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## **RESTORATION OF THE AUTHORITY OF THE CONGOLESE STATE IN THE FACE OF MOB JUSTICE IN ISANGI TERRITORY**

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### **ABSTRACT**

This scientific article aims to identify the reactions of the State to mob justice in Isangi Territory.

Methodologically, the research uses the dynamist method according to Georges Balandier's descriptive protocol supported by the documentary technique, the technique of disengaged direct observation, the unstructured interview technique, the photo illustration technique, the sampling technique and the data processing technique. The study required the use of content and statistical analysis techniques.

Thus, the results of the study show that in order to deal with this phenomenon, the State has no recourse to formal social control mechanisms, i.e. the Congolese National Police, the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of Congo, the General Directorate of Migration, the National Intelligence Agency, the High Prosecutor's Office, the Court, judges, chiefs of neighborhoods/villages, chiefs of groups, heads of sectors/chiefdoms, etc.

**KEYWORDS:** Recovery, authority, authority of the Congolese State

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

The societies of the Third World are confronted, precisely, with the crises that this mutation is at the origin of. If we speak of authority, relative to state rationality, and the ideological and cultural values on which it is based, we will speak from the outset of the other elements that make up the system, of which the notion of authority in the legal-rational system is a part. Obviously, this is not a value judgement or a devaluation of the traditional political system, which has its own rationality<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Nisbet R., *The Notion of Political Authority and State Ideology*, <https://shs.hal.science>, Doc... PDF, accessed April 27, 2023

Etymology " *Authority* " is a term derived from the Latin name *auctoritas*. The Roman *auctoritas* was the prerogative of the Senate, which had no decision-making or executive power, unlike the *potestas* (power), which imposed force on the people<sup>2</sup>.

Authority corresponds to the right to be able to command, to be obeyed. It involves the notions of legitimacy, power, command, and obedience. But the word command is too much linked to the army, and obedience is too reminiscent of our childhood<sup>3</sup>.

Talk about the procedure for the restoration of the authority of the Congolese State refer us to the Congolese Constitution in its article 37 and the laws of the Democratic Republic of Congo, the security and defense services are mainly made up of the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Congolese National Police, the National Intelligence Agency, of the General Directorate of Migration, Military Intelligence Staff. All these services operate under the authority of the President of the Republic, Head of State, who chairs the High Council of Defence<sup>4</sup>.

The Democratic Republic of Congo is a particularly interesting case to deal with the issue of the "*procedure for the restoration of state authority*" following the bankruptcy of its state. During the Belgian colonization, criminal justice was established as a mechanism for resolving social problems by setting aside and rendering illegitimate alternative mechanisms for conflict resolution. Criminal justice was in fact a tool of the colonizer that was maintained after the individual as a tool of the state. Until then, the Democratic Republic of Congo had not really experienced a democratic period. The country lived for thirty-two years under President Mobutu in prosperity, only to be engulfed in two civil wars that caused the death of millions of human beings, produced millions of refugees and displaced persons and gave rise to incalculable violations of human rights, war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Mobutu's dictatorship was characterized by the use of political violence, corruption and a high tolerance for individual "resourcefulness".<sup>5</sup> A combination of elements such as internal problems, the Rwandan genocide, the irrational exploitation of natural resources and the war economy have pushed the country into civil wars<sup>6</sup>. The first civil war initiated in 1993 ended with the defeat of Mobutu by Laurent Désiré Kabila in 1997.

However, the pacification of the country has not been completed since a second civil war broke out in

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<sup>2</sup> State Authority., available on [www.toupie.org/Dictionnaire-étatique.htm](http://www.toupie.org/Dictionnaire-étatique.htm), consulté November 11, 2023.

<sup>3</sup> Authority of the State., Idem

<sup>4</sup> Evaluation on the functioning of security services and their role, available on <https://www.memoireonline.com> , consulted on 28/01/2026 at 19: 22.

<sup>5</sup> Kamba P., *Violence au Congo-Kinshasa*, Paris, L'Harmattan, 2009, p.21.

<sup>6</sup> Vlassenroot K., War and social Researc civilisations, LIV,1-2, 191-198,2003, p.35.

1998 when Laurent-Désiré Kabila broke with his allies of 1993. After his assassination, his son Joseph Kabila Kabange regained power and continued the war until the signing of the peace agreement in Sun City, South Africa, on April 2, 2003. This agreement resulted in a transitional government that ensured democratic presidential elections in 2006, following which Joseph Kabila Kabange was elected president. Despite the end of the civil war and democratic elections, violence continues to spread terror in the north-east of the country, particularly in the Kivu region.

We started from the observation that, despite the operationalization of the security services on the ground in Isangi, the rate of banditry is only increasing. Indeed, the Congolese state is multiplying strategies to establish its authority in this entity and in this way of strategies that the government is putting in place to attract our curiosity to carry out this study.

This reflection aims to identify the reactions of the State to this mob justice perpetrated there.

## 2. METHODOLOGICAL FRAMEWORK

### 2.1 Method and techniques

To analyze the information collected, the study used the dynamist method according to the descriptive protocol of Georges Balandier<sup>7</sup> supported by *the documentary technique*<sup>8</sup> relating to the question of mob justice in the world, in Africa, in the Democratic Republic of Congo and more particularly in the Territory of Isangi (Journals, archives, annual reports of the Territory Office, Sectors/Chiefdoms, Groupings, Neighborhoods and Villages, complaints from the National Intelligence Agency, the Congolese National Police, the General Directorate of Migration, the Public Prosecutor's Office, etc. Electronic documents, especially Internet browsing, have been a useful help to us in completing documentary technology. In short, so much data for the bankruptcy of the State! *The technique of disengaged direct observation*<sup>9</sup>: observation has helped us, as inhabitants of the Territory, to see how delinquents destroy, burn other people's property, fight, sometimes kill each other, forbid children to be vaccinated, reject state taxes, chase other people's animals in villages when it comes to early marriage, etc. We also observed some of the victims affected and interned in the various Health Centers and General Hospitals in the territory and the reactions of the State before, during and after the demonstrations. *The semi-structured interview technique*: The research took place in Isangi in January 2003. As our survey population is heterogeneous, we questioned the direct and indirect social actors of this phenomenon, including victims, young

<sup>7</sup> Balandier Georges, "Sociologie dynamique et histoire à partir de faits africains", in *Cahier international de Sociologie*, vol.34, Paris, January 1963, pp.3-11.

<sup>8</sup> Mulumbati Ngasha., *Manuel de Sociologie générale*, Lubumbashi, Edition Africa, 2010, p.30.

<sup>9</sup> Otemikongo Mandefu and Mandrandele Otongwa., " Public Demonstrations in Kisangani", in *Revue de l'IRSA*, n°2, March, 1998, PP.34-42.

demonstrators, leaders of religious denominations, heads of health structures and representatives of civil society. This meeting focused mainly on the causes of the testing of the State by mob justice.

In addition, we met with the heads of the entities concerned with the protection of people and their property, including the Administrator of the Territory, the Heads of Sectors/Chiefdoms (of Turumbu, Yawembe, Kombe and Loété), the Chiefs of the Groups (Wéko, Yambau, Y'elongo, Yafunga, Yaombolé, Bolimo-sisa, Y'ilambi, Timbo and Mwando), the Chiefs of the Villages (Wéko, Lilanda, Yaselia, Bodjele, Yanonga, Yandjali, Yatamba, Yaitalema, Yalisubu, Toongoso and Yabongonda), the Chiefs of the Neighborhoods (Yaekama, N'gazi, Bangala, Camps-Mipila and Camps-Etat), the Heads of the General Directorate of Migration, the Heads of the National Intelligence Agency, the head of the prosecutor's office of Isangi and Yangambi, the President of the Court, the judges and prison directors on their reactions as public managers to this mob justice, *The Photo-Illustration Technique*: It made it possible to use photo-illustrations. In fact, while acknowledging their scientific limitations, the photos are used to complement direct observation; it has made it possible to capture images of prisons, police officers in full operation, damaged houses and furniture. Some of the photos used were provided to us by our respondents and others were taken by us.

It is also based on *the Sampling Technique*<sup>10</sup>: The sampling was diversified according to the professional environment (Turumbu Sector, Yawembe Sector, Loété Sector and the Kombe Chiefdom, of the capital of the Isangi Territory as well as of Yangambi), because this is where the cases of mob justice had occurred more than once.

In addition, the groups: Wéko, Yambau, Y'elongo, Yafunga, Yaombolé, Bolimo-sisa, Ilambi; Timbo and Mwando. The villages: Wéko, Lilanda, Yaselia, Bodjele, Yanonga, Yandjali, Yatamba, Yaitalema, Yalisubu, Toongoso and Yabongonda and the neighborhoods: Yaekama, N'gazi, Bangala, Camps-Mipila and Camps-Etat of the sectors/chiefdoms, groups, villages and neighborhoods have been selected.

Thus, being faced with an infinite population, we reasonably chose our respondents on the basis of the following criteria: being in charge of a public service in an entity where mob justice has occurred, being an actor in mob justice, being a victim of this phenomenon, being in charge or a member of local civil society, being in charge of a local church and finally being in charge of a health structure. They were men and women ranging in age from 15 to 59 years old.

We extracted a sample of 60 subjects per quota based on their theoretical and practical knowledge of mob justice, divided into three groups: according to the categories as we have formulated them, namely

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<sup>10</sup> Kabudri Legi., *the Congolese public administration in the face of political change during the first legislature of the Third Republic. Case of the Oriental Province*, Unpublished thesis in SPA, FSSAP, UNIKIS, 2015.

"technical (political-administrative authorities)", "practical (victims and young demonstrators" and "intermediary (church leaders, of health and civil society)". According to Kabudri Legi<sup>11</sup>., quota surveys help to build a small model of the population by taking into account a certain number of main characteristics on the basis of which the interviewer determines the number of individuals he will have to interview.

This sample is specified in Table 1 as follows:

| Categories                         | <i>f</i>  | %          |
|------------------------------------|-----------|------------|
| The Administrator of the Territory | 1         | 1,6        |
| FARDC officials                    | 2         | 3,4        |
| PNC Officials                      | 6         | 10         |
| DGM Officials                      | 6         | 10         |
| ANR Officials                      | 6         | 10         |
| Responsible des Parquets,          | 2         | 3,4        |
| The judges                         | 4         | 6,6        |
| Court Officials                    | 2         | 3,4        |
| Prison directors                   | 2         | 3,4        |
| Neighborhood Chiefs                | 5         | 8,3        |
| Village chiefs                     | 11        | 18,3       |
| Group Leaders                      | 9         | 15         |
| Heads of Sectors/Chiefdoms         | 4         | 6,6        |
| <b>Total</b>                       | <b>60</b> | <b>100</b> |

Table 1: Sample distribution

## 2.2. Study environment

The study environment is the Territory of Isangi. This choice is justified by the fact that cases of mob justice are multiplying and persisting. The Territory of Isangi is one of seven decentralized administrative entities in the Province of Tshopo in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Located in the heart of the Province of Tshopo, west of the city of Kisangani near the equator in the middle of the central basin, the Territory of Isangi is one of the seven Territories that make up the Province of Tshopo. It is limited:

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<sup>11</sup>Kabudri Legi., *Idem*.

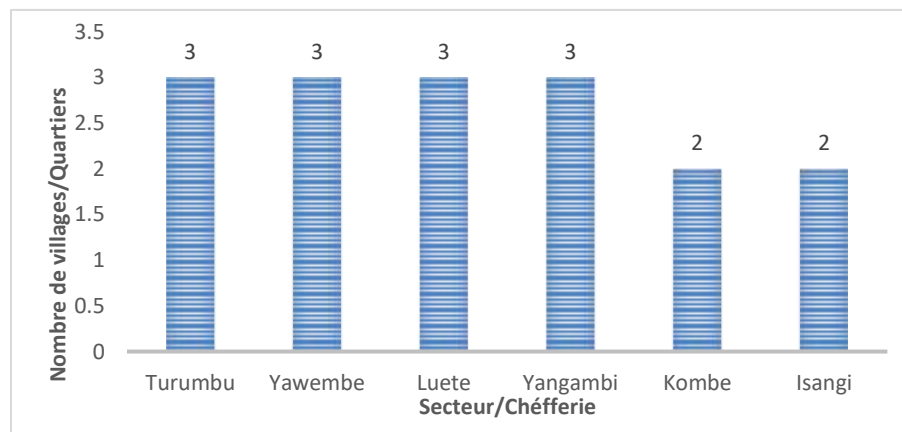
- to the east by the city of Kisangani on the Tshopo and Lindi rivers;
- to the west by the Lifindo River with the Basoko Territory and the Loleka River (left bank of the Congo River) with the Yahuma Territory;
- to the north by the Territory of Banalia on the Lindi River;
- to the south by the Opala Territory on the Lokutu stream (Loha).

The geographical coordinates of the Isangi Territory are as follows<sup>12</sup>:

- ✓ Longitude : 24° 15' 56" Est ;
- ✓ Latitude : 0° 46' 48" Nord ;
- ✓ Average altitude: 376m.

Its surface area is 15,770 km<sup>2</sup>, with an estimated population of 858,322 inhabitants, i.e. a density of 54 inhabitants/km<sup>2</sup>; its relief is dominated by a plain covered with dense forest. Without a doubt, it is the natural environment where biodiversity is the most diverse in the country. This territory was created by Ordinance No. 40/AIMO/33 of 23 March 1935<sup>13</sup>.

**Figure 1: Study area**



**Source:** Field survey

This graph 1 shows the different Sectors/Chiefdoms, Groupings, Villages as well as the different Districts that make up the field of the study. Thus, in the Turumbu Sector we have selected three groups: Wéko

<sup>12</sup>Institutional diagnosis of the Isangi Territory: Study carried out under the lead of the Provincial Division of Planning and Coordination of Development Aid/Province of Tshopo, 2024, p.12.

<sup>13</sup> Litho, Gesende, G., *De la pratique culturelle fétichiste Topoke du Territoire d'Isangi. A search for endogenous cultural value from 1926 to the present day*, Thesis in Sociology, UNIKIS, FSSAP, 2014-2015 (unpublished), p.197

(Wéko Village), Yambau (Lilanda Village) and Y'elongo (Yaselia Village); the Yawembe Sector three Groups: Yafunga (Bodjele Village), Yaombolé (Yanonga) and Bolimo-Sisa (Yandjali); the Loété Sector, Mwando Group: Yalisumbu, Yabongonda and Toongoso Villages. In Yangambi three Districts: Yaekama, N'gazi and Bangala; the Kombe Chiefdom, two groups: Y'ilambi (Yatamba Village) and Timbo (Yaitalema Village). In the capital of the Territory, there are two districts: Camps-Mipila and Camps-Etat. In approaching the Isangi Territory in general as the spatial framework of our study, it should be noted that its immensity did not allow us to explore all the Sectors/Chiefdoms, Groupings and Villages/Districts that make it up.

## 2. Processing, analysis and interpretation of study results

**Table 2: Existence/presence of police stations/sub-stations**

| No. | Are there CIATs/CIATs of the police in the sites where acts of J.P have taken place? If so, how much? | f  | %    |
|-----|---|----|------|
| 01  | Yes   | 18 | 30   |
| 02  | No  | 40 | 66,7 |
| 03  | Undecided   | 2  | 3,3  |
|     | Total   | 60 | 100  |

The analysis of the results of this table 2 reveals that 40 out of 60 subjects, or 66.7% of the respondents, confirm that in all the villages and neighborhoods of Isangi there are no CIATs and sub-CIATs of the PNC in the sites where acts of mob justice occur. 18 subjects, or 30% of the respondents, confirmed the presence of CIATs and sub-CIATs of the police with a reduced workforce, the majority of them are not registered and recognized by the Congolese government.

Admittedly, at the level of the Territory's capital, the respondents confirm that a small number of PNC staff is working. The person in charge of the place and the documentation through the various registers of the agents confirm that in Isangi-centre, there is only a total of 12 cabin crews, of which 7 are paid and 5 have not been paid so far. On the spot in Isangi, the Territorial Administrator is not guarded by the PNC, except in one isolated case (a police officer on duty). We have seen this at the public prosecutor's office. In the same way, for the FARDC elements/T2, we have a very small number of personnel, 6 in total, a figure noted and confirmed through the documentation made available to us by the head of the FARDC on the ground in Isangi.



### State of the Yangambi Command Staff Building

In Yangambi, on the other hand, the documentation in our possession confirms the galloping presence of elements of the PNC, the ANR, the DGM and the FARDC, even a High Court Prosecutor's Office, an Agronomic Research Center recognized in the world, the presence of several NGOs, the presence of ESU Establishments, in particular IFA-YANGAMBI, ISPT-YANGAMBI, ISTM-YANGAMBI and other structures or private organizations. which justifies the predominance and permanence of the different structures of the order.

The number of Congolese National Police in the territory of Isangi, data provided through documentation and by local officials from 2010 to 2025, shows a total of 446 elements against a population of 221,920 inhabitants distributed as follows: (from 2010 to 2015: 135 cabin crews), (from 2015 to 2020: 145 cabin crews), (2020 to 2025: 166 cabin crew). This number is distributed over the entire field of study and is as follows:

- In the capital of the Turumbu Sector, 12 elements out of a population of 53,660 inhabitants;
- Yawembe sector, 8 elements against 23,481 inhabitants;
- Loété sector, 7 elements against 44,701 inhabitants;
- Kombe chiefdom, 6 elements against 38,988 inhabitants;
- In Isangi-centre, the capital of the Territory, 12 elements against 14,406 inhabitants;
- In Yangambi, in the three districts that concerned our study, we found no element of the Congolese National Police. It is the PNC General Staff that controls the ten districts of the city, but also the

territories of Isangi, Banalia, Opala, Yahuma and Basoko. Field data confirm that in Yangambi, there is a total of 121 cabin crew for a population of 46,684 inhabitants<sup>14</sup>.

The documentation teaches us that there is a deficit of police (PNC) and military (FARDC) elements in Isangi. This state of affairs can only put the government or the state in a mass weakness in the face of the young people during the popular demonstrations in Isangi.

In view of the elements contained in the documentation of the PNC of the study area, it should be noted that 166 weapons is the figure provided by the documentation from 2010 to 2025. Thus, from 2010 to 2015 there were 71 cabin crews, from 2015 to 2020 the report gives us a workforce of 50 cabin crews and for the period from 2020 to 2025: 45 weapons.

- In the office of the capital of the Turumbu Sector there are only 3 weapons, only one really works out of a population of 53,660 inhabitants.
- In Yawembe 3 weapons and only one which works well against 23,481 inhabitants.
- In Loété 4 weapons, one operates separately against 44,701 inhabitants.
- In Kombe, the field study indicates 3 weapons and only one that starts against 38,988 inhabitants.
- In Isangi-centre, the capital of the territory, only 7 PNC weapons and only 4 weapons work properly against 14,406 inhabitants.
- In Yangambi, in the three districts concerned by our study, we found no element of the Congolese National Police. It is the General Staff of the Congolese National Police that controls the ten districts of the city including the territory of Basoko, the territory of Yahuma, the territory of Opala, the territory of Banalia and the territory of Isangi. The document we have consulted confirms that in Yangambi, we registered 25 weapons of the Congolese National Police in good condition against 46,684 inhabitants. Overall, 45 weapons<sup>15</sup> against 221,920 inhabitants<sup>16</sup>.

The document shows us that there is a shortage of weapons. There are police and soldiers who are unarmed and therefore devoid of means of defense and coercion. This state of affairs puts the latter in a weak position in the face of the insecurity caused by the young executioners during demonstrations and/or protests.

On this subject, one respondent told us the following: *"the majority of the weapons held by the PNC elements do not work; During the demonstrations, we have verified this more than once. They are afraid of us because we have the ability to make as many weapons as we use, in record time. As you see us here,*

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<sup>14</sup> See register of cabin crew for 2020 and 2025.

<sup>15</sup> See the logistics book (Office 4) of the PNC concerned by the study, available at the PNC police stations of Isangi.

<sup>16</sup> This is in relation to the period from 2020 to 2025.

*each of us has one or three weapons in our houses and in our huts in the forest.*"<sup>17</sup>



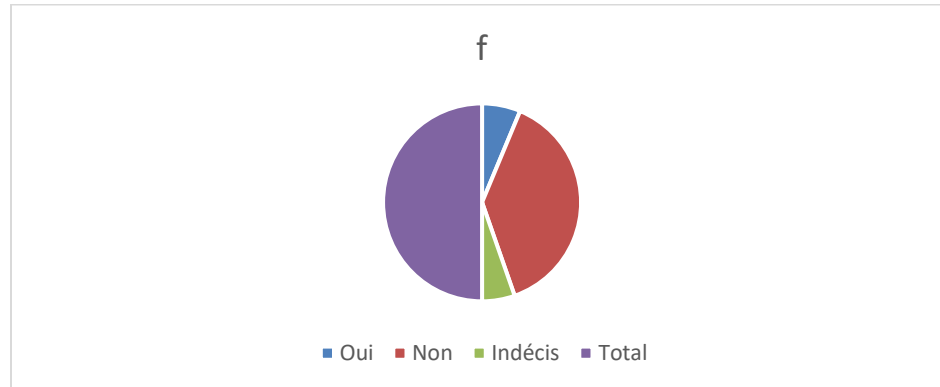
Means of transport used by the PNC during the arrest of demonstrators in Isangi Territory

**Figure 1: Existence of a central prison in the Sectors/Chiefdoms**

*Do you have a central prison in your sector/chiefdom?*

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<sup>17</sup> The testimony of Mr. Akondjaka Bogenda Pi re of the Luet  Sector in Bumba Losuna, November 12, 2024.



A glance at the results in Figure 1 reveals that nearly 75% of the respondents do not affirm the existence of a prison in their administrative entities. A smaller proportion justifies the existence of a prison in the entity in a state of increased dilapidation; this is the case in the Yawembe Sector where there is a Public Prosecutor's Office at the Peace Court with a Prosecutor, but also a Presiding Judge of the Peace Court, and in Yangambi where there is a High Court Prosecutor's Office with a Public Prosecutor and a President of the High Court.

Prison plays a crucial role in social and judicial structuring, acting as a tool for neutralizing offenders, protecting society, and enforcing sentences. It aims to ensure safety, prevent recidivism, and promote the reintegration of prisoners through education and work.

Here are the roles and importance of a prison:

- Security and Protection: Neutralize dangerous individuals and prevent new crimes, thus ensuring public tranquility.
- Judicial Role: Punish criminal behaviour by applying the sentence decided by the court, symbolising the rule of law.
- Social and Professional Reintegration: To offer educational programs, care and work to prepare the return of prisoners to society, aimed at avoiding recidivism.
- Deterrence: Act as a deterrent for incarcerated persons (individual prevention) and the rest of the population (general prevention).
- Reparation: To respond to the need for justice for the victims, by marking a break with the criminal act.

Although it is sometimes criticized for its inadequacy to current realities or its long-term effectiveness,

prison remains a key element in the penal chain<sup>18</sup>.



Photo taken by ourselves: Yangambi High Prosecutor's Office and the Isangi Central Prison, Yawembe Sector in Yalikina.

*An interviewee told us that in Yangambi, the prison is a metal container exposed to the sun, commonly called Ethiopia, which is used for hygienic needs and for men at the same time, a re-education house or a prison, says our respondent<sup>19</sup>.*

**Table 3: Acts of popular justice**

| No. | Have you already registered acts of popular justice in your entity? If so, where, when? How does this manifest itself? | f         | %          |
|-----|--|-----------|------------|
| 01  | Yes  | 49        | 81,7       |
| 02  | Not  | 11        | 18,3       |
|     | <i>Total</i>   | <i>60</i> | <i>100</i> |

The majority of the respondents confirm with certainty that acts of the J.P. occur in the majority of the entities of Isangi, in particular the villages and neighborhoods that make up our environment or study area. This is especially true during land conflicts and conflicts of customary power, during football tournaments,

<sup>18</sup>[https://www.google.com/search?q=R%C3%B4le+ou+importance+d%27une+prison+dans+une+entit%C3%A9&client=firefox-b-d&hs=Nr19&sca\\_esv=2bbc76108a4ecd6f&ei=y](https://www.google.com/search?q=R%C3%B4le+ou+importance+d%27une+prison+dans+une+entit%C3%A9&client=firefox-b-d&hs=Nr19&sca_esv=2bbc76108a4ecd6f&ei=y), retrieved, 15/02/2026.

<sup>19</sup> Speech made by Mr. Jean Boitokobioka of the Yaekama/Yangambi district, on 21/03/2024.

the sudden death of a leader in the milieu, early marriage, etc. 49; 81.7% of the respondents confirm and say that these acts manifest themselves in obscene songs, in breakages and destruction, in the destabilization of the environment and chaos, in the cessation of activities in the affected entities, etc. 11; 18.3% of the respondents say no, i.e. the cases of acts of mob justice have not yet occurred in their respective entities.

**Table 4: State Reactions to Acts of Mob Justice**

| No. | <i>How do you react to these acts of mob justice?</i>          | f         | %          |
|-----|--|-----------|------------|
| 01  | PNC  | 25        | 41,7       |
| 02  | FARDC/T2   | 14        | 23,3       |
| 03  | PNC, FARDC/T2, ANR, DGM and the High Court Prosecutor's Office | 12        | 20         |
| 04  | Other  | 9         | 15         |
|     | <i>Total</i>   | <i>60</i> | <i>100</i> |

Before the production of these acts, the security services alert the local authority in advance, the latter convenes the meeting of the Security Council in an emergency manner to decide on appropriate measures, but other events occur suddenly, thus causing enormous consequences. Certainly, to repress the young executioners during the demonstrations, the public power/the State uses the PNC: 25; i.e. 41.7% of respondents certified it; 14, i.e. 23.3% of the respondents spoke of the FARDC/T2 where appropriate, while 12 subjects, i.e. 20% of the respondents, spoke of the joint mission composed of the PNC, the ANR, the DGM, the FARDC and the public prosecutor's offices. 9, or 15% of the respondents had added nothing on this subject.

Talking about the restoration of the authority of the State in this administrative entity is one thing, but further exploring the prospects for lasting peace is another. The strengthening of the authority of the State in Isangi implies the permanent renegotiation between the State and society, a local administration that translates into a policy of proximity to the population. Certainly, in overstepping the limits, to re-establish its authority, the Congolese state has recourse to the executive, legislative and judicial powers.

1. *Executive power*: The executive branch implements laws and conducts national policy. To this end, it has the power to make regulations and has the administration and the armed force at its disposal.
2. *Legislative power*: ensures the execution of laws and exercises regulatory power that is also held by the President of the Republic.

3. *Judiciary*: Under the doctrine of separation of powers, the judiciary administers justice on behalf of the state. The law is interpreted and applied by courts, tribunals, judges, and lawyers. These actors make up the justice system as a whole.

#### 4. DISCUSSION OF THE RESULTS

Our results also coincide with the result of Quermonne J.<sup>20</sup> which insists on the most striking feature of the administrations of "developing" countries, which is the insufficient density of their structure. This can be expressed quantitatively and qualitatively in people and services.

And yet, in the face of population growth in the world's major cities, increasing the number of police officers has been, for all governments, the main means of dealing with the rise in violence and urban incivility. The United Nations has shown that, over the past thirty years, the human resources of the police in most industrialized countries have increased by 50%; And for all countries, they represent on average 85% of all staff working in the field of justice<sup>21</sup>.

According to the fourth United Nations survey on crime trends and the functioning of criminal justice systems, the international ratio of police officers per capita was 253 per 100,000 inhabitants in 1985<sup>22</sup>. This situation shows that, for all governments, increasing the number of police officers has been the main means used to deal with the rise in urban violence and incivility<sup>23</sup>.

In addition, the criteria that must be taken into account by the State in determining the number of personnel and the location of units in the field relate in particular to the density of the population, the nature and extent of the crime, and the extent of the territory concerned<sup>24</sup>.

It is not easy to access secret information related to security: the quality and quantity of weapons, ammunition, shackles, shields, shods, shields held by a police force. Nevertheless, it appears that the actual number of weapons of police officers in the police stations/sub-stations of the Sectors/Chiefdoms, Villages/Neighborhoods and Groups concerned in this study between 2010 and 2025 is 166 weapons<sup>25</sup> against 221,920 inhabitants, apart from other equipment such as shields and tear gas, most of the weapons and ammunition of the PNC in the entities of our study, because the PNC has the mission to fight against

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<sup>20</sup>Quermonne J., *La sous-administration et les politiques d'équipement administratif*, [www.persee.fr/web/revues/home/prescript/article/rfsp-0035-2950-1959](http://www.persee.fr/web/revues/home/prescript/article/rfsp-0035-2950-1959). Accessed on 22/01/2025.

<sup>21</sup> Imbwatckeke Bofonga., *Police blunders in Kisangani/DRC: from the monopoly of legitimate violence to the delegitimization of the Police*. Thesis in SPA, FSSAP, UNIKIS, 2021, p.296.

<sup>22</sup>Quermonne J., *Idem*

<sup>23</sup> Shalom M.et Léonard L., quoted by Imbwatckeke B., *Idem*, p.296

<sup>24</sup>*Ibid.*, p. 296.

<sup>25</sup> See register of the cabin crew of the study area

thugs/uncivil in the province of Tshopo and in the territory of Isangi. However, at the level of police stations and sub-stations, the number of weapons has never been equal to that of the police officers assigned to them<sup>26</sup>.

Regarding the level of study and ethics of the PNC agents, the officials of the place provided us with explanations according to which the majority of the cabin crew have a primary level of education (intermediate and terminal level). Few of them have a required secondary level (reading and writing) and fewer of them have obtained the state and post-graduate diploma, which also justifies their levels of ethics<sup>27</sup>.

As far as the use of a weapon is concerned, L'huilier D. acknowledges its usefulness by stating that the weapon gives the police officer a certain security during an intervention. The author describes the various steps that should lead to the use of firearms by a police officer: - He checks to ensure the actual presence of his weapon in the holster; - He prepares by opening the closure of the case to be ready to release it quickly; - He keeps his hand on the weapon, ready to take it out of the holster in order to use it; - He takes the weapon out of the holster; - He points the finger; - He raises the weapon; - He shoots.

Indeed, this scenario, which responds to the principle of progressiveness of all police action, contains several stages, the first three of which are, according to the author, frequent and the last extremely rare; and this, depending on the number of police officers and the number of interventions to be carried out<sup>28</sup>. Thus, a relationship can be established between, on the one hand, the possibility for the police officer to shoot and, on the other hand, the number of police officers and the scale or number of interventions to be carried out.

On the other hand, it should be said that even a single shot aimed in the air constitutes a danger to society, because this bullet may have the possibility of falling on a person or property that the police are supposed to protect. This leads us to believe in the thesis that a police force that is less or poorly equipped is dangerous police.

Thus, our attention was also drawn to the uniform of the police officers, because this piece of equipment of the PNC clearly demonstrates the importance of this attribute both for the image of the institution in the eyes of the public and for the police officers themselves. Indeed, when the policeman is dressed in his service uniform, he comes out of anonymity, he is no longer everybody; He has a particular role and

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<sup>26</sup> A sub-station commander considered that the political authorities impose on us the logic of law enforcement and not of law enforcement.

<sup>27</sup> The six (6) leaders of the local cabin crew, therefore our respondents. Interview from 02 to 25 March 2025.

<sup>28</sup> MONUSCO, Educational Kit *on the Stability of Eastern DRC: Minimum Recycling Program*, July 2007, Kisangani.

functions. He loses his individuality in society; he becomes undifferentiated from his colleagues. There is therefore a form of depersonalization in the standardization of police personnel. The public recognizes the function through the uniform, but not the man: in fact, a uniformed policeman is as good as another<sup>29</sup>. Hervé B.<sup>30</sup> finds that, the uniform makes it possible to standardize a group, to attenuate differences to highlight the collective role in order to make relationships more human. For his part, Loubet Del Baye J.L. notes that the feeling of identity and professional solidarity within the police is also reinforced by the wearing of a uniform, which has the consequence of promoting awareness of a rapprochement between police officers; for, for his peers, the uniform shows similarity, while, for others, it (the uniform) highlights differences. At the same time, the cohesion of the group is built and strengthened.

Due to a lack of logistical means, in the event of a problem, the PNC very often uses the motorcycle taxi, the motorized pirogue, some use the bicycle<sup>31</sup>. We have noted the virtual existence of a logistics service on the side of the FARDC and the PNC: lack of intervention vehicles, lack of motorcycles specific to the PNC, lack of their own fast canoe, no phonic communication, etc., which is at the root of the State's bankruptcy.

This result is not in contradiction with the result of Imbwatcheke B.<sup>32</sup>. The author alludes to the car cart available to the PNC in Kisangani. Indeed, it appears from its field investigation that the PNC has only eight operational Jeep vehicles, which are mainly used by the senior command officers of the province, the city and some special units, distributed as follows: the Provincial Police Station and the Urban District Commissariat each have two vehicles that are used by the senior officers. Three vehicles are at the disposal of the District of Lubunga, the Mobile Intervention Group and the Special Traffic Police. The last vehicle is assigned to the Provincial Authority.

Moreover, until 2012, the PCR was devoid of racing motorcycles to catch up with fugitive criminals, perpetrators of road traffic accidents. This was the basis of many crimes committed by motorcyclists, without the perpetrators being caught.

The author concludes that the lack or inadequacy of means of mobility predisposes the cabin crew to commit a certain category of well-defined police blunders:

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<sup>29</sup>The cruet cited by Imbwatcheke B., *op cit*, p.346.

<sup>30</sup> Hervé B., *L'uniforme est une image (1)*, available on [www.regard-sur-limage.com/l-uniforme-est-une-image1.50html](http://www.regard-sur-limage.com/l-uniforme-est-une-image1.50html), accessed on 20 January 2025.

<sup>31</sup> Information provided by the managers of the local cabin crew.

<sup>32</sup>Imbwatcheke Bofonga E., *ibidem*, pp.344-345.

- The payment by citizens subject to the public of travel expenses for police officers for the execution of certain police operations, in particular the delivery of summonses issued by the OPJ or the execution of certain legal acts;
- The purchase of fuel for the mobility of vehicles of the units that have them, in particular the Special Police for the Protection of Children and the Family;
- Misuse of property seized by the police in the course of legal proceedings;
- Abusive and untimely requisitions of citizens' property, especially motorcycles, for the execution of certain police operations;
- The many culpable abstentions are linked to the lack or inadequacy of means of mobility

## 5. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, we pass that we have identified the reactions of the State to the mob justice of young people vis-à-vis communities in the Territory of Isangi. These strategies mobilized by the local government reflect a progressive awareness of rights and a willingness to participate in the restoration of the authority of the State. They also testify to the growing role of local communities as actors capable of denouncing the evil committed by young criminals.

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