Democratic Republic of Congo: The Union for Democracy and Social Progress (UDPS), including its position vis-à-vis the transition government established on 30 June 2003 and the reasons why no UDPS member is in the government; a military intervention against UDPS members on 20 July 2003 in Mwene-Ditu and, if it took place, whether certain UDPS members were injured or arrested (2002-August 2004)

Research Directorate, Immigration and Refugee Board, Ottawa


UDPS supporters claim that the appointment process for this position was full of irregularities and that their national president was cheated out of the position (Le Potentiel 10 July 2003; see also UDPS 21 May 2003; Jeune Afrique/L'intelligent 6-12 July 2003, 63; AP 28 Sept. 2003). A 10 July 2003 article from the Congolese newspaper Le Potentiel indicated that the UDPS refused to participate in the transition institutions because of the cheating that allegedly took place when the institution leaders were appointed. According to Jeune Afrique/L'intelligent, Tshisékedi's supporters believe that the UDPS leader was forced out as a result of a secret agreement between Congolese president, Joseph Kabila; the president of Innovative Forces for Union and Solidarity (Forces novatrices pour l'union et la solidarité, FONUS), Joseph Olenghankoy; and Arthur Zahidi Ngoma (6-12 July 2003, 62). A statement published on the UDPS Internet site refers to an illegal decision made by the accord follow-up commission (Commission de suivi de l'accord), which went beyond its power when it appointed Zahidi Ngoma as vice-president of the unarmed political opposition (UDPS 23 May 2003).

In addition, the president of the UDPS stated that his organization was participating in the comprehensive and inclusive agreement (Accord global et inclusif), which was signed on 2 April 2003 in Sun City and which the head of state endorsed on 4 April 2003 (L'observateur 15 Dec. 2003). Moreover, the UDPS Secretary General said that, although his political organization is not part of the transition institutions, it is fully participating in the transition process, which it is determined to see completed (Le Phare 30 Mar. 2004).
No information concerning a military intervention on 20 July 2003 in Mwene-Ditu against UDPS members could be found among the sources consulted by the Research Directorate.

This Response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Research Directorate within time constraints. This Response is not, and does not purport to be, conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim for refugee protection. Please find below the list of additional sources consulted in researching this Information Request.

References


Agence France Presse (AFP). 28 September 2003. "Arrivée à Kinshasa de l'opposant Étienne Tshisekedi, de retour en RDC." (Courrier AFP)


Additional Sources Consulted

_Publications:_ Africa Confidential, Africa Research Bulletin, Jeune Afrique/L’Intelligent, Keesing’s Record of World Events, Resource Centre country
Internet sites, including: AllAfrica, Africatime, Amnesty International (AI), BBC Africa, Dialog, Digitalcongo.net, Ecoi.net, Human Rights Watch (HRW), International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), IRIN, Ligue des droits de l'homme dans la région des Grands Lacs (LDGL), MISNA, Swiss Refugee Council (OSAR).

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