

<b>MP</b>	Malcolm Bruce (Gordon)
<b>Date</b>	16/03/2010
<b>Code</b>	321652
<b>Column</b>	
<b>Question</b>	To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what recent reports he has received on the (a) treatment of opposition parties in Burundi and (b) activities of the youth wings affiliated to political parties in Burundi, with particular reference to the (i) National Council for the Defence of Democracy Forces for the Defence of Democracy and (ii) Front for Democracy in Burundi..
<b>Responder</b>	Ivan Lewis
<b>Answer</b>	Opposition parties in Burundi have been functioning as normal over the past three months in the run-up to the elections due to start in May, including free circulation of politicians in all areas, holding of party congresses, opening of new party offices and putting forward of election candidates. There have been minor scuffles between the "Inbonerakure", youth wing of the ruling National Council for Defence of Democracy—Forces for the Defence of Democracy and the Young Defenders of Burundian Democracy, youth wing of the Front for Democracy in Burundi. The Minister of Interior has banned all youth wing activity in the province of Kirundo, and has vowed to extend the ban to other provinces in case of further trouble.
<b>Tags #</b>	

Malcolm Bruce (Gordon)
15/03/2010
321648
To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether he has plans to provide assistance for programmes for the political and social empowerment of women in Burundi, with particular reference to the participation of women as candidates in elections.
Gareth Thomas (Harrow West)
The Department for International Development (DFID) has provided £1 million to a pooled fund, managed by the UN Development Programme, for the 2010 Elections in Burundi. This includes funding for the mobilisation of women as participants in the electoral process, as electors, candidates and administrators. A voter registration exercise was successfully carried out in February 2010 resulting in 3.5 million people registering to vote, 52 per cent. of whom were women. The project also aims to support political parties to ensure the effective participation of women in the electoral process, in line with the requirement in Burundi's Constitution of at least 30 per cent. female representation in Parliament.

	Mark Oaten (Winchester)
	08/02/2010
	315950
	To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the EU plans to send an observer mission to the 2010 elections in Burundi; and if he will make a statement.
	Ivan Lewis
	[holding answer 5 February 2010]: The elections in Burundi this year remain a top priority for the UK and will mark an important step in further institutionalising the democratic process in Burundi. The presence of an EU Election Observer Mission (EU EOM) would constitute a significant part of this process. The UK discusses the issue regularly with the European Commission and supports proposals for an EU EOM to Burundi. While the European Commission seeks the views of member states on a proposed priority list of countries for EU EOMs, it ultimately falls to the European Commission themselves to decide where these will be deployed. Similarly, the terms and resourcing for any EU EOM are also ultimately a decision for the European Commission.

Mark Oaten (Winchester)
08/02/2010
315949
To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the attempted coup to overthrow President Ndayizeye of Burundi; and what assessment he has made of the likely effects of the coup attempt on the July 2010 elections.
Ivan Lewis
[holding answer 5 February 2010]: We have received reports that 13 soldiers of the Burundian armed forces were arrested on 29 January 2010 on charges of “planning to destabilise the state”. There has been no concrete coup attempt, and there is no reason to believe that this incident will affect preparations for the forthcoming elections.

Mark Oaten (Winchester)
05/02/2010
316486
To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what reports he has received on the attempted coup to overthrow President Ndayizeye of Burundi; and what assessment he has made of the likely effects of the coup attempt on the July 2010 elections.

<b>Peer</b>	Earl Sandwich
<b>Date</b>	7.04.2010
<b>Code</b>	HL3184
<b>Column</b>	
<b>Question</b>	To ask Her Majesty's Government how many of the least developed African, Caribbean and Pacific countries have signed regional economic partnership agreements; which of those countries have not signed such agreements; and what assistance they are providing to countries in both those categories during their negotiations with the European Union.
<b>Responder</b>	Lord Brett
<b>Answer</b>	So far, the Caribbean is the only region to have signed a regional economic partnership agreement (EPA). This region includes one least developed country (LDC), Haiti. Three other LDCs (Lesotho, Mozambique and Madagascar) have signed interim EPAs, and six more LDCs (Comoros, Zambia, Uganda, Tanzania, Burundi and Rwanda) have indicated their intention to sign interim EPAs. The following LDCs across the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) region have not signed an EPA: Angola, Chad, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Sao Tome e Principe and Equatorial Guinea; Kiribati, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Timor Leste, Tuvalu and Vanuatu; Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia; Malawi, Somalia and Sudan; Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo. The Department for International Development's (DfID) assistance is not linked to signing of EPAs. However, DfID provides significant support through Aid for Trade to help ACP countries, as well as other developing countries, to improve trade and to help them integrate further into regional and global markets.
<b>Tags #</b>	



Lord Chidgey	
	22/02/2010
HL2050	
To ask Her Majesty's Government what support they are providing to long-term observation missions to monitor elections in (a) Burundi, and (b) Rwanda, in 2010.	
Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead	
The elections this year in both Burundi and Rwanda remain a top priority for the UK. In both countries, peaceful elections will mark an important step in institutionalising the democratic process. The presence of international observer missions, both from the region and further afield (such as the EU and Commonwealth) constitute an important part of this process. As a member state, the UK discusses the issue regularly with the European Commission. While the European Commission seeks the views of member states on a proposed priority list of countries for EU Election Observer Missions (EOM), it ultimately falls to the European Commission themselves to decide where these will be deployed. Similarly, the terms and resourcing for any EU EOM are also ultimately a decision for the European Commission. The UK welcomes the declaration by Commonwealth Secretary-General Sharma that a Commonwealth Election Observer Mission will go to Rwanda for the elections, due to be held in August.	





<b>MP</b>	Martin Horwood
<b>Date</b>	30/03/2010
<b>Code</b>	324628
<b>Column</b>	
<b>Question</b>	To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what conditions are attached to the fund committed by the UK to help fight climate change by tackling deforestation between 2010 and 2012 and announced at the Copenhagen Climate Change Summit; how the fund will be administered; and whether the fund will be subject to United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change guidelines.
<b>Responder</b>	Joan Ruddock
<b>Answer</b>	[holding answer 29 March 2010]: At Copenhagen my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister announced that the UK would provide £300 million in 2010-12 to help tackle deforestation, as a contribution to the \$3.5 billion committed by donors and representing 20 per cent. of the UK's £1.5 billion 'fast start' finance. This funding will go to developing countries where there are the best opportunities for tackling emissions from deforestation in ways which also reduce poverty and promote sustainable development. The support will be delivered through multilateral funds (e.g. Forest Carbon Partnership Facility, Forest Investment Programme, Congo Basin Forest Initiative) and bilateral programmes. The UNFCCC guidelines are still under consideration. The UK will seek to apply best practice and take account of progress in the climate negotiations.
<b>Tags #</b>	

Mr Oaten
11/03/2010
321661
To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make an assessment of the merits of making the provision of assistance to the Congolese army conditional on progress towards the release from its ranks of those under the age of 18 years and the removal of individuals suspected of having committed human rights abuses.
Mr Ivan Lewis
The UN Peacekeeping mission, MONUC, has a conditionality clause in its mandate that support will be withdrawn from Congolese army units (FARDC) which commit human rights abuses. We fully support this approach and will continue to maintain pressure on the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) to take appropriate action against perpetrators of human rights abuses and uphold the rule of law. My noble Friend the Minister for Africa visited DRC last month and raised the issue with President Kabila, urging progress on security sector reform and implementation of his "zero tolerance" policy on human rights abuses. The Minister also met with FARDC officers and UN Peacekeeping troop commanders in South Kivu, in eastern Congo, and was encouraged by their considered approach to the newly mandated operation, Amani Leo, where they have created a method for vetting FARDC commanders before collaborating with them, shifted emphasis to predominantly civilian protection and developed a robust message on zero tolerance and the need to maintain professional standards. We will continue to monitor the mission through our staff on the ground and UN, non-governmental organisations and independent reporting.

Mr Oaten

11/03/2010

321662

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the merits of providing assistance for accountability mechanisms in Democratic Republic of Congo in respect of reported human rights abuses, with particular reference to the participation of children in armed conflict.

Mr Ivan Lewis

Accountability is essential for the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) armed forces to be able to provide civilian protection. My noble Friend the Minister for Africa raised the issue of impunity for human rights abusers with Prime Minister Muzito and President Kabila when in the country last month. We have lent support to developing the justice sector in DRC. We are providing about £80 million over five years to increase accountability of the security sector through strengthened oversight mechanisms, technical assistance and training. Through the EU advisory and assistance mission for security reform in the DRC we are funding a biometric census project which provides accurate personnel figures for the military of the DRC regiments and allows child soldiers to be successfully identified and removed.

Mr Oaten
11/03/2010
321663
To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make an assessment of the merits of extending the provisions of UN Security Council Resolution 1698 (2006) to include all political and military leaders responsible for the recruitment and use of children in armed conflict in Democratic Republic of Congo.
Mr Ivan Lewis
UN Security Council Resolution 1698 states that political and military leaders recruiting or using children in armed conflict in violation of applicable international law; and individuals committing serious violations of international law involving the targeting of children in situations of armed conflict, including killing and maiming, sexual violence, abduction and forced displacement be subject to sanctions. We fully support this measure as stated in the declaration.

David Chaytor

16/03/2010

What assessment he has made of the actions taken by the Democratic Republic of Congo in undertaking validation of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative; what discussions he has had with his counterpart in the DRC about the implementation of the EITI; and what plans he has to support the DRC in its efforts both to achieve validation and to ensure effective implementation of the EITI?.

David Chaytor (Bury North)
16/03/2010
320356
To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what discussions he has had with his counterpart in the Democratic Republic of Congo on implementation of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative; and if he will make a statement.
Ivan Lewis
Support for the implementation of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) forms a core part of our work to improve transparency in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). My noble Friend, the Minister for Africa, was in the country last month and spoke with Prime Minister Muzito about the need for economic development and the building of conditions which are conducive to business. He saw this as a priority and recognised that there is much work to be done. Despite a slow start EITI (Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative) implementation in the DRC has recently been making considerable progress culminating in the publication of the first report on copper/cobalt and oil. Validation has started and there is reason to hope that the country's efforts will receive a largely positive reception from the International Secretariat in Oslo. The Great Lakes Contact Group Taskforce on Mineral Exploitation had its first meeting in Kinshasa on 21 and 22 January 2010 with the Minister and Vice Minister for mines and representatives from the Ministry of Defence, Interior and others, plus non-governmental organisations and Congolese commercial interests/industry attending. A draft text was agreed which included proposals on due diligence, legalisation of trade (Department for International Development Trading for Peace initiative), certification and financial infrastructure. The paper will now be presented to the DRC cabinet and capitals for final approval.

David Chaytor (Bury North)

16/03/2010

320948

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what reports he has received on the steps taken by the Democratic Republic of Congo towards validation of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative; and if he will make it his policy to support the government of the Democratic Republic of Congo in its efforts to (a) achieve validation and (b) ensure effective implementation of these initiatives.

Gareth Thomas (Harrow West)

The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is making good progress towards validation of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI). The formal validation process is underway and the Government of the DRC expect to meet the outstanding benchmarks for validation by June 2010. The Department for International Development's (DFID's) staff in Kinshasa are involved in regular dialogue with the Government of the DRC and the international community to promote progress with EITI. DFID is currently preparing a joint mining sector reform project with the World Bank, which will provide long-term support to EITI implementation in the DRC.

Martin Horwood (Cheltenham)

01/03/2010

322446

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, whether an environmental impact assessment has been conducted for each (a) current and (b) proposed road building project funded by his Department in Democratic Republic of Congo; how much funding for each such project was allocated to reducing the effect on these projects; and what the percentage of the budget for the environment and local population was in (i) 2008, (ii) 2009 and (iii) 2010.

Martin Horwood (Cheltenham)

01/03/2010

320086

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, how much funding has been allocated to the Congo rainforest region as part of the £1.5 billion commitment to the fast start global financial package to help developing countries address climate change and its impacts agreed at Copenhagen; and if he will increase the fast-track funding contribution to \$800 million per year.

Mark Oaten (Winchester)
11/03/2010
322076
To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, if he will make an assessment of the merits of making the provision of assistance to the Congolese army conditional on progress towards the release from its ranks of those under the age of 18 years and the removal of individuals suspected of having committed human rights abuses.
Ivan Lewis
The UN Peacekeeping mission, MONUC, has a conditionality clause in its mandate that support will be withdrawn from Congolese army units (FARDC) which commit human rights abuses. We fully support this approach and will continue to maintain pressure on the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) to take appropriate action against perpetrators of human rights abuses and uphold the rule of law. My noble Friend the Minister for Africa visited DRC last month and raised the issue with President Kabila, urging progress on security sector reform and implementation of his "zero tolerance" policy on human rights abuses. The Minister also met with FARDC officers and UN Peacekeeping troop commanders in South Kivu, in eastern Congo, and was encouraged by their considered approach to the newly mandated operation, Amani Leo, where they have created a method for vetting FARDC commanders before collaborating with them, shifted emphasis to predominantly civilian protection and developed a robust message on zero tolerance and the need to maintain professional standards. We will continue to monitor the mission through our staff on the ground and UN, non-governmental organisations and independent reporting.

Mark Oaten (Winchester)

11/03/2010

321662

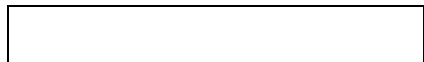
To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what assessment he has made of the merits of providing assistance for accountability mechanisms in Democratic Republic of Congo in respect of reported human rights abuses, with particular reference to the participation of children in armed conflict.

Ivan Lewis

Accountability is essential for the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) armed forces to be able to provide civilian protection. My noble Friend the Minister for Africa raised the issue of impunity for human rights abusers with Prime Minister Muzito and President Kabila when in the country last month. We have lent support to developing the justice sector in DRC. We are providing about £80 million over five years to increase accountability of the security sector through strengthened oversight mechanisms, technical assistance and training. Through the EU advisory and assistance mission for security reform in the DRC we are funding a biometric census project which provides accurate personnel figures for the military of the DRC regiments and allows child soldiers to be successfully identified and removed.

Mark Oaten (Winchester)
11/03/2010
321662
To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, if he will make an assessment of the merits of extending the provisions of UN Security Council Resolution 1698 (2006) to include all political and military leaders responsible for the recruitment and use of children in armed conflict in Democratic Republic of Congo.
Ivan Lewis

UN Security Council Resolution 1698 states that political and military leaders recruiting or using children in armed conflict in violation of applicable international law; and individuals committing serious violations of international law involving the targeting of children in situations of armed conflict, including killing and maiming, sexual violence, abduction and forced displacement be subject to sanctions. We fully support this measure as stated in the declaration.



Jeremy Corbyn
11/03/2010
321662
To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo on the arrest in January 2010 of Lutu Mabangu.
Ivan Lewis
[holding answer 9 March 2010]: My noble Friend Baroness Kinnock raised freedom of expression and the need for media freedom and freedom of association in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) with the President, Prime Minister and other Ministers when she visited in late February. Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials will raise the specific case of Lutu Mabangu at the meeting of the EU human rights working group in Kinshasa next month. We are currently not making any specific representations to the Government of DRC about this case.

Martin Horwood (Cheltenham)

29/03/2010

324630

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what funding his Department allocates to the government of the Democratic Republic of Congo in respect of the WWF Global Forest and Trade Network.

Gareth Thomas (Harow West)

The Department for International Development (DFID) does not allocate funding to the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo in respect of the WWF Global Forest and Trade network.

Jeremy Corbyn (Islington North)

09/03/2010

321448

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what representations he has made to the government of the Democratic Republic of Congo on the arrest in January 2010 of Lutu Mabangu.

Questions to the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs

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Martin Horwood

05/03/2010

320089

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much funding has been allocated to the Congo rainforest region as part of the £1.5 billion commitment to the fast start global financial package to help developing countries address climate change and its impacts agreed at Copenhagen; and if he will increase the fast-track funding contribution to \$800 million per year.

Gareth Thomas (Harrow West)

The Prime Minister has committed up to £1.5 billion in Fast Start finance over the next three financial years from 2010-11 to 2012-13. 20 per cent. of this total will be allocated for forestry, including planned investment in the Congo Basin Forest Fund. We are currently developing plans for 2010-11 and will determine priorities for 2011-12 and 2012-13 as part of the next spending review.

Martin Horwood
05/03/2010
320086
<p>To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether an environmental impact assessment has been conducted for each (a) current and (b) proposed road building project funded by his Department in Democratic Republic of Congo; how much funding for each such project was allocated to reducing the effect on these projects; and what the percentage of the budget for the environment and local population was in 2009, 2010 and 2011.</p>
Gareth Thomas (Harrow West)
<p>All road rehabilitation projects funded by the Department of International Development (DFID) in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) are subject to Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIAs). The following amounts have been allocated to address environmental and social impacts of road rehabilitation projects currently funded by DFID: "£12 million, or 15 per cent., of a total contribution of £78 million from 2009 to 2013 for the 'Pro Routes' programme, in partnership with the World Bank." "£476,733, or 13 per cent., of a total contribution of £3.66 million from July 2009 to July 2011 for rehabilitation of roads in eastern DRC, in partnership with the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)." "£435,949, or 15 per cent., of a total budget of £2.79 million for the same period to rehabilitate a road from Kisangani to Ubundu in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)."</p>

Alistair Carmichael \*Orkney and Shetland)

05/03/2010

321088

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum-seeking families from (a) Afghanistan, (b) the Democratic Republic of Congo and (c) Somalia have been detained at (i) Dungavel House, (ii) Tinsley House and (iii) Yarl's Wood in each of the last six years.

Questions to the Secretary of State for the Home Department

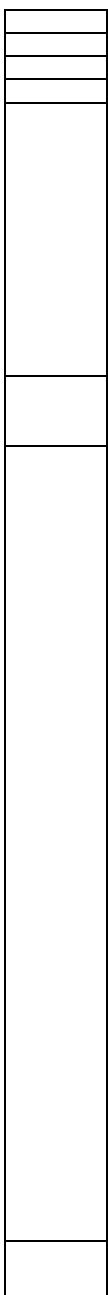
Malcolm Bruce

03/03/2010

Will the Minister acknowledge that eastern Congo probably witnesses the most savage and brutal attacks and rapes on women anywhere on the planet? As the United Kingdom is a major donor in the DRC, what does he think we can do to lead action to give the women of DRC the right to life and the right to equality in life that they are denied at present?

Gareth Thomas (Harrow West)

The right hon. Gentleman is absolutely right to highlight the eastern DRC as a particularly appalling example of the scale of violence against women. We can provide direct support, as we are, to help women to come forward to report examples of rape and other sexual crimes. We can also provide support to train the police to deal with such violence, which we are doing. In the end, there has to be the political will in the DRC for the issue to be tackled, which is why my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State and others have raised it at the highest level with President Kabila and his Ministers.



<b>Peer</b>	Lord Alton of Liverpool
<b>Date</b>	07/04/2010
<b>Code</b>	HL3105
<b>Column</b>	WA429
<b>Question</b>	To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of how many people have been (a) killed, (b) raped, and (c) internally or externally displaced, in the east of the Democratic Republic of Congo since operation Amani Leo was launched.
<b>Responder</b>	Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead
<b>Answer</b>	<p>I visited the east of the country where operation Amani Leo is being carried out when I was in DRC in February. I met people who are living their daily lives amidst the conflict and heard first hand about the dangers they face. When I spoke to MONUC and FARDC commanders who are planning operation Amani Leo I reiterated that human rights abuses will not be tolerated and that conditionality must be applied by MONUC in cases where they are committed. This means that MONUC support will be removed from FARDC battalions that are involved in human rights abuses. I was assured that this message is being delivered to the troops in the field. We remain extremely concerned at the effect this conflict is taking on innocent people. We are monitoring developments and will continue pushing for human rights abuses to be investigated as well as conditionality to be applied. The FDLR continue to kidnap, kill and rape-particularly in South Kivu which is why the military operations to remove them as a source of instability are necessary. With closer MONUC involvement and a more organised FARDC, Amani Leo is better planned than its predecessor, Kimia II. However, people are still being displaced as a result of military operations. Congolese army troops (FARDC) continue to commit human rights violations. I told President Kabila that the issue of impunity must be addressed and perpetrators of human rights abuses held to account when I met him in February. FARDC has made efforts to implement President Kabila's "zero tolerance" policy, by bringing some offenders to justice. MONUC is demanding that human rights violators are removed from military units that they are supporting. FARDC is being more transparent and is now reporting to MONUC cases of human rights abuse as they occur. We understand FARDC has provided figures to MONUC detailing the number of personnel tried in military courts between February 09 and February 10 for human rights crimes including rape, murder and armed robbery. Reporting from our post in DRC and MONUC sources suggests that the situation has improved over the last year. MONUC also carries out disarmament, demobilization, repatriation, resettlement and reintegration (DDRRR) work with foreign armed groups, principally the FDLR and Lord's Resistance Army. In 2009 the combination of enhanced DDRRR work and military operations resulted in a threefold increase over 2008 in successful repatriations of FDLR fighters back to Rwanda. The UK continues to fund DDRRR work and I visited one of the UK-funded radio transmitters used for DDRRR communications when I was in DRC seeing how UK money is being put to good use</p>
<b>Tags #</b>	Rape, Displaced, Amani Leo

Lord Alton of Liverpool
07/04/2010
HL3106
To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the comments of the European Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid, Karel De Gucht, that "Congoese leaders are inappropriate partners and the aid given by the international community to the Democratic Republic of Congo is a total waste".
Lord Brett
The UK is one of the largest donors to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), spending £105 million in 2009-10. The UK works closely with the Government of the DRC, though we recognise the Government's weak capacity and the high risks of our engagement. Implementation of UK programmes is managed by international organisations, including the World Bank and United Nations agencies. This helps us to ensure that UK taxpayers' money is managed properly and put to good use. UK aid is yielding results in the DRC. Our health programme is reaching 2 million people with basic services and has provided 3 million mosquito nets to prevent malaria, a major cause of death in DRC. We also work with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Belgian Technical Co-operation and the DRC Ministry of Energy and Water to provide safer water and sanitation facilities for some 4 million people. We have made no specific assessment of Mr de Gucht's remarks.
Aid, taxpayer, Malaria

Lord Alton of Liverpool
07/04/2010
HL3156
WA430
To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the security situation in (a) the Kivus provinces, (b) Katanga, (c) Bas-Congo, and (d) Dungu, in the Orientale province in the north-east of the Democratic Republic of Congo.
Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead
<p>The security situation across the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) remains a serious concern for the UK and we continue to monitor the situation closely.(a) I visited the Kivu's where Operation Amani Leo is currently under way when I was in DRC at the end of February. In Bunyakari I spoke to UN peacekeeping mission to DRC (MONUC) troops and the Congolese army (FARDC) 8th brigade who told me that while operations had opened up the main road and improved trade and communications insecurity was still high with FDLR attacks including rape, looting, house burning a daily occurrence. My meetings with local people confirmed the dangers and difficulties they face. I reiterated to MONUC and FARDC commanders that there must not be a repeat of the human rights abuses of Kimia II and that conditionality, whereby support offered by MONUC to FARDC battalions will be withdrawn where human rights abuses are committed, must be applied and acted upon where warranted. They assured me that this message is being delivered to troops and battalions in the field.In the North of North Kivu the main threats come from kidnappings by the Allied Democratic Forces/National Liberation Army for the Liberation of Uganda (ADF/NALU) and banditry committed by the PNC (Congolese Police Force), elements of FARDC, and the Army for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR) being pushed north by the military operations.(b) The FDLR has a presence in the north of Katanga, with some moving south as they are pushed out of their bases in the Kivus. Exploitation of minerals remains a source of insecurity as various armed actors and criminal elements seek to profit from mines.(c) There are border issues with Angola in Bas Congo, and the Angolans are also in dispute with DRC over access to oil in the ocean.The Government clampdown of the Bundia Dia Kongo group in 2008 has left a lingering tension in Bas Congo. The activities of Bundia Dia Kongo and the DRC Government remain concerning. Underlying tensions do not seem to have been resolved, though there have been no recent signs of violence.(d) The Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) is present and terrorising the local population in Dungu. Human Rights Watch released a report recently which says that 321 civilians were killed by the LRA during a four day rampage in the Makombo district in December 2009. Fear of LRA attacks is preventing the local population from leaving the relative security of the towns and villages meaning fields are left uncultivated. Roads in the region are in a poor state and there are no mobile phone networks outside of Dungu; early warnings and a rapid response to attacks are nearly impossible. As I stated on 30 March "The LRA continues to pose a serious threat to civilians. They also put at risk both the conduct of humanitarian operations and the stability of the region"</p>

Lord Alton of Liverpool
07/04/2010
HL3157
WA431
To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will ask the World Trade Organisation to establish a study group on the protection of workers, with particular reference to allegations of slavery, forced labour and the exploitation of children in the Congo.
Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead
<p>The exploitation of civilians, use of forced labour and exploitation of children in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) are of serious concern to the UK. The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCR) January 2010 report highlighted the natural resource sector as a particular area where armed groups use forced labour. I spoke to Prime Minister Muzito when I was in DRC about the importance for the country of mineral sector reform. We are working with the International Community to help the Government of DRC reform their natural resource sector. I also spoke to President Kabila about ending impunity for all human rights abuses including the use of child soldiers. We support the work of UN peacekeeping mission to DRC (MONUC) in reintegrating militia groups which has led to children being released into the care of child protection organisations. Through the EU advisory and assistance mission for security reform in the Democratic Republic of Congo (EUSEC) we are funding a biometric census project which provides accurate personnel figures for FARDC regiments and allows child soldiers to be successfully identified and removed. Alongside abduction one of the major factors that persuades children to join militia groups is the lack of access to education. As part of our work to address this, the Department for International Development provides £500,000 funding to projects improving access to primary education. We do not have any plans to ask the World Trade Organisation to establish a study group on the protection of workers.</p>

Lord Alton of Liverpool
07/04/2010
HL3158
To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the Governments of Rwanda and Uganda, and at the United Nations, on Rwanda and Uganda's alleged role in the conflict and humanitarian situation in the Congo; and with what results.
Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead
<p>The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has made recent rapprochements with both Rwanda and Uganda, the UK Government welcome these and strongly support the greater regional co-operation they signify. DRC and Rwanda have now exchanged ambassadors. The DRC-Uganda rapprochement has led President Kabila and President Museveni to publicly pledge co-operation across the board. Our embassies and High Commissions in the Great Lakes region of Africa remain in constant contact with host governments over the best means to end political violence and promote stability and development in the DRC and more widely in the region. We have raised the issue of regional co-operation amongst Great Lakes countries at all levels in the UN. Most recently when I was in New York in March I spoke to the UN Secretary-General Ban Kin Moon about the region. During my recent visits to DRC and Uganda, and in a meeting last month with the Rwandan Foreign Minister I have urged the importance of regional co-operation.</p>

The Earl of Sandwich
07/04/2010
HL3184
To ask Her Majesty's Government how many of the least developed African, Caribbean and Pacific countries have signed regional economic partnership agreements; which of those countries have not signed such agreements; and what assistance they are providing to countries in both those categories during their negotiations with the European Union.
Lord Brett
<p>So far, the Caribbean is the only region to have signed a regional economic partnership agreement (EPA). This region includes one least developed country (LDC), Haiti. Three other LDCs (Lesotho, Mozambique and Madagascar) have signed interim EPAs, and six more LDCs (Comoros, Zambia, Uganda, Tanzania, Burundi and Rwanda) have indicated their intention to sign interim EPAs. The following LDCs across the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) region have not signed an EPA: Angola, Chad, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Sao Tome e Principe and Equatorial Guinea; Kiribati, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Timor Leste, Tuvalu and Vanuatu; Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia; Malawi, Somalia and Sudan; Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo. The Department for International Development's (DfID) assistance is not linked to signing of EPAs. However, DfID provides significant support through Aid for Trade to help ACP countries, as well as other developing countries, to improve trade and to help them integrate further into regional and global markets.</p>

Lord Alton of Liverpool
06/04/2010
HL3154
To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to (a) the government of the Democratic Republic of Congo, (b) the government of Rwanda, (c) the government of Uganda, (d) donor countries, and (e) representatives of the United Nations on allegations that the National Congress for the Defence of the People have gained further control of Congolese mines.
Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead
The CNDP is no longer active as a militia group. Ex-CNDP elements integrated into the Congolese army (FARDC) are still in control of some mines in the east. I spoke to PM Muzito and reiterated the need to reform the mineral sector when I visited the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in February. The Government, through DfID, have been working with the international community (World Bank, EC, IMF and UNDP), to increase transparency in the DRC. We are supporting government institutions to develop a more efficient and transparent public financial management system and are working to improve the quality of government audit and budgeting processes. The UK has not lobbied the Governments of Rwanda and Uganda on the issue of ex-CNDP elements of FARDC controlling Congolese mines.

Lord Alton of Liverpool
06/04/2010
HL3194
To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to (a) the government of Rwanda, and (b) the African Union, and through the European Union and the United Nations, on the extradition of Laurent Nkunda to the Democratic Republic of Congo to face trial for alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in the Kivus.
Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead
We have made no representations to the Governments of Rwanda or the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) as to how they should handle this issue, nor have we discussed the case in the fora of the African Union, EU or UN. We understand that detailed bilateral discussions, on a political and legal level, are under way between Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) on the case of Laurent Nkunda to establish whether the legal problems in extradition, including the DRC's retention of the death penalty, can be overcome. We will continue to monitor the situation closely.

Lord Alton of Liverpool
06/04/2010
HL3193
To ask Her Majesty's Government what recent discussions they have had with the government of Rwanda about beginning a dialogue with Rwandan Hutus living in eastern Congo.
Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead
I raised reconciliation issues with the Rwandan Foreign Minister during her recent visit to London. We are supportive of the work of the Rwandan Demobilisation and Reintegration Commission in returning to Rwanda former combatants from the eastern Congo region. We also remain supportive of the role of the UN High Commission for Refugees in returning to Rwanda civilian refugees in the eastern Congo. The aim of both of these programmes is the reintegration of these groups into Rwandan society. We further continue to support the efforts of the UN force in the Congo (MONUC) in persuading Rwandan Hutu rebels in the Congo to disarm, demobilise and repatriate to Rwanda in accordance with the provisions of UN Security Council Resolution 1804

Lord Alton of Liverpool	
	06/04/2010
HL3107	
To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the Minister for Africa, Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead, raised with the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo during her recent visit the treatment of "shegues" (street children in Kinshasa) who have been sent to Angenga and Buluwo prisons.	
Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead	
The UK Government are deeply concerned at the problems faced by children in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). We have worked with REJEER, a children's rights non-governmental organisation, to fund a leaflet aimed at children to explain their rights under the 2009 Child Protection Law. We are also funding projects for improving access to primary education through the Department for International Development which will help children. I did not raise the issue of shegues with the Government of DRC on my recent visit, but we have asked the UN for confirmation of reports that street children are being imprisoned and of the conditions in the prison, which we are waiting to receive.	

Lord Alton of Liverpool

06/04/2010

HL3109

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will undertake not to grant a visa or permission to enter the United Kingdom to any individual accused by the United Nations of war crimes, rape, or human rights violations in the Congo or Rwanda.

Lord West of Spithead

It is government policy that the UK should not be a safe haven for war criminals or those who commit crimes against humanity. Any named individual accused of war crimes would normally be refused entry clearance under paragraph 320(19) of the immigration rules on the grounds that their presence in the United Kingdom would not be conducive to the public good.



Lord Chidgey
23/03/2010
HL2711
WA287
To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to provide increased funding for the repatriation of Rwandan civilians leaving the Democratic Republic of the Congo and returning to Rwanda
Lord Brett
: In 2009 the UK provided £27 million to the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR). £19 million was core funding, which benefits all UNHCR operations, including in Rwanda where the Commission is assisting returning Rwandan civilians to reintegrate into society. We do not anticipate significant changes in the volume of our support to UNHCR, nor to the mechanisms through which this support is channelled.

Lord Alton of Liverpool
23/03/2010
HL2742
WA288
To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the degree to which civilians and ex-combatants returning to Rwanda from eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo return to the DRC after initial reintegration and then reattempt the process for social and economic reasons.
Lord Brett
The Rwanda Demobilisation and Reintegration Commission oversee the return of ex-combatants from the Democratic Republic of the Congo to Rwanda. The United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) assists returning refugees to reintegrate into Rwandan society. It is difficult to monitor the numbers of civilians and ex-combatants returning to DRC after reintegration in Rwanda, but these institutions assess that the number is not significant. They also advise that, due to improved identity controls, the numbers attempting return and reintegration a second time are negligible.

Lord Chidgey
23/03/2010
HL2710
To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to engage in long-term reintegration projects for Rwandan refugees living in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and wishing to return to Rwanda.
Lord Brett
There are no plans for long-term reintegration projects specifically targeted at Rwandan refugees returning to Rwanda from the Democratic Republic of Congo. The Department for International Development (DfID) is committed to supporting the long-term development of Rwanda and provides £50 million in development assistance per annum. DfID funding is helping to improve education and health services and providing social protection for the very poor in Rwanda, services which will also benefit returning Rwandan citizens.

Lord Chidgey
23/03/2010
HL2711
To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to provide increased funding for the repatriation of Rwandan civilians leaving the Democratic Republic of the Congo and returning to Rwanda.
Lord Brett
In 2009 the UK provided £27 million to the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR). £19 million was core funding, which benefits all UNHCR operations, including in Rwanda where the Commission is assisting returning Rwandan civilians to reintegrate into society. We do not anticipate significant changes in the volume of our support to UNHCR, nor to the mechanisms through which this support is channelled.

Lord Alton of Liverpool	Lord Alton of Liverpool
23/03/2010	23/03/2010
HL2742	HL2738
WA288	
To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the degree to which civilians and ex-combatants returning to Rwanda from eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo return to the DRC after initial reintegration and then <del>re-attempt the process for social</del>	To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to tackle corruption through measures to increase transparency in developing countries rich in natural resources, in particular in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda; and what steps they are taking to ensure that United Kingdom companies working in those countries publish details of payments made to the countries' Governments.
Lord Brett	Lord Brett
The Rwanda Demobilisation and Reintegration Commission oversee the return of ex-combatants from the Democratic Republic of the Congo to Rwanda. The United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) assists returning refugees to reintegrate into Rwandan society. It is difficult to monitor the numbers of civilians and ex-combatants returning to DRC after reintegration in Rwanda, but these institutions assess that the number is not significant. They also advise that, due to improved identity controls, the numbers attempting return and reintegration a second time are negligible.	In the Democratic Republic of the Congo we are working with the international community, particularly the World Bank, European Commission, International Monetary Fund and UNDP, to increase transparency in the DRC. We are supporting government institutions to develop a more efficient and transparent public financial management system, and are working to improve the quality of government audit and budgeting processes. We continue to encourage British companies trading in natural resources from DRC to do so in a way which is socially, economically and environmentally responsible, and to adhere to the voluntary guidelines set out by the OECD. Our strategy for DRC places a strong emphasis on greater transparency and better management of the minerals sector, including in Eastern DRC. We are strong supporters of DRC efforts to fully implement the extractive industry transparency initiative (EITI). Together with the World Bank and the DRC Ministry of Mines we are currently developing a multi-year mining sector reform programme which aims to transform the way the sector is managed and ensure that the Government extends their control over all mining activities in DRC. Baroness Kinnock, Minister for Africa, visited Uganda in February and raised the issue of transparency in the oil industry with the Foreign Minister and President Museveni stressing the importance of a transparent and responsible framework for the management of oil revenue and encouraging the Government to sign up to the EITI. She also discussed this with the EU head of mission in Kampala who agreed with the need for concerted efforts in this area.

Lord Alton of Liverpool

16/03/2010

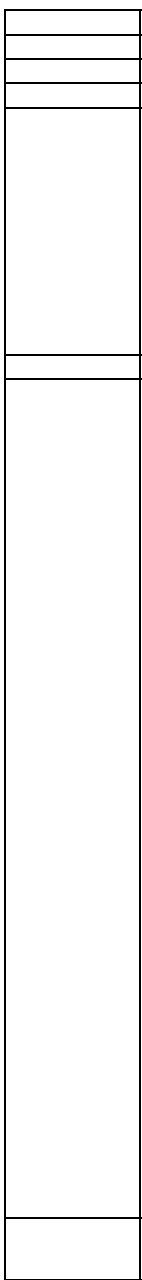
HL2538

To ask Her Majesty's Government following reports of recent attempts by North Korea to sell weapons and military equipment to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, what is their assessment of the effectiveness of the United Nations sanctions on the Democratic Republic of the Congo; and what steps they will take to prevent the flow of arms into areas of conflict.

Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead

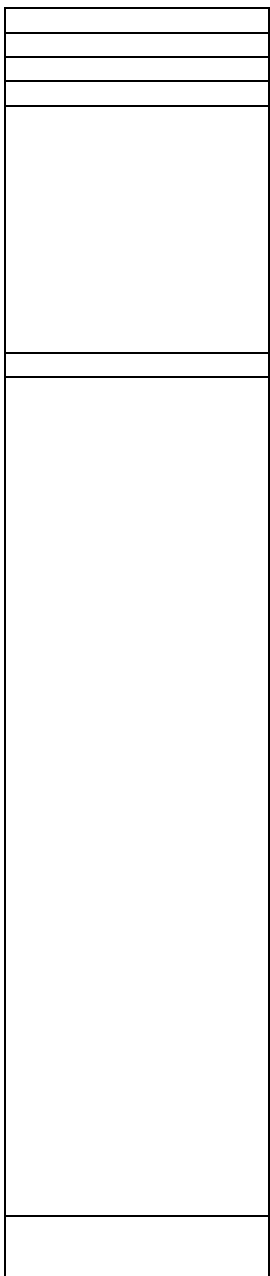
There is no embargo against the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) purchasing arms. The UN Group of Experts report on the DRC sanctions regime stated that the embargo against supplying arms to non-state armed groups was being breached. The UN Organization Mission to the DRC (MONUC) is empowered by UN Security Council Resolution 1533 to seize any arms which may end up in the hands of militia groups. We work with the international community to support MONUC and build the capacity of the DRC state and military to police the embargo. The UK will not, and has not, issued any strategic export licences that would be in breach of the UN arms embargo and the Government's international commitments.

Lord Chidgey
16/03/2010
HL2709
To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have raised with the government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo the case of Lt Col Innocent Zimurinda, a senior FARDC army officer, who is suspected of human rights abuses; and whether they will make representations to that government for impartial investigations into the alleged abuses and for his suspension from the Congolese army pending the outcome of the investigations
Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead
<p>The UK has raised the case of Lt. Col. Innocent Zimurinda with the Congolese authorities and we have pressed the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) to take appropriate action on this case. A DRC government spokesperson has said that they will do so. We will support any such action and will continue to monitor the case. I visited the country at the end of February, where I pressed the essential need for action to be taken on human rights abuse and for an end to impunity with President Kabila. President Kabila agreed and reaffirmed his stance on zero tolerance. I also discussed the application of conditionality in Amani Leo with the military of the DRC (FARDC) and UN mission in the DRC (MONUC) troops. I delivered our message in no uncertain terms that human rights abuses by FARDC will not be tolerated and that we will press hard for conditionality to be applied wherever necessary. I was assured by MONUC and FARDC commanders that this message is being delivered and that Amani Leo will be conducted differently to Kimia II. I heard how operations have been delayed in Bunyakari to allow MONUC to complete vetting of FARDC commanders to prevent similar cases occurring. However we will remain vigilant and will keep a close eye on the situation.</p>



Lord Chidgey
23/02/2010
HL2049
To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo about the commission reviewing parts of the Congolese constitution, including presidential term limits
Lord Brett
It would not be for the UK to influence the constitution of a sovereign state. However, we are engaging with the Government of DRC (GoDRC) on the importance of adhering to the constitutionally mandated term limits and holding elections within the constitutional timeframe. For local elections this means February 2011, for national elections this means September 2011. GoDRC have announced their intentions to hold elections to this timeframe, and we fully support this.

Lord Alton of Liverpool
22/02/2010
HL1946
WA245
To ask Her Majesty's Government what measures they have taken to implement the recommendations in the White Paper Eliminating World Poverty: building our Common Future on security and access to justice.
Lord Brett
The 2009 White Paper Eliminating World Poverty: Building our Common Future committed the UK Government to triple spending on security and justice to £120 million per year by 2012-13. The Department for International Development (DfID) is developing a number of new or expanded programmes to meet this commitment. We have already agreed multi-year programmes in the Democratic Republic of Congo (£60 million), Bangladesh (£37 million), Nigeria (£30 million), Sudan (£20 million), Nepal (£12 million) and Yemen (£7 million). We are also updating our programming guidance, based on the latest evidence and lessons learnt, to maximise the impact of this increased spending.



Lord Alton of Liverpool
15/01/2010
HL1147
WA191
To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the government of the Democratic Republic of Congo regarding concerns about corruption, impunity and human rights abuse in that country
Lord Brett
We lobby the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) vigorously through our embassy in Kinshasa on the human rights situation in the country and we welcome President Kabila's zero tolerance policy on human rights abusers. We continue to press for measures to be taken on impunity for serious abusers, including the handover of Bosco Ntaganda to the International Criminal Court. We take the issue of impunity seriously, and have lent support to developing the justice sector in DRC. We are providing around £80 million over five years to increase accountability of the security sector through strengthened oversight mechanisms, technical assistance and training. We also lobby strongly for, and support, action to be taken on sexual and gender based violence (SGBV). Our action to combat this is focused on four levels: prevention; strengthening medical and psychosocial response; support during the judicial process; and advocacy

Lord Alton of Liverpool
15/01/2010
HL1148
WA192
To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have assessed British-owned or British-based arms-brokers dealing with armed groups in the Great Lakes region of Africa.
Lord Brett
We are not aware of British or British-based arms brokers dealing with armed groups in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Any such brokers dealing with armed groups would be liable for sanctions, and their activities would be subject to domestic export control legislation. We take our obligations under sanctions very seriously and will not hesitate to support sanctions against any person or company against whom there is sufficient evidence, including UK-based companies or individuals. We fully support and welcome the work of the UN Group of Experts, the panel of five UN-appointed officials responsible for investigating compliance with the terms of the arms embargo and the sanctions regime which apply in DRC, into the activities of armed groups in the eastern DRC and how they are funded.

Lord Alton of Liverpool	
	15/01/2010
HL1149	
WA193	
<p>To ask Her Majesty's Government how they, the European Union Special Representative and the United States special envoy to the Great Lakes region of Africa are working (a) to create a permanent and effectively monitored ceasefire in the Kivus, (b) to end the trading of metals from allegedly inhumanely mined minerals in the Congo in European and American markets, (c) to ensure that there is effective justice following alleged deployment of rape as a weapon of war, use of children as soldiers, and other alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity, (d) to reduce the spread of HIV/AIDS and incidences of fistula, and (e) to increase access to education.</p>	
Lord Brett	
<p>(a) Any permanent ceasefire in the Kivus will require close co-operation between the Governments of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Rwanda. We welcome the recent rapprochement between Rwanda and DRC-including the recent exchange of ambassadors-which has lead to greater co-operation and stability in the region. Our ambassador in Kinshasa and High Commissioner in Kigali are in close contact with their respective host Governments and continue to engage on this issue. (b) The UK fully supports the work of the UN Group of Experts which has led investigations into the companies and individuals benefiting from the illicit trade in natural resources. We are working with the Government of DRC to promote the mining sector and the trade of minerals in a more regulated and transparent way which will inhibit the opportunities of illegal groups to exploit the mining and trade. We also take very seriously our obligations under sanctions and will not hesitate to support sanctions against any person or company against whom there is sufficient evidence, including UK-based companies or individuals. (c) The UK supports international efforts to prevent crimes against humanity. We have been working with partners on an emergency justice project to help bring the most serious crimes in eastern DRC to justice, including specific provision for crimes of sexual violence. We are working within a security sector reform programme to end the culture of impunity for the security forces, for example providing barracks, pay, etc, to reduce the predation of the army on civilian populations. The UK is equally committed to playing an active role in international efforts to protect children affected by armed conflict as a member of the UN Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict and through the European Union. The UK has also provided very significant financial support to a number of programmes that help children affected by armed conflict. The UK strongly supports the work of international courts and tribunals which are trying the alleged perpetrators of the most serious crimes of concern to the international community including those against children.(d) The Department for International Development (DfID) supports a programme of HIV/AIDS prevention, which includes the distribution of condoms and behaviour change and helping the Government develop a national strategy for tackling HIV/AIDS.(e) DfID leads the international donor group in DRC on education and supports the Government's aspiration to achieve universal free primary education. It is supporting the DRC's primary and secondary education strategy through a teacher census and a school mapping exercise, and we continue to support universal access to education through a scheme for providing insurance for primary school children to attend school.The UK works with a range of partners on these issues, including the EU and the United States.</p>	

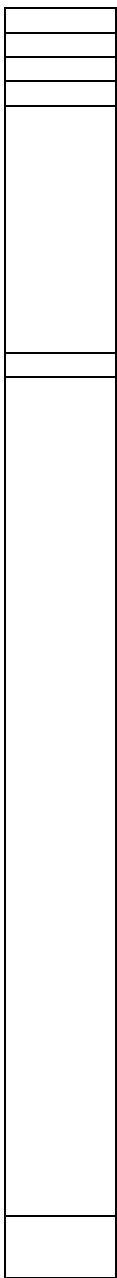
Lord Alton of Liverpool
14/01/2010
HL1151
WA169
To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of reports that during the Kimia II operation in North Kivu 7,000 women have been raped, 900,000 people have been forced from their homes and 6,000 homes have been burnt down; and what representations they have made
Lord Brett
The Government agree that significant human rights abuses were committed during Operation Kimia II, although precise numbers are very difficult to verify in an area such as Eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). We regularly raise the issue of civilian protection with the Government of DRC, and were instrumental in the renewal of the United Nations peacekeeping force in the DRC (MONUC) mandate, with its sharper focus on protection of civilians. We fully support the decision by MONUC to withdraw support from the Congolese military (FARDC) units which commit serious human rights abuses, and continue to press the Government of DRC to take action against any members of the DRC armed forces who commit such abuses. We continue to promote a peaceful resolution to the conflict, for example by supporting the voluntary disarmament, demobilisation, repatriation, <u>resettlement and reintegration</u>

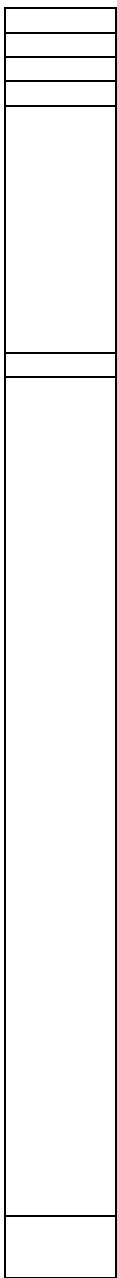
Lord Alton of Liverpool	
	13/01/2010
HL973	
WA158	
To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they are taking to encourage the government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to extradite Bosco Ntaganda, for whom there is an International Criminal Court warrant outstanding	
Lord Brett	
<p>We, along with our European counterparts, continue to press for Bosco Ntaganda to be handed over for trial by the International Criminal Court (ICC). The UK strongly supports the ICC and we welcome the court's investigations into events in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Conflict in the region has been marked by atrocities, and those responsible for them should be held to account. Our ambassador in Kinshasa discussed the arrest warrant with the UN Secretary General's Special Representative for the DRC Alan Doss. He received assurances that the UN mission would support the DRC Government in carrying out the warrant. He has also raised the question of Bosco's position in meetings with the Foreign Minister. He has sought reassurances that Bosco will be handed over to the ICC at the earliest possible opportunity.</p>	

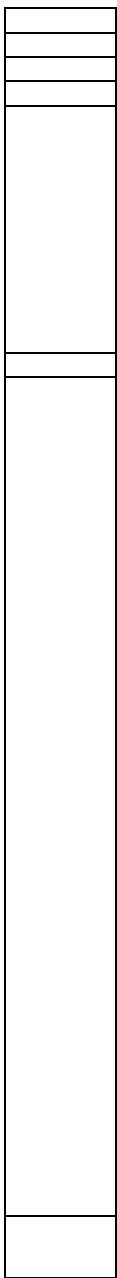
Lord Alton of Liverpool
13/01/2010
HL1011
WA158
<p>To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the purchase by United Kingdom companies of metals derived from allegedly inhumanely mined minerals in the Congo; and what steps they are taking to ensure that the proceeds from British purchases in the Congo are not used to finance armed groups operating in the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Great Lakes region.</p>
Lord Brett
<p>The UK fully supports the work of the UN Group of Experts who have led investigations into the companies and individuals benefiting from the illicit trade in natural resources. We have stayed in touch with the Group of Experts and have offered as much support to them as possible. But we take our obligations under sanctions very seriously and will not hesitate to support sanctions against any person or company against whom there is sufficient evidence, including UK-based companies or individuals. We continue to encourage British companies trading in natural resources from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) to do so in a way which is socially, economically and environmentally responsible, and to adhere to the voluntary guidelines set out by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. Our strategy for DRC places a strong emphasis on greater transparency and better management of the minerals sector, including in Eastern DRC. We are strong supporters of DRC efforts to fully implement the extractive industry transparency initiative. Together with the World Bank and the DRC Ministry of Mines we are currently developing a multi-year mining sector reform programme which aims to transform the way the sector is managed and ensure that the Government extend their control over all mining activities in DRC. And our regional Trading for Peace programme is coming up with innovative mechanisms for transforming the mineral wealth in the Great Lakes region from a source of conflict to an engine for growth and stability.</p>

Lord Alton of Liverpool
13/01/2010
HL1013
WA158
To ask Her Majesty's Government what encouragement they are giving to the government of Congo to ensure that the FARDC, the army of the Democratic Republic of Congo, has sufficient capacity to protect civilians, especially women vulnerable to violent sexual attacks. [
Lord Brett
We strongly support the capacity building efforts of the UN peacekeeping mission (MONUC), the EU Mission to provide advice on and assistance with security reform in the Democratic Republic of Congo (EUSEC DRC), and the security sector reform measures of other international partners. We welcome MONUC mandate 1906, which has placed civilian protection as its highest priority and the fact that MONUC has developed a conditionality policy as a means of withdrawing support from the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of Congo (FARDC) units implicated in serious human rights abuses including violence against women. We are also currently working on projects to promote better accountability and discipline among the Democratic Republic of Congo's (DRC) security forces, which are responsible for many of the abuses the population suffers. We are providing about £80 million over five years to increase accountability of the defence, police and justice sectors through strengthened oversight mechanisms, technical assistance and training. We remain concerned at the prevalence of violence against women and we successfully pressed for sexual and gender-based violence to be a new focus in the work of EUSEC. We continue to support and strongly lobby the DRC Government to implement their policy of zero tolerance against those responsible for sexual and gender based violence atrocities. We have repeatedly called for members of the armed forces guilty of human rights violations to be brought to justice. The UN Security Council, including the UK Permanent Representative, raised this issue with DRC President Kabila and DRC Prime Minister Muzito. We continue to push for legal action against five senior FARDC commanders accused of committing sexual violence, who were named by the UN Security Council during their visit. Since April 2009 we have provided over a thousand FARDC officers with training on a huge range of subjects, including logistics, communications, and leadership, with further courses planned until spring 2010. We have also developed an administration school for the FARDC and refurbished their catering and logistics schools.

Lord Alton of Liverpool
12/01/2010
HL972
To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they and the Commonwealth are taking to ensure that the government of Rwanda extradite Laurent Nkunda to stand trial at The Hague for alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in Kiwanja and Rutshuru.
Lord Brett
Allegations of serious crimes committed in the Democratic Republic of Congo since July 2002 are currently being investigated by the International Criminal Court (ICC). The Court is an independent, judicial institution and decisions on indictments and arrest warrants are a matter for the Prosecutor and the Pre-Trial Chamber. At this time, no warrant has been issued by the ICC for Laurent Nkunda.







<b>MP</b>	Geoffrey Clifton-Brown
<b>Date</b>	2203/2010
<b>Code</b>	322720
<b>Column</b>	
<b>Question</b>	To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if his Department will use the Fast Track Initiative's equity and inclusion framework when part of a donor group charged with assessing education sector plans submitted to the Fast Track Initiative.
<b>Responder</b>	Michael John Foster
<b>Answer</b>	The Department for International Development (DFID) will support the Education for All-Fast Track Initiative (EFA-FTI) to ensure that countries are supported to tackle exclusion of children from education including those with a disability. DFID has been a member of the small task team of donors and civil society which has led on the production and piloting of the FTI's equity and inclusion framework. DFID's Rwanda office is currently using the framework in partnership with the national Government and we would expect to use the framework in other DFID partner countries where education sector plans are being assessed under the FTI.
<b>Tags #</b>	

Bruce George (Walsall South)
16/03/2010
322684
To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, pursuant to the Answer of 5 March 2010, Official Report, column 1416W, on Rwanda: politics and government, what representations his Department has made to ensure that full political rights, within the framework of Rwandan law, are upheld.
Gareth Thomas

Officials of the Department for International Development (DFID) are in regular contact with representatives of the Government of Rwanda regarding the registration of opposition political parties. DFID officials also work in close coordination with their Foreign and Commonwealth office (FCO) colleagues on this issue. The British high commissioner in Kigali has recently discussed the registration of political parties with the Rwandan Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Local Government. He has been assured that those parties which meet the criteria laid down in Rwandan law will be able to register.

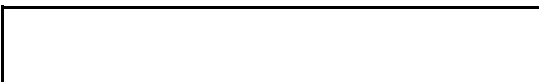


Bruce George (Walsall South)
02/03/2010
319926
To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what recent progress has been made on issues covered by point B.10 of the renewed Memorandum of Understanding between the UK and the government of Rwanda, with particular reference to the registration of opposition parties in advance of presidential elections in August 2010.
Questions to the Secretary of State for International Development

Malcolm Bruce (Gordon)	Malcolm Bruce (Gordon)
01/03/2010	05/03/2010
319846	319692
To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what reports he has received on (a) attacks on Rwandan presidential candidate Victoire Umuhoza, (b) progress made toward the registration of opposition parties and (c) the extent of political freedom in Rwanda in the run-up to the 2010 presidential election; and if he will make a statement.	To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on (a) attacks on Rwandan presidential candidate Victoire Umuhoza, (b) progress made toward the registration of opposition parties and (c) the extent of political freedom in Rwanda in the run-up to the 2010 presidential election; and if he will make a statement.
Questions to the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs	Ivan Lewis
	[holding answer 1 March 2010]: Our high commission in Kigali is in regular contact with the full spectrum of political opinion in Rwanda, including Mme Victoire Ingabire Umuhoza. We are aware of reports stating that Mme Ingabire was involved in an altercation on 3 February when she attended a registration office in Kigali to obtain her identity card. The circumstances are disputed, but Mme Ingabire was not herself harmed, although her driver was attacked by unknown assailants. We are aware of reports of opposition parties facing difficulties registering prior to the elections. In this context, we meet regularly with political parties, including Government and opposition parties. We continue to engage with the Government of Rwanda, both with Ministers and with the National Election Commission, on the issues of registration and functioning of political parties, as well as the wider matter of extending political space in Rwanda, particularly with regard to the elections in August this year. We continue to support political and media freedom in Rwanda and we engage regularly, both bilaterally and with our EU partners, to ensure that the Rwandan Government respects these issues.

Angus Robertson
04/03/2010
319580
To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people from each Commonwealth country have been deported in (a) each of the last three years and (b) 2010 to date.
Ivan Lewis

The following table shows the number of nationals of each Commonwealth country removed or departed voluntarily, 2007 to 2009. Figures for 2010 are not currently available. Statistics for the first quarter of 2010 will be published on the 27 May 2010. The Home Office publishes statistics on the number of persons removed or departed voluntarily from the UK on a quarterly and annual basis, which are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at: "<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html>" Rwanda 6 35 30 30







Brook Newmark (braintree)
22/02/2010
317592
To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, if he will take steps to (a) ensure local HIV positive survivors of the Rwandan genocide continue to receive targeted support and (b) support local organisations in Rwanda in providing services to HIV positive genocide survivors after March 2010.

Angus Robertson (Moray)
25/02/2010
318006
To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, how much his Department has allocated to support work with refugees from (a) Iraq, (b) Afghanistan, (c) Sudan, (d) Somalia and (e) Rwanda in 2009-10.
Mcihael John Foster
To date, in 2009-10 the Department for International Development (DFID) has provided a core contribution of £19 million to the UN Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to work with refugees worldwide. DFID has also provided earmarked funding to UNHCR to support refugees in specific countries. In 2009-10 this has included £1.5 million for humanitarian assistance in Iraq and £2 million for Somali refugees in Kenya.







<b>Peer</b>
<b>Date</b>
<b>Code</b>
<b>Column</b>
<b>Question</b>
<b>Responder</b>
<b>Answer</b>
<b>Tags #</b>

<b>Peer</b>	Lord Alton of Liverpool
<b>Date</b>	07/04/2010
<b>Code</b>	HL3158
<b>Column</b>	
<b>Question</b>	To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the Governments of Rwanda and Uganda, and at the United Nations, on Rwanda and Uganda's alleged role in the conflict and humanitarian situation in the Congo; and with what results.
<b>Responder</b>	Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead
<b>Answer</b>	The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has made recent rapprochements with both Rwanda and Uganda, the UK Government welcome these and strongly support the greater regional co-operation they signify. DRC and Rwanda have now exchanged ambassadors. The DRC-Uganda rapprochement has led President Kabila and President Museveni to publicly pledge co-operation across the board. Our embassies and High Commissions in the Great Lakes region of Africa remain in constant contact with host governments over the best means to end political violence and promote stability and development in the DRC and more widely in the region. We have raised the issue of regional co-operation amongst Great Lakes countries at all levels in the UN. Most recently when I was in New York in March I spoke to the UN Secretary-General Ban Kin Moon about the region. During my recent visits to DRC and Uganda, and in a meeting last month with the Rwandan Foreign Minister I have urged the importance of regional co-operation.
<b>Tags #</b>	

<b>Peer</b>	Earl Sandwich
<b>Date</b>	7.04.2010
<b>Code</b>	HL3184
<b>Column</b>	
<b>Question</b>	To ask Her Majesty's Government how many of the least developed African, Caribbean and Pacific countries have signed regional economic partnership agreements; which of those countries have not signed such agreements; and what assistance they are providing to countries in both those categories during their negotiations with the European Union.
<b>Responder</b>	Lord Brett
<b>Answer</b>	So far, the Caribbean is the only region to have signed a regional economic partnership agreement (EPA). This region includes one least developed country (LDC), Haiti. Three other LDCs (Lesotho, Mozambique and Madagascar) have signed interim EPAs, and six more LDCs (Comoros, Zambia, Uganda, Tanzania, Burundi and Rwanda) have indicated their intention to sign interim EPAs. The following LDCs across the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) region have not signed an EPA: Angola, Chad, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Sao Tome e Principe and Equatorial Guinea; Kiribati, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Timor Leste, Tuvalu and Vanuatu; Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia; Malawi, Somalia and Sudan; Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo. The Department for International Development's (DfID) assistance is not linked to signing of EPAs. However, DfID provides significant support through Aid for Trade to help ACP countries, as well as other developing countries, to improve trade and to help them integrate further into regional and global markets.
<b>Tags #</b>	

<b>Peer</b>	Lord Alton of Liverpool
<b>Date</b>	06/04/2010
<b>Code</b>	HL3154
<b>Column</b>	
<b>Question</b>	To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to (a) the government of the Democratic Republic of Congo, (b) the government of Rwanda, (c) the government of Uganda, (d) donor countries, and (e) representatives of the United Nations on allegations that the National Congress for the Defence of the People have gained further control of Congolese mines.
<b>Responder</b>	Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead
<b>Answer</b>	The CNDP is no longer active as a militia group. Ex-CNDP elements integrated into the Congolese army (FARDC) are still in control of some mines in the east. I spoke to PM Muzito and reiterated the need to reform the mineral sector when I visited the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in February. The Government, through DfID, have been working with the international community (World Bank, EC, IMF and UNDP), to increase transparency in the DRC. We are supporting government institutions to develop a more efficient and transparent public financial management system and are working to improve the quality of government audit and budgeting processes. The UK has not lobbied the Governments of Rwanda and Uganda on the issue of ex-CNDP elements of FARDC controlling Congolese mines.
<b>Tags #</b>	

<b>Peer</b>	Lord Alton of Liverpool
<b>Date</b>	06/04/2010
<b>Code</b>	HL3194
<b>Column</b>	
<b>Question</b>	To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to (a) the government of Rwanda, and (b) the African Union, and through the European Union and the United Nations, on the extradition of Laurent Nkunda to the Democratic Republic of Congo to face trial for alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in the Kivus.
<b>Responder</b>	Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead
<b>Answer</b>	We have made no representations to the Governments of Rwanda or the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) as to how they should handle this issue, nor have we discussed the case in the fora of the African Union, EU or UN. We understand that detailed bilateral discussions, on a political and legal level, are under way between Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) on the case of Laurent Nkunda to establish whether the legal problems in extradition, including the DRC's retention of the death penalty, can be overcome. We will continue to monitor the situation closely.
<b>Tags #</b>	

<b>Peer</b>	Lord Alton of Liverpool
<b>Date</b>	06/04/2010
<b>Code</b>	HL3108
<b>Column</b>	WA416
<b>Question</b>	To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made directly or through the Commonwealth to the Government of Rwanda about the treatment of the political opposition there; and whether they will encourage the Government of Rwanda to fulfil their international obligations by holding free and fair elections.
<b>Responder</b>	Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead
<b>Answer</b>	In our dialogue with the Government of Rwanda, we have continuously reiterated to them the importance of holding credible elections this year. Most recently, I raised this with Rwandan Foreign Minister Louise Mushikiwabo. I underlined the importance of improving political space for the opposition and media. In addition, our High Commissioner in Kigali has discussed the registration and operation of new political parties and issues surrounding political space with the relevant Ministers in the Rwandan Government. We have lobbied for both an EU and a Commonwealth election monitoring mission to be deployed to the elections this year, and welcome the Commonwealth's decision to send a mission. Furthermore, we have encouraged the implementation of the recommendations of the EU monitoring mission report on the 2008 elections. We also continue to engage with the Rwandan National Election Commission (NEC) over the practicalities of the forthcoming August 2010 Presidential elections. Along with other donors, the UK has provided budget support for the NEC, including for the elections budget for 2010. We remain in regular contact with political parties in Rwanda, including opposition parties currently seeking registration.
<b>Tags #</b>	

<b>Peer</b>	Lord Alton of Liverpool
<b>Date</b>	06/04/2010
<b>Code</b>	HL3155
<b>Column</b>	
<b>Question</b>	To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of recent grenade attacks in Rwanda.
<b>Responder</b>	Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead
<b>Answer</b>	We have received reports of grenade attacks in central Kigali on 19 February and 4 March. According to the Rwandan National Police, total casualties were two killed and 49 injured. There have been no claims of responsibility and the identity of those responsible has yet to be established. Security has been heightened in Kigali. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office travel advice has been amended and we continue to monitor the situation closely.
<b>Tags #</b>	

<b>Peer</b>	Lord Alton of Liverpool
<b>Date</b>	06/04/2010
<b>Code</b>	HL3159
<b>Column</b>	
<b>Question</b>	To ask Her Majesty's Government what assistance they are giving to the independent electoral commission in Rwanda; what is their assessment of the prospects of a free, fair and democratic presidential election in Rwanda this year; which organisations from the United Kingdom have been invited to monitor elections in Rwanda; and whether they will assist in the recruitment of election observers.
<b>Responder</b>	Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead
<b>Answer</b>	The UK is working closely with the Rwandan National Electoral Commission (NEC) to monitor preparations for the 2010 presidential elections. We have encouraged the NEC to implement the recommendations of the 2003 and 2008 EU election observation missions, to ensure that the 2010 elections comply with international norms. The Department for International Development is providing the NEC with £3 million assistance in support of its strategic plan for 2008-12. The Government of Rwanda have invited international election observers, including from the Commonwealth, the EU and the African Union. During his visit to Rwanda in January 2010, the Commonwealth Secretary-General indicated that the Commonwealth plan to send a monitoring team.
<b>Tags #</b>	

<b>Peer</b>	Lord Alton of Liverpool
<b>Date</b>	06/04/2010
<b>Code</b>	HL3193
<b>Column</b>	
<b>Question</b>	To ask Her Majesty's Government what recent discussions they have had with the government of Rwanda about beginning a dialogue with Rwandan Hutus living in eastern Congo.
<b>Responder</b>	Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead
<b>Answer</b>	I raised reconciliation issues with the Rwandan Foreign Minister during her recent visit to London. We are supportive of the work of the Rwandan Demobilisation and Reintegration Commission in returning to Rwanda former combatants from the eastern Congo region. We also remain supportive of the role of the UN High Commission for Refugees in returning to Rwanda civilian refugees in the eastern Congo. The aim of both of these programmes is the reintegration of these groups into Rwandan society. We further continue to support the efforts of the UN force in the Congo (MONUC) in persuading Rwandan Hutu rebels in the Congo to disarm, demobilise and repatriate to Rwanda in accordance with the provisions of UN Security Council Resolution 1804
<b>Tags #</b>	

<b>Peer</b>	Lord Alton of Liverpool
<b>Date</b>	06/04/2010
<b>Code</b>	HL3109
<b>Column</b>	
<b>Question</b>	To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will undertake not to grant a visa or permission to enter the United Kingdom to any individual accused by the United Nations of war crimes, rape, or human rights violations in the Congo or Rwanda.
<b>Responder</b>	Lord West of Spithead
<b>Answer</b>	It is government policy that the UK should not be a safe haven for war criminals or those who commit crimes against humanity. Any named individual accused of war crimes would normally be refused entry clearance under paragraph 320(19) of the immigration rules on the grounds that their presence in the United Kingdom would not be conducive to the public good.
<b>Tags #</b>	

<b>Peer</b>	Lord Alton of Liverpool
<b>Date</b>	06/04/2010
<b>Code</b>	HL3108
<b>Column</b>	WA416
<b>Question</b>	To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made directly or through the Commonwealth to the Government of Rwanda about the treatment of the political opposition there; and whether they will encourage the Government of Rwanda to fulfil their international obligations by holding free and fair elections.
<b>Responder</b>	Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead
<b>Answer</b>	In our dialogue with the Government of Rwanda, we have continuously reiterated to them the importance of holding credible elections this year. Most recently, I raised this with Rwandan Foreign Minister Louise Mushikiwabo. I underlined the importance of improving political space for the opposition and media. In addition, our High Commissioner in Kigali has discussed the registration and operation of new political parties and issues surrounding political space with the relevant Ministers in the Rwandan Government. We have lobbied for both an EU and a Commonwealth election monitoring mission to be deployed to the elections this year, and welcome the Commonwealth's decision to send a mission. Furthermore, we have encouraged the implementation of the recommendations of the EU monitoring mission report on the 2008 elections. We also continue to engage with the Rwandan National Election Commission (NEC) over the practicalities of the forthcoming August 2010 Presidential elections. Along with other donors, the UK has provided budget support for the NEC, including for the elections budget for 2010. We remain in regular contact with political parties in Rwanda, including opposition parties currently seeking registration.
<b>Tags #</b>	

<b>Peer</b>	Lord Alton of Liverpool
<b>Date</b>	06/04/2010
<b>Code</b>	HL3155
<b>Column</b>	
<b>Question</b>	To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of recent grenade attacks in Rwanda.
<b>Responder</b>	Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead
<b>Answer</b>	<p>We have received reports of grenade attacks in central Kigali on 19 February and 4 March. According to the Rwandan National Police, total casualties were two killed and 49 injured. There have been no claims of responsibility and the identity of those responsible has yet to be established. Security has been heightened in Kigali. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office travel advice has been amended and we continue to monitor the situation closely.</p>
<b>Tags #</b>	

<b>Peer</b>	Lord Alton of Liverpool
<b>Date</b>	06/04/2010
<b>Code</b>	HL3159
<b>Column</b>	WA417
<b>Question</b>	To ask Her Majesty's Government what assistance they are giving to the independent electoral commission in Rwanda; what is their assessment of the prospects of a free, fair and democratic presidential election in Rwanda this year; which organisations from the United Kingdom have been invited to monitor elections in Rwanda; and whether they will assist in the recruitment of election observers.
<b>Responder</b>	Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead
<b>Answer</b>	<p>The UK is working closely with the Rwandan National Electoral Commission (NEC) to monitor preparations for the 2010 presidential elections. We have encouraged the NEC to implement the recommendations of the 2003 and 2008 EU election observation missions, to ensure that the 2010 elections comply with international norms. The Department for International Development is providing the NEC with £3 million assistance in support of its strategic plan for 2008-12. The Government of Rwanda have invited international election observers, including from the Commonwealth, the EU and the African Union. During his visit to Rwanda in January 2010, the Commonwealth Secretary-General indicated that the Commonwealth plan to send a monitoring team.</p>
<b>Tags #</b>	

<b>Peer</b>	Lord Alton of Liverpool
<b>Date</b>	06/04/2010
<b>Code</b>	HL3193
<b>Column</b>	WA417
<b>Question</b>	To ask Her Majesty's Government what recent discussions they have had with the government of Rwanda about beginning a dialogue with Rwandan Hutus living in eastern Congo.
<b>Responder</b>	Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead
<b>Answer</b>	I raised reconciliation issues with the Rwandan Foreign Minister during her recent visit to London. We are supportive of the work of the Rwandan Demobilisation and Reintegration Commission in returning to Rwanda former combatants from the eastern Congo region. We also remain supportive of the role of the UN High Commission for Refugees in returning to Rwanda civilian refugees in the eastern Congo. The aim of both of these programmes is the reintegration of these groups into Rwandan society. We further continue to support the efforts of the UN force in the Congo (MONUC) in persuading Rwandan Hutu rebels in the Congo to disarm, demobilise and repatriate to Rwanda in accordance with the provisions of UN Security Council Resolution 1804.
<b>Tags #</b>	

<b>Peer</b>	
<b>Date</b>	
<b>Code</b>	
<b>Column</b>	
<b>Question</b>	
<b>Responder</b>	
<b>Answer</b>	
<b>Tags #</b>	

<b>Peer</b>	Lord Chidgey
<b>Date</b>	23/03/2010
<b>Code</b>	HL2710
<b>Column</b>	
<b>Question</b>	To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to engage in long-term reintegration projects for Rwandan refugees living in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and wishing to return to Rwanda.
<b>Responder</b>	Lord Brett
<b>Answer</b>	There are no plans for long-term reintegration projects specifically targeted at Rwandan refugees returning to Rwanda from the Democratic Republic of Congo. The Department for International Development (DfID) is committed to supporting the long-term development of Rwanda and provides £50 million in development assistance per annum. DfID funding is helping to improve education and health services and providing social protection for the very poor in Rwanda, services which will also benefit returning Rwandan citizens.
<b>Tags #</b>	

<b>Peer</b>	Lord Chidgey
<b>Date</b>	23/03/2010
<b>Code</b>	HL2711
<b>Column</b>	
<b>Question</b>	To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to provide increased funding for the repatriation of Rwandan civilians leaving the Democratic Republic of the Congo and returning to Rwanda.
<b>Responder</b>	Lord Brett
<b>Answer</b>	In 2009 the UK provided £27 million to the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR). £19 million was core funding, which benefits all UNHCR operations, including in Rwanda where the Commission is assisting returning Rwandan civilians to reintegrate into society. We do not anticipate significant changes in the volume of our support to UNHCR, nor to the mechanisms through which this support is channelled.
<b>Tags #</b>	

<b>Peer</b>	Lord Alton of Liverpool
<b>Date</b>	23/03/2010
<b>Code</b>	HL2741
<b>Column</b>	
<b>Question</b>	To ask Her Majesty's Government what support they are providing to the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (a) to monitor resettlement of Rwandan refugees beyond the two nights spent in transit camps in Rwanda, and (b) to help those refugees to reintegrate into Rwandan society
<b>Responder</b>	Lord Brett
<b>Answer</b>	In 2009 the UK provided £27 million to the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR). £19 million was core funding, which benefits all UNHCR operations, including in Rwanda. UNHCR conducts regular monitoring visits to returned refugees in Rwanda. These visits are undertaken by both international and local staff, and focus on the provision of health, education and housing. Returnees are provided with three months' rations, household and farming implements and building materials.
<b>Tags #</b>	

<b>Peer</b>	Lord Alton of Liverpool
<b>Date</b>	23/03/2010
<b>Code</b>	HL2742
<b>Column</b>	WA288
<b>Question</b>	To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the degree to which civilians and ex-combatants returning to Rwanda from eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo return to the DRC after initial reintegration and then reattempt the process for social and economic reasons.
<b>Responder</b>	Lord Brett
<b>Answer</b>	The Rwanda Demobilisation and Reintegration Commission oversee the return of ex-combatants from the Democratic Republic of the Congo to Rwanda. The United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) assists returning refugees to reintegrate into Rwandan society. It is difficult to monitor the numbers of civilians and ex-combatants returning to DRC after reintegration in Rwanda, but these institutions assess that the number is not significant. They also advise that, due to improved identity controls, the numbers attempting return and reintegration a second time are negligible.
<b>Tags #</b>	

<b>Peer</b>	Lord Chidgey
<b>Date</b>	23/03/2010
<b>Code</b>	HL2710
<b>Column</b>	WA287
<b>Question</b>	To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to engage in long-term reintegration projects for Rwandan refugees living in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and wishing to return to Rwanda.
<b>Responder</b>	Lord Brett
<b>Answer</b>	There are no plans for long-term reintegration projects specifically targeted at Rwandan refugees returning to Rwanda from the Democratic Republic of Congo. The Department for International Development (DfID) is committed to supporting the long-term development of Rwanda and provides £50 million in development assistance per annum. DfID funding is helping to improve education and health services and providing social protection for the very poor in Rwanda, services which will also benefit returning Rwandan citizens.
<b>Tags #</b>	

<b>Peer</b>	Lord Chidgey
<b>Date</b>	23/03/2010
<b>Code</b>	HL2711
<b>Column</b>	WA287
<b>Question</b>	To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to provide increased funding for the repatriation of Rwandan civilians leaving the Democratic Republic of the Congo and returning to Rwanda
<b>Responder</b>	Lord Brett
<b>Answer</b>	: In 2009 the UK provided £27 million to the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR). £19 million was core funding, which benefits all UNHCR operations, including in Rwanda where the Commission is assisting returning Rwandan civilians to reintegrate into society. We do not anticipate significant changes in the volume of our support to UNHCR, nor to the mechanisms through which this support is channelled.
<b>Tags #</b>	

<b>Peer</b>	Lord Alton of Liverpool
<b>Date</b>	23/03/2010
<b>Code</b>	HL2741
<b>Column</b>	
<b>Question</b>	To ask Her Majesty's Government what support they are providing to the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (a) to monitor resettlement of Rwandan refugees beyond the two nights spent in transit camps in Rwanda, and (b) to help those refugees to reintegrate into Rwandan society.
<b>Responder</b>	Lord Brett
<b>Answer</b>	In 2009 the UK provided £27 million to the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR). £19 million was core funding, which benefits all UNHCR operations, including in Rwanda. UNHCR conducts regular monitoring visits to returned refugees in Rwanda. These visits are undertaken by both international and local staff, and focus on the provision of health, education and housing. Returnees are provided with three months' rations, household and farming implements and building materials.
<b>Tags #</b>	

<b>Peer</b>	Lord Alton of Liverpool
<b>Date</b>	23/03/2010
<b>Code</b>	HL2742
<b>Column</b>	WA288
<b>Question</b>	To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the degree to which civilians and ex-combatants returning to Rwanda from eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo return to the DRC after initial reintegration and then reattempt the process for social and economic reasons.
<b>Responder</b>	Lord Brett
<b>Answer</b>	The Rwanda Demobilisation and Reintegration Commission oversee the return of ex-combatants from the Democratic Republic of the Congo to Rwanda. The United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) assists returning refugees to reintegrate into Rwandan society. It is difficult to monitor the numbers of civilians and ex-combatants returning to DRC after reintegration in Rwanda, but these institutions assess that the number is not significant. They also advise that, due to improved identity controls, the numbers attempting return and reintegration a second time are negligible.
<b>Tags #</b>	

<b>Peer</b>	Lord Chidgey
<b>Date</b>	15/03/2010
<b>Code</b>	HL2712
<b>Column</b>	
<b>Question</b>	To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the government of Rwanda's progress towards achieving the principles in the Harare Commonwealth Declaration, with particular reference to the forthcoming Rwandan presidential election.
<b>Responder</b>	Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead
<b>Answer</b>	We welcomed Rwanda's accession to the Commonwealth, agreed unanimously at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Trinidad and Tobago in November last year. Rwanda has made progress towards meeting the Commonwealth's core values, in the areas of democratic process; rule of law; good governance; protection of human rights and equality of opportunity; and economic policies aimed at improving the welfare of the public. While much remains to be done in all these areas, we are pleased that member states have embraced the opportunity to engage constructively with Rwanda as the 54th member of the Commonwealth. With particular reference to the forthcoming presidential election, scheduled for August this year, we feel that Rwanda has made good progress at institutionalising the democratic process. The UK works closely with the Rwandan National Election Commission (NEC), including to see fully implemented the recommendations made by the EU Election Observer Mission in 2007, as well as with regard to the practicalities of the forthcoming elections. We also engage regularly, both bilaterally and with our EU partners, with the Rwandan Government to support political and media freedoms in Rwanda.
<b>Tags #</b>	

<b>Peer</b>	Lord Chidgey	Rt Hon Lord Tebbit
<b>Date</b>	15/03/2010	08/03/2010
<b>Code</b>	HL2712	HL2102
<b>Column</b>	WA142	
<b>Question</b>	To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the government of Rwanda's progress towards achieving the principles in the Harare Commonwealth Declaration, with particular reference to the forthcoming Rwandan presidential election.	To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the admission of Rwanda to the Commonwealth was discussed in the Cabinet.
<b>Responder</b>	Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead	Baroness Royall of Blaisdon
<b>Answer</b>	We welcomed Rwanda's accession to the Commonwealth, agreed unanimously at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Trinidad and Tobago in November last year. Rwanda has made progress towards meeting the Commonwealth's core values, in the areas of democratic process; rule of law; good governance; protection of human rights and equality of opportunity; and economic policies aimed at improving the welfare of the public. While much remains to be done in all these areas, we are pleased that member states have embraced the opportunity to engage constructively with Rwanda as the 54th member of the Commonwealth. With particular reference to the forthcoming presidential election, scheduled for August this year, we feel that Rwanda has made good progress at institutionalising the democratic process. The UK works closely with the Rwandan National Election Commission (NEC), including to see fully implemented the recommendations made by the EU Election Observer Mission in 2007, as well as with regard to the practicalities of the forthcoming elections. We also engage regularly, both bilaterally and with our EU partners, with the Rwandan Government to support political and media freedoms in Rwanda..	The discussion, advice and the proceedings of Cabinet and Cabinet committees are generally not disclosed as to do so could harm the frankness and candour of internal discussion.
<b>Tags #</b>		

<b>Peer</b>	Rt Hon Lord Tebbit	
<b>Date</b>	04/03/2010	
<b>Code</b>	HL2101	
<b>Column</b>		
<b>Question</b>	To ask Her Majesty's Government further to the Written Answer by Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead on 2 February (WA 30–1) stating that Rwanda's bid to join the Commonwealth had been discussed publicly, whether any of those discussions took place in either House of Parliament.	
<b>Responder</b>	Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead	
<b>Answer</b>	UK support for Rwanda's accession has been discussed in Parliament, including by former Foreign and Commonwealth Minister Meg Munn on 20 March 2008. My previous Answers to the noble Lord have stated that it is not the practice to ratify decisions taken unanimously by the Commonwealth Heads of Government in national parliaments, including that of the UK.	
<b>Tags #</b>		

<b>Peer</b>	
<b>Date</b>	22/02/2010
<b>Code</b>	HL2050
<b>Column</b>	
<b>Question</b>	To ask Her Majesty's Government what support they are providing to long-term observation missions to monitor elections in (a) Burundi, and (b) Rwanda, in 2010.
<b>Responder</b>	Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead
<b>Answer</b>	<p>The elections this year in both Burundi and Rwanda remain a top priority for the UK. In both countries, peaceful elections will mark an important step in institutionalising the democratic process. The presence of international observer missions, both from the region and further afield (such as the EU and Commonwealth) constitute an important part of this process. As a member state, the UK discusses the issue regularly with the European Commission. While the European Commission seeks the views of member states on a proposed priority list of countries for EU Election Observer Missions (EOM), it ultimately falls to the European Commission themselves to decide where these will be deployed. Similarly, the terms and resourcing for any EU EOM are also ultimately a decision for the European Commission. The UK welcomes the declaration by Commonwealth Secretary-General Sharma that a Commonwealth Election Observer Mission will go to Rwanda for the elections, due to be held in August.</p>
<b>Tags #</b>	

<b>Peer</b>	Lord Chidgey	Rt Hon Lord Tebbit
<b>Date</b>	09/02/2010	02/02/2010
<b>Code</b>	HL1868	HL1540
<b>Column</b>		
<b>Question</b>	To ask Her Majesty's Government whether their decision to support the admission of Rwanda to the Commonwealth was debated in either House of Parliament.	To ask Her Majesty's Government further to the Written Answer by Lord Brett on 12 January (WA 152), stating that it is not the practice to ratify decisions to admit new members to the Commonwealth, when the decision of Her Majesty's Government to support the admission of Rwanda to the Commonwealth was debated in either House of Parliament.
<b>Responder</b>	Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead	Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead
<b>Answer</b>	I refer the noble Lord to the reply I gave him on 2 February 2010 (Official Report, col. WA 31).	Further to the Answer I gave in the House of Lords on 2 December 2009, and the written responses I gave on 14 December (WA 175) and 11 January (WA 152), the 2007 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Kampala saw a review of the membership criteria and the condition of a constitutional link was replaced by a close link to an existing Commonwealth member state. The UK has supported Rwanda's bid to join the Commonwealth from this time onwards. This matter has been discussed publicly since this time. It is not the practice to ratify such decisions made by the Commonwealth or member states in national parliaments—including that of the UK. The decision on new applications to join is taken by all the Commonwealth Heads of Government. Commonwealth Heads of Government voted unanimously to allow Rwanda to join the organisation in Trinidad in November 2009.
<b>Tags #</b>		

<b>Peer</b>	Rt Hon Lord Tebbit
<b>Date</b>	
<b>Code</b>	
<b>Column</b>	
<b>Question</b>	
<b>Responder</b>	
<b>Answer</b>	
<b>Tags #</b>	

<b>Peer</b>	Lord Alton of Liverpool
<b>Date</b>	14/01/2010
<b>Code</b>	HL1151
<b>Column</b>	WA169
<b>Question</b>	To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of reports that during the Kimia II operation in North Kivu 7,000 women have been raped, 900,000 people have been forced from their homes and 6,000 homes have been burnt down; and what representations they have made to the Governments of Congo,
<b>Responder</b>	Lord Brett
<b>Answer</b>	The Government agree that significant human rights abuses were committed during Operation Kimia II, although precise numbers are very difficult to verify in an area such as Eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). We regularly raise the issue of civilian protection with the Government of DRC, and were instrumental in the renewal of the United Nations peacekeeping force in the DRC (MONUC) mandate, with its sharper focus on protection of civilians. We fully support the decision by MONUC to withdraw support from the Congolese military (FARDC) units which commit serious human rights abuses, and continue to press the Government of DRC to take action against any members of the DRC armed forces who commit such abuses. We continue to promote a peaceful resolution to the conflict, for example by supporting the voluntary disarmament, demobilisation, repatriation, resettlement and reintegration
<b>Tags #</b>	

<b>Peer</b>	Lord Alton of Liverpool
<b>Date</b>	13/01/2010
<b>Code</b>	HL1015
<b>Column</b>	
<b>Question</b>	To ask Her Majesty's Government what encouragement they and the Commonwealth are giving the Government of Rwanda to further political dialogue with the Rwandan Hutus living in eastern Congo.
<b>Responder</b>	Lord Brett
<b>Answer</b>	We strongly support UN Security Council Resolution 1804 of 13 March 2008 which demands that all members of Rwandan armed groups operating in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) immediately lay down their arms and present themselves without any further delay or preconditions to Congolese authorities and MONUC for their disarmament, demobilization, repatriation to Rwanda, resettlement and reintegration into Rwandan society. Rwandans living outside the country are encouraged by the Government of Rwanda to return to participate in Rwanda's political processes. DfID has provided extensive financial support for the efforts of the Rwandan Demobilisation and Reintegration Commission, which has successfully reintegrated over 6,000 former rebel militiamen, and we have provided the UN force in the DRC (MONUC) with transmitters enabling them to contact rebel units wishing to disarm and demobilise.
<b>Tags #</b>	

<b>Peer</b>	Lord Alton of Liverpool
<b>Date</b>	12/01/2010
<b>Code</b>	HL972
<b>Column</b>	
<b>Question</b>	To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they and the Commonwealth are taking to ensure that the government of Rwanda extradite Laurent Nkunda to stand trial at The Hague for alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in Kiwanja and Rutshuru.
<b>Responder</b>	Lord Brett
<b>Answer</b>	Allegations of serious crimes committed in the Democratic Republic of Congo since July 2002 are currently being investigated by the International Criminal Court (ICC). The Court is an independent, judicial institution and decisions on indictments and arrest warrants are a matter for the Prosecutor and the Pre-Trial Chamber. At this time, no warrant has been issued by the ICC for Laurent Nkunda.
<b>Tags #</b>	

<b>Peer</b>	
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<b>Responder</b>	
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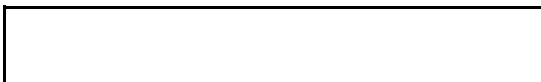
<b>MP</b>
<b>Date</b>
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<b>Column</b>
<b>Question</b>
<b>Responder</b>
<b>Answer</b>
<b>Tags #</b>

Andrew Rosindell	
	15/03/2010
HL322583	
To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent initiatives his Department has funded to improve child literacy in developing countries.	
Michael John Foster	
The Department for International Development's (DFID's) approach to tackling child literacy is stated in the recently launched Education Strategy, 'Learning for All.' The strategy has been placed in the Library of the House and can be found at:" <a href="http://www.dfid.gov.uk/educationstrategy">www.dfid.gov.uk/educationstrategy</a> "Examples of the work DFID is doing to improve child literacy in developing countries includes funding a four year initiative in Tanzania to improve competencies in literacy and numeracy among children aged five to 16 years. The programme will also be conducted in Uganda and Kenya.	

Jo Swinson	
	05/03/2010
HL320343	
To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what humanitarian assistance his Department has provided to those displaced and otherwise affected by the activities of the Lord's Resistance Army; and what steps his Department is taking to ensure the (a) delivery and (b) security of this assistance.	
Gareth Thomas (Harrow West)	
In 2009 the Department for International Development (DFID) provided over £100 million for humanitarian assistance to those affected by the activities of the Lords Resistance Army (LRA). Of this, around £70 million was provided through UN Humanitarian Pooled Funds, and the remainder through other UN agencies, NGOs and other partners. Monitoring and security procedures are built into all DFID programmes as standard. This allows staff to assess the delivery and impact of UK aid, and closely monitor security risks. All UN pooled funds include mechanisms that enable all donors to monitor the delivery and security of assistance.	

Angus Robertson
04/03/2010
319580
To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people from each Commonwealth country have been deported in (a) each of the last three years and (b) 2010 to date.
Ivan Lewis

The following table shows the number of nationals of each Commonwealth country removed or departed voluntarily, 2007 to 2009. Figures for 2010 are not currently available. Statistics for the first quarter of 2010 will be published on the 27 May 2010. The Home Office publishes statistics on the number of persons removed or departed voluntarily from the UK on a quarterly and annual basis, which are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at: "<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html>" Uganda 425 455 390





David Drew (Stroud)	
04/02/2010	
315994	
To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what recent reports he has received on (a) the activities of the Lords Resistance Army and (b) prospects for the resumption of peace negotiations involving Joseph Kony in Uganda.	
Questions to the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs	







<b>Peer</b>
<b>Date</b>
<b>Code</b>
<b>Column</b>
<b>Question</b>
<b>Responder</b>
<b>Answer</b>
<b>Tags #</b>

Lord Alton of Liverpool
07/04/2010
HL3158
To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the Governments of Rwanda and Uganda, and at the United Nations, on Rwanda and Uganda's alleged role in the conflict and humanitarian situation in the Congo; and with what results.
Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead
<p>The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has made recent rapprochements with both Rwanda and Uganda, the UK Government welcome these and strongly support the greater regional co-operation they signify. DRC and Rwanda have now exchanged ambassadors. The DRC-Uganda rapprochement has led President Kabila and President Museveni to publicly pledge co-operation across the board. Our embassies and High Commissions in the Great Lakes region of Africa remain in constant contact with host governments over the best means to end political violence and promote stability and development in the DRC and more widely in the region. We have raised the issue of regional co-operation amongst Great Lakes countries at all levels in the UN. Most recently when I was in New York in March I spoke to the UN Secretary-General Ban Kin Moon about the region. During my recent visits to DRC and Uganda, and in a meeting last month with the Rwandan Foreign Minister I have urged the importance of regional co-operation.</p>

Lord Alton of Liverpool
06/04/2010
HL3154
To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to (a) the government of the Democratic Republic of Congo, (b) the government of Rwanda, (c) the government of Uganda, (d) donor countries, and (e) representatives of the United Nations on allegations that the National Congress for the Defence of the People have gained further control of Congolese mines.
Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead
The CNDP is no longer active as a militia group. Ex-CNDP elements integrated into the Congolese army (FARDC) are still in control of some mines in the east. I spoke to PM Muzito and reiterated the need to reform the mineral sector when I visited the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in February. The Government, through DfID, have been working with the international community (World Bank, EC, IMF and UNDP), to increase transparency in the DRC. We are supporting government institutions to develop a more efficient and transparent public financial management system and are working to improve the quality of government audit and budgeting processes. The UK has not lobbied the Governments of Rwanda and Uganda on the issue of ex-CNDP elements of FARDC controlling Congolese mines.



Lord Alton of Liverpool	
	23/03/2010
HL2738	
To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to tackle corruption through measures to increase transparency in developing countries rich in natural resources, in particular in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda; and what steps they are taking to ensure that United Kingdom companies working in those countries publish details of payments made to the countries' Governments.	
Lord Brett	
In the Democratic Republic of the Congo we are working with the international community, particularly the World Bank, European Commission, International Monetary Fund and UNDP, to increase transparency in the DRC. We are supporting government institutions to develop a more efficient and transparent public financial management system, and are working to improve the quality of government audit and budgeting processes. We continue to encourage British companies trading in natural resources from DRC to do so in a way which is socially, economically and environmentally responsible, and to adhere to the voluntary guidelines set out by the OECD. Our strategy for DRC places a strong emphasis on greater transparency and better management of the minerals sector, including in Eastern DRC. We are strong supporters of DRC efforts to fully implement the extractive industry transparency initiative (EITI). Together with the World Bank and the DRC Ministry of Mines we are currently developing a multi-year mining sector reform programme which aims to transform the way the sector is managed and ensure that the Government extends their control over all mining activities in DRC. Baroness Kinnock, Minister for Africa, visited Uganda in February and raised the issue of transparency in the oil industry with the Foreign Minister and President Museveni stressing the importance of a transparent and responsible framework for the management of oil revenue and encouraging the Government to sign up to the EITI. She also discussed this with the EU head of mission in Kampala who agreed with the need for concerted efforts in this area.	



Lord Chidgey
22/02/2010
HL2047
To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Uganda over (a) the production-sharing agreement between Tullow Oil and the government of Uganda over oil extraction in the Lake Albert basin, and (b) concerns raised by the Ugandan parliament about the transparency of that agreement.
Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead
My honourable friend Ivan Lewis underlined the importance of transparency and fiscal discipline in the oil sector with President Museveni last year and urged Uganda to sign up to credible transparency instruments such as the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative. Our High Commissioner has also made similar representations to Ministers of Energy and Finance. We will continue to encourage Uganda to establish a comprehensive and transparent framework (including the Production Sharing Agreements) to ensure the responsible exploitation and management of its oil resources.

Lord Chidgey
22/02/2010
HL2048
WA261
To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Uganda about Uganda's Political Parties and Organisations Act which requires Ugandan political parties to disclose their sources of income to the Electoral Commission of Uganda.
Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead
<p>The Electoral Commission of Uganda is responsible for ensuring political parties adhere to the financial reporting requirements of the Political Parties and Organisations Act. We regularly discuss the issue of party finances with the Electoral Commission, as does the Deepening Democracy Programme (part funded by the Department for International Development) with Ugandan political parties seeking financial assistance; any political party applying for assistance must fulfil the requirements of the Act. As a member of the local donor Partners for Democracy and Governance group, we have noted in an open letter to the media that political parties should make an annual statement of their financial assets and liabilities.</p>



Lord Alton of Liverpool
14/01/2010
HL1151
WA169
<p>To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of reports that during the Kimia II operation in North Kivu 7,000 women have been raped, 900,000 people have been forced from their homes and 6,000 homes have been burnt down; and what representations they have made to the Governments of Congo, Rwanda and Uganda about pursuing political initiatives and a sustained peace process over further military offensives, such as Operation Amani Leo.</p>
Lord Brett
<p>The Government agree that significant human rights abuses were committed during Operation Kimia II, although precise numbers are very difficult to verify in an area such as Eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). We regularly raise the issue of civilian protection with the Government of DRC, and were instrumental in the renewal of the United Nations peacekeeping force in the DRC (MONUC) mandate, with its sharper focus on protection of civilians. We fully support the decision by MONUC to withdraw support from the Congolese military (FARDC) units which commit serious human rights abuses, and continue to press the Government of DRC to take action against any members of the DRC armed forces who commit such abuses. We continue to promote a peaceful resolution to the conflict, for example by supporting the voluntary disarmament, demobilisation, repatriation, resettlement and reintegration of Democratic Liberation Forces of Rwanda combatants, which has been successful in encouraging some of these combatants to lay down their arms. We agree that long-term peace in DRC depends on good relations between the DRC, Rwanda and Uganda. There are signs of improvements in these relations and DRC made a welcome exchange of ambassadors with Rwanda in 2008 and Uganda in early 2009. Through our ambassador in Kinshasa, and High Commissioners in Kigali and Kampala we continue to support co-operation between the states.</p>











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<b>Peer</b>	Baroness Northover
<b>Date</b>	10/04/2010
<b>Code</b>	HL2260
<b>Column</b>	
<b>Question</b>	To ask Her Majesty's Government how many of the least developed African, Caribbean and Pacific countries have signed regional economic partnership agreements; which of those countries have not signed such agreements; and what assistance they are providing to countries in both those categories during their negotiations with the European Union.
<b>Responder</b>	Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead
<b>Answer</b>	So far, the Caribbean is the only region to have signed a regional economic partnership agreement (EPA). This region includes one least developed country (LDC), Haiti. Three other LDCs (Lesotho, Mozambique and Madagascar) have signed interim EPAs, and six more LDCs (Comoros, Zambia, Uganda, Tanzania, Burundi and Rwanda) have indicated their intention to sign interim EPAs. The following LDCs across the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) region have not signed an EPA: Angola, Chad, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Sao Tome e Principe and Equatorial Guinea; Kiribati, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Timor Leste, Tuvalu and Vanuatu; Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia; Malawi, Somalia and Sudan; Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo. The Department for International Development's (DfID) assistance is not linked to signing of EPAs. However, DfID provides significant support through Aid for Trade to help ACP countries, as well as other developing countries, to improve trade and to help them integrate further into regional and global markets.
<b>Tags #</b>	

Lord Alton of Liverpool
07/04/2010
HL3158
To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the Governments of Rwanda and Uganda, and at the United Nations, on Rwanda and Uganda's alleged role in the conflict and humanitarian situation in the Congo; and with what results.
Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead
<p>The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has made recent rapprochements with both Rwanda and Uganda, the UK Government welcome these and strongly support the greater regional co-operation they signify. DRC and Rwanda have now exchanged ambassadors. The DRC-Uganda rapprochement has led President Kabila and President Museveni to publicly pledge co-operation across the board. Our embassies and High Commissions in the Great Lakes region of Africa remain in constant contact with host governments over the best means to end political violence and promote stability and development in the DRC and more widely in the region. We have raised the issue of regional co-operation amongst Great Lakes countries at all levels in the UN. Most recently when I was in New York in March I spoke to the UN Secretary-General Ban Kin Moon about the region. During my recent visits to DRC and Uganda, and in a meeting last month with the Rwandan Foreign Minister I have urged the importance of regional co-operation.</p>

The Earl of Sandwich	Earl Sandwich
07/04/2010	7.04.2010
HL3184	HL3184
To ask Her Majesty's Government how many of the least developed African, Caribbean and Pacific countries have signed regional economic partnership agreements; which of those countries have not signed such agreements; and what assistance they are providing to countries in both those categories during their negotiations with the European Union.	To ask Her Majesty's Government how many of the least developed African, Caribbean and Pacific countries have signed regional economic partnership agreements; which of those countries have not signed such agreements; and what assistance they are providing to countries in both those categories during their negotiations with the European Union.
Lord Brett	Lord Brett
So far, the Caribbean is the only region to have signed a regional economic partnership agreement (EPA). This region includes one least developed country (LDC), Haiti. Three other LDCs (Lesotho, Mozambique and Madagascar) have signed interim EPAs, and six more LDCs (Comoros, Zambia, Uganda, Tanzania, Burundi and Rwanda) have indicated their intention to sign interim EPAs. The following LDCs across the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) region have not signed an EPA: Angola, Chad, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Sao Tome e Principe and Equatorial Guinea; Kiribati, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Timor Leste, Tuvalu and Vanuatu; Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia; Malawi, Somalia and Sudan; Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo. The Department for International Development's (DfID) assistance is not linked to signing of EPAs. However, DfID provides significant support through Aid for Trade to help ACP countries, as well as other developing countries, to improve trade and to help them integrate further into regional and global markets.	So far, the Caribbean is the only region to have signed a regional economic partnership agreement (EPA). This region includes one least developed country (LDC), Haiti. Three other LDCs (Lesotho, Mozambique and Madagascar) have signed interim EPAs, and six more LDCs (Comoros, Zambia, Uganda, Tanzania, Burundi and Rwanda) have indicated their intention to sign interim EPAs. The following LDCs across the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) region have not signed an EPA: Angola, Chad, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Sao Tome e Principe and Equatorial Guinea; Kiribati, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Timor Leste, Tuvalu and Vanuatu; Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia; Malawi, Somalia and Sudan; Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo. The Department for International Development's (DfID) assistance is not linked to signing of EPAs. However, DfID provides significant support through Aid for Trade to help ACP countries, as well as other developing countries, to improve trade and to help them integrate further into regional and global markets.

Lord Alton of Liverpool	
	06/04/2010
HL3154	
To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to (a) the government of the Democratic Republic of Congo, (b) the government of Rwanda, (c) the government of Uganda, (d) donor countries, and (e) representatives of the United Nations on allegations that the National Congress for the Defence of the People have gained further control of Congolese mines.	
Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead	
The CNDP is no longer active as a militia group. Ex-CNDP elements integrated into the Congolese army (FARDC) are still in control of some mines in the east. I spoke to PM Muzito and reiterated the need to reform the mineral sector when I visited the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in February. The Government, through DfID, have been working with the international community (World Bank, EC, IMF and UNDP), to increase transparency in the DRC. We are supporting government institutions to develop a more efficient and transparent public financial management system and are working to improve the quality of government audit and budgeting processes. The UK has not lobbied the Governments of Rwanda and Uganda on the issue of ex-CNDP elements of FARDC controlling Congolese mines.	

Lord Alton of Liverpool
06/04/2010
HL3194
To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to (a) the government of Rwanda, and (b) the African Union, and through the European Union and the United Nations, on the extradition of Laurent Nkunda to the Democratic Republic of Congo to face trial for alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in the Kivus.
Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead
We have made no representations to the Governments of Rwanda or the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) as to how they should handle this issue, nor have we discussed the case in the fora of the African Union, EU or UN. We understand that detailed bilateral discussions, on a political and legal level, are under way between Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) on the case of Laurent Nkunda to establish whether the legal problems in extradition, including the DRC's retention of the death penalty, can be overcome. We will continue to monitor the situation closely.

Lord Alton of Liverpool	
	06/04/2010
HL3193	
To ask Her Majesty's Government what recent discussions they have had with the government of Rwanda about beginning a dialogue with Rwandan Hutus living in eastern Congo.	
Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead	
I raised reconciliation issues with the Rwandan Foreign Minister during her recent visit to London. We are supportive of the work of the Rwandan Demobilisation and Reintegration Commission in returning to Rwanda former combatants from the eastern Congo region. We also remain supportive of the role of the UN High Commission for Refugees in returning to Rwanda civilian refugees in the eastern Congo. The aim of both of these programmes is the reintegration of these groups into Rwandan society. We further continue to support the efforts of the UN force in the Congo (MONUC) in persuading Rwandan Hutu rebels in the Congo to disarm, demobilise and repatriate to Rwanda in accordance with the provisions of UN Security Council Resolution 1804	

Lord Alton of Liverpool	
	06/04/2010
HL3109	
To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will undertake not to grant a visa or permission to enter the United Kingdom to any individual accused by the United Nations of war crimes, rape, or human rights violations in the Congo or Rwanda.	
Lord West of Spithead	
It is government policy that the UK should not be a safe haven for war criminals or those who commit crimes against humanity. Any named individual accused of war crimes would normally be refused entry clearance under paragraph 320(19) of the immigration rules on the grounds that their presence in the United Kingdom would not be conducive to the public good.	





Lord Alton of Liverpool	23/03/2010
HL2738	
<p>To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to tackle corruption through measures to increase transparency in developing countries rich in natural resources, in particular in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda; and what steps they are taking to ensure that United Kingdom companies working in those countries publish details of payments made to the countries' Governments.</p>	
Lord Brett	
<p>In the Democratic Republic of the Congo we are working with the international community, particularly the World Bank, European Commission, International Monetary Fund and UNDP, to increase transparency in the DRC. We are supporting government institutions to develop a more efficient and transparent public financial management system, and are working to improve the quality of government audit and budgeting processes. We continue to encourage British companies trading in natural resources from DRC to do so in a way which is socially, economically and environmentally responsible, and to adhere to the voluntary guidelines set out by the OECD. Our strategy for DRC places a strong emphasis on greater transparency and better management of the minerals sector, including in Eastern DRC. We are strong supporters of DRC efforts to fully implement the extractive industry transparency initiative (EITI). Together with the World Bank and the DRC Ministry of Mines we are currently developing a multi-year mining sector reform programme which aims to transform the way the sector is managed and ensure that the Government extends their control over all mining activities in DRC. Baroness Kinnock, Minister for Africa, visited Uganda in February and raised the issue of transparency in the oil industry with the Foreign Minister and President Museveni stressing the importance of a transparent and responsible framework for the management of oil revenue and encouraging the Government to sign up to the EITI. She also discussed this with the EU head of mission in Kampala who agreed with the need for concerted efforts in this area.</p>	

Lord Chidgey
23/03/2010
HL2710
To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to engage in long-term reintegration projects for Rwandan refugees living in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and wishing to return to Rwanda.
Lord Brett
There are no plans for long-term reintegration projects specifically targeted at Rwandan refugees returning to Rwanda from the Democratic Republic of Congo. The Department for International Development (DfID) is committed to supporting the long-term development of Rwanda and provides £50 million in development assistance per annum. DfID funding is helping to improve education and health services and providing social protection for the very poor in Rwanda, services which will also benefit returning Rwandan citizens.

Lord Chidgey
23/03/2010
HL2711
To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to provide increased funding for the repatriation of Rwandan civilians leaving the Democratic Republic of the Congo and returning to Rwanda.
Lord Brett
In 2009 the UK provided £27 million to the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR). £19 million was core funding, which benefits all UNHCR operations, including in Rwanda where the Commission is assisting returning Rwandan civilians to reintegrate into society. We do not anticipate significant changes in the volume of our support to UNHCR, nor to the mechanisms through which this support is channelled.

Lord Alton of Liverpool
23/03/2010
HL2742
WA288
To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the degree to which civilians and ex-combatants returning to Rwanda from eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo return to the DRC after initial reintegration and then <u>reattempt</u> the process for social
Lord Brett
<p>The Rwanda Demobilisation and Reintegration Commission oversee the return of ex-combatants from the Democratic Republic of the Congo to Rwanda. The United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) assists returning refugees to reintegrate into Rwandan society. It is difficult to monitor the numbers of civilians and ex-combatants returning to DRC after reintegration in Rwanda, but these institutions assess that the number is not significant. They also advise that, due to improved identity controls, the numbers attempting return and reintegration a second time are negligible.</p>

Lord Chidgey
23/03/2010
HL2711
WA287
To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to provide increased funding for the repatriation of Rwandan civilians leaving the Democratic Republic of the Congo and returning to Rwanda
Lord Brett
: In 2009 the UK provided £27 million to the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR). £19 million was core funding, which benefits all UNHCR operations, including in Rwanda where the Commission is assisting returning Rwandan civilians to reintegrate into society. We do not anticipate significant changes in the volume of our support to UNHCR, nor to the mechanisms through which this support is channelled.

Lord Alton of Liverpool
23/03/2010
HL2742
WA288
To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the degree to which civilians and ex-combatants returning to Rwanda from eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo return to the DRC after initial reintegration and then reattempt the process for social and economic reasons.
Lord Brett
The Rwanda Demobilisation and Reintegration Commission oversee the return of ex-combatants from the Democratic Republic of the Congo to Rwanda. The United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) assists returning refugees to reintegrate into Rwandan society. It is difficult to monitor the numbers of civilians and ex-combatants returning to DRC after reintegration in Rwanda, but these institutions assess that the number is not significant. They also advise that, due to improved identity controls, the numbers attempting return and reintegration a second time are negligible.



Lord Chidgey
22/02/2010
HL2050
To ask Her Majesty's Government what support they are providing to long-term observation missions to monitor elections in (a) Burundi, and (b) Rwanda, in 2010.
Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead
<p>The elections this year in both Burundi and Rwanda remain a top priority for the UK. In both countries, peaceful elections will mark an important step in institutionalising the democratic process. The presence of international observer missions, both from the region and further afield (such as the EU and Commonwealth) constitute an important part of this process. As a member state, the UK discusses the issue regularly with the European Commission. While the European Commission seeks the views of member states on a proposed priority list of countries for EU Election Observer Missions (EOM), it ultimately falls to the European Commission themselves to decide where these will be deployed. Similarly, the terms and resourcing for any EU EOM are also ultimately a decision for the European Commission. The UK welcomes the declaration by Commonwealth Secretary-General Sharma that a Commonwealth Election Observer Mission will go to Rwanda for the elections, due to be held in August.</p>

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Lord Alton of Liverpool
14/01/2010
HL1151
WA169
To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of reports that during the Kimia II operation in North Kivu 7,000 women have been raped, 900,000 people have been forced from their homes and 6,000 homes have been burnt down; and what representations they have made
Lord Brett
The Government agree that significant human rights abuses were committed during Operation Kimia II, although precise numbers are very difficult to verify in an area such as Eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). We regularly raise the issue of civilian protection with the Government of DRC, and were instrumental in the renewal of the United Nations peacekeeping force in the DRC (MONUC) mandate, with its sharper focus on protection of civilians. We fully support the decision by MONUC to withdraw support from the Congolese military (FARDC) units which commit serious human rights abuses, and continue to press the Government of DRC to take action against any members of the DRC armed forces who commit such abuses. We continue to promote a peaceful resolution to the conflict, for example by supporting the voluntary disarmament, demobilisation, repatriation, resettlement and reintegration

Lord Alton of Liverpool
14/01/2010
HL1152
To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will continue to review whether to appoint a special envoy for the African Great Lakes region to report on cross-border human rights issues, including ethnic tensions and cross-border military activity.
Lord Brett
At this point in time, we are content that we have sufficient coverage and leverage in the region to pursue our objectives of improving conflict situations and the quality of governance throughout Africa. This has been provided through the work of our posts in the region and by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in London.

Lord Alton of Liverpool
13/01/2010
HL1016
WA158
To ask Her Majesty's Government what recent discussions they have had with heads of states and governments in the Great Lakes region about creating and maintaining a permanent and effectively monitored ceasefire in the Kivus and across the Great Lakes region.
Lord Brett
Any permanent ceasefire in the Kivus will require close co-operation between the Governments of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Rwanda. We welcome the recent rapprochement between Rwanda and DRC-including the recent exchange of ambassadors-which has lead to greater co-operation and stability in the region. Our ambassador in Kinshasa and High Commissioner in Kigali are in close contact with their respective host Governments and continue to engage on this issue.

Lord Alton of Liverpool
12/01/2010
HL972
To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they and the Commonwealth are taking to ensure that the government of Rwanda extradite Laurent Nkunda to stand trial at The Hague for alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in Kiwanja and Rutshuru.
Lord Brett
Allegations of serious crimes committed in the Democratic Republic of Congo since July 2002 are currently being investigated by the International Criminal Court (ICC). The Court is an independent, judicial institution and decisions on indictments and arrest warrants are a matter for the Prosecutor and the Pre-Trial Chamber. At this time, no warrant has been issued by the ICC for Laurent Nkunda.



