

VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW SINCE THE OCCUPATION

OF THE TOWNS AND TERRITORIES OF THE PROVINCES OF NORTH-KIVU AND SOUTH-KIVU BY THE TROOPS OF THE RDF-M23/AFC COALITION AND THE SECURITY SITUATION IN THE PROVINCE OF ITURI



- *Citizen mobilization*
- *Advocacy for the involvement of women in the post-conflict peace process*



*"Monitoring of violations of human rights and international humanitarian law
in the provinces of North-Kivu, South-Kivu and Ituri"*

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is explicitly a continuation of the previous citizen monitoring, whose analysis it extends and deepens, with the aim of documenting in a rigorous and up-to-date manner the evolution of a persistent security and humanitarian crisis in the east of the Democratic Republic of Congo. In direct continuity with the facts previously established, this report places particular emphasis on the continuation and transformation of the abuses attributed in particular to the troops of the RDF and M23/AFC coalition, as well as to the dynamics of interference and participation of certain Eastern Neighboring countries, whose role continues to fuel regional instability.

While the previous report mainly covered the critical period from January to August 2025, marked by major offensives against the cities of Goma and Bukavu, this paper seeks to analyse subsequent developments, highlighting the persistence of serious violations of human rights and international humanitarian law in areas under influence or occupation. It highlights a worrying continuity of documented practices, including extrajudicial executions, arbitrary arrests, torture, systematic sexual violence, as well as targeted attacks against civil society actors.

The geographical scope of the analysis was broadened to include the provinces of North Kivu, South Kivu and Ituri, in order to reflect more comprehensively the true scale of the crisis in the entire eastern Democratic Republic of Congo. The integration of Ituri province is justified by the convergence of the dynamics of violence observed, including the increase in attacks against civilian populations, the intensification of forced displacement, the increased fragmentation of armed groups and the continued deterioration of humanitarian conditions.

In those provinces, the civilian population continued to suffer serious violations, many of which had the characteristics of international crimes. These include summary executions, large-scale sexual violence, recruitment and use of child soldiers, systematic looting, as well as the destruction of critical civilian infrastructure, including health facilities, schools, and displacement sites. These violations are part of a logic of territorial control, predation of resources and repression of voices perceived as hostile.

In addition, the situation remains marked by persistent institutional instability, a fragile implementation of regional and international peace mechanisms, as well as uncertainty about the effective withdrawal of foreign forces and their auxiliaries. This dynamic contributes to maintaining a climate of generalized insecurity and undermining the prospects for lasting stabilization.

On the humanitarian front, the consequences remain alarming, with massive and prolonged displacement of populations, increased pressure on the reception capacities of relatively safe areas, and a continuous deterioration in access to basic social services. The destruction of public infrastructure and the partial collapse of state authority in some areas further aggravate the vulnerability of the affected populations.

Thus, this report, the result of the concerted efforts of the members of a network of civil society organizations called CEMEACO – committed to the defense of human rights, the promotion of equality between women and men, citizenship education, peacebuilding and the strengthening of democracy – is part of an ongoing documentation process, aimed not only at following up on previously identified violations, but also at alerting on their persistence and evolution. It reaffirms the

urgency of a coordinated, coherent and sustainable response, both at the national and international levels, with a view to guaranteeing the effective protection of civilians, combating impunity and promoting a gradual return to peace and stability in the east of the Democratic Republic of Congo.



1. INTRODUCTION

The eastern region of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is a major strategic space at the heart of the African Great Lakes region, at the crossroads of regional security, economic and geopolitical dynamics.

It is distinguished both by the exceptional abundance of its natural resources – among the richest in the world, particularly in strategic minerals – and by its pivotal geographical position, at the interface with several neighboring states, which makes it a crossroads of trade but also of tensions and greed.

Paradoxically, this wealth is one of the structural factors of the chronic instability that characterizes this part of the national territory. For several decades, and more particularly since 1996, eastern DRC has been the scene of protracted, complex and multifaceted armed conflicts, involving a diversity of actors with often divergent and intertwined interests. These conflicts involve government forces, local armed groups, transnational rebel movements, as well as regional actors, some of whom intervene directly or indirectly in the dynamics of the conflict.

In line with documented cycles of violence, including those involving RDF and M23/AFC coalition troops and other armed actors supported or linked to external interests, the region remains marked by persistent security fragmentation, increased militarization of territories, and violent competition for control of strategic resources and areas.

The human consequences of these conflicts are dramatic and long-lasting. They have resulted in millions of deaths, massive and repeated displacement of civilian populations, and gross, massive and systematic violations of human rights and international humanitarian law. Civilian populations, especially women and children, are paying the heaviest price through sexual violence, summary executions, abductions, forced recruitment and the destruction of their livelihoods.

Faced with this situation, civil society organizations occupy a central and indispensable place. They play a key role in rigorously documenting violations, collecting testimonies, providing early warning and raising awareness at both the national and international levels. Their commitment not only helps to make visible realities that are often underdocumented, but also to fight impunity, promote the accountability of the actors involved and advocate for effective mechanisms for the protection of civilians and sustainable peacebuilding.

This report is part of a continuous monitoring and documentation process, aimed at enlightening decision-makers, partners and public opinion on the persistence and evolution of violence in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, while strengthening advocacy efforts for a coordinated, structural and sustainable response to this protracted crisis.

2. METHODOLOGY

This report is based on a rigorous methodology that combines field data collection, documentary analysis and reinforced verification mechanisms, in a particularly restrictive security context. It is a continuation of the system established by CEMEACO since January 2025 to document serious human rights violations in the affected areas, in particular those attributed to the troops of the RDF - M23/AFC coalition and other armed groups (ADF, CODECO, ZAIRE, etc.).

2.1. COLLECTION NETWORK

A network of 95 data collection relay actors (ARCDs) was mobilized in the provinces of North Kivu, South Kivu and Ituri, including 55 deployed in the initial phase (45 men and 10 women). Coming from local communities, these actors have in-depth knowledge of the context and proven experience in data collection in conflict zones.

They include the cities of Goma and Bukavu, as well as the territories of Nyiragongo, Masisi, Rutshuru, Lubero, Walikale, Walungu, Kalehe and Kabare, as well as Ituri province, the city of Bunia and the territories of Aru, Djugu, Irumu, Mahagi and Mambasa. Operating under sensitive conditions, they have followed strict security protocols and documented serious violations, including killings, abductions, sexual violence, torture, extortion, looting, destruction of infrastructure and violations of fundamental freedoms.

2.2. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

The data comes from multiple sources allowing for cross-reference and contextualized analysis:

- Direct testimonies of victims and witnesses
- Field observations
- Data from medical and humanitarian facilities
- Literature reviews (national and international legal texts, peace agreements, international resolutions)

This system has been supplemented by the development of operational guidelines for collection and by advocacy actions carried out by CEMEACO.

2.3. VERIFICATION AND DATA PROCESSING

The information collected was centralized at the level of a supervisory unit responsible for its verification, processing and consolidation. A strict triangulation process was applied to ensure the reliability of the data.

Only facts directly observed or confirmed by several credible sources were retained, while unverifiable or partisan information was excluded. A reverification mechanism has also been put in place, involving a return of the data to the relay actors for final validation, thus guaranteeing their accuracy and consistency.

2.4. GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE

Geographical coverage is part of a logic of continuity and expansion. Areas already monitored—including Goma, Bukavu, Uvira, as well as the territories of Nyiragongo, Rutshuru, Masisi, Lubero, Walikale, Kalehe, Walungu, and Kabare—continued to be regularly documented, allowing for monitoring of violations over time.

To this system is now added the province of Ituri, integrated because of the upsurge in violence observed there, including attacks on civilians, clashes between armed groups and the looting and illicit exploitation of minerals and other natural resources. This extension better reflects the scale and complexity of the crisis throughout eastern DRC.

2.5. CONSTRAINTS AND LIMITATIONS

The data collection took place in a framework that was highly constrained in terms of security and operations. The relay actors operate in an environment exposed to high risks, including armed violence, threats and intimidation by armed groups, particularly in areas under the influence of the RDF-M23/AFC coalition and affiliated armed groups (ADF, CODECO, ZAIRE, CRP, etc.).

Access to some areas remains limited due to territorial control, the presence of checkpoints and the reluctance of people to testify for fear of reprisals. In addition, there are communication interruptions, the circulation of rumours and verification difficulties in a context of disinformation. The psychological pressure resulting from prolonged exposure to violence represents a major challenge for relay actors.

Despite these constraints, the mechanisms put in place have made it possible to produce reliable, coherent data that are representative of the realities observed on the ground.

The logo features a stylized graphic of three human figures in blue and orange, with their arms raised, positioned above the text 'CEMEACO asbl'.
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3. HISTORICAL CONTEXT OF THE CONFLICT

3.1. ROOTS OF THE CONFLICT

The conflict in the east of the Democratic Republic of Congo cannot be understood as a simple series of local rebellions or communal clashes. Its roots lie in a longer history of political destabilization, manipulation of identities, cross-border militarization, and competition for control of strategic resources.

The Rwandan genocide of 1994 was a major turning point: it provoked a massive exodus of refugees to eastern Zaire, but also the establishment of armed forces mixed with civilians in camps that quickly became areas of retreat, military reconstitution and the circulation of weapons. The inability of the Zairean state to control its territory, aggravated by the terminal crisis of the Mobutu regime, opened a sovereignty vacuum into which regional actors, politico-military networks and external economic interests were engulfed.

This situation is not only the product of internal weaknesses. It is also part of an international logic in which the DRC, rich in mineral resources, has been gradually transformed into a space of influence, predation and proxy war. From this perspective, the Congolese crisis appears to be the result of a tangle of local, regional and international interests, in which the civilian population has served as adjustment variables in strategies that go far beyond them.

3.2. FIRST CONGO WAR (1996-1997)

The first Congo war was not only a revolt against a weakened regime; it was also a large-scale geopolitical operation. The Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo (AFDL), supported by Rwanda and Uganda, has served as a veritable military vehicle for the recomposition of power in Zaire. Under the pretext of neutralizing threats from refugee camps and the former Rwandan Armed Forces, this offensive led to the overthrow of Mobutu and the installation of President Laurent-Désiré Kabila. But behind the discourse of liberation there was already a broader logic: securing the eastern borders, establishing lasting regional alliances, and access to areas rich in natural resources.

The departure of President Mobutu cannot therefore be understood only as an internal victory for the Congolese forces. It is part of a broader international reconfiguration, marked by the end of the Cold War, the weakening of the regime's former supporters and the emergence of new diplomatic alignments. Several analyses have pointed out that some foreign powers, particularly Western ones, have supported or tolerated this transition, in the name of regional stability, without measuring or wanting to measure the long-term consequences for Congolese sovereignty.

This phase inaugurates a cycle in which changes of power in Kinshasa are increasingly linked to external games of influence rather than to a solid endogenous political construction.

3.3. SECOND CONGO WAR (1998-2003)

The second Congo war reveals even more clearly the depth of the Congolese crisis. By opposing several African states and a multitude of armed groups, it has transformed Congolese territory into a field of regional confrontation. This conflict, often referred to as the "African world war", not only caused massive casualties; It also institutionalized a war economy in which control of territory, transportation routes, and mineral deposits became a central issue.

In this war, the fragmentation of the country has served the interests of many actors. Externally supported rebel forces have occupied entire areas, while foreign armies, officially present for security or defence reasons, have often contributed to the plundering of resources and the maintenance of a state of chronic instability. Congolese sovereignty has been severely curtailed, and successive peace agreements have not completely dismantled the politico-military networks inherited from this period. In this sense, the Second Congo War was not only an armed conflict: it laid the foundations for militarized governance and lasting insecurity in the east of the country.

3.4. OCCUPATIONS OF THE CITY OF GOMA

The repeated occupations of Goma must be analysed as emblematic episodes of the structural crisis in eastern Congo. The capture of the city by the RCD in 1998, then by the M23 in 2012, and more recently the offensives linked to the M23/RDF, show that Goma is not only a local military issue: it is a nerve centre where security, economic and diplomatic interests converge. Its geographical position, its proximity to Rwanda and its role in providing access to the rich territories of North Kivu and South Kivu make it a major strategic objective.

These occupations are not the result of chance. They are the result of the persistent weakness of the Congolese state, the infiltration of cross-border armed networks, and the ability of certain regional actors to instrumentalize local groups as relays of influence. In this configuration, Rwanda has often been accused of playing a decisive role in guiding, supporting or reactivating certain rebellions, while other powers and international partners have been criticized for their passivity, diplomatic ambiguities or inability to impose a coherent response to the crisis. However, it would be simplistic to limit responsibility to a single actor: the destabilization of the DRC is the result of a broader system in which security interests, regional complicity, economic rivalries and internal failures intersect.

The consequences for the population are particularly serious. With each occupation, Goma suffers massive displacement of civilians, destruction of infrastructure, disruptions in supplies, worsening of sexual violence, paralysis of public services and increased precariousness of daily life. Added to this is a lasting collective trauma, fuelled by the impression of abandonment, the impunity of the perpetrators and the repetition of crises. Ultimately, Goma embodies both the vulnerability of the Congolese state and the magnitude of the regional challenges that continue to shape the destiny of eastern DRC.

3.5. SITUATION IN ITURI PROVINCE

Ituri province is the result of a long-standing conflict rooted in land and identity rivalries between communities, particularly Hema and Lendu, which were aggravated during the Second Congo War. Despite the peace agreements, the structural causes – access to land, exploitation of resources, weakness of the state – have never been resolved, favoring the reconstitution of militias and the resumption of violence from 2017 onwards. This instability has been reinforced by a dynamic of regional destabilization marked by the movement of armed groups, the porosity of borders and security reconfigurations in the east of the country. Local actors have thus been fuelled by communal rivalries and economic interests, while external interference, notably involving Rwanda and Uganda, as well as Congolese politico-military networks, have contributed to amplifying and instrumentalising tensions.

In addition to this local and regional conflict, there is now a transnational dimension with the activism of the *Allied Democratic Forces (ADF)*, affiliated with *the Islamic State*. Although Ituri is not historically a hotbed of Jihadists, these groups have taken advantage of the security vacuum to expand their operations, carrying out particularly violent attacks against civilians and as part of a strategy of terror claimed by the African branch of the Islamic State. The inaction or limits of national and international responses have also contributed to the entrenchment of this crisis, transforming Ituri into a space where communal violence, regional rivalries and the terrorist threat are superimposed, making any lasting stabilization particularly complex.



4. MASSIVE VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

The populations of the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo have long lived in a climate of insecurity marked by recurrent violence and forced displacement. Since the occupation of North and South Kivu by Rwanda and its M23 auxiliaries, despite attempts at peace that have not yet been conclusive, violence has intensified and affected more families, including in Ituri.

The occupation of the cities and territories of North Kivu and South Kivu by the troops of the RDF-M23/AFC coalition and the continuous abuses in Ituri have turned into an indictment of humanity, where the strategy of terror has deliberately chosen to desecrate the sanctuaries and break the spiritual pillars of North Kivu, South Kivu and Ituri. Religious buildings, supposed to offer a last refuge, have become theaters of carnage. The massacre of the 8th CEPAC church in Kagando, on May 25, illustrates this barbarity: 11 worshippers were mowed down in the middle of worship, transforming a place of peace into a site of desolation. This hatred of symbols has continued with the arson of churches, as in Ituri, aimed at erasing all traces of social cohesion and moral comfort for the survivors.

Ecclesiastical personnel, the traditional protector of communities, have been directly targeted in a manifest desire for social decapitation. The brutal assassination of Pastor J. Mandela and his wife, as well as the ransacking of the residence of civil society leaders such as Jean-Claude Bambanze, demonstrate that the status of spiritual shepherd no longer confers any protection against armed groups. By attacking priests and pastors, the attackers are not only targeting individuals, but are seeking to annihilate the moral authority that still keeps the wounded populations standing.

At the same time, abject and systematic gender-based violence has been deployed as a weapon of war. Data from Tambi/Kaira and Binza reveal that women paid a disproportionate price, often being the first victims of executions in rural massacres. Beyond the killings, the forced deportation of hundreds of women to Rwanda and the reported machete mutilation of young girls in Kagando underscore a desire to destroy the dignity and very future of the community. These targeted attacks on the sacred and gender constitute flagrant violations of international law, marking a deliberate desire to deconstruct Congolese society in its deepest roots.

It is therefore important to present the documented cases in order to illustrate the scale and worsening of the crisis.

4.1. PROVINCE OF NORTH-KIVU

The documented abuses reveal on the front line a direct and structured involvement of elements of the RDF/M23-AFC coalition, characterized by offensive military operations targeting the civilian population. These actions include indiscriminate bombing of populated areas and camps for displaced people, summary executions, targeted assassinations of community leaders, intellectuals and ordinary civilians, as well as abductions followed by torture or execution. In addition, there has been massive destruction of civilian property, including the systematic burning of entire villages, the illegal occupation of private property and the forced displacement of populations. The practices of forced recruitment, including of children and young people, as well as sexual violence and inhuman treatment, are part of a strategy of coercive control of the territory and the population.

A. SAMPLE OF REPORTED ABUSES

- As of September 10, 2025, two civilians, Shukuru Kajorite and Baba Bora, were killed in Kashuga Centre, Bashali Mokoto's grouping, following the internal conflicts of the RDF-M23/AFC coalition.
- On September 10, 2025, Isidore Baibonge and Félix Sadiki were killed in Goma. Christian Mutokambali was arrested on the pretext of collaborating with the FARDC
- As of September 24, 2025, several civilians were bombed in Chanjikiro, Mulema locality, Kisimba grouping, Wanianga sector, Walikale territory. 35 people were killed, including Jamari Mulindu Kameru, Albert BAGO Musamaria, Kakule, Furaha Mwaina, Makelele Mwaina, Gustave Munihire Paluku, Mianitse Baylanda, Kabira Sibatakane, Yvette Kahindo, and other residents of Chanjikiro. In addition, 57 houses were burned by RDF-M23/AFC elements: 20 in Kihuma (Bulwa locality), 27 in Kibarangiriro and 37 in Kiba following clashes with Wazalendo groups. 14 people were injured and 41 hostages were taken to Buleusa.
- On September 25, 2025, Pastor Ngorora Banga, of the Community of Baptist Churches of Eastern Congo (55th CEBCE), was assassinated in his village in Rugashari by the RDF-M23/AFC.
- As of September 25, 2025, in the Osso Banyungu sector, Kaandja locality, three civilians were killed, including 50-year-old Théophile Ntamubano Rubungira, stripped of his belongings and violently beaten.
- As of September 28, 2025, 20-year-old Gad Niyomugaba Nkamiye was reported missing and found dead in Lake Kivu, simulating drowning.
- On September 28, 2025, security guard Shirambere Bikanaba was kidnapped in Bulengo, city of Goma, by elements of the RDF-M23/AFC.
- On September 29, 2025, Bauma Bataana alias Baba Kilos, a local notable and agent of the General Referral Hospital of Masisi, was assassinated in the village of Piki.

- On October 1, 2025, the body of Shirambere Bikanaba was found decapitated in the Bulengo neighborhood of Goma.
- On October 3, 2025, Muhindo Kakondi was kidnapped from the hospital in Kirumba and taken to the prison of the same place to assume collaboration with the Wazalendo.
- On October 18, 2025, Shoga Kawege, from Busanza, was found dead in a field in Nyabugogo, Rutshuru territory.
- As of October 19, 2025, Venias and Iranzi Mukwe were shot dead during exchanges of fire in Nyange, Bashali Mokoto grouping, Masisi territory.
- As of October 30–31, 2025, three civilians, including a woman, were killed in Kimoka, Bahunde chiefdom. Victims: Marcus Makeri Rwangindi, Kyahi Mawazo and Mukufi Mbapfu Kasarani.
- As of November 1, 2025, twenty-two houses have been burned in Hanika and Kanage, Bukombo grouping, Bwito chiefdom.
- In November 2025, in Kigaligali, 60 farmers were killed and 40 motorcycles burned by Rwandan soldiers on suspicion of collaboration with the FDLR.
- On November 4, 2025, David Benji, a taxi driver in Goma, arrested and whipped by the RDF-M23/AFC, died in hospital.
- As of November 10, 2025, two civilians, BIZIMANA and MBAJE HIGIRO, were killed with bayonets in Duwani.
- On November 30, 2025, a Fuso vehicle loaded with goods bound for Goma was set on fire in Kashalira, Bwito, by the RDF-M23/AFC coalition.
- On December 1, 2025, Rodrigue (nicknamed Dicap) and David were shot dead on TMK Avenue while returning from a football game.
- On December 4, 2025, Rachid Kazadi, a former journalist, and Merveille Kano were murdered in Katsiru, Rutshuru territory.
- On December 7, 2025, Marie, a young girl kidnapped and raped, was found dead in the Majengo neighborhood, Karisimbi commune.
- As of December 12, 2025, the Ngoholo Health Center and other health facilities were looted in Karambi, Birambizo area.
- On December 14, 2025, the father of Pastor Semahame of CEPAC Bushobyo was assassinated in Buranda. In Butalongola, a house was burned and property destroyed.
- From December 14 to 15, 2025, two civilians, Dogo Gaspari Mangobo and Dieudonné Mushindaji Kashishi, were killed in Kimoka, Kamuronza grouping, Bahunde chiefdom.

- As of December 16, 2025, seven civilians have been massacred in Kabizo, Butalongola village: Shukuru Semanza, Mvukiyehe Bucumbi, Siyeri Nzarigendana, Wiringiye Rukara, Mihembero Saje, Mukutano and Kirenge. Two people, Sadiki and Nzimenyera's son, are missing. The facts were perpetrated by elements under the command of Colonel Eric of the RDF-M23/AFC.
- On December 17, 2025, in Bukombo, the NSCC denounced the repeated attacks by RDF-M23/AFC against health facilities.
- As of December 21, 2025, in Lusogha and Buheri, more than 209 houses have been looted and destroyed by elements of the RDF-M23/AFC.
- On December 22, 2025, at the port of Goma, elements of the RDF-M23/AFC mistreated travelers from Idjwi.
- On December 24, 2025, Para Nshakabyanga, 25, was killed at close range at his home in Buheni, Bashali Mokoto grouping, Masisi territory, by elements of the RDF-M23/AFC.
- On December 24, 2025, Kasereka Murandya Joseph was arrested at his home in Katsinga, Lubero territory, and then taken to Kirumba on suspicion of collaboration with the Wazalendo.
- On December 26, 2025, in Kilambo and Burangiza, Bashali Mokoto grouping, Masisi territory, M23/AFC elements looted the property of the population and took away fifteen cows.
- On December 28, 2025, Habimungu Nuwayo, 25, was shot dead at his home in Mirangi, Bwito chiefdom, Mutanda grouping, Rutshuru territory, during an armed incursion by the RDF-M23/AFC under the command of the self-proclaimed Colonel Gakufe.
- On December 28, 2025, an armed incursion in Birundule, Kanyabayonga group, Bwito chiefdom, Rutshuru territory, caused the death of Mr. Kambale and injured two children.
- On December 28, 2025, a 19-year-old man was killed in Kiguri, a village in the Buvira group, Nyiragongo territory, during a burglary perpetrated by the RDF-M23/AFC.
- On December 28, 2025, in Mirangi (Rutshuru), Mr. Habimungu Nuwayo was shot dead during an armed incursion by the RDF-M23/AFC.
- On December 28, 2025: Mr. Honor David Safari, civil society actor, was kidnapped and then abandoned blindfolded in Nyantende.
- On 31 December 2025, Kisuba Muhima Dasiva was arrested and tortured in the Himbi neighbourhood, Walikale Avenue, Goma city, after being threatened.
- On December 31, 2025, in Goma, Mr. Kisuba Muhima Dasiva was arrested and then tortured by elements of the RDF/M23-AFC coalition.

- As of January 1, 2026, an employee of the Goma water pumping station was publicly tortured and beaten by RDF-M23/AFC coalition troops for demanding his salary.
- Between December 2025 and January 2026, numerous cases of executions, torture, rape, forced recruitment and kidnappings were documented, including concerning Chance Zawadi Fitina, Boutros Kabumba Mazanga, MBILIZI AMISI Jemima, Dévotte, Kakule Makutano, Victorine Uwamahoro, Elda Hakizimana Ineza, Justin Banyanga, Placide Ntahorutaba, as well as several other civilians; several documented cases of executions, torture, rape, forced recruitment and kidnappings have concerned MBILIZI Amisi Jemima, Chance Zawadi Fitina, Boutros Kabumba Mazanga, Dévotte, Kakule Makutano, Victorine Uwamahoro, Elda Hakizimana Ineza, Justin Banyanga and Placide Ntahorutaba.
- On January 1, 2026, in Goma, a REGIDESO agent was publicly tortured for demanding his salary.
- In January 2026, Mrs. Zawadi Fitina Chance was tortured after resisting an attempted rape.
- On January 7, 2026, Boutros Kabumba Mazanga, 44, married and father of eight children, was arrested in Bugamba, Kanzana notability, by an element of the RDF-M23/AFC on the instructions of Kabasha and the village chief Bugamba. Wrongly accused of collaborating with the FDLR, he was detained at the provincial assembly and then transferred to Munzenze where he is being tortured and faces execution.
- On January 7, 2026, Mr. Kabumba Mazanga Boutros was arrested, tortured and detained in inhumane conditions by elements of the RDF/M23-AFC coalition.
- On January 10, 2026, in Goma, Turunga, Mrs. Mbilizi, 31, was murdered in her home by elements of the RDF/M23-AFC coalition.
- On January 11, 2026, MBILIZI AMISI Jemima, Chief of ten houses, was assassinated in Turunga, village of the Munigi grouping, Bukumu chiefdom, Nyiragongo territory. His body was deposited in the morgue of the Provincial Hospital of North Kivu and buried 48 hours later.
- On January 12, 2026, Chance Zawadi Fitina, 28, married and mother of four, was tortured in Mudja, Nyiragongo territory, after resisting an attempted rape.
- On January 13, 2026, Dévotte, 36, was killed at her home in Ndosho, city of Goma, by elements of the RDF-M23/AFC. On the same day, Kakule Makutano, 57, was killed in Mause (Lubero) in an attack that killed at least five people.
- On January 13, 2026, in Goma/Ndosho, Mrs. Dévotte, 36 years old, was murdered in her home.
- On January 14, 2026, Butwi Rukira, 38, from Katwa village, was the victim of reprisals by Rwandan soldiers and M23/AFC auxiliaries after a strike by the Wazalendo in the PNVi.

- On January 14, 2026, Mr. Butwi Rukira, 38 years old, was the victim of violent reprisals by M23/RDF elements.
- On January 16, 2026, in Chegera (Kabare), Mrs. Nawiti Murhagane Rosette was raped and found dead the next day.
- On January 18, 2026, in Kituva, Masisi territory, Mr. Boncho Mbimba, 28, was whipped and then murdered during curfew, suspected of possessing a weapon.
- On January 18, 2026, Victorine Uwamahoro and Elda Hakizimana Ineza, both 8 years old, from the village of Kiziba II, Mudja group, were raped by Paulin Chuma Bahinyuzi, 27, a taxer for the RDF-M23/AFC.
- On January 18, 2026, Justin Banyanga, 13, and Placide Ntahorutaba, 10, were killed by the explosion of a grenade abandoned by the RDF-M23/AFC in Rwibiranga, Buhumba group. Justin Roka had his leg amputated in the same explosion.
- On January 18, 2026, in Masisi, Mr. Boncho Mbimba, 28 years old, was whipped and then executed.
- On January 19, 2026, Nziavake Kwerekwere was kidnapped in Turunga, Tungane notability, Nyiragongo territory, by the RDF-M23/AFC and taken to an unknown destination.
- On January 20, 2026, Gentil Mwendapole, 32, was shot dead by an RDF-M23/AFC police officer in Virunga, Goma. On the same day, Imani Karekezi, 38, was arrested and died on 27 January 2026 at the 'La Charité Maternelle' hospital as a result of torture suffered in detention.
- On January 20, 2026, Ramazani Matyasi, 30, married and father of four children, was shot twice by a local defender of the RDF-M23/AFC in Kingarame, Kibumba grouping, Nyiragongo territory. On the same day, 17-year-old Niyonkuru Ndoni was forcibly recruited by the RDF-M23/AFC in Rwanguba, Kibati grouping.
- On January 26, 2026, an unidentified female body was found in a bag on the side of the road, Kiziba I village, Mudja grouping, Byangataka notability.
- On January 28, 2026, Akilimali Sindani Yoshua, Turunga village, Munigi grouping, Inuka notability, was kidnapped at around 2 p.m. by the RDF-M23/AFC intelligence service and taken to an unknown destination.
- On January 30, 2026, Sitimu Buyana, Nakabumbi village, Buhumba group, was arrested, beaten and transferred to Rwanda, a Kabuhanga police cell, for resisting civilians who were forcibly harvesting cabbages in his field.
- On January 30, 2026, Jospin Luanda, 21 years old, Kiziba I village, Mudja group, was kidnapped by the RDF-M23/AFC and taken to an unknown destination, with the risk of execution or forced recruitment
- On the night of February 28 to March 1, 2025, in Goma, elements of the RDF/M23-AFC coalition raided the Heal Africa hospital, kidnapping fifteen

people, including war-wounded and medical staff, including Frank Masema Kitambala, Kitambala Mwanja Brahman, Amani Kibala Steve and Blaise Kisuba.

- On March 8, 2026 at 2 a.m., the office of the Ngweshe chiefdom in the territory of Walungu in the province of South Kivu was turned upside down by the troops of the RDF – M23/AFC coalition. But also, the tokens of 3,000 francs for each household are already circulating in different villages, we denounce this behavior of the rebellion which aims to asphyxiate the population.
- On March 21, 2026, in the city of Goma, it was reported that Mr. MAOMBI MULENGABYUMA living in the same city had been kidnapped to an unknown destination, his home is located near the entrance of the president, elements of the RDF – M23/AFC coalition came to take him to his home to take him to an unknown destination, Even his family remains in total confusion. Today, the city of Goma is on alert and many young people are living in fear because of insecurity. Elements of the RDF – M23/AFC coalition continue to target Congolese youth for unfounded reasons.
- On April 5, 2026, elements of the RDF – M23/AFC coalition made an incursion into the locality of Maisafi, Bambo grouping, Kilama locality, Rutshuru territory. During this incursion, these armed elements committed crimes of extreme gravity against defenceless civilian populations. Civilians who had gone to the fields in search of food were intercepted and then brutally executed. Provisional toll: 9 civilians killed, including: - 1 man, 4 women, 3 girls and 1 baby.
- As of April 6, 2026, the territory of Rutshuru is experiencing events that have marked the daily life of the population of this region: The assassination of Mr. Samuel Gasaro, a young man in his thirties, in his native village of Bambo, where he had gone to spend the Easter holidays with his family. Leaving behind several children and a wife, he was a teacher at a Children Voice-subsidized school in Goma. This assassination calls into question the ability of the RDF – M23/AFC coalition to control its elements.

B. CASES OF VIOLATIONS AGAINST WOMEN

Beyond conventional armed confrontations, the period covered by this report reveals an increase in acts of violence targeted against the physical and moral integrity of citizens. The following data compiles in a non-exhaustive manner the cases of gender-based violence as well as the waves of forced recruitment of young people and minors reported in the groups of Munigi, Mudja and the outlying districts of Goma.

Social stigma, the absence of judicial protection mechanisms and, above all, the fear of direct reprisals by armed groups force many victims and witnesses into silence, thus hindering the systematic reporting of crimes committed.

These non-exhaustive facts illustrate the climate of permanent insecurity in which the civilian population lives under the control of the forces of the RDF – M23/AFC coalition.

Date	Victim	Residence	Place and Circumstances of the Rape	Accused
January 2025	VICT-024 (21)	Kisheke Kibati	In the fields in Kibati.	Elements of the RDF - AFC/M23 coalition
January 2025	VICT-025 (39)	Kingarame, Kibumba	At his home (Kibumba).	Elements of the RDF - AFC/M23 coalition
30/01/2025	VICT-026 (26)	Kiheru	In the field in Kibumba.	Elements of the RDF - AFC/M23 coalition
31/01/2025	VICT-027 (39)	Murambi	At his home.	Elements of the RDF - AFC/M23 coalition
01/02/2025	VICT-028 (36)	Ndosho	Location not specified.	Elements of the RDF - AFC/M23 coalition
04/02/2025	VICT-029 (22)	Kasenyei Munigi	In Kibumba.	Elements of the RDF - AFC/M23 coalition
04/02/2025	VICT-030 (40)	Murambi	In the field in Kibumba.	Elements of the RDF - AFC/M23 coalition
08/02/2025	VICT-031 (25)	Virunga	At his home.	Elements of the RDF - AFC/M23 coalition
09/02/2025	VICT-032 (43)	Virunga	At his home.	Elements of the RDF - AFC/M23 coalition
10/02/2025	VICT-033 (+3 f.)	Not specified	In the field (Domain).	Elements of the RDF - AFC/M23 coalition
10/02/2025	VICT-034 (26)	Buhima	In the field (Domain).	Elements of the RDF - AFC/M23 coalition
11/02/2025	VICT-035 (31)	Kasika	At home during a night looting.	Elements of the RDF - AFC/M23 coalition
13/02/2025	VICT-036 (26)	Kihisi Munigi	In Rugari.	Elements of the RDF - AFC/M23 coalition
13/02/2025	VICT-037 (22)	Kaguri Kibati	In the field.	Elements of the RDF - AFC/M23 coalition
13/02/2025	VICT-038 (35)	Kilijiwe	In the field in Rugari.	Elements of the RDF - AFC/M23 coalition
14/02/2025	VICT-039 (35)	Kaguri Kibati	At his home.	Elements of the RDF - AFC/M23 coalition
February 2025	VICT-040 (19)	Kishege Kibati	To Mutaho ("Domain").	Elements of the RDF - AFC/M23 coalition
February 2025	VICT-041 (26)	Kasenyei Munigi	Not specified.	Elements of the RDF - AFC/M23 coalition
February 2025	VICT-042 (22)	Kasenyei Munigi	In Bamboo.	Elements of the RDF - AFC/M23 coalition
17/02/2025	VICT-043 (40)	Buhene Munigi	In the field in Kahunga.	Elements of the RDF - AFC/M23 coalition
17/02/2025	VICT-044 (35)	Rukoko Munigi	At home.	Elements of the RDF - AFC/M23 coalition
17/02/2025	VICT-045 (34)	Turunga Munigi	In Muja (Gang rape by 5 men).	Elements of the RDF - AFC/M23 coalition
18/02/2025	VICT-046 (54)	Majengo	In the field in Rugari.	Elements of the RDF - AFC/M23 coalition
20/02/2025	VICT-047 (16)	Majengo	In the field in Rugari.	Elements of the RDF - AFC/M23 coalition
21/02/2025	VICT-048 (40)	Kaguri Kibati	At his home.	Elements of the RDF - AFC/M23 coalition
23/02/2025	VICT-049 (26)	Bujari Kibati	In the field (Domaine Nyiragongo).	Elements of the RDF - AFC/M23 coalition
25/02/2025	VICT-050 (22)	Kasenyei Munigi	Not specified.	Elements of the RDF - AFC/M23 coalition
25/02/2025	VICT-051 (33)	Rukoko Munigi	In the field in Rugari.	Elements of the RDF - AFC/M23 coalition

26/02/2025	VICT-052 (32)	Kasenye Munigi	In the field in Mudja.	Elements of the RDF - AFC/M23 coalition
12/03/2025	VICT-053 (16)	Ndosho	Rape and mutilation during an armed robbery.	Elements of the RDF - AFC/M23 coalition
12/03/2025	VICT-054 (56)	Majengo	In the field in Rugari.	Elements of the RDF - AFC/M23 coalition
12/03/2025	VICT-055 (29)	Rukoko Munigi	At his home.	Elements of the RDF - AFC/M23 coalition
12/03/2025	VICT-056 (36)	Kaguri Kibati	Not specified.	Elements of the RDF - AFC/M23 coalition
15/03/2025	VICT-057 (38)	Buhene Munigi	In Kibati.	Elements of the RDF - AFC/M23 coalition
15/03/2025	VICT-058 (32)	Ndosho	In the field in Rumangabo.	Elements of the RDF - AFC/M23 coalition
15/03/2025	VICT-059 (25)	Buhene Munigi	At home (Gang rape).	Elements of the RDF - AFC/M23 coalition
16/03/2025	VICT-060 (58)	Majengo	In the field in Buhumba.	Elements of the RDF - AFC/M23 coalition
21/03/2025	VICT-061 (36)	Majengo	At his home.	Elements of the RDF - AFC/M23 coalition
22/03/2025	VICT-062 (36)	Turunga	In the field in Buhumba.	Elements of the RDF - AFC/M23 coalition
22/03/2025	VICT-063 (42)	Katalengo Munigi	At his home (overnight).	Elements of the RDF - AFC/M23 coalition
23/03/2025	VICT-064 (39)	Majengo	In the field in Rugari.	Elements of the RDF - AFC/M23 coalition
23/03/2025	VICT-065 (53)	Majengo	In the field in Kibumba.	Elements of the RDF - AFC/M23 coalition
23/03/2025	VICT-066 (38)	Majengo	She was raped and then killed in Buhumba.	Elements of the RDF - AFC/M23 coalition
24/03/2025	VICT-067 (47)	Kasika	During a home looting.	Elements of the RDF - AFC/M23 coalition
24/03/2025	VICT-068 (24)	Kiheru Munigi	At home (4 a.m.).	Elements of the RDF - AFC/M23 coalition
26/03/2025	VICT-069 (41)	Majengo	In the field in Kibumba.	Elements of the RDF - AFC/M23 coalition
26/03/2025	VICT-070 (22)	Not specified	Not specified.	Elements of the RDF - AFC/M23 coalition
April 2025	VICT-071 (17)	Mugunga	At home (Victim who became pregnant).	Elements of the RDF - AFC/M23 coalition
05/04/2025	VICT-072 (32)	Kiheru Munigi	At his home.	Elements of the RDF - AFC/M23 coalition
10/04/2025	VICT-073 (29)	Muja	In Nyakagina.	Elements of the RDF - AFC/M23 coalition
12/04/2025	VICT-074 (33)	Muja	In Kanyatsi.	Elements of the RDF - AFC/M23 coalition
12/04/2025	VICT-075 (19)	Muja	In Kanyati.	Elements of the RDF - AFC/M23 coalition
13/04/2025	VICT-076 (40)	Majengo	In the field in Rugari.	Elements of the RDF - AFC/M23 coalition
14/04/2025	VICT-077 (41)	Majengo	In Kiwanja.	Elements of the RDF - AFC/M23 coalition
15/04/2025	VICT-078 (40)	Kihisi Munigi	In the field in Rugari.	Elements of the RDF - AFC/M23 coalition
16/04/2025	VICT-079 (34)	Ndosho	In the field in Rumangabo.	Elements of the RDF - AFC/M23 coalition
16/04/2025	VICT-080 (45)	Muja	In Nyakagina.	Elements of the RDF - AFC/M23 coalition

18/04/2025	VICT-081 (51)	Katoyi Goma	At his home.	Elements of the RDF - AFC/M23 coalition
20/04/2025	VICT-082 (16)	Home	At home (Orphan).	Elements of the RDF - AFC/M23 coalition
20/04/2025	VICT-083 (26)	Muja	In Kanyati.	Elements of the RDF - AFC/M23 coalition
20/04/2025	VICT-084 (23)	Muja	In Kanyati.	Elements of the RDF - AFC/M23 coalition
20/04/2025	VICT-085 (32)	Muja	In Kanyati.	Elements of the RDF - AFC/M23 coalition
21/04/2025	VICT-086 (27)	Muja	In Kanyati.	Elements of the RDF - AFC/M23 coalition
21/04/2025	VICT-087 (23)	Muja	In Nyakagina.	Elements of the RDF - AFC/M23 coalition
21/04/2025	VICT-088 (23)	Kiheru Munigi	Not specified.	Elements of the RDF - AFC/M23 coalition
23/04/2025	VICT-089 (~20)	Goma	Raped and then killed (Body in front of the Stadium).	Elements of the RDF - AFC/M23 coalition
23/04/2025	VICT-090 (26)	Bushagara Munigi	At his home.	Elements of the RDF - AFC/M23 coalition
23/04/2025	VICT-091 (35)	Bushagara Munigi	At his home.	Elements of the RDF - AFC/M23 coalition
26/04/2025	VICT-092 (25)	Muja	In Kanyati.	Elements of the RDF - AFC/M23 coalition
27/04/2025	VICT-093 (38)	Buvira	In the field in Kiguri.	Elements of the RDF - AFC/M23 coalition
15/07/2025	VICT-094 (35)	Bujari Kibati	At the estate (Nyiragongo).	Elements of the RDF - AFC/M23 coalition
26/08/2025	VICT-095 (32)	Kasenyei Munigi	In the field at Mudja (Reiteration).	Elements of the RDF - AFC/M23 coalition
15/10/2025	VICT-096 (27)	Kihisi Munigi	In Rugari (Buffer zone).	Elements of the RDF - AFC/M23 coalition
14/11/2025	VICT-097	Muja	Gang rape, +2 women dead.	Elements of the RDF - AFC/M23 coalition



C. FORCED RECRUITMENT OF YOUNG PEOPLE AND CHILDREN

Date	Name of Person / Group	Age	Origin (Village/District)	Destination / Circumstances
19/05/2025	Group of ~280 children	From 14 years old	Ndosho / CAJED Stadium	Closure in Karisimbi, torture and transfer to Rutshuru.
23/01/2026	Freddy Papa's Kiss	34 years old	Kiziba II (Mudja)	Forcibly conscripted into the M23 rebellion.
26/01/2026	Justin Nzabanita Kagonde	32 years old	Ngangi I (Munigi)	Taken to Rumangabo Training Center.
30/01/2026	Aline Nzihairwa (F)	Not specified	Turunga (Munigi)	Taken to the Rumangabo training center.

4.2. SOUTH-KIVU PROVINCE

- From 2023 to 2025 in conflict zones, between 1,500 and 1,600 schools were closed, more than 35 destroyed and 536 classrooms razed, depriving up to 1.8 million children of education.
- From 2024 to 2025, schools in the Occupied Areas were turned into IDP camps (at least 113 cases) or occupied by armed groups (≥18 cases), while thousands of teachers fled.
- In Kilomoni, 31 bodies were discovered in a mass grave.
- On an unspecified date, in Mayi ya Moto, more than 115 bodies were discovered in one commune, while in Kilomoni, 31 bodies were exhumed.
- In 2025, in the city of Uvira and its surroundings, health care facilities were destroyed and heavily damaged, accompanied by systematic looting of medicines and equipment. This situation has led to a saturation of the remaining structures and the resurgence of epidemics such as cholera and monkeypox in several health zones (Uvira, Ruzizi, Nundu, Kimbi-Lulenge, Fizi), as well as measles in other areas.
- People with disabilities have been particularly at risk, due to the inaccessibility of essential services and their increased vulnerability to explosive devices. Several cases of abandonment of people with reduced mobility have been recorded.
- Significant attacks on cultural life have been recorded in Uvira, marked by the destruction of memory sites and a progressive degradation of the social and cultural fabric.
- In Kabare (Cirunga), elements of the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR), the March 23 Movement (M23) and the Congolese Armed Forces (FAC) attacked the royal court of Bushi, destroying cultural heritage, civil status records and symbols of the customary power of the Mwami, thus contributing to the erasure of local cultural landmarks.
- More than 35 schools have been destroyed and at least 536 classrooms demolished. At the same time, about 1,500 to 1,600 schools have been closed, depriving between 1.6 and 1.8 million children of access to education, including nearly 795,000 in the provinces of North Kivu and South Kivu.

- At least 18 schools have been occupied by armed groups and more than 113 schools have been transformed into sites for the displaced, making educational continuity impossible.
- Illegal mining activities have polluted soils and waterways, contaminating people, agriculture and aquatic ecosystems with toxic residues.
- In 2025, incursions by armed groups into Virunga and Kahuzi-Biega National Parks violated national and international conservation commitments, putting natural heritage of global importance at risk.
- In Bukavu, cases of looting of private vehicles have been reported, undermining people's livelihoods and limiting their freedom of movement.
- Construction machinery and materials for the rehabilitation of roads (RN5 and RN30) have been looted, thus compromising development efforts.
- Messrs. Murhula Mugabo Olivier, Éric Habamungu Shamamba and Antoine Balekembaka, members of civil society, were arrested for denouncing the abuses committed by the forces of the RDF-M23/AFC coalition.
- In the Provinces, 2023–2025 – in the conflict-affected Zones of North Kivu, South Kivu and Ituri – approximately 1,500 to 1,600 schools have been closed, while more than 35 schools and 536 classrooms have been destroyed. Between 1.6 and 1.8 million children have been deprived of access to education, including nearly 795,000 in North and South Kivu.
- At least 18 schools were occupied by armed groups and more than 113 were transformed into sites for displaced people, permanently compromising educational continuity.
- Thousands of teachers have fled conflict zones in occupied areas, leading to a disorganization of the education system and a significant increase in the dropout rate.
- Mining areas and protected areas, illegal mining activities have led to soil and water pollution, affecting public health and ecosystems. Cases of deforestation and destruction of protected areas, particularly in Virunga and Kahuzi-Biega parks, have been documented, compromising biodiversity.
- Cases of looting of private property, including vehicles, have been reported, limiting people's mobility and livelihoods.
- Several women living with motor disabilities have been victims of systematic rape committed by the troops of the RDF-M23/AFC coalition. These include VICT-001, VICT-002, VICT-003, VICT-004, VICT-005, VICT-006, VICT-007, VICT-008, VICT-009 and VICT-010. The events took place in a context of massive flight of the population, the victims having remained alone or abandoned, unable to move.
- At least 157 young people, including Eric Habali (16 years old), were forcibly recruited by elements of the RDF-M23/AFC coalition under the coordination of Colonel Nsabimana Jean Claude, in a structured forced recruitment operation.

- More than 150 young people have been kidnapped and transferred to military training centres, including in Rumangabo in North Kivu.
- Mr. Bashige Hamuli Gloire was arrested, tortured and then died of his injuries on the same day.
- Mr. Mazambi Mikalangado was subjected to torture by the troops of the RDF-M23/AFC coalition.
- Mrs. Asifiwe Wabiwa was abducted and found 72 hours later with severe signs of torture.
- Messrs. Murhula Mugabo Olivier, Eric Habamungu Shamamba and Antoine Balekembaka were arrested for denouncing the abuses of armed groups.
- An elected union official was suspended and replaced by an imposed structure. In addition, prolonged cuts in drinking water have affected several neighbourhoods.
- In mining areas and parks, soil and water pollution, deforestation, destruction of protected areas (Virunga, Kahuzi-Biega) and loss of biodiversity have been documented.
- In 2025 in South Kivu, Looting of private property, vehicles and livelihoods.
- Similar incursions have been documented in the Mbinga-South and Mbinga-North (Kalehe) settlements, including in Kasheke, Ihusi, Nyabibwe, and Minova, where homes have been systematically looted, burned, or turned into illegal places of detention.
- Elements of the RDF-M23/AFC coalition have established a recurrent system of looting and extortion targeting civilians, traders, fishermen and economic operators.
- Robbery of trading posts, including a gold trading post in Kadutu.
- Extortion and confiscation of property (money, telephones, canoe engines, goods, etc.).
- Illegal taxation and institutionalized racketeering, in particular the forced suspension of security companies with payment required for the resumption of activities.
- Land spoliation and forced eviction of civilian populations for the benefit of the movement's cadres.
- These practices reflect a structured war economy, aimed at the control of local resources and commercial circuits.
- Gang rape of women during night incursions in Kasheke, Minova, and Mushenyi.
- One particularly serious case concerns the Mushenyi Health Centre, where more than 25 cases of sexual and gender-based violence were recorded in a single night, also involving patients and medical staff.

- Mass arrests of more than 300 young people arrested in Panzi in October 2025.
- Enforced disappearances of civil society actors, students, teachers and journalists.
- Illegal transfer of detainees to unknown locations or informal detention centres of which there is no news to date.
- Transformation of civilian homes into arms caches and Bashonga Nabugingi Héri-tier was shot dead and robbed of 5,700 USD, César Kashabala was executed at his home and Serge Butera, kidnapped, was found dead in Lake Kivu.
- Rapes have been committed on several women. Among the victims were VICT-011, VICT-012 and VICT-013 in Minova. VICT-014, VICT-015, VICT-016, VICT-017, VICT-018, VICT-019, VICT-020, VICT-021, VICT-022, and VICT-023.
- In several areas of South Kivu (including Kalehe and Kabare/Cirunga), serious violations of the right to education and culture were noted, including the destruction of schools, the occupation of schools by armed groups, the conversion of schools into camps for internally displaced persons, and the destruction of cultural heritage, including the Royal Court of Bushi. No victim name was given, but thousands of students and teachers were affected.
- Several schools have been occupied by armed groups or transformed into sites for displaced people, preventing any educational continuity. Thousands of teachers have been forced into exile or abandoned their professions. The names of the victims are not documented.
- In the city of Bukavu (Ibanda, Bagira and Kalehe) Mr. Wilondja Mwanana was kidnapped in Bagira.
- In Kabare, Kalehe, Bukavu, a series of targeted kidnappings have been documented: Murhula (former civil society leader), Byamana Munihuguzi (47 years old), Tumaini Garhalumirwa (35 years old), Makali Nyakahekwa (32 years old), as well as the student Jeannette Wisoba. These victims were taken to unknown destinations.
- Many schools and health facilities have been closed or destroyed in the eastern regions. The blockade of strategic roads, particularly the RN2, has disrupted economic exchanges between the region's major cities, thus accentuating poverty and the precariousness of the population.
- An organized system of plundering of natural resources has been set up in North and South Kivu, feeding mining smuggling circuits and contributing directly to the financing of the armed conflict.
- In Bukavu and Kalehe, civilians were subjected to torture and physical violence, including Guylain Birakara and Benjamin Ngalakala, who were punished for political reasons. Several kidnappings have also been reported, including those of Guylain Mulonda, Ombeni Bagula Erick and Pastor Cito Pacifique.

- The destruction of fields, the looting of crops and widespread insecurity have plunged tens of thousands of families into severe food insecurity. And the closure of schools and health facilities as well as the blocking of strategic roads have aggravated poverty.
- A structured system of plundering natural resources, particularly mining, has been put in place, feeding smuggling circuits and contributing to the financing of armed groups.
- In Bukavu, Kalehe, Kabare, waves of kidnappings affected many civilians, including Murhula, Byamana Muniuguzi, Tumaini Garhalumirwa, Makali Nyakahekwa, Jeannette Wisoba, Bahidika Mirugi Ileon, Guylain Mulonda, Ombéni Bagula Erick, Pastor Cito Pacifique, Mutoyi Guillaume, Ishara Prince and several others.
- In Kalehe and Bukavu, several cases of public torture have been documented, including against Jordan Chamukwale Rumesha, Guylain Birakara, Benjamin Ngalakala and other civilians, sometimes for political or clothing reasons.
- The looting of crops, the organized destruction of fields, and the blocking of roads (especially the RN2) have aggravated famine and poverty.
- Several women, including Francine Muganga Adeline, Vumilia Habyarimana, Francine Habamungo, Tumaini Nezehose, Faída Chaukanya, Adela Libagiza, Chikuru Bahati, Ajuwa Lukulika, Furaha Kashola and Ashuza Lungere, most of whom have disabilities, have been victims of rape committed in different localities of Kalehe.
- In several areas of North Kivu, massive population displacements were recorded, accompanied by massacres in transit areas such as Shasha, Nyamukubi and Bushushu. The identities of the victims are not specified, but the facts reveal a strategy combining targeted violence and community destruction.
- In the Kalundu and Kabindula neighborhoods of the city of Uvira, armed night incursions were reported, marked by the systematic looting of civilian homes. These acts have led to forced displacement of populations, forcing many families to abandon their homes in a climate of widespread insecurity and thus seriously undermining the right to housing.
- In Bukavu and Uvira, restrictions imposed by RDF-M23/AFC elements, including mandatory marches and economic limitations, have paralyzed local economic activities. This has led to the collapse of the informal economy, depriving many households of their livelihoods.
- Food insecurity has worsened sharply in Uvira, with people increasingly unable to access basic food resources.
- In Kabare (Cirunga, Kagabi), nine civilians, including two students (Matabaro Lwaboshi Jean Pierre and Mulumeoderhwa Lwaboshi Rodrigue), were arrested and taken to unknown destinations.
- In Uvira (Sange, Luberizi, Kiliba, Kalundu, Kabindula), health centres were looted, while homes were systematically visited and robbed during night

operations. These acts have led to massive displacement and a total disorganization of access to care.

- Economic restrictions and violence throughout South Kivu province have led to a widespread paralysis of activities, exacerbating the precariousness of the population.
- In Uvira (Sange, Luberizi, Kiliba, Kalundu, Kabindula), health centres were looted, homes attacked, causing massive displacement and a breakdown in access to healthcare.
- Worsening food insecurity, water cuts, the destruction of health infrastructure and the resurgence of epidemics (cholera, Mpox, measles) have been noted.
- In and around the city of Uvira, massive destruction of health care facilities was observed, accompanied by looting of medicines and medical supplies. This situation has contributed to the resurgence of epidemics, including cholera and Mpox in several health zones (Uvira, Ruzizi, Nundu, Kimbi-Lulenge, Fizi), as well as measles in seven zones. The civilian population, without distinction by name, is the main victim.
- Over the same period in December, specific violations of people living with disabilities were documented in Uvira, including their increased exposure to explosive devices and exclusion from basic services. The victims have not been identified by name.
- In Bushushu, Ciza Bahati Bitaha was summarily executed; 9 civilians, including Matabaro Lwaboshi, Jean-Pierre and Mulumeoderhwa Rodrique, were arrested and taken to unknown destinations.
- On September 5, 2025, in Nyamutwe and Cisheke (in Kalehe territory), elements of the RDF - AFC/M23 coalition, raped seven women, including Nsimire Citambara, Francine Mulume, Chaneline Rugaya, Nabunani Kulimushi, Noëlla Byenda, Rosette Ndakayura and Lucienne Kabunzi, and looted several homes belonging to Pengine Nyakabanga, Gentil Rwacambwa, Innocent Kabunzi, Bahati and Byaduniya Munganga.
- On September 5, 2025, in Kasheke, seven women including Nsimire Citambara, Francine Mulume and Chaneline Rugaya were raped in an attack that also targeted several households.
- Between 12–15 September 2025 – Kalehe and Idjwi, several civilians, at least 15 people in Bugarula including Sulemani, were beaten for failing to respect community work.
- On September 16, 2025, Obama Bahati was tortured in Nyabirehe.
- From September 16 to 17, 2025, in Bubale, Héritier Bashonga Nabugingi (28 years old) was killed.
- Between 16 and 21 September 2025, several violent incursions were recorded in Kalehe (Nyabirehe, Minova, Bubale, Ziralò).
- As of September 24, 2025, in Walikale (North Kivu), 35 civilians have been killed and 41 kidnapped, with massive fires.

- Between 24–25 September 2025 – Kalehe (Tchofi), Pastor Ngaboyeka Kanekane Lazard (56) was abducted from his home after a land dispute with a senior member of the RDF-M23/AFC coalition, revealing the instrumentalization of armed violence for private gain.
- As of September 25, 2025, several civilians, including Ngorora Banga and Théophile Ntamubano Rubungira, have been murdered.
- On September 28, 2025, Gad Niyomugaba Nkamiye was found dead.
- On September 29, 2025 – Kalehe (Mukwidja), Mumbere Mudaunao Matete was arrested and severely beaten after an attempt to flee.
- In October 2025, several localities in the territories of Kalehe, Kabare and the city of Bukavu were the subject of coordinated attacks. Several cases of kidnapping and violence have been recorded, including that of teacher Bahidika Mirugi Ileon, who was taken away in a vehicle carrying bodies, as well as the arrest of human rights activist Chidorho Mungazi Benjamin, who was forced to sign a deed under pressure.
- On October 10, 2025, in the center of Katana, Bahati Namira (25) and Bisimwa (23) were chased and then shot dead by elements of the RDF-AFC-M23 coalition as they tried to flee. Their bodies were found on October 11 and 12 respectively.
- On October 10, 2025, in Kalehe, seven civilians, including Thierry Kavarisi and Jean-Marie Kabare, were executed.
- On October 20, 2025, in Katana (Bidagara), Papa Karumba was kidnapped during a service by the RDF-M23/AFC, then found dead four days later.
- On October 22, 2025, in Katana (Kahungu), Nyamurondola Jean-Marie was killed while trying to protect his daughter from rape.
- On October 12, 16 and 23, 2025, the Cahi, Mulambula, CIRIRI neighborhoods as well as Cishangi and Muhigwa avenues (Bagira commune) were besieged, followed by the massive burning of civilian homes, causing many injuries and considerable material losses.
- On October 24, 2025, in Kabare, one person was killed and another injured in a murder committed by a neighbor.
- On October 24, 2025, in Mumosho (Kabare), Kapiga Buhendwa, known as "Bear", was killed, while Balagizi Musole was wounded.
- As of October 26, 2025, in Bukavu (Mosala), fourteen civilians were killed and seven others were injured in a deadly fire.
- On October 30, 2025, in Kabamba, Chaolin was shot down by the RDF-M23/AFC.
- As of October 30, 2025, in Panzi, more than 300 young people have been arrested, including 25 minors transferred to Rumangabo; in Kabamba, Chaolin, who was considered mentally ill, was shot dead after being accused of being a Wazalendo fighter.

- On October 31, 2025, in the Bagira commune of Bukavu, an unidentified man was shot dead, while two motorcyclists, including Nyarukoma and a man named Afande, were executed at close range.
- From June to November 2025, in the eastern regions (North Kivu, South Kivu and Ituri), the systematic destruction of agricultural fields, the looting of crops and persistent insecurity have plunged tens of thousands of families into a situation of famine. These acts have seriously undermined food security in all affected areas.
- On November 2, 2025, on the road to Kahungu, Emmanuel Migayo was executed for failure to provide information.
- On November 5, 2025, in Katana (banana plantation), René Namuhumba was executed after being arrested.
- On November 5 to 6, 2025, in Kabishamaga, Marhano Sheke (55) was shot in the genitals during an incursion by the RDF – AFC/M23 into a fishing camp.
- On November 7, 2025, in Ibanda, a woman was kidnapped and then killed.
- On November 15, 2025, in Katana (Japonika maternity hospital), Safari Karinda was tortured by RDF-M23/AFC and died three days later.
- On November 16, 2025, in Kabushwa, Bisimwa Katogota was executed at home.
- On November 18, 2025, in Cegera, Nyamihanda, a father, died after being seriously wounded by gunfire.
- On November 18, 2025, in Kiboto, Doroteya Heshima, Solange Nzanzimana and Nyiraneza Habimana were raped on their way to the market.
- As of 22 November 2025, a series of executions have been recorded in Katana: Makarani Ishara, Nyamurondola, Grace Bukangire, Kito Bahati, Semu Katembera and Nyenyezi Buhendwa have been arrested and then executed in various public or sanitary places.
- On November 24, 2025, Jean-Paul Kabinja was pulled from his home, tied up and then shot and thrown into a septic tank.
- As of November 25, 2025, at the Mushenyi health center, more than 25 cases of sexual violence have been committed during an armed incursion.
- On November 26, 2025, in Kacegera, Baraka Kalimba was beaten to death.
- As of November 27, 2025, in Mbinga-North, several families, including those of Nzibonera Majambere and Wayo Kanani, were evicted from their land.
- As of November 28, 2025, Kongo Mufanya, 58, was mutilated and seriously injured.
- On November 30, 2025, Émile Zagabe succumbed to his injuries after being shot in his shop.

- From November 2 to 30, 2025, the Katana area witnessed a series of systematic executions.
- As of December 02, 2025 – Kabare (Cirunga, Kagabi), Nine civilians, including two students (Matabaro Lwaboshi Jean Pierre and Mulumeoderhwa Rodrique), were arrested and taken to unknown destinations.
- On December 3, 2025, in Kaziba (Walungu), seven children were killed in a bombing that hit schools.
- On December 4, 2025, in Murhala, Espoir Ntakanya was shot dead and six students injured.
- As of December 5, 2025, in Mutarule (Uvira), seven civilians were killed and eighteen others were injured in an explosion.
- On December 7, 2025, in Sange, an explosion killed thirty-six civilians and injured thirty-one.
- As of December 5 to 8, 2025, in Uvira and its surroundings, bombings and violence have caused about 1,500 deaths, 12,000 children affected and 300,000 displaced, with massive looting.
- On December 8, 2025, in Kiliba, four civilians were executed.
- On December 8, 2025, in Cirunga, Masonga Kalulu, a local chief, was executed.
- On 10 December 2025, in Kalundu, two civilians were executed.
- As of December 10, 2025, in the city of Uvira, cases of forced family separations have been documented, affecting more than 113 families. Children have been separated from their parents amid widespread insecurity. The identities of the victims are not mentioned, but the extent of the phenomenon is clearly established.
- As of December 10 to 11, 2025, ninety bodies were discovered and eighty-five people were injured in Uvira.
- On December 11, 2025, in Ihoka, the girl Divine Chasha (9 years old) was shot dead during a chase by fishermen.
- As of December 19 to 20, 2025, in the Ruzizi plain, areas of Mutarule, Kitemesho, Kabunambo, Bwegera and Kiliba, looting of livestock and agricultural equipment was perpetrated. These acts have severely compromised local agricultural production, aggravating food insecurity. The victims are unidentified local farmers.
- On December 23, 2025, in Bukavu, a pastor was shot dead, while a young girl named José died following the explosion of a bomb.
- On December 25, 2025 – Kalehe (Nyamutwa/Kasheke), Mr. Tumaini Amera was kidnapped by the troops of the RDF-M23/AFC coalition.
- On December 26, 2025, in Bushakaku, the child Nshimiyimana (7 years old) was fatally shot. On the night of December 26 to 27, 2025, in Katasomwa,

more than 22 civilians, including Enock Ruhonora, Asante Bebe, Tanga Bamporiki, Janvier Mboneza and Rukaka Fokasi, were executed.

- On December 28, 2025 – Bukavu / Nyantende, Honor David Safari was kidnapped and then released after several days of detention, blindfolded.
- On December 29, 2025, Solange was shot dead in the Panzi district.
- On December 30, 2025, in the Kilibula neighborhood, a local CCC/PNKB/CIBUNGU official was killed in his home.
- From September 2025 to January 2026, dozens of incidents have been recorded: Abduction of women followed by rape in captivity.
- In January 2026, several cases of kidnapping, torture and rape were documented, including Dominique Kalonzo, Ramazani Byaremba, Willy Kagangu, Wemba Kabika, as well as several victims of gang rape.
- In January 2026, several cases of kidnappings were reported, including those of Mutalemba Chivundu Ghislain, Kabugu Ruboneka Dieudonné and Ramazani Byaremba, whose fates remain unknown.
- On January 3, 2026, Diallo Simoni was kidnapped and found dead on January 4.
- As of January 3 to 4, 2026, in Kasheke, two people were injured in an armed attack.
- From January 3 to 4, 2026, in Kasheke, six women including Feza Cirimwami and Tegemeya Matunguru were kidnapped, raped and then released.
- As of January 5, 2026, fourteen bodies were discovered in Uvira.
- On January 5, 2026, in Uvira, Fatuma was murdered with a knife.
- From January 7 to 8, 2026, in Kalehe, Mastake Mapendo was shot dead, while Claude Ruhamba was found dead after kidnapping.
- On January 8, 2026, in Irhambi-Katana, Claude Ruhamba was found dead after kidnapping.
- From January 12 to 13, 2026, in Bugarula, three fishermen were assaulted and robbed by armed elements.
- On January 16, 2026, Kabare (Chegera), Mrs. Nawiti M'Murhagane Rosette was raped by the troops of the RDF-M23/AFC coalition before being found dead the next day.
- From January 15 to 17, 2026, in the neighborhoods of Kasenga, Kavimvira and Kabimba in Uvira, construction machinery and materials intended for road infrastructure (RN5/RN30) were looted.
- From January 16 to 17, 2026, means of transport (motorcycles, vehicles, tricycles) were systematically seized in the city of Uvira, paralyzing urban mobility. Victims remain anonymous in reports.
- As of January 19, 2026, thirteen other lifeless bodies have been found in Uvira.

- As of January 26, 2026, Aburano Kobizoba Doviko (7 years old), Sylvie Doviko (15 years old), Kasole Mependo (39 years old, pregnant) and Esther Doviko (18 years old) have been victims of serious abuses committed against civilians.
- In January and February 2026, several cases of abduction, torture, rape and execution were documented, including against Chance Kiza, Dominique Kalonzo, Ramazani Byaremba, Willy Kagangu and other civilians.
- On March 26, 2026 in Idjwi, the citizen named SELEMANI KAKESA Humanitarian employed by the Dutch NGO ZOA, arrested and transferred to Goma, in a dungeon of the RDF-AFC/M23, known for their deplorable prison conditions. Mr. KAKESA was on a service mission to provide humanitarian aid to vulnerable populations when he was arrested for no apparent reason. It is also important to specify that the population is going through intense times of extortion on the part of the RDF-AFC/M23, there are reports of cases of tax assessment.
- On March 29, 2026, Mr. Espoir Mbata, director of the community radio station "Top-Buzi FM" based in Minova, Kalehe Territory, was unjustly arrested following an emotional reaction from the population to his publication announcing the possible withdrawal of elements of the AFC/M23.
- From April 4 to 5, 2026 at the Ngweshe Chiefdom experienced acts of vandalism by elements of the AFC/M23. All the doors in the interior were broken, the documents destroyed, the furniture broken. The Office of the Collector of the Chiefdom was also opened and all the money that was taken there; The same acts of vandalism were also committed at the royal palace of Mwami NTALE SHOSHO, Chief of the Buhavu Chiefdom just a few days after the fall of the territory of Kalehe into the hands of the troops of the RDF-AFC/M23 coalition in February 2025. Today, all these chieftaincy chiefs live in hiding. These acts constitute not only acts of vandalism and desacralization of customary power but also and above all a real desire to conceal certain high-quality historical documents on the kingdom of Bushi.
- On April 5, 2026, RDF-AFC/M23 elements killed peaceful citizens in Cihumba in the Ikoma grouping, Ngweshe chiefdom in walungu territory, South Kivu province in the Democratic Republic of Congo, among them Mr. Lwabo Karani and Papa Kunguta both from the village of Cihumba and Mr. Tory Kazige from Ikoma-Kasheke.
- As of April 5, 2026, some elements of the RDF-AFC/M23 were stationed at the royal palace of Mwami N'habushi Alexandre Kabare, from their way back to relief, i.e. on April 6, 2026, they had to arrest more than 25 people, most of whom are young people from the Cirunga group. They arrested them and took them to an unknown destination since then, no news has been given. It should be noted that these young people are falsely accused and assimilated to Wazalendo fighters
- On April 7, 2026, there was kidnapping of Mr. Daniel KAHEZA MUSHONGA, president of the Civil Society of Mbinga North in the Buhavu chiefdom in Kalehe territory. The event took place in Nyabibwe at around 11 a.m., by three elements recognized as members of the RDF-AFC/M23 rebel movement,

named Danny NDABAKENGA, Aimé and John. The latter, after tying him up, took him to an unknown destination. According to information gathered on the spot, the victim is being prosecuted for denouncing cases of human rights violations.

Each taxi-bus has to pay 5,000 FC per day! That is: $5,000\text{FC} \times 30 \text{ days (1 month)} = 150,000 \text{ FC}$. $150,000\text{FC} \times 12 \text{ months} = 1,800,000 \text{ FC}/2,300$ (1 USD) = 782.6 USD per year per bus

- Between 28 and 30 September, more than 300 young people were kidnapped in the Ndendere district. In Kalehe, several civilians, including Sulemani and other residents, were flogged for non-compliance or deemed inadequate participation in forced labor.

4.3. ITURI PROVINCE

Insecurity in Ituri is characterized by systemic violence exercised by a multitude of local armed groups (CODECO, ZAIRE, ADF, CRP, etc.) whose modus operandi and coordination suggest instrumentalization by external networks of influence. Although the direct presence of the RDF-M23/AFD coalition is not formally established, the civilian population is subjected to extremely serious abuses – massacres, kidnappings, burning of villages and looting – at the heart of struggles for control of resources and community rivalries.

This climate of instability, fuelled by proxy actors, locks the province into a cycle of terror and impunity where fundamental rights are massively violated.

Here is the sample of the cases of the abuses noted

- Between 2023 and 2025, in the territories of Djugu and Irumu, attacks on educational infrastructure have been recorded, in a context of conflict involving various armed groups (CODECO, ZAIRE, ADF, CRP, etc.). Schools have been destroyed or occupied, depriving thousands of children of education. No victim names are mentioned in the available data.
- In 2025, in Goli (Djugu), aerial bombardments caused 2 deaths.
- On the same day, in Fataki (Djugu), an attack by the Zaire group caused the death of 2 civilians (a woman and a teenager).
- Between 2023 and 2025, in the territories of Djugu and Irumu, attacks on educational infrastructure have been recorded, in a context of conflict involving various armed groups (CODECO, ZAIRE, ADF, CRP, etc.). Schools have been destroyed or occupied, depriving thousands of children of education. No victim names are mentioned in the available data.
- On January 3, 2024, in Bunia, in the Shun neighborhood on Kadawasi Avenue, a pastor was killed during an arson attack by rebels on a church.
- On January 3, 2024, in Bunia, in the Shun neighborhood on Kadawasi Avenue, a pastor was killed during an arson attack by rebels on a church.
- Since March 2025, people in Mambasa have been subjected to forced labour and illegal taxation by Mai-Mai groups.

- On March 25, 2025, a fifth grade student was found dead by presumed drowning in the Aru River (Alures Chiefdom).
- As of March 31, 2025, in the territory of Djugu (Dhenya village), two civilians, a man and a woman, were killed by fighters of the Zaire armed group. On the same day, in Nyaka (Mahagi territory), a driver was seriously wounded by gunfire by armed individuals presumed to be affiliated with CODECO.
- On March 31, 2025, in Djugu (Walendu Tatsi, Dhenya), two civilians were killed during an attack by the Zaire group.
- On April 1, 2025, in Bunia, a pregnant woman was shot and wounded during a robbery and her vehicle was taken away. On the same day, on the Bogoro-Kasenye axis, a taximan was stabbed and then robbed of his belongings.
- On April 1, 2025, on the Bogoro-Kasenye axis, a taximan was stabbed and then robbed of his belongings.
- On April 3, 2025, in Bunia (Hoho), a woman was killed and another injured in a domestic attack with a knife. On the same day, in Djugu (Seseti), a civilian was shot dead by the CODECO militia.
- On April 3, 2025, in Seseti (Djugu), a man was shot dead by elements of CODECO on the Mbida River.
- On April 4, 2025, in Idohu (Irumu), an ADF attack caused the death of 8 civilians, kidnappings and looting.
- On April 4, 2025, in Julidjina (Djugu), a shepherd was kidnapped by CODECO.
- On April 6, 2025, in Buli (Djugu), the president of the ATAMOI taximen's association was killed by fighters of the Zaire armed group.
- As of April 7, 2025, in Nizi (Djugu), 4 gold miners were removed by CODECO.
- On April 09, 2025, in Aru, a money transfer house was attacked, resulting in the theft of USD 8,000 and the torture of the guard.
- On April 10, 2025, in Aru, a library was burgled.
- As of April 11, 2025, in Bunia, a foreign exchange trader was shot and robbed, while a school official was also shot and wounded in another incident.
- On April 14, 2025, in Bunia (Hoho), one person was killed in an act of mob justice, while in Shari, another was shot dead by unknown assailants.
- On April 14, 2025, in Bunia (Shari), a person was shot dead by unknown assailants.
- On April 15, 2025, in Kosa 2 (Djugu), two civilians were killed and two others were injured in an explosion linked to a military operation.
- As of April 16, 2025, in Kunda (Irumu), clashes between FPIC factions have resulted in 16 civilian injuries. On the same day, in Fataki (Djugu), about 120 houses were burned by UPDF elements.

- On April 18, 2025, in Adumi (Aru), the body of a young motorcycle repairman was found lifeless.
- On April 20, 2025, in Aru, a person was burned alive in the context of a family conflict.
- On April 22, 2025, in N'Djaza (Djugu), 4 civilians were kidnapped and then released after the intervention of the authorities.
- As of April 22, 2025, in Mambasa, about 80 kg of cocoa have been stolen.
- As of April 24, 2025, in Matembwe (Mambasa), the bones of 5 people were discovered, attributed to previous ADF attacks.
- As of April 26, 2025, in Djugu, about 100 cows were stolen by CODECO with ransom demands.
- On June 2, 2025, in Nizi (Irumu), an armed attack caused the death of 7 civilians.
- On June 13, 2025, in Lopa (Djugu), a person was murdered by the CRP group.
- On June 15, 2025, in Mungamba (Irumu/Mambasa), a traditional chief was assassinated by armed men.
- As of June 17, 2025, in Djugu, about 5 people have been kidnapped by CODECO.
- On June 19, 2025, in Bunia (Sayo), a civilian was shot dead by unknown assailants, while in Mudzipela, another person died of suspected poisoning.
- On June 19, 2025, in Bunia (Sayo), a civilian was shot dead by unknown assailants.
- On June 19, 2025, in Bunia (Mudzipela), another person died of suspected poisoning.
- On June 21, 2025, in Bese (Djugu), one person was killed and two others were wounded in an armed attack, while in Mambasa (Basisa), a village chief was assassinated.
- On June 21, 2025, in Bavonkutu (Irumu), two civilians were wounded by gunfire during looting.
- On June 21, 2025, in Bese (Djugu), one person was killed and two others were wounded in an armed attack.
- On June 21, 2025, in Bavonkutu (Irumu), two civilians were injured during looting.
- On the night of June 25 to 26, 2025, in Elake (Mambasa), more than 50 people were kidnapped by the ADF.
- On June 29, 2025, in Bapupu, in the territory of Djugu, two civilians were killed during an attack by the Zaire group.

- On June 30, in Djugu, two women were killed in reprisals by the CODECO militia.
- Between 29–30 June 2025, in Djugu, cross-attacks between groups Zaire and CODECO caused the death of 4 civilians, including two women.
- As of July 3, 2025, in Mambasa, 23 hostages have been freed by the ADF.
- From July 8 to 9, 2025, in Walese-Vonkutu (Irumu), about seventy civilians were massacred by the ADF.
- On July 12, 2025, in Bwanasura, in Irumu territory, four civilians were killed and four others were wounded in an ADF attack.
- From 7 to 9 July 2025, in Babila-Babombi (Mambasa), armed clashes caused the displacement of 423 people.
- From July 7 to 9, 2025, in Mambasa, clashes caused the displacement of 423 people.
- On the night of July 8 to 9, 2025, in Walese-Vonkutu (Irumu), ADF attacks caused about 70 deaths, accompanied by fires and looting.
- On July 12, 2025, in Bwanasura (Irumu), four civilians were killed and four others were wounded in an ADF attack.
- As of July 21, 2025, in Lopa and Nizi (Djugu), clashes between CODECO, CRP and Zaire have caused about 11 civilian deaths and looting.
- On July 21, 2025, in Djugu (Lopa), two civilians were killed during armed clashes.
- As of July 21, 2025, in Djugu (Nizi), nine people died during clashes between the CODECO group and the Zaire group.
- On July 22, 2025, in Goli (Djugu), two civilians were killed during an aerial bombardment.
- On July 24, 2025, in Bunia, a child aged between 12 and 15 was found dead.
- From 19 to 25 July 2025, about 20,000 households were moved to Bunia.
- On July 26, 2025, in Djugu, a teenager was tortured by CODECO/URDPC elements.
- On July 26, 2025, in Maimoya, pastors Nyamabaku B. and Soli Undeytay J. were killed. On the same day, in Komanda, Pastor Sumbukambo K. and Mrs. Émilie Lingaaiso were assassinated.
- On July 26, 2025, in Maimoya, pastors Nyamabaku B. and Soli Undeytay J. were killed.
- On July 26, 2025, in Komanda, Pastor Sumbukambo K. and Mrs. Émilie Lingaaiso were assassinated.
- From July 26 to 27, 2025, during the night, in Komanda (Irumu territory), several civilians were reported missing, including Christelle Masika, Jérémie Nakabea Nakashise, Christian Munguromo, Abigael Kahindo, Christelle

Kahambu and Lucie Kahambu were killed. Dieudonné Hangabo, Sarah Kanyere, Wasi Njoa, Jean-Pierre Katembo, Rosine Ganisikale, Hanyie, Joséphine Katungu, Rogeline Makadu, Irène Kahindo, Nathalie Sikakali and Consolée Mukwanjenja. Dorcas, Olive, Berochan Shukuru, Justin Muhindo, Hortense Kavugho, Chrispin Muhindo, Joël Kasereka, Laurent Kahindo, Jean de Dieu Kakule, Hercule Makati, Noella Kambali and Pio Kibonge are missing following an attack attributed to Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) fighters, which targeted the civilian population and resulted in the abduction of several people whose fate remains unknown.

- On July 27, 2025, in Komanda (Irumu), an ADF attack on Catholic worshippers caused 43 deaths, including 9 children, 18 women and 15 men, as well as kidnappings, arson and looting.
- On July 27, 2025, in Fataki (Djugu), an attack by the Zaire group caused 2 deaths (a woman and a teenager) and massive displacements.
- On the night of 26 to 27 July 2025, in Komanda (Irumu),
- On July 27, 2025, in Komanda, an attack on Catholic worshippers caused 43 deaths, including 9 children, 18 women and 15 men, as well as kidnappings and looting. We note several deceased, including Christelle Masika, Jérémie Nakabea Nakashise, Christian Munguromo, Abigael Kahindo, Lucie Kahambu, Jean-Pierre Katembo, Joséphine Katungu, Joël Kasereka and others.
- On July 27, 2025, in Fataki (Djugu), an attack by the Zaire group caused the death of 2 civilians (a woman and a teenager).
- As of July 29, 2025, in Sessa (Irumu), 3 hostages were freed after military intervention.
- On October 7, 2025, in Bunia, Jeph Otepa, a church elder, was murdered in an urban area. On March 13, 2026, in Bafwabakégele, Pastor Jean Mandela, his wife and many civilians were killed during an ADF-NALU attack on a quarry. Finally, on April 1st, 2026, in Bafwakoia, more than a hundred villagers were killed in a massive attack accompanied by the burning of the village by the ADF.
- On March 13, 2026, in Bafwabakégele, Pastor Jean Mandela, his wife and many civilians were killed during an ADF-NALU attack on a quarry.
- As of April 1, 2026, in Bafwakoia, more than 100 villagers were killed in a massive attack accompanied by the burning of the village by the ADF.

5. IMPACT OF THE SECURITY CRISIS ON EDUCATION AND HEALTH IN CITIES AND TERRITORIES IN THE PROVINCES OF NORTH KIVU, SOUTH KIVU AND ITURI

5.1. IMPACT ON THE EDUCATION SYSTEM, SCHOOL INFRASTRUCTURE AND SCHOOL DROP-OUT

The destruction of schools in eastern DRC is part of a war strategy designed to permanently disrupt communities and weaken the presence of the state. Schools are no longer just collateral victims of the fighting: they are deliberately attacked, occupied, looted or turned into military bases.

This situation has severely compromised the efforts of the central government, which, prior to the occupation of part of the east, had launched the PDL-145 programme for the development of the Territories by rehabilitating schools, health centres, administrative buildings and road infrastructure. In several territories in North Kivu, South Kivu, and Ituri, these investments were expected to improve public services and strengthen the authority of the state. The unjust occupation of several areas by the RDF-M23/AFC coalition has however led to the destruction, looting or militarization of many infrastructures that have already been rehabilitated or are in the process of being rehabilitated.

In Ituri, insecurity is fueled by several local armed groups, including CODECO, ZAIRE, ADF, CRP, and other community militias. Even in the absence of a direct presence of the RDF-M23/AFC, the civilian population is subjected to massacres, kidnappings, burning of villages and looting. In Djugu, Fataki, Bule, Mahagi and Walese-Vonkutu, many schools have been burned, vandalised or closed, causing mass dropouts.

In North Kivu, particularly in Masisi, Rutshuru and Lubero territories, several schools have been transformed into dormitories, logistics depots or military positions by the RDF-AFC/M23 coalition forces. In Binza and Bambo, school furniture and archives were burned or destroyed. In Goma, schools for displaced children were also hit by the bombing.

In South Kivu, the extension of the conflict to Bukavu and the Kalehe axis has led to the closure of dozens of schools and the looting of several schools.

Between March 2025 and February 2026, 330 schools were destroyed or damaged and another 191 were occupied by armed groups. A total of 321 schools remain closed in the east of the country, depriving more than 285,500 children of their right to education. As of February 2026, an estimated 1.18 million children were out of school due to insecurity.

This occupation represents, beyond the human cost, a heavy bill for the Congolese economy. The destruction of infrastructure, the drop in revenues, the halt in public investment and the multiplication of security spending are severely slowing down the development of the provinces concerned. Resources that were supposed to be used for reconstruction and the improvement of public services are now being absorbed by the management of the humanitarian and security crisis.

These attacks on schools are serious violations of international humanitarian law and reflect a desire for social disintegration. By simultaneously attacking schools and places of worship, armed groups are striking at the two main pillars of the community: education and religion.

5.2. IMPACT ON THE HEALTH SYSTEM, HEALTH STRUCTURES AND EPIDEMICS

The war of occupation in eastern DRC has severely weakened the health system in the provinces of North Kivu, South Kivu and Ituri. Health facilities are no longer only affected by the fighting: they are destroyed, looted, occupied or turned into military positions.

In several areas under the control of the RDF-M23/AFC coalition, health centres and hospitals were vandalised, their equipment taken, their pharmacies looted and their ambulances destroyed or requisitioned. Some facilities have been transformed into fallback bases, command posts or treatment facilities for wounded combatants, depriving civilians of any access to healthcare.

In North Kivu, particularly in Goma, Rutshuru, Masisi and Lubero, several medical facilities have ceased to function because of clashes, bombings or armed occupation. In some localities, health centres have been abandoned after medical staff left, threatened, assaulted or forced to flee. Doctors, nurses and health workers were subjected to intimidation, abductions, physical violence or summary executions, while others were forced to prioritize the treatment of combatants.

In Ituri, violence committed by local armed groups has also led to the destruction of many health facilities. Several health centres were burned during the attacks on villages, particularly in the areas of Djugu, Mahagi and Irumu. The looting of medicines, medical equipment and humanitarian stocks has become frequent.

This destruction of the health system has encouraged the spread of many diseases. Cholera, measles, malaria, Mpox and tuberculosis are spreading rapidly in camps for displaced people and overcrowded areas, where access to clean water, hygiene and health care remains extremely limited. Vaccination campaigns have been halted in several territories, while drug supply disruptions are further exacerbating the situation.

Conflict-related sexual violence is also likely to lead to a significant increase in sexually transmitted infections, including HIV/AIDS, syphilis and gonorrhoea. However, the real figures remain difficult to establish due to the occupation, persistent insecurity, fear of victims and lack of access to the affected areas. The true toll is likely to be established only after the occupation ends, when medical and humanitarian teams will be able to gain unhindered access to the affected populations.

The health crisis also represents a major economic cost for the DRC. The destruction of hospitals, the expenses related to epidemics, the reconstruction of health infrastructure and the care of displaced persons greatly increase public burdens and divert resources that could have been devoted to the country's development.

6. SITUATION OF INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT AND REFUGEES IN THE EAST

The major humanitarian crisis characterized by massive and recurrent displacement of civilian populations, mainly in its eastern part. This situation is the result of the persistence of armed conflicts, the proliferation of armed groups and the chronic security instability that has affected several provinces for more than two decades.

Consolidated data from international organizations indicate that the country currently has between 6,400,000 and 6,900,000 internally displaced persons, making the DRC one of the most affected countries in the world by this phenomenon. In addition to these figures, there is an estimated population of between 990,000 and 1,200,000 Congolese refugees living in neighbouring countries, while the national territory hosts about 517,000 foreign refugees. The total number of people directly or indirectly affected by the dynamics of displacement thus exceeds 9,000,000 individuals, reflecting the exceptional scale of this crisis.

Internal displacement is mainly concentrated in the provinces of North Kivu, South Kivu and Ituri, which are the epicentre of armed violence. In South Kivu province, the territories of Uvira, Kalehe, Walungu and Fizi are particularly affected, with significant regrouping areas in Minova and Uvira. In Ituri, the territories of Djugu, Irumu and the city of Bunia are also experiencing massive influxes of displaced populations due to inter-communal violence and attacks by armed groups.

Overall, a significant proportion of these populations live in precarious conditions, often outside formal camps, including with host families, schools or spontaneous sites, which makes it very difficult to organize humanitarian assistance.

In addition to internal displacement, a significant number of Congolese have sought refuge in neighbouring countries in the Great Lakes region and southern Africa. The main host countries are Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Tanzania, Zambia and Angola. These refugees are usually accommodated in structured camps, including the Musenyi, Bwagiriza, Kavumu, Kinama and Nyankanda camps in Burundi; Gihembe, Kiziba, Mugombwa, Mahama and Nyabiheke in Rwanda; Nakivale, Kyaka II, Kyangwali, Rwamwanja and Bidi Bidi in Uganda; as well as Nyarugusu, Nduta and Mtendeli in Tanzania. These infrastructures, although organized, are facing increasing pressure due to the continuous influx of new refugees.

Finally, the eastern DRC has several special characteristics. Displacements are multiple and repeated, with some populations being forced to flee several times as the fighting evolves. The predominance of informal sites also makes it difficult to plan humanitarian interventions. In addition, women and children account for the majority of the displaced, increasing the need for protection, education and health. These population movements remain closely linked to the dynamics of armed conflicts and the offensives of armed groups in the areas concerned.

Ultimately, the situation of forced displacement in the Democratic Republic of Congo reflects a structural humanitarian crisis of exceptional proportions, fuelled by persistent security instability and the fragility of institutions. It is a major challenge for national authorities and international partners, requiring coordinated, sustainable

responses adapted to local realities in order to guarantee the protection of civilian populations and to promote sustainable stabilization and return solutions.

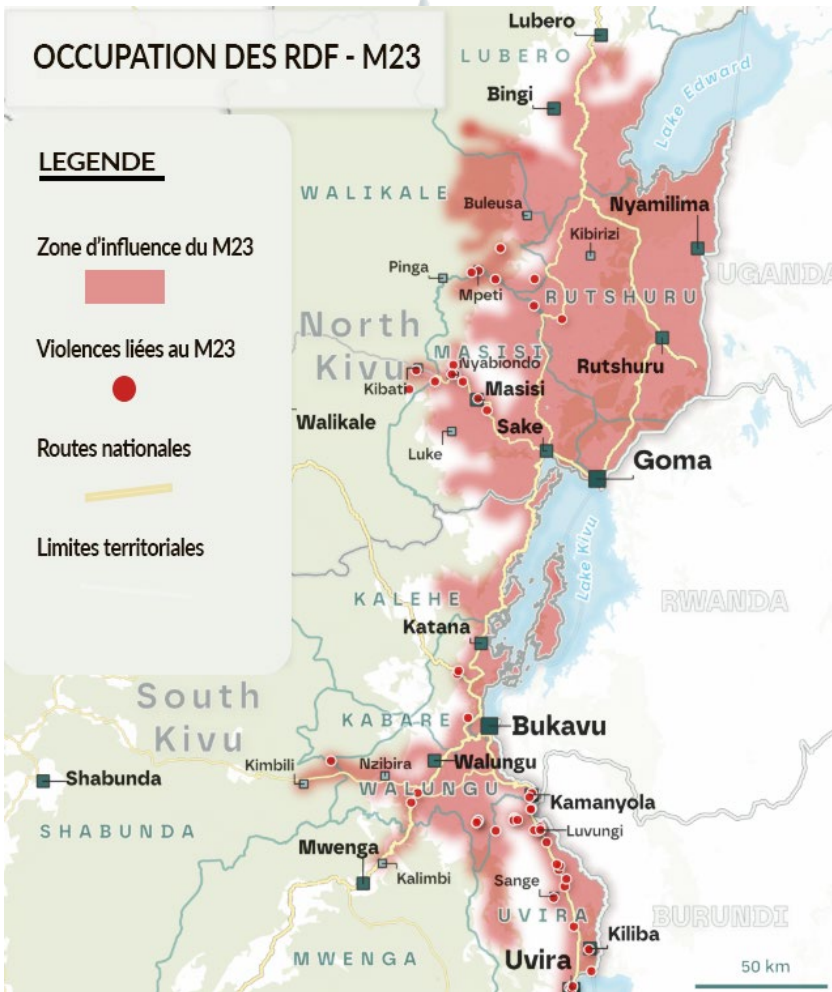


7. GEOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS OF VIOLATIONS

The mapping and geography of violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo highlights the spatial logics, actors and typologies of conflicts affecting three key provinces: North Kivu, South Kivu and Ituri. These territories, marked by chronic instability, present distinct but interconnected dynamics, where security, economic, ethnic and geopolitical issues are superimposed.

In North Kivu, violence is concentrated around strategic axes (Goma-Rutshuru, an active military corridor) and resource areas (Masisi, Nyiragongo), with a multiplicity of armed actors (M23, local militias). Targeted attacks in urban areas (Goma), massacres in rural areas and mass displacement (northern periphery of Goma) illustrate a persistent humanitarian and security crisis.

7.1. AREAS OCCUPIED BY THE RDF COALITION – M23/AFK

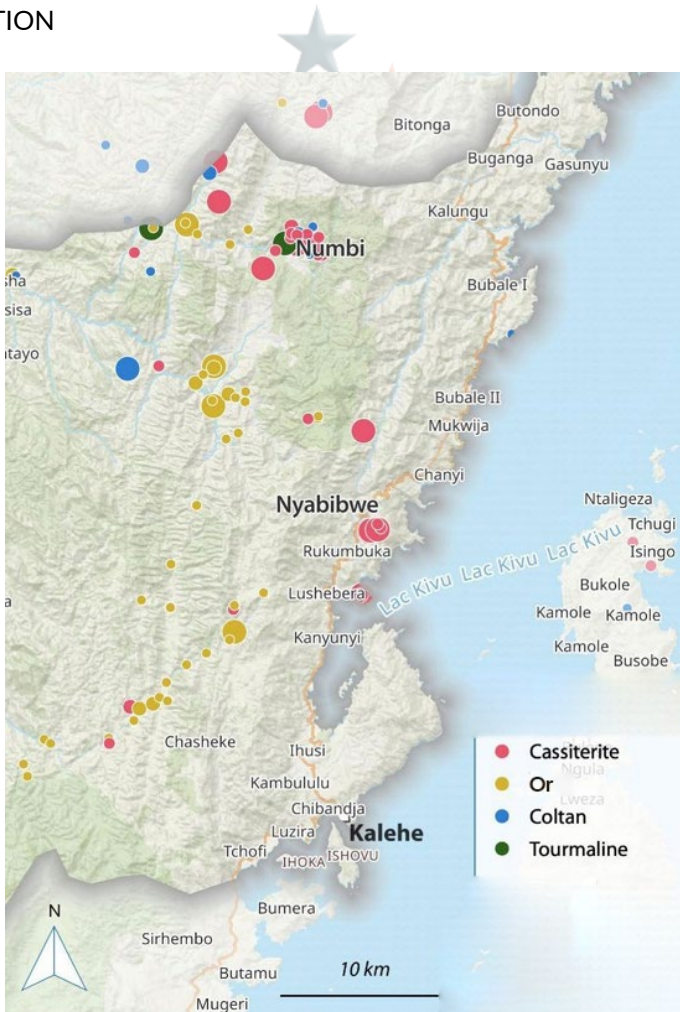


South Kivu is characterized by security fragmentation, with vulnerable lakeside areas (Kalehe), urban peripheries under pressure (Kabare) and landlocked territories (Walungu) where sexual violence, looting and inter-community conflicts proliferate. The Kalehe–Kabare–Walungu arc of instability reflects a weak state presence and a proliferation of micro-zones controlled by militias.

In Ituri, the violence is mainly ethno-communal (CODECO, FRPI, ADF) and territorialized (Djugu, Irumu), with massacres of civilians, burning of villages and cyclical reprisals. Porous borders (Mahagi) and land conflicts exacerbate a long-lasting humanitarian crisis.

This analysis is based on georeferenced data (GPS coordinates, heatmaps, displaced people's flows) and dynamic mapping of actors, violations and spatial logics to inform intervention priorities and stabilization strategies.

7.2. MINERAL RESOURCES OF AREAS OCCUPIED BY THE RDF-M23/AFV COALITION



8. NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE WAR ECONOMY CYCLE

8.1. THE MAPPING OF THE "GEOLOGICAL SCANDAL"

The east of the Democratic Republic of Congo is the pivot of the global energy and digital transition. Ituri province and the Kivus are full of critical minerals for which global demand continues to grow in 2026:

- Energy Minerals (Cobalt, Lithium, Copper): Essential for the manufacture of electric vehicle batteries and the storage of renewable energies. The DRC remains the world's leading supplier, placing the East at the heart of international decarbonization strategies.
- Minerals of Technology (Coltan/Tantalum): Essential for capacitors in smartphones, computers and the aerospace industry.
- Flux Ore (Gold): The ultimate safe haven, gold is the main driver of instability due to its ease of transport and immediate liquidity in smuggling markets.

8.2. THE MECHANISMS OF ECONOMIC PREDATION

The wealth of the subsoil, far from favouring development, feeds a cyclical war economy structured around three pillars:

A. Financing of Armed Groups

Artisanal mining, often informal, came under the control of military nebulae (CODECO, ADF, M23, "Zaire" militias, CRP, etc.). These groups impose a system of forced taxation:

- Levying "rights of way" or "tokens" on mining sites.
- Forced labour of civilian populations in landlocked quarries.
- Direct trade in minerals for armaments and ammunition.

B. Smuggling Networks and Capital Flight

The leak circuit is cross-border. Minerals leave Congolese soil via porous crossing points to Uganda or Rwanda. Once they arrive in Kampala or Kigali, these minerals are "naturalized" (bleached) before being exported to global refining centers (Dubai, Asia), depriving the Congolese state of vital tax revenues.

C. International strategic rivalries

The East has become the scene of fierce competition between world powers to secure access to critical minerals. This international pressure creates lawless zones where traceability is sacrificed in favor of rapid supply.

8.3. THE CHALLENGES OF TRACEABILITY AND INNOVATION

To break this cycle, the DRC is deploying new tools, although their effectiveness clashes with the reality on the ground.

- The Blockchain Solution: The government now imposes "digital passports" for gold and coltan. Each batch is sealed and registered on a tamper-proof register to ensure that it does not originate from an area controlled by militias.
- The "Washing" Phenomenon: The main limitation remains physical fraud. Militias sometimes manage to infiltrate legal cooperatives to introduce "dirty" minerals into certified circuits, rendering digital traceability powerless in the face of human corruption.

8.4. COLLATERAL COSTS: ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIETY

The war economy left a devastating imprint that jeopardized the future of the region:

- Ecological Disaster: Uncontrolled extraction causes massive deforestation, especially in national parks, and pollution of rivers with mercury and cyanide, contaminating the food chain of local populations.
- The Clean Energy Paradox: A tragic contradiction is taking hold: the global "green revolution" (electric vehicles) is financed by a (bloody) "red extraction" in the DRC, marked by child labor and chronic insecurity.

8.5. SUMMARY OF ECONOMIC FLOWS

Economic exchanges in the east of the DRC are largely based on informal circuits linked to the exploitation of natural resources. These flows, often cross-border, benefit various actors, including armed groups, and are largely beyond the control of the state. They are a critical source of funding for these groups, allowing them to maintain their activities and influence on the ground.

As a result, the local economy directly fuels the conflict, due to the struggle for control of wealth. Civilian populations suffer the effects through exploitation, illegal taxes and constraints imposed by armed actors. To get out of this dynamic, it is necessary to better supervise the exploitation of resources and to strengthen formal, more transparent and secure economic circuits.

9. LEGAL ANALYSIS OF VIOLATIONS IN EASTERN DRC

9.1. APPLICABLE LEGAL FRAMEWORK

The facts documented in the east of the Democratic Republic of Congo fall within the scope of international criminal law and international humanitarian law, in particular:

- The Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court
- The Geneva Conventions of 1949
- The Additional Protocols of 1977
- Customary international law

These instruments set the standards for the characterization of international crimes and individual criminal responsibility.

9.2. CHARACTERIZATION OF WAR CRIMES

Under article 8 of the Rome Statute, the acts identified contain the elements of war crimes, including:

- Attacks on civilian populations, including massacres of villages, bombing of inhabited areas and attacks on camps for displaced people;
- Recruitment and use of children under the age of 15 in hostilities;
- Systematic looting, including the illegal exploitation of mineral resources and the destruction of civilian property.

These violations appear to be committed in the context of a non-international armed conflict of a protracted nature, involving a plurality of organized armed actors.

9.3. CHARACTERIZATION OF CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY

The available evidence also indicates the existence of widespread and systematic attacks against civilian populations, constituting crimes against humanity within the meaning of the Rome Statute, including:

- Murder;
- Rape and sexual slavery;
- Torture;
- Persecution;
- Enforced disappearances;
- Forced displacement of populations.

Documented mass sexual violence reveals, in some cases, a deliberate strategy to terrorize, control, or displace civilian populations.

9.4. INDIVIDUAL CRIMINAL RESPONSIBILITY AND COMMAND

In accordance with the principles of international criminal law, individual criminal responsibility may be incurred against:

- Military commanders of the RDF - M23/AFC coalition;
- Political and administrative leaders of the RDF M23/AFC coalition.

The principle of command responsibility applies when the authorities knew or ought to have known that crimes were being committed and failed to take the necessary measures to prevent or punish them.

9.5. JURISDICTION AND CASE LAW PRECEDENTS

As the Democratic Republic of Congo has been a State Party to the Rome Statute since 2002, the International Criminal Court has jurisdiction over crimes committed on its territory.

Jurisprudential precedents confirm this jurisdiction, particularly in cases involving: Thomas Lubanga, Germain Katanga and Bosco Ntaganda.

These cases establish a robust operational framework for the opening of new investigations and prosecutions.

9.6. ORIENTATION TOWARDS LEGAL ACTION

In view of the seriousness, repetition and organised nature of the violations, the elements analysed constitute a credible basis for:

- The opening of in-depth investigations;
- Identification of chains of command;
- The issuance of international arrest warrants;
- The effective referral to the competent courts.

10. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ACTORS

The consolidated analysis of the situation in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo highlights the existence of a complex, structured and enduring criminal system, characterized by the repeated commission of serious violations of international humanitarian law and international criminal law. These violations, including attacks on civilian populations, massacres, systematic sexual violence, the recruitment of child soldiers and forced displacement, are part of organized patterns that meet the criteria of war crimes and crimes against humanity.

In this context, accountability calls for a comprehensive and systemic approach, going beyond the mere identification of material perpetrators to include all actors who contributed, directly or indirectly, to the commission of crimes.

10.1. RESPONSIBILITY OF ARMED GROUPS AND NON-STATE ACTORS

Armed groups and non-state actors appear to be the main direct perpetrators of the documented violations. They may be held criminally liable for the actual commission of the crimes, the planning and organisation of attacks, and participation in joint criminal enterprises. The existence of hierarchical structures also makes it possible to mobilize the principles of command responsibility and to establish chains of command that can be used in international prosecutions.

10.2. RESPONSIBILITIES OF STATES IN THE REGION

1. RWANDA

Documented evidence indicates logistical support, cross-border military presence or intervention, and involvement in the exploitation of natural resources. If these facts are established, they are likely to engage the individual criminal responsibility of decision-makers for complicity or participation in crimes under international jurisdiction.

2. UGANDA

Uganda's involvement is part of a regional dynamic marked by cross-border military operations, historical involvement in the conflict and activities related to the exploitation of natural resources. These elements may also form the basis for prosecution for international responsibility and complicity in the commission of international crimes.

3. RESPONSIBILITY OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

The international community, despite significant interventions, particularly through peacekeeping missions and diplomatic and humanitarian initiatives, has shortcomings in the prevention of mass atrocities and in the effectiveness of judicial mechanisms. This situation underscores the need to strengthen international jurisdictional mechanisms and ensure greater coherence between commitments and actions.

4. RESPONSIBILITY OF THE CONGOLESE STATE

The Congolese state is held liable for structural failures, particularly in terms of security governance, the fight against corruption and the functioning of the judicial system. These shortcomings are decisive in the assessment of the principle of complementarity and may justify the subsidiary intervention of international criminal justice.

5. STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS FOR PROSECUTIONS BEFORE INTERNATIONAL COURTS

All the elements highlight a multiplicity of actors and a close interweaving between security, economic and political dimensions, giving the crimes a transnational scope.

From this perspective, the implications for international prosecutions are major.

They involve:

- Expanding the scope of investigations beyond the direct perpetrators to include instigators, accomplices and beneficiaries of the crimes;
- The integration of economic and transnational dimensions in the legal analysis of responsibilities;
- Strengthening international cooperation in the collection of evidence, execution of arrest warrants and extradition.

The precedents set in the cases involving Thomas Lubanga, Germain Katanga, and Bosco Ntaganda demonstrate the feasibility of such prosecutions, while underscoring the need for a more comprehensive approach.

The documented facts thus provide a sufficiently solid basis for initiating international investigations, consolidating judicial cases and initiating effective prosecutions before the competent courts, in particular the International Criminal Court.

11. CONCLUSION

All the analyses presented in this report highlight a structural and persistent reality: the conflict in the east of the Democratic Republic of the Congo is neither a cyclical crisis nor a simple security instability. It is part of a system of prolonged, organized and interconnected violence that has spanned more than three decades.

Beyond the materiality of the crimes, this report highlights a complex configuration of responsibilities involving both regional state actors, suspected of direct or indirect involvement, as well as the structural inadequacies of the Congolese state in terms of protecting the population and repressing crimes.

A particularly worrying finding emerges from this analysis: since the origins of the conflict, a significant number of instigators, sponsors and facilitators of these crimes have escaped prosecution. This lack of accountability has not only weakened the deterrent reach of international law, but has also contributed to the maintenance and reproduction of cycles of violence.

In this context, it now appears imperative to comprehensively trace the historical responsibilities, including those of the actors who acted in the early stages of the conflict, to remove political, institutional and economic obstacles to prosecution, and to initiate proceedings targeting not only the perpetrators, but also the instigators and beneficiaries of the criminal system.

The fight against impunity can only be effective through a rigorous and comprehensive identification of chains of responsibility, increased mobilization of international judicial mechanisms, in particular those of the International Criminal Court, enhanced coherence of international policies that align normative commitments with actual practices, and a strong political will at both the national and international levels.

The precedents in the case law relating to the Democratic Republic of the Congo show that prosecution is possible. However, the scale and complexity of the crimes documented today call for a change of scale, including a retrospective approach to fill the judicial gaps of the past.

Thus, this report concludes that the time of impunity must give way to the time of justice. Acknowledging responsibility, prosecuting the perpetrators and punishing the instigators is not only a legal obligation, but also a moral requirement for a deeply wounded people.

Only then can the way be opened to a lasting peace, based on truth, justice and reparation.

Today, the consolidation of national unity is based on a balance between military pressure on the ground and the sustainability of the ceasefire achieved in Switzerland in April 2026. This dynamic is gradually transforming the Democratic Republic of the Congo from a conflict zone to an essential diplomatic and economic partner, where sustainable development and security stability are the two pillars of the same sovereignty strategy.

12. RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations to stakeholders

1. To the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo

It is recommended that national authorities:

- Proceed with the immediate and safe reopening of Goma International Airport to facilitate:
 - Rapid delivery of humanitarian aid;
 - Medical evacuation of seriously injured persons as required;
 - The deployment of humanitarian actors.
- Establish a secure humanitarian corridor by air and land while guaranteeing the neutrality of the airport and its strictly humanitarian use;
- Allocate a specific emergency fund for victims in North and South Kivu provinces to civil society organizations for a rapid response;
- Immediately strengthen the protection of civilian populations, including in high-risk areas, through a strategic redeployment of security forces and improved early warning systems;
- Undertake structural reform of the defence and security forces, including vetting mechanisms, to exclude elements involved in serious violations;
- Effectively combat the illegal exploitation of natural resources, by strengthening traceability and prosecuting criminal networks;
- Strengthen judicial cooperation with the International Criminal Court, including through the arrest and transfer of alleged perpetrators ;
- Implement credible national prosecutions, in accordance with the principle of complementarity.

2. At the United Nations

It is recommended that the United Nations system:

- Strengthen mechanisms for monitoring and documenting violations, in accordance with international evidentiary standards;
- Actively support international judicial investigations, including those conducted before the International Criminal Court and other judicial bodies;
- Adapt the mandate of the MONUSCO mission to explicitly integrate the objectives of the fight against impunity;
- Strengthen mechanisms for warning and prevention of mass atrocities.

3. To the International Community

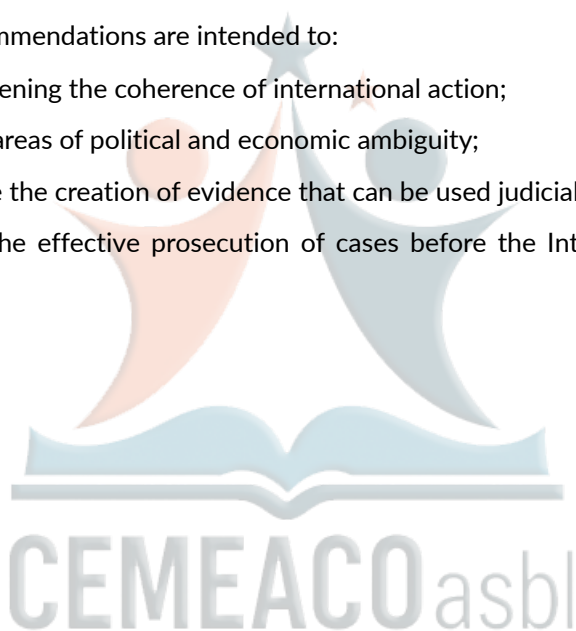
It is recommended that international partners:

- Impose effective targeted sanctions against individuals, entities and networks involved in crimes or their financing;
- Strengthen the regulation of mineral supply chains, in order to prevent any contribution to the war economy;
- Support regional diplomatic initiatives, while conditioning their support on verifiable human rights commitments;
- Support international judicial mechanisms, in particular the International Criminal Court.
- Demand that Rwanda implement UN Security Council Resolutions 2773 and 2808, adopted in 2025.

4. Overall Strategic Direction

These recommendations are intended to:

- Strengthening the coherence of international action;
- Reduce areas of political and economic ambiguity;
- Facilitate the creation of evidence that can be used judicially;
- Enable the effective prosecution of cases before the International Criminal Court.





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