 16	For Info	For Attention	For Action	For Consultation
SRSG	✓			
DSRSG (RoL)/Ops East	✓			
DSRSG (RC/HC)	✓			
Chief of Staff	✓			
Spec. Assistant O/SRSG	✓			
O/DSRSG (RoL)/Ops East	✓			
IO/DSRSG (RC/HC)	✓			
Force Commander/Deputy FC	✓			
Police Commissioner	✓			
DMS	✓			
Political Affairs Division	✓			
JMAC	✓			
JOC	✓			
Justice and Corrections Section				
Chief Supply Chain				
Chief Service Delivery				
Chief Resident Auditor				
Child Protection				
Civil Affairs				
Conduct & Discipline Unit				
Contract Management				
DDRRR/DDR				
Electoral Unit				
Gender				
Heads of Office				
HIV/AIDS				
Human Rights	✓			
PSCF	✓			
Legal Affairs				
Mine Action				
Protocol				
Public Information				
QIPs				
Security				
SSR Unit				
Stabilization Unit				
Strategic Planning Unit	✓			
WPT				
Other				

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ROUTINE
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TO: LADSOUS, UNATIONS, NEW YORK

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RA'AD AL HUSSEIN, OCHCR, GENEVA **N/K. PLS relay TKS**
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FROM: SIDIKOU, MONUSCO, KINSHASA *M. Sidikou*

DATE: 27 August 2016

NUMBER: CCX-173

SUBJECT: Recent events in Dibaya territory (Kasai Central)

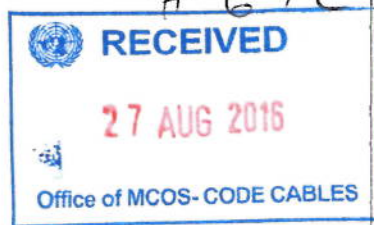
Summary: Conflict between customary chief and State authorities in a rural area of Kasai Central escalates with violent arson attacks by youth militia on police and other targets, resulting in the death of at least nine persons. Authorities react by mounting joint military-police operations to dismantle the militia, leading to many more deaths, allegations of serious human rights violations and arrests of dozens, including children. MONUSCO is closely monitoring the situation and assessing how to reinforce its Kananga office.

Main Points:

Attack on Tshimbulu by youth militia led by customary chief

1. On the morning 8 August 2016, roughly 100 young men and children, reportedly armed with bows and arrows, machetes and homemade weapons, attacked Tshimbulu, the second largest town in Kasai Central province. Nine people were killed, including five police officers and three

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attackers, and an unknown number were wounded.

2. Most of the sites targeted in these violent arson attacks were symbols of local State authority: the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) office; the police station; the Prosecutor's Office of the Tribunal de Grande Instance; and the homes of the town mayor and local police commander. Most of the 30 PNC officers and many residents fled the attack. Some reports indicate militia subsequently attacked the police station in nearby Bonkonde.

3. The attacks appear to have been directed by a local customary chief, Jean-Pierre Pandi Ntumba, a native of the groupement of Kamuina Nsapu in the territory of Dibaya, about 60 kilometers from Tshimbulu.

Customary authority versus state authority

4. Pandi Ntumba, an ethnic Lulua, is reported to have worked in South Africa until returning home in 2015 after the death of his father, to inherit his position as the local chief. Government officials prevented him from fully exercising his customary authority, allegedly because he declined to align with the Presidential Majority. Based on recorded speeches, Ntumba had a vision of a "pure" customary power free from control by the authorities.

5. Ntumba built an alliance with other local customary chiefs in Dibaya territory where Kamuina Nsapu is located. His "movement", which apparently provides his militia recruits, has attempted to replace the checkpoints of the national police (PNC), the Direction générale de la migration (DGM) and the Agence nationale de renseignements (ANR), with checkpoints maintained by customary authorities. Two weeks before the attacks in Tshimbulu, the

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refusal by one chief to ally with Ntumba and accept new checkpoints reportedly resulted in Ntumba ordering residents in a nearby village to burn down homes in Ntenda groupement.

6. A triggering event for Ntumba's broader "rebellion" took place on 3 April 2016. While Ntumba was travelling, local security forces conducted a search of his home in Kamuina Nsapu allegedly for weapons. His wife was reportedly molested and shrines vandalized. The reported poisoning of his father has also stirred suspicions against local authorities.

Authorities strike back, causing more deaths and displacement

7. No action was taken by authorities to restore security in Tshimbulu immediately after the attack. Governor Alex Kande, who is aligned to the Presidential Majority, issued appeals for calm and met with a delegation of traditional authorities to discuss the situation in Dibaya territory. The delegation publicly condemned the attack.

8. On 9 August, Vice Prime Minister/Interior Minister Evariste Boshab, a native of the former province of Kasai Occidental, accompanied by a delegation including the DGM and ANR, arrived in Kananga to meet with provincial authorities, as did a delegation composed of national deputies from Kasai Central. In a press interview, one member of the parliamentary delegation, Clément Kanku (*Mouvement pour le Renouveau*/ opposition), called on authorities to avoid the use of force. MONUSCO was informed that some deputies spoke by phone on August with Ntumba, who refused to leave his groupement. On 11 August, the President of the National Alliance of Traditional Authorities of Congo (ANATC), Mwami Mulongo, arrived in

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Kananga, along with two senators, to try to negotiate Ntumba's peaceful surrender.

9. By 10 August, FARDC and PNC, including a rapid intervention unit, were dispatched from Kananga to Tshimbulu, spurring residents along the route to flee. Clashes between the FARDC and militia members were reported near Tshikula. By 11 August, the FARDC and police had regained control of Tshimbulu. Residents soon returned.

10. However, on the evening of 12 August, Governor Kande announced in a radio broadcast that customary chief Pandi Ntumba had been killed that same day in Kamuina Nsapu by the FARDC during joint military-police operations. According to the Governor, 20 persons died, including 11 police and nine militia. Confidential estimates from Congolese NGOs and security forces indicated as many as 60 killed. On 13 August, Boshab attended a ceremony at the stadium in Kananga to honour the 11 fallen PNC officers.

11. From the Kamuina Nsapu groupement, MONUSCO received reports of police forcing inhabitants to remain in their homes for several days and allegations of houses burned down, summary executions and arbitrary arrests. Humanitarian sources reported 2,000 persons displaced since the attack on Tshimbulu, 700 homes burned and five primary schools destroyed in Dibaya territory. We understand 40 militia members were arrested, including 26 minors, aged six to 17.

Conclusions:

12. Kasai Central is part of the former Kasai Occidental, a province long known for high levels of community conflict related to customary authority, access to land, contested boundaries, inter-communal violence and political

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rivalries. According to some sources, over 150 community-level conflicts have been mapped across the former province. In the coming period of political uncertainty, the manipulation of a number of community conflicts in these provinces could spark more incidents.

13. Despite reduced presence, MONUSCO will continue to closely monitor the situation in Kasai Central, including as regards to community conflicts. We are also following up on the allegations of serious human rights violations, with particular attention to the protection of children's rights. Planning is underway to reinforce the Kananga office, including through expediting the recruitment of a head of antenna, deployment of additional human rights and possibly other substantive staff and ensuring adequate mission support.

[Drafted by FAD, Cleared by ODSRSG Operations and Rule of Law.]