



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

16 July 2013

Excellency,

I have the honour to refer to your letter of 8 July 2013 in which you raised concerns about certain activities of the Force Intervention Brigade, an integral part of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), that would not be in the interest of peace and stability in the region. I welcome your country's reaffirmed readiness to work closely with the United Nations in bringing peace and stability to the region.

I note with deep concern your allegations that meetings have taken place between senior commanders of the MONUSCO Force Intervention Brigade and the *Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda* (FDLR) in various areas to discuss "various forms of tactical and strategic collaboration" between them. These are serious allegations, which I understand were also raised by the Permanent Representative of Rwanda during the consultations of the Security Council on MONUSCO on 11 July 2013.

Following initial inquiries within MONUSCO, I have no reason to believe that senior commanders of the Force Intervention Brigade would meet with the FDLR to discuss matters related to their "tactical and strategic collaboration". Any contact by the Mission with the FDLR would be solely limited to disarmament, demobilization, repatriation, resettlement and reintegration issues. Nevertheless, it is important to ensure that these allegations are properly addressed so as not undermine the comprehensive approach being pursued by the international community to support peace in the region. I would therefore request that your Government share as soon as possible any concrete evidence it may have to substantiate these claims.

Her Excellency
Ms. Louise Mushikiwabo
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Rwanda
Kigali

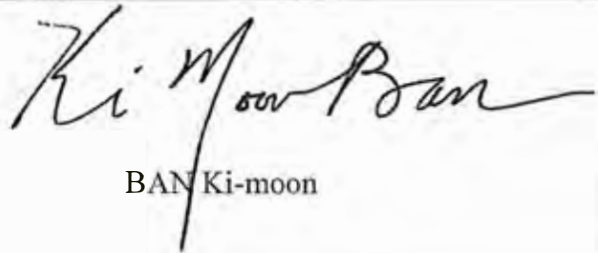


EXR/13/501
13-06383 / 13-06221

I agree that any information concerning the integration of FDLR units in *Forces Armées de la République du Congo* (FARDC) in the border area or the delivery of large quantities of weapons to the FDLR by the FARDC would be of serious concern, if substantiated. I would encourage your Government to make available any concrete evidence it may have at its disposal regarding such deliveries, which I can assure you will be thoroughly examined. Within its mandate and resources, MONUSCO is closely monitoring the situation on the ground, including the behavior of the FARDC, although the Independent Group of Experts on the Democratic Republic of the Congo may be better placed to confirm such allegations. Again, I can only refute any suggestion of involvement in or knowledge of these practices by MONUSCO officers, including Force Integration Brigade commanders.

I would like to reiterate that MONUSCO will continue to work with all relevant stakeholders to implement its mandate in an impartial manner.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.


BAN Ki-moon

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JUL 15 2006

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

POSTAL ADDRESS — ADRESSE POSTALE : UNITED NATIONS, NY 10017
CABLE ADDRESS — ADRESSE TELEGRAPHIQUE : UNATIONS NEWYORK

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
CABINET DU SECRETAIRE GENERAL

REFERENCE:

16 July 2013

Excellency,

The Secretary-General would be grateful if you could kindly forward the enclosed letter to Her Excellency Mrs. Louise Mushikiwabo, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Rwanda.

A copy of the letter is attached for your information.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Jan Eliasson'.

Jan Eliasson
Deputy Secretary-General

His Excellency
Mr. Eugène-Richard Gasana
Permanent Representative of the
Republic of Rwanda to the United Nations
New York



#1 PRIORITY

To: DSG,

Please find attached for your approval and SG's signature a draft response to the Rwandan Foreign Minister's letter of 8 July accusing the MONUSCO Intervention Brigade of collusion with the FDLR.

The initial draft was prepared by DPKO in consultation with DPA, who felt it should be softer in tone. The current version reflects PU's revisions. Both DPKO and DPA are comfortable with this "compromise" text, as is Mrs. Mary Robinson.

AK

Political Unit
16 July 2013

cc: CDC

Return to PU
/E

13-06383

ACTION

COPY

AG/
ASG
cdc

CONFIDENTIAL
Immediate



Note to Ms. Malcorra

DRC: Letter to the Foreign Affairs Minister of Rwanda

1. Please find attached, for the Secretary-General's signature, a draft response to the letter from the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Rwanda dated 8 July 2013 (attached), in which she raised concerns about certain activities of the Force Intervention Brigade (FIB) within MONUSCO, which would not be in the interest of peace and stability in the region. The letter contains serious allegations against senior commanders of the FIB, which are strongly denied by MONUSCO. During the Security Council consultations on the DRC held on 11 July, the Rwandan Permanent Representative also raised the same concerns, invoking evidence specifically against the Tanzanian Commander of the FIB, which I, together with other members of the Council, requested be shared.

Ref: B-06221

2. We would be grateful for the Secretary-General's signature at his earliest convenience. Please also find attached a transmittal note from yourself to the Permanent Representative of Rwanda.

Hervé Ladsous
12 July 2012



12 July 2013

Excellency,

I have the honour to refer to your letter of 8 July 2013 in which you raised concerns about certain activities of the Force Intervention Brigade, an integral part of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), that would not be in the interest of peace and stability in the region. I welcome your country's reaffirmed readiness to work closely with the United Nations in bringing peace and stability to the region.

I note with deep concern your allegations that meetings would have taken place between senior commanders of the MONUSCO Force Intervention Brigade and the *Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda* (FDLR) in various areas to discuss "various forms of tactical and strategic collaboration" between them. These are serious allegations, which I understand have also been raised by the Permanent Representative of Rwanda during the consultations of the Security Council on MONUSCO on 11 July. Following initial inquiries within MONUSCO and absent any documented evidence, I have to reject any allegations that any such meetings would have taken place between the MONUSCO Force Intervention Brigade and the FDLR with the "objective of strategic and tactical collaboration". Any contact with the FDLR would have been solely limited to DDRRR issues. Unsubstantiated allegations of collusion between senior commanders of the Force Intervention Brigade and armed groups risk not only to bring unwarranted discredit onto MONUSCO, but also endanger the spirit of the comprehensive approach pursued by the international community in support of peace in the region. In order to lay this case to rest, I would therefore request that your Government share as early as possible any concrete evidence substantiating this claim.

Her Excellency
Ms. Louise Mushikiwabo
Minister of Foreign Affairs of Rwanda
Kigali

I agree that any information concerning the integration of FDLR units in *Forces Armées de la République du Congo* (FARDC) in the border area or the delivery of large quantities of weapons to the FDLR by the FARDC would be of serious concern, if substantiated. Within its mandate and resources, MONUSCO is closely monitoring the situation on the ground, including the behaviour of the FARDC, although the Independent Group of Experts on the DRC may be better placed to confirm such allegations. I can only, again, deny any involvement in or knowledge of these practices by MONUSCO officers, including FIB commanders.

I would like to reiterate that MONUSCO will continue to work with all relevant stakeholders to implement its mandate in an impartial manner.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

BAN Ki-moon

12 July 2013

Excellency,

The Secretary-General would be grateful if you could send the attached letter to Her Excellency, Madam Louise Mushikiwabo, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Rwanda.

A copy of the letter is attached for your information.

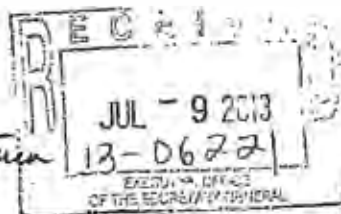
Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Susana Malcorra
Chef de Cabinet

His Excellency
Mr. Eugène-Richard Gasana
Ambassador and Permanent Representative
of the Republic of Rwanda to the United Nations
New York

ACTION Mr. Ladsang/Mr. Felluina
(email)

COPY 56
CJC
AG



CONFIDENTIAL

REPUBLIC OF RWANDA

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND COOPERATION

Kigali, July 8, 2013
N° 248 /09.01/CABMIN/13

Mr. Ban Ki Moon
Secretary-General
The United Nations (UN)
New York

Dear Secretary-General,

Allow me to begin by thanking you for your commendable efforts to bringing about peace and stability in our region and reaffirm my country's readiness to work closely with you so as to see your efforts yielding fruitful results.

I would like to bring to your attention a series of developments that denote a pattern that is of concern to the Government of Rwanda.

As you are aware, the Government of Rwanda supported the deployment of the UN Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO's) Force Intervention Brigade (FIB) under UN Security Council Resolution 2098.

We did so in the interest of peace and stability as we saw the FIB as a useful deterrent to the resumption of violence while regional and **international** efforts to achieve a political solution continue.

However, credible reports suggest that certain **elements** within MONUSCO's FIB have, since their arrival on the ground, gotten involved in activities that are not in the interest of peace and stability in the region.

It has been regrettably established that **several** meetings have taken place between senior FIB commanders, at the highest level, and the *Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda* (FDLR) commanders in various areas. The Government of Rwanda has received reliable and detailed information that various forms of tactical and strategic collaboration with the FDLR have been discussed during such meetings. That senior UN commanders would pick sides among the very armed groups whose military activities they are meant to deter is obviously a matter of serious concern.

EXR/13/001; PK6/04/002

Equally concerning are ongoing patterns of enhanced collaboration between the *Forces armées de la République Démocratique du Congo* (FARDC) and FDLR, often with the knowledge and/or support of certain FIB contingents.

The Government of Rwanda has received reliable information indicating several instances of FDLR units or commanders being integrated in FARDC commando units near the border with Rwanda. In some instances, certain FIB commanders are reportedly aware and supportive of such developments.

Similarly, increased patterns of large quantities of weapons and ammunition being delivered to FDLR by FARDC officers have been taking place with the knowledge and support of FIB commanders.

These are unhelpful developments that the Government of Rwanda obviously takes seriously, as they not only constitute a significant security threat for my country, but also could be detrimental to Monusco's credibility.

I want to trust that your personal investment could see a quick end to these activities.

While I look forward to your prompt response on this most consequential matter, let me reiterate my Government's willingness to have regular consultations with you for further sharing of views and perspectives.

Sincerely,


Louise Mushikiwabo
Minister



2

C.C.:

- UN Secretary General's Special Envoy for the Great Lakes region of Africa
Nairobi
- Head of the UN Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO)
Kinshasa

Precedence: IMMEDIATE

Classification of document: CONFIDENTIAL

UNITED NATIONS

ROUTING SLIP



NATIONS UNIES

FICHE DE TRANSMISSION

Reference:
MARS log no: 014161

TO: Mr. Hervé Ladsous, Under-Secretary-General,
Department of Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Edmond Mulet, Assistant-Secretary General,
Office of Operations, DPKO

cc:

THROUGH: Mr. Jack Christofides, Director Africa II Division OO/DPKO

FROM: Hervé Lecoq, Team Leader ,Great Lakes Integrated Operational Team/Africa II Division/OO/DPKO

Drafter: Hervé Lecoq

Room No: S-2321

Ext: 7-3597

Date: 12/7/2013

PURPOSE: FOR SIGNATURE

SUBJECT: Draft response from the Secretary General to a Letter from the Foreign Affairs Minister of Rwanda

REMARKS:

RECOMMENDED ACTION: For your Signature

Coordinated with or cleared by (please indicate name or initials):

DPKO	Coordinated with	Cleared by	DPKO	Coordinated with	Cleared by
OUSG			OO		
Front Office	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Front Office	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
O/COS (F.O.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	AD-I	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
- PAS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	- EA IOT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
- PK IMU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	- Sudan IOT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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AT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	- Asia IOT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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MPS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
DPF					
OUSG			ICTD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Front Office	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	FBFD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SLAS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	FPD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
OASG			LSD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Front Office	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
CDU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
AR/BOI Sect.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
SMART Team	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
PLT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			

If no consultation or coordination was made please clarify why:

**Supporting
Documents:**