



REPORT

16/12/2025

THE SECURITY AND HUMANITARIAN SITUATION IN THE NORTH KIVU AND SOUTH KIVU PROVINCES (DRC)

FROM: SEPTEMBER TO DECEMBER 2025

EXECITIVE SUMMARY : ¹

This report is elaborated by JUSTICE CONGO GROUP . It documents serious and systematic violations of human rights and international humanitarian law committed in the North Kivu and South Kivu provinces in the Democratic Republic of Congo, over the period from September to December 2025. It should be noted that this report continues the work of the first report published at the end of September. [REPORT ON THE](#)

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SECURITY AND HUMANITARIAN SITUATION IN NORTH KIVU AND SOUTH KIVU PROVINCES (DRC) JANUARY – SEPTEMBER 2025

Investigations conducted by Justice Congo Group highlight a significant intensification of hostilities involving the armed movement RDF/M23/AFC, the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (FARDC), armed groups known as Wazalendo, as well as the involvement of foreign forces.

These hostilities have resulted in massive and repeated violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law. The documented facts also included: Summary executions of civilians, conflict-related sexual violence, recruitment and use of children, forced displacement of populations, destruction of civilian infrastructure (homes, schools, health centres, places of worship), illegal exploitation of natural resources in areas under armed control. According to the data collected, more than 24,500 civilians have been forced to flee their localities, aggravating an already critical humanitarian crisis, characterized by food insecurity, the collapse of basic social services and the lack of effective protection of the civilian population.

This report is intended to inform the United Nations, the International Criminal Court (ICC), relevant regional mechanisms, and international human rights organizations, with a view to: supporting the opening of independent and impartial investigations, contributing to the establishment of individual and institutional accountability, promoting the urgent protection of civilians, and fostering justice, reparation, and compensation for victims.

I. Introduction

1 JUSTICE CONGO GROUP continued to conduct investigations with its focal points, the leaders from the different territories such as; Kalehe (bordering the North Kivu province), Kabare (the Miti, Katana, Miti, Kalole, Bugobe Kamisimbi, Bugorhe Kavumu groups), Walungu (the Walungu, Kaniola, Nzibira, Mulamba, Burhale, Lurhala, Kaziba, Tubimbi groups), Mwenga (the Lwindi, Basile, Wamuzimu, Luhwindja, Burhinyi groups), Uvira (the Ruzizi plain, high plateaus, and middle plateaus, Uvira territory) and Shabunda (Bakisi Community: Maimingi) to carry out investigations and inquiries in order to establish the facts, circumstances, and root causes of all alleged violations and breaches of international human rights law, as well as violations of international humanitarian law and potential international crimes committed in the context of the recent escalation of hostilities in the South Kivu province in general and in North Kivu in the Democratic Republic of Congo, particularly the atrocities committed from Congo and especially the atrocities committed from September 2025 onwards. The war that started in Bunagana and spread across North Kivu to South Kivu in February 2025 in the Democratic Republic of Congo continued with alleged violations and infringements of international human rights law,, With the displacement of populations and the destruction of the environment, Kahuzi-Biéga National Park has become a battleground between the Wazalendo and the M23 forces, resulting in damage to the park's ecosystem and biodiversity (including the exploitation of wood for charcoal, mining, and park rangers being driven away with their vehicles and offices

confiscated). We will focus on the documented facts and the crimes committed by the M23 and the Wazalendo in the park. (wood exploitation for charcoal, mining, and park rangers driven out with confiscation of their vehicles and offices. We will address the documented facts and the crimes committed by the M23, some of the Wazalendo in the park. The Wazalendo VDP destroyed the forested area of Kahuzi Biéga Park by charging taxes to the wood exploiters in this park for the purpose of cooking food. Several resolutions were taken in a number of agreements in Nairobi, Luanda, Doha, and adopted by the belligerents M23 and the government of the DRC) as well as Washington, scheduled for signing between President Tshisekedi and Kagame, all catalysts of conflict. These agreements had just been signed on September 4, 2025, while clashes were ongoing to seize the territories of Mwenga, Uvira, and the chiefdoms of Kaziba and Kamanyola. JUSTICE CONGO GROUP carried out missions in the territories where M23 extended its influence to conquer the South Kivu province. During this conquest of territories by M23 to impose dialogue. The steadfast defiance of the Wazalendo proved pivotal in halting the collapse of these regions. Yet, amid the turbulence of violent confrontations, a grim reality unfolded: huge numbers of armed factions including the FARDC, assorted public officials, lawless criminals, government troops, local civilian authorities, and even foreign military contingents inflicted a spectrum of abuses upon the civilian population. All this transpired under the shadow of widespread human rights violations. Although some semblance of accountability has been attempted, the suffering communities in North and

South Kivu provinces remain largely bereft of genuine justice or any meaningful reparations, especially as the recent surge in hostilities continues to ravage the East part of Democratic Republic of the Congo. . The same causes producing the same facts, violations and alleged abuses of IHRL, the displacement of populations, the destruction of the environment, genocide and crimes against humanity. Let us hope that with the signing of the Washington agreements, the belligerents will be able to mitigate hostilities, except that each one is concerned, it is the interests that count the destruction of the environment, genocides, as well as crimes against humanity. Hopefully, with the signing of the Washington agreements, the belligerents will be able to ease the hostilities, except that for each party involved, it is the interests that matter.., to population displacement, environmental destruction, genocide and crimes against humanity. Let us hope that with the signing of the Washington agreements, the warring parties will be able to ease hostilities, except that for each of them, it is their own interests that matter. The US government was behind the conquest of the DRC, using Kagame to gain access to minerals for new technology free of charge (see Charles Onana's book). With the change of government in the DRC (at the end of his term), Kabilo gave away power to Tshisekedi with the signing of certain agreements to come into power (Kabilo's desire) while consigning the M23, of which he is the moral authority, to Uganda and Rwanda. For Kagame, he had to continue to maintain control over the mineral-rich territories of the DRC and continue to infiltrate the Tutsis (conquest of land in the DRC) and exterminate the FDLR, considered a threat to Rwanda. The UNHCR had

handed over the FDLR to Rwanda, but they returned to the DRC to fight on the side of the Tutsis. The Rwandan genocide did not kill people in Rwanda, unlike the ongoing Congolese genocide in the DRC.

This imposed war has disrupted all aspects of life for the Congolese people in the east and has led to the occupation of strategic cities, the destruction of public infrastructure, the massacre of civilians, mass exoduses and social disorganisation, threatened territories and decimated families. This war was opposed by resistance groups fighting against the invasion of their territory and also by the resistance of the population. Militias once considered negative groups, tribal armed groups were organised into reservists (RAD) and Wazalendo to counter the M23, which was advancing rapidly through corruption with the support of some Congolese who were tired and impoverished by Tshisekedi's government. The Wazalendo, who have not been granted amnesty and are neither controlled nor trained, are also responsible for abuses and crimes against humanity. The FARDC, like the institutions, are still infiltrated. Resource looting and corruption are rife. The Wazalendo are not fully supported in the counter-offensive and on the rare occasions when aircraft intervene, the artillery does not intervene directly, so territories have fallen and the Wazalendo have remained on the defensive against the FARDC, who are champions of strategic retreat, and no territory has been recovered. Despite the deal signed between Tshisekedi, Kagame and Kabila, some town centres have fallen into enemy hands. For the population in areas not occupied by the war being waged by the M23-AFC, it is not their concern. In drawing up the 2025-2026 budget, the government forgot to

include the provinces of North and South Kivu. This is another way of confirming the balkanisation or sale of part of the country. Everyone is saying that the DRC has been sold and wondering what we should pay Rwanda. Rwanda wants autonomy over the administration of part of the DRC and the neutralisation of the FDLR. The French are responsible for the crossing of Rwandans and the FDLR into the DRC, some of whom were repatriated to Rwanda and are returning to the DRC as Rwandan combatants under the banner of the M23. The so-called liberated and occupied areas reflect relentless misery. Old banknotes, all banks closed since January, dilapidated infrastructure, total insecurity, summary executions, rape and sexual violence, the recruitment of children and minors, theft, the destruction of infrastructure, restrictions on movement, lack of freedom of expression, a muzzled civil society and the plundering of mineral resources are commonplace during this so-called war of liberation. There is a crisis of confidence between the current occupiers and the people who once had a monopoly on activities in the provinces. This has led to the collapse of state authority. The fighting is focused on the mining areas owned by members of the ruling families and mining companies.

Resolution 2773(2025) of the United Nations Security Council, adopted on 21 February 2025, concerning the situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo, attempted to bring the warring parties to an agreement.

It strongly condemns the ongoing offensives by the M23 rebel movement in the provinces of North Kivu and South Kivu, as well as its advances, notably the capture of towns such as Goma and Bukavu.

It attributes direct responsibility to Rwanda, which is believed to be supporting M23 operations, including through the Rwandan Defence Forces. It demands the immediate withdrawal of Rwandan troops from Congolese territory.

It calls on the M23 to cease all hostilities, withdraw its forces from the areas it controls, and renounce the establishment of structures parallel to the Congolese state authority.

It insists on the sovereignty of territorial integrity and the unity of the DRC. It also emphasises the principle of non-interference, good neighbourliness and regional cooperation.

It calls for the unconditional resumption of (regional) peace talks, mentioning the Luanda and Nairobi processes as possible frameworks for political discussion.

It includes measures concerning human and humanitarian rights.

Protection of civilians, respect for international humanitarian law.

Urging the parties to guarantee humanitarian access and freedom of movement for peace missions.

Combating the illegal exploitation of natural resources that finances armed groups. It calls for measures to ensure transparency, traceability and compliance with the mineral certification mechanism in the Great Lakes region.

It acts under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter, which means that the Security Council considers the situation to be a threat to international peace and reserves the right to take corrective measures if necessary.

The agreements may be signed on 4 December, but the population does not expect any solution to be found, as the warring parties have not disengaged and the clashes continue with great intensity.

As it occupied the towns, the M23 did not have control over certain territories, and the resistance of the Wazalendo enabled the M23 to use the following methods: Creation of fake Wazalendo, encirclement of cities (Uvira) to be conquered, torture, summary executions and corruption as a barricade to the advances of M23_AFC, bypassing the territory of #walungu towards the territory of Mwenga and Shabunda, specifically towards the mining town of LUGUSHWA, which they targeted in order to create a supply post for the strategic town of MINEMBWE in the territory of fizi. From there, they could attack the town of Baraka to cut the land and road link between the town of Uvira and the town of Kaliémie.

The Wazalendos are determined to reconquer the territories, and for the moment, instead of the FARDC's strategic retreats, they are on the offensive with the support of the government, using armed drones and fighter planes.

II. Methodology used, evidence and proof

JUSTICE CONGO GROUP has prepared this report using a combination of qualitative and quantitative methods: field investigations, semi-structured interviews with victims, witnesses, community leaders, humanitarian actors and local authorities, cross-checking of testimonies, collection of physical

and photographic evidence, videos where possible, and preliminary legal analysis. The areas studied mainly include South Kivu, North Kivu, and other affected localities.

Limitations: Restricted access to areas under rebel occupation, threats to witnesses, ongoing population displacement, and a lack of resources have limited the comprehensive collection of data. Despite these constraints, the volume and consistency of the evidence collected indicate clear and worrying trends.

Our teams investigated several incidents during missions carried out in North and South Kivu provinces. When reviewing the incidents, JUSTICE CONGO GROUP placed particular emphasis on war crimes, which may include murder, torture, hostage-taking, deliberate attacks on civilians or protected property, looting, sexual violence, the recruitment of child soldiers, and genocide offences with material facts and specific intent. These acts may constitute murder, serious harm to physical or mental integrity, the intentional subjection of the group to lethal living conditions, measures to prevent births, and the use of child soldiers in the groups. The offences (crimes against humanity, crimes against human rights and genocide) have been rigorously proven with evidence from individuals or families who have suffered the acts and also from witnesses. JUSTICE CONGO GROUP has carried out a number of missions following access to the territory of Walungu, Mwenga and Nzibira. When reviewing the incidents,

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Despite the difficulties in locating the various actors, witnesses and victims, JUSTICE CONGO GROUP has obtained cases that deserve justice. The victims we met found it difficult to recount the facts for fear of reprisals and because they had no assistance for their cases. Cases of alleged human rights violations and breaches of international law have been investigated and a list will be appended to this report.

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Les Wazalendos sont déterminés à reconquérir les territoires, et pour le moment au lieu des replis stratégiques des FARDC, ils ont sont à l'offensive par l'appui du gouvernement avec les drones en armes et avions de chasse

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Indeed, the occupation of the mining areas of Rubaya (North Kivu) Karhembu in Mwenga and the Luhwinja sites, formerly owned by BANRO CORPORATION in South Kivu, not to mention Luhihhi in Kabare territory, has allowed rebels to exploit coltan, cassiterite, gold and wolframite mines, financing their war through a smuggling network sometimes involving multinationals. The Karembo and Twangiza mines were bombed by

government aircraft and Luhuhi is temporarily closed. Several public and private companies have been looted and ransacked, their equipment taken to neighbouring Rwanda, such as the banks and cooperatives of North and South Kivu, the Congo Savings and Credit Bank (CADECO) and BRALIMA, a brewery owned by Heineken, which lost its products and packaging. The Bralima factory is currently being renovated.

The M23 is working to collect taxes to fund the war effort, and the movement's finances are still managed by Rwandans. Banks are still not functioning and there is a shortage of banknotes in circulation. Villages in the interior are cut off from urban centres.

Strategic positions in public enterprises and the administration are occupied by foreigners, reinforcing the feeling of national dispossession. Taxation has become an instrument of oppression, ruthlessly applied to an already precarious population. Banking transactions for traders are carried out in cities in Rwanda.

Road links to villages and territories are cut off from city centres occupied by the M23 in South Kivu, while in North Kivu, the towns of Beni are linked to Goma by road after rigorous checks and explanations. The local economy is still sluggish. Young graduates, lacking prospects, are either displaced or forcibly recruited. The economic fabric creates total dependence on Rwanda for food supplies, as the two cities are geographically close. During the bombing of the Karembo mine (Tubimbi), several Chinese nationals were killed and equipment was damaged.

III. Context

A. The continuation of M23 hostilities in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo

After taking Bukavu in February 2025, the M23 extended its influence in the territories of South Kivu (Walungu, Kabare, Kalehe, Mwenga, Shabunda and Fizi) through the Banyamulenge Twigwaneho and Ngumino. Strategic areas rich in minerals (coltan, gold, cassiterite) are targeted to finance this undeclared war. These same areas were under the influence of Congolese and foreign armed groups (Mai-Mai, Red Tabara, FDLR, M23, ADF, Islamic groups). Civilians there suffer serious human rights violations: massacres, forced displacement, sexual violence, looting and summary executions.

Since September 2025, the conflict has spread to villages in the territories of Masisi, Rutshuru, Kalehe, Kabare, Mwenga, Walungu, Shabunda, Nyiragong, Fizi and Uvira.

During its attacks, several reports by the United Nations and independent investigators highlighted Rwanda's increased active support for the M23, particularly in terms of recruitment, training and equipment supplies, in order for Rwanda to protect what it perceives as its national security, particularly against the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR, a group partly composed of former Rwandan soldiers and Hutu militias), as well as its economic interests. The Rwandan government has consistently denied allegations of its direct involvement with the M23. As the signing of the Doha and Washington agreements approached, Rwanda admitted its support for the M23 and intensified the fighting to conquer other

territories in South and North Kivu. The Congolese authorities launched an appeal for armed mobilisation at the end of 2022, which led to a massive mobilisation of Congolese youth and prompted dozens of armed groups to join forces in the fight against the M23 under the common name of Wazalendo ('patriots') or Volunteers for the Defence of the Fatherland (VDP) to counter the advances of the M23. However, the government is reluctant to provide them with full support in terms of weapons, medicine, food and clothing. This fear on the part of the government is understandable, as the Wazalendo are a thorn in the side of the government. The government's resistance is still futile due to Rwandan infiltration and corruption in all institutions in the DRC. The soldiers of the Guépard group are only making strategic retreats, leaving some to be pillaged. Despite this, the Wazalendo groups have for the most part remained outside the effective control of the state.

The Wazalendo remained distant from the FARDC and provided support to halt the advance of the M23. Each group from his community remained distant from the other with the aim of driving the enemy out of the national territory. In addition, the active support provided to the FDLR and their participation in operations against the M23 alongside the FARDC exacerbated tensions with Rwanda, while the involvement of the Burundi National Defence Force (FNDB), deployed under bilateral and regional agreements against the RED-Tabara and Twirwaneho armed groups (allegedly supported by Rwanda), has exacerbated regional security challenges. Burundi has sent troops to Congo in Kalehe, Uvira, Fizi and

Mwenga to halt the Rwandan advance. There are fears for Burundi and that Rwanda may attack its territory after taking Uvira. To undermine the government's efforts, the Ngumino/Twigwaneho/Android/El Shabab coalition has tried to forge alliances with certain armed groups in the high and middle plateaus of Uvira, Itombwe and Fizi. Allegations suspect President Tshisekedi of favouring the advance of M23 and of being complicit in the balkanisation. For the moment, the population does not trust the agreements but rather the resolution of the conflict by arms or by self-determination and popular revolt. Fear must disappear in the hands of the population. There must also be a purge of infiltrators in the country's institutions. The Banyamulenge tribe, which claims to be a minority, is the most represented in the country's institutions, occupying good positions. This is the result of Kabila's long preparation for his rear base. To succeed in establishing the Hima empire, sacrifice and acceptance by the indigenous people are necessary. We risk witnessing cycles of endless wars. The purge continues in the FARDC, where several traitorous officers are in detention. In the occupied parts of Masisi, Rutshuru, Nyiragongo, Kalehe, Kabare, Walungu Mwenga and part of Fizi-Shabunda, the rebels are establishing their own law and administration, with summary executions, arbitrary arrests, forced recruitment and illegal taxation, poaching, illegal exploitation of natural resources and many other ecosystems becoming the norm. The major centres of South Kivu were taken without much resistance, highlighting the glaring weaknesses of the national army (FARDC), which abandoned weapons, ammunition and other military equipment that were used by the enemy. The

M23's statement mentions an estimated 300 tonnes of recovered military equipment, which reflects the complicity of certain FARDC officers in this war, which continues to claim numerous victims in the occupied areas. After conquering the major centres, from September 2025 onwards, the M23 focused its conquest on the territories of Walungu, Shabunda, Mwenga, Uvira and Fizi. Clashes were often reported in the territories of Masisi, Rutshuru and Nyiragongo. The areas around the cities of Bukavu and Goma were occupied by the Wazalendo. Some villages were recaptured from the M23. The M23 increased its messages on social media, creating fake Wazalendo accounts to promote their cause. All prisoners, thieves and criminals who had escaped from prison joined forces with the M23.

Crime has reached its peak, making travel day and night extremely dangerous; kidnappings followed by summary executions, settling of scores, vehicle thefts and the confiscation of buildings belonging to the Kinshasa government authorities are being carried out by the M23 authorities.

- *Katogota is located in the Uvira territory in the Ruzizi plain in South Kivu.*
- *These clashes are taking place against a backdrop of heightened tensions: the FARDC government army and its allies in Wazalendo are claiming to have regained control of several areas following coordinated attacks by M23.*

- *On the morning of 2 December 2025, rebel reinforcements were reportedly detected on Sunday, and heavy and light weapons fire broke out in Katogota and the surrounding area (Kamanyola, Nyangezi, Kaziba, etc.). According to local sources, the fighting took place on the hills west of the RN5, about 3-4 km from the road. The clashes lasted several hours, causing panic among the local population.*

- *Consequences:*

- *Houses were destroyed and set on fire in several communities (Butuzi, Ngando, Mwera, Muhumba).*
- *There were casualties among civilians.*
- *Many families fled villages around Lubarika and Luvungi, abandoning their fields and homes for fear of the fighting spreading.*
- *Daily activities (schools, trade, agriculture) were paralysed in Kamanyola, Katogota, Nyangezi and Kaziba.*
- *The FARDC, with support from Waazalendo, counterattacked and regained control of several strategic locations: Katogota, Kaziba centre and a place called Point-Zéro in Fizi. The death toll and number of injured remain provisional or unconfirmed, and the extent of the destruction and burning of houses, loss of animals and property, and number of displaced persons have not yet been documented.*
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The peace agreements between the DRC and Rwanda were signed on 4 December 2025, and in order to sabotage this agreement, the M23 bombarded civilian villages. Fighting intensified on Saturday 6 December on the Uvira-Kamanyola axis in the Ruzizi plain. The M23 dropped bombs from Bugarama in Rwanda, targeting densely populated villages, and the inhabitants of the villages of Luvungi, Katogota and Luberizi fled to Sange. Several civilians were killed, including children, and schools, a health centre and homes were destroyed. These acts constitute war crimes and crimes against humanity in flagrant violation of international law. Rwanda and its AFC-M23 auxiliaries are carrying out indiscriminate attacks with bombs and explosives in connection with the fighting around Luvungi, Sange and Uvira in eastern DRC and as part of the M23 offensive. The M23, supported by the Rwandan army, has been conducting a major offensive in South Kivu towards Kamanyola since December 2025. The fighting has involved bombing and explosions in several localities in the Ruzizi plain, forcing thousands of civilians to flee.

Luvungi

Intense fighting and bombing from north of Kamanyola struck areas around Luvungi, causing casualties and contributing to panic and the displacement of civilians to Sange and Uvira. The M23 took Luvungi and set up a local administration there. The bombing of Luvungi caused more than 37 deaths in Sange before Uvira. The Luvungi offensive consisted of troops from Rwanda, Goma and other fronts such as Kaziba, Shabunda, Nzibira, Mwenga and Bukavu, concentrating on the Kamanyola-Uvira axis. The M23 bypassed the FARDC positions towards Luvungi and these bombs caused considerable human and material damage in Luvungo. In Luvungi, the M23 recruited some young people from Luvungi for \$500 to plant bombs in strategic locations before completely occupying the town of Uvira.

In Sange, during the strategic retreat of FARDC soldiers from the front lines who wanted to return to Uvira, deadly bombs and grenades were launched by

the FARDC, killing Burundian soldiers. The FARDC launched these bombs to protest against the prevention of their strategic retreat to Kalemie. Accusations from both sides of the conflict Sange was the site of explosions and bombings that caused numerous civilian casualties, but the precise attribution of responsibility remains disputed. The M23 rebel forces (and their Rwandan allies) are involved in artillery fire and bombing along the Kamanyola-Luvungi-Sange-Uvira axis. Both sides accuse each other of targeting civilians.

CITY OF UVIRA

In Sange, Kiliba and Uvira, young people paid by the M23 planted bombs in several locations. Civilians hid in their homes and others began fleeing to Baraka, Burundi, before the town fell into the hands of the M23. M23 forces advanced into the city itself, causing displacement, school closures and the withdrawal of the Wazalendo and FARDC soldiers. The young people who planted the bombs were apprehended and subjected to inhumane treatment, as shown in these videos and images.

Some authorities in Uvira and spies were involved in this bomb-planting operation, for which the young people are responsible.

After questioning some of the people apprehended with rucksacks containing explosives and

men considered to be sincere in their struggle for peace, the following names were mentioned in Uvira:

Muhivwa Ngwegbo Godfroid is one of them and the others are in Sange.

Six bombs have just been discovered by bomb disposal experts in Petit Kasoko, in Rugenge.

After fleeing Bukavu in the face of the AFC/M23 advance, the provincial authorities of South Kivu were once again forced to abandon Uvira on Tuesday. They retreated to the Fizi-Baraka region, where this communiqué

was signed. Rwanda and the M23 are currently continuing their offensive and advancing on Fizi. At the time of writing, they already occupy Makabola.

B. Territorial Expansion of M23 (Since September 2025)

The recent territories (2025) that the M23 has conquered since September and the abuses/violence or crimes attributed to this group in the area.

The M23 group launched the 2025 Goma offensive from Goma at the end of January. Shortly afterwards, the rebels continued their advance towards the south-east and entered Bukavu (capital of South Kivu province) in mid-February 2025.

During the same period, the group secured Minova (Kalehe territory), an important crossroads for roads and lake access. In Masisi territory in North Kivu, the M23 took control of the central town and, in September 2025, several villages (Mafuo, Biholo, Shoa, Bwam비ro, Busoro, Kinyezire, Burora, Ngesha) fell to the rebels. According to recent analyses, the M23's territorial advances between July and September 2025 cover large parts of eastern Kivu, with a partial retreat in the sector but a broader foothold than before.

The M23 controls strategic urban centres (Goma, Bukavu, Minova), rural localities and several villages in the Masisi territories and around the conflict axes, marking a very worrying territorial expansion. Since their territorial advance, numerous organisations (NGOs, UN, MEDIA) have documented serious violence attributed to the M23, often involving war crimes or violations of international law.

In the Goma area, the rebels have been accused of summary executions of civilians. In Ruthsuru, between July and August 2025, the number of civilians killed could exceed 300. Near Virunga Park, 140 civilians were killed in 14 villages and agricultural areas. The continuation of these abuses has led to a massive displacement of the population. This shows that the Rwandan army, which supports the M23 100%, did not aim to pursue the FDLR but to push the occupiers to liberate the territories in order to settle the so-called Tutsi refugee population that exists in Rwanda. Rwanda even used the FDLR who had returned to Rwanda to kill Hutus and Nande who were still considered to be FDLR. The bodies of some (women and children) were thrown into rivers and others buried in fields, preventing funerals from taking place. Several gang rapes, arbitrary detentions, enforced disappearances, torture, arrests and intimidation targeting journalists, human rights defenders, activists and even civilians accused of opposition were committed. In addition to these abuses, the seizure of territories was accompanied by the establishment of parallel authorities, a climate of fear, the disorganisation of public services, restrictions on press freedom and massive disruptions to health services, education (destroyed schools and churches) and humanitarian aid. The capture of Goma and Bukavu, as well as other strategic areas, means strategic control of roads, lakes and mineral deposits (Rubaya, Twangiza, etc.), giving the M23 a position of strength from which to consolidate its power. The major cities and strategic areas have been conquered, but some villages remain outside their control and are in the hands of the Wazaledo. These unconquered villages fuel insecurity, fear, internal displacement and

trauma, and undermine humanitarian and law enforcement efforts. All taxes (Regison Snel payments) and customs clearance are handled by the Tutsi, whose revenues cross the borders every day. Banks have ceased to exist, Congolese banknotes have disappeared from circulation, and old banknotes are scorned by the population. There is no justice, and the sale of plots of land is arbitrated by the rebels. The eviction of people from their homes and the confiscation of nice cars are commonplace. Theft, murder and rape are daily occurrences in the neighbourhoods of conquered towns. The perpetrators are prison escapees, highway bandits and members of the M23. Movement from towns to conquered territories has been restricted in South Kivu, depriving the population of their livelihoods and preventing the supply of basic necessities to these villages. The condition of the roads also needs to be improved.

Ethnic violence (particularly against the Hutu), summary executions, rape and disappearances may constitute crimes against humanity. Let us hope that justice will be done for these crimes and that those responsible will be held accountable.

The fragmentation of territorial control, the absence of the state, and the multiple armed groups (some of which are labelled as criminal) foster a cycle of violence and rivalries between militias, making peace difficult to achieve. All armed groups have legitimised themselves as Wazalendo. These armed groups have slowed down the rapid advance of the M23 in its conquest of territories, but they are also responsible for certain humanitarian crimes and remain a thorn in the side of the government.

The M23 is focusing its conquests on various mining sites.

At least 319 civilians were killed in July 2025 in the Rutshuru territory, and 140 civilians were killed in July 2025 in 14 villages near Virunga Park.

Territories conquered by the M23 in South Kivu in September 2025



Territories/ areas of South Kivu concerned

- *Kalehe: The M23 has captured several localities in this territory, notably the town of Nyabibwe.*
- *Walungu: The M23 is active here; mining localities and villages that have fallen under its control have been reported.*

- *Mwenga: The group has advanced in this territory, notably crossing the Kadubo River to enter certain localities.*
- *Uvira: The M23 is reported to be present in this territory.*
- *Fizi: Also mentioned among the territories where the M23 is present.*
- *Kabare: Some villages also appear on the list of affected territories in South Kivu.*
- *Idjwi (island on Lake Kivu): The M23 is also reported to have ‘entered’ this island territory.*
- *According to local sources, the M23 is present in seven of the eight territories in South Kivu province.*
- *Some key localities/towns occupied*
- *Minova (in Kalehe) — taken by the M23 in early 2025.*
- *Nyabibwe — conquered after fighting.*
- *Several mining areas in Kalehe (and surrounding areas) — coltan mines, other natural resources — are under M23 control.*
- *Recent villages in Shabunda territory: the villages of Kimbili and Nyarubemba (nearly 223 km south of Shabunda-centre) fell under M23 control in November 2025.*
- *Sources indicate that the M23 is ‘present’ in several territories — but this does not always mean total administrative control. In some cases, control may be partial, centred around mining areas or strategic villages.*

- *According to recent monitoring, in some territories such as Kabare, Mwenga and Walungu, control may fluctuate: fighting continues, making it difficult to establish a stable map.*
- *The mining territories of South Kivu are particularly targeted (coltan, other resources), which motivates the M23's strategic interest in these areas*
- *Territories conquered by M23 in North Kivu*
- *Territories and administrative centres under control*
- *M23 now controls four of the six administrative centres in North Kivu, i.e. the administrative hubs of the territories.*
- *Walikale-centre (administrative centre of Walikale territory) — recaptured on 19 March 2025.*
- *Masisi-centre (capital of Masisi territory) — M23 took this centre in early 2025.*
- *Kibumba (capital of Nyiragongo territory) — also under M23 control according to cross-checks.*
- *Rutshuru-centre (capital of Rutshuru territory) — territory reputedly taken by the M23 since the offensive.*
- *Added to this is the conquest — at the end of January 2025 — of the city of Goma, the provincial capital of North Kivu.*

- *Other localities and areas under partial influence or occupation*
- *In 2025, the M23 also captured the urban centre of Walikale, an important mining hub in the west of the province, giving it control over strategic routes in the region.*
- *Clashes and conquests continue in certain rural areas, such as villages in southern Masisi (where recaptures have taken place), showing that territorial control can be fluid.*
- *In some territories not yet officially conquered (such as Lubero), the M23 nevertheless remains present near strategic locations, and populations report difficulties in accessing their fields due to rebel control.*
- *Limits of control and areas still outside the M23*
- *Only two territories — Lubero and Beni — officially retain their capitals under provincial/government control, although in Lubero the state controls only part of the territory.*
- *In Beni territory, various armed groups (such as the ADF) are still active, which complicates the situation.*
- *Why these conquests are important and worrying*

- *These territories notably Walikale, Masisi, Nyiragongo and Rutshuru are rich in mineral resources (gold, coltan, cassitérite, etc.). Control of these areas gives the M23 significant economic power.*
- *The loss of Goma, the provincial capital, represents a major strategic blow, as the city is a key administrative, economic and logistical centre for the entire province.*
- *For local populations, the M23 occupation often brings with it restrictions on access to fields, security risks, mass displacement and a climate of permanent uncertainty.*
- *The various clashes in Kabare since September 2025 between the M23 and Wazalendo*
- *General context*
- *Since early 2025, the M23 has been relaunching an offensive in the Kivus, seeking to consolidate its territorial control, particularly in areas rich in mineral resources.*
- *The Wazalendo — pro-government militias/auxiliaries of the regular army (FARDC) — found themselves on the front line, including in Kabare, which led to increased clashes.*
- *Main clashes in Kabare (and surrounding areas) since 2025*

<i>Date / period</i>	<i>Location / area concerned</i>	<i>What happened / consequences</i>
<i>12–13 april 2025</i>	<i>Villages of Kabamba, Lwiro, Kavumu (territory de Kabare)</i>	<i>Clashes between M23 and Wazalendo — the M23 regains control of Kavumu Centre and the airport after outflanking the Wazalendo</i>
<i>April 2025 (a few days later)</i>	<i>Kabamba, Kavumu (and nearby areas)</i>	<i>Increased presence of Wazalendo the day after the fighting — tense situation, with no direct clashes reported that day.</i>
<i>14 jun 2025</i>	<i>Bushwira Grouping (Kabare territory)</i>	<i>New clashes: at least 3 civilians killed including a student in class. Activities disrupted, movement observed.</i>
<i>24 Jun2025</i>	<i>territory Cirunga (Kabare)</i>	<i>Violent clashes between Wazalendo and M23 — panicked population, persistent instability</i>
<i>16–17 july 2025</i>	<i>Hillsoverlooking the village of Kabulungug, Kabare)</i>	<i>Exchanges of heavy and light gunfire in the morning fires, looting, panic; residents forced to flee or remain confined.</i>

<i>30 juillet 2025</i>	<i>Village Kamakombe (Kabare)</i>	<i>M23 offensive — violent fighting, expulsion of the Wazalendo from certain areas in the Bugorhe group.</i>
<i>2 août 2025</i>	<i>Village Kamakombe (Kabare)</i>	<i>Fighting has resumed between M23 and Wazalendo, despite ceasefire agreements — the conflict remains active</i>
<i>Early September 2025</i>	<i>Territory of Kabare (district near Walungu)</i>	<i>According to international reports, hostilities between M23 and Wazalendo continue in the province</i>
<i>13 November 2025</i>	<i>District of Mutshshemi,</i>	<i>New series of clashes: sustained gunfire for 3 hours, panic, population displacements Reports indicate a "wave of attacks" by the M23 against positions of the FARDC and allied militias, including Wazalendo in South Kivu particularly in the Kalehe territory.</i>
<i>Septembre 2025</i>	<i>Kalehe</i>	<i>New series of clashes: sustained gunfire for 3 hours, panic, population displacements Reports indicate a "wave of attacks" by the M23 against positions of the FARDC and allied</i>

		<i>militias, including Wazalendo in South Kivu particularly in the Kalehe territory.</i>
<i>July 2025 (a few months earlier) but the effects persist</i>		<i>Violent fighting in Kalehe (villages like Kasheke, Buzunga) between Wazalendo and M23; thousands of civilians are fleeing.</i>
<i>6 Augus 2025 (going forward)</i>	<i>Kalehe</i>	<i>Violent fighting in Kalehe (villages like Kasheke, Buzunga) between Wazalendo and M23; thousands of civilians flee</i>
<i>6 août 2025 (going forward)</i>	<i>Kalehe</i>	<i>In the village of Kasheke (Kabare–Kalehe border), the M23 attacked Wazalendo positions: toll of 4 civilians killed (and several wounded) according to the media.</i>
<i>Mid-Novem ber 2025 (November 13)</i>	<i>Kalehe</i>	<i>Fighting has resumed in Kabare: M23 rebels attacked Wazalendo positions in Mutshshemi/Kabukungu, “near the Chez Mbayo plantation.” The towns of Mucheni and Kabulungu were also</i>

		<i>affected. exchanges of heavy and light weapons for several hours.</i>
<i>Early November 2025</i>	<i>Kalehe</i>	<i>According to reports, clashes between M23 and Wazalendo in Kabare and Kalehe have caused a mass exodus: more than 24,500 people displaced.</i>

General Context

According to a report by the mining monitoring organisation, the territories of Kabare and Walungu are under the control of the Congolese government, but Wazalendo (sometimes alongside the regular army, the FARDC) is active there. Clashes between Wazalendo and M23 continue to be reported regularly.

The fighting has had a significant humanitarian impact, causing mass population displacement, disruption to schools and panic among civilians.

Kabare & Walungu: renewed fighting, displaced population

Between 20 and 22 September, intense clashes between M23 and Wazalendo were reported in several localities in Kabare and Walungu, notably in the groupings of Luhago, Ihembe (Nindja chiefdom, Kabare) and Mulamba, Burhale (Walungu).

Villages such as Maziba, Kaniola Centre, Nzibira, Rhana, Nyamarhege, Kankinda, and their surroundings have been emptied — the majority of inhabitants are fleeing, sometimes leaving behind elderly or disabled people.

On 23 September, long lines of displaced persons (men, women, children, livestock) were observed leaving the conflict zones to find safer places. •

17–18 September 2025 — Walungu territory (Kamisimbi group): fighting, civilian deaths

In the Kamisimbi group (Walungu), fighting between Wazalendo and M23 was reported on 17 and 18 September in the localities of Muku and Lwami.

Result: at least two civilians killed. The funerals were disrupted by further gunfire several hours after the first attack.

Main incidents since September 2025

February–November 2025 — advances, retreats, territorial gains

- *Mid-September 2025:*
- *During 2025, the M23 expanded into several territories in South Kivu, including Kabare and Walungu.*
- *However, faced with resistance from the FARDC + Wazalendo, the latter managed to ‘regain control of several localities’ previously*

occupied by the M23, particularly in the Walungu territory (Mulamba locality, area around Katana).

- *Despite this, the situation remains unstable, with ‘territorial gains and losses’ depending on the offensives/counterattacks.*
- *have continued on a recurring basis.*

- November 2025 — New fighting, ‘precarious calm’

On 19 November 2025, violent fighting broke out again in several villages in the Walungu territory: Mugogo, Walungu centre, Cagala, and on the road leading to Kaniola.

The sound of heavy and light weapons caused panic, resulting in ‘human casualties’ (civilians killed or wounded), but the exact toll remains difficult to determine.

Social, economic and educational activities were severely disrupted the population remains on high alert.

Consequences and challenges

Mass displacement: thousands of people have fled their villages, taking their belongings, livestock and families with them — a mass displacement reported as early as September 2025.

Humanitarian crisis: disruption to schooling, paralysis of socio-economic activities, persistent insecurity — all of which weigh heavily on local populations.

Ongoing instability: despite some setbacks for the M23, the area remains unstable, with frequent offensives, counter-attacks, and territorial gains/losses.

Risks for civilians: death, injury, trauma, loss of property — often with no possibility of a quick return to normalcy or reliable protection.

During the clashes, there is clear evidence of abuses, and the vulnerable deserve justice and compensation.

The following must be monitored

Reports from civil society and humanitarian organisations, to track developments in displacement, living conditions and aid needs.

Changes in territorial control depending on the advances of the M23 or the counter-offensives of the FARDC Wazalendo, the area could still evolve.

The stabilisation or otherwise of the territories — lasting peace requires the effective withdrawal of the belligerents, the return of civilians, and the restoration of social services (schools, markets, health, etc.).

The impact on populations vulnerable and often poor, they bear the heaviest burden of these clashes.

According to some media reports, these clashes have displaced more than 24,500 people.

Until early December 2025 — clashes between M23 and Wazalendo in the territories of Kabare and Kalehe (South Kivu) since September 2025.  The situation remains highly volatile and fluid, and this summary is based on available media reports and other sources.

General context

The Wazalendo are self-defence/auxiliary militias formed to support government forces in eastern DRC against the M23.

The M23, which re-emerged in 2022, extended its operations to South Kivu in early 2025, leading to an escalation of fighting in several territories, including Kabare and Kalehe.

Even after peace agreements and ceasefires were signed in 2025, clashes between the M23 and the Wazalendo continued on a recurring basis.

Clashes between AFC M23 forces and WAZALENDO have resumed in the NGWESHE chiefdom since 5:30 a.m.

On Wednesday, 18 June 2025.

The sound of bombs and heavy weapons can be heard, concentrated in Ndola, not far from Mulamba centre on the RN2, some 2 kilometres from the large KANKINDA market on the road leading to NZIBIRA, then at Evari, this time in the territory of Nshabunda, a territory under the total control of the Congolese army.

These clashes are also active in Mutudu in the Muzinzi sub-group and in the locality of Cihambe in the Burhale group.

Also on Wednesday morning, the same intense fighting is concentrated in Kagabi, also in the centre of the Cirunga group, not far from the chiefdom of Kabare.

In the Walungu territory, clashes have been reported in Nyangezi since the evening of Tuesday 17 June, and residents have already evacuated their homes as the Wazalendo have been advancing since Wednesday morning.

The M23 is deploying military reinforcements on all fronts to try to halt the advance of the Wazalendo, who since Friday have been performing more or less well against the AFC M23 forces on the front lines. The

military faced the Walendo to prevent them from leaving Bukavu. All the outskirts of the city of Bukavu were occupied by the Wazalendo.

These battles, which are taking place on all fronts, are a new episode in this security crisis.

This is especially true given that the Wazalendo have a single conviction that 'in the history of Rwanda, the Bushi has always been a thorn in Rwanda's side'.

No Rwandan dignitaries have ever attempted to wage war against the Bushi and continue to survive.

Although it is too early to confirm, several informed sources support the hypothesis that history is likely to repeat itself.

In Mulamba, Burhale, Nyangezi and Cirunga, some residents who have not been able to leave their homes are holed up in their houses, and no activity, not even farming, has been possible in these towns in the chiefdoms of Ngweshe and Kabare since Tuesday, 17 June 2025.



WhatsApp Vidéo 2025-11-07 à 08.06.56_6085eae6.mp4

'The Twangiza mine (South Kivu, DRC) was reportedly the target of a new bombing raid at around 1:30 a.m. on 23 October 2025, according to local sources. This information comes a week after a similar attack devastated the gold factory on 15 October.' Fuel storage tanks and generators were destroyed by the bombing. Drones avoided bombing the factory, which contains materials that could be harmful to the environment, such as stored cyanide. Vehicles supplying fuel to the factory were also bombed.

The security situation in the DRC is dominated by clashes between the M23 and the Wazalendo. Bombing is reported on all fronts and attacks are localised in the mining areas occupied by the M23. There has been a noticeable rise in the power of the Wazalendo allied with the FARDC. The enemy has suffered heavy losses while awaiting the signing of the Washington agreements on 13 November. According to various reports, the M23 is losing territory and suffering human losses. The cities of Goma and Bukavu are surrounded by the Wazalendo, and certain neighbourhoods reflect the presence of the Wazalendo. The M23 continues to forcibly recruit young people for the front lines. Fear has changed sides. The M23's resources for continuing the war have also dwindled. This includes the multiple taxes imposed on the population. We are monitoring the outcome of the clashes and remain cautious about the decisions that will be taken. However, in the aftermath of the war, there is much to repair and assistance is expected. Efforts are being made to speed up the opening of the

airports in Goma and Bukavu for humanitarian aid. Any other news will be welcome in the group. Have a good Sunday.

On Wednesday 19 November 2025, clashes broke out between the valiant Wazalendo and M23 rebels, with heavy weapons and bombs exploding in several parts of Walungu territory, namely in MUGOGO, KANIOLA, WALUNGU CENTRE and the IKOMA group. The toll includes several dead and wounded and extensive damage to property on the M23 rebel side. In Mugogo, two M23 rebels were killed, one Muzalendo was killed, a civilian from Ciherano was cowardly killed by M23 rebels, and several were wounded by stray bullets. During the clashes at around 3 a.m., the provisional toll was two Wazalendos and around twenty M23 rebels killed. In Walungu centre, the home of the current rebel administrator of the territory was also attacked at around 1 a.m.

The list of RDF-M23 colonels neutralised on the front lines since the beginning of this aggression in March 2022 includes:

1. Colonel Nzimurinda
2. Colonel Erasto Mberabagabo (Castro)
3. Colonel Ezekiel Ruhimbaza
4. Colonel Rukyamuka Adrien
5. Colonel Samuel Musore
6. Colonel Moustapha
7. Colonel Makanika Rukundo alias Michel
8. Colonel Fidèle Ruboneza
9. Colonel Désiré Kagufe
10. Colonel Sserwege Mutware, 11. Colonel Dan Tugiramungu,
12. Colonel Eric Ngabo (Zaire), 13. Colonel Rumoreka Didier, 14. Colonel Muyoboke Patient, 15. Colonel Mugabo Rwakira, 16. Colonel Gafishe, 17. Colonel Sengiyimva Pacifique

Generals:

1. General Frederick Ematungo, 2. General Gafizi, 3. General Rumoreka, 4. General Alfred Ruhumuriza.

One day, Congolese soil will bear witness to the natural fertiliser of Rwandan flesh.



WhatsApp Vidéo 2025-11-22 à 16.21.49_0128e06c.mp4

After failing during clashes between the M23 and the Wazalendo on 30 November 2025, everyone the M23 encountered from 6.30 p.m. onwards was killed.

They even removed a patient from a health centre in Chahoboka.

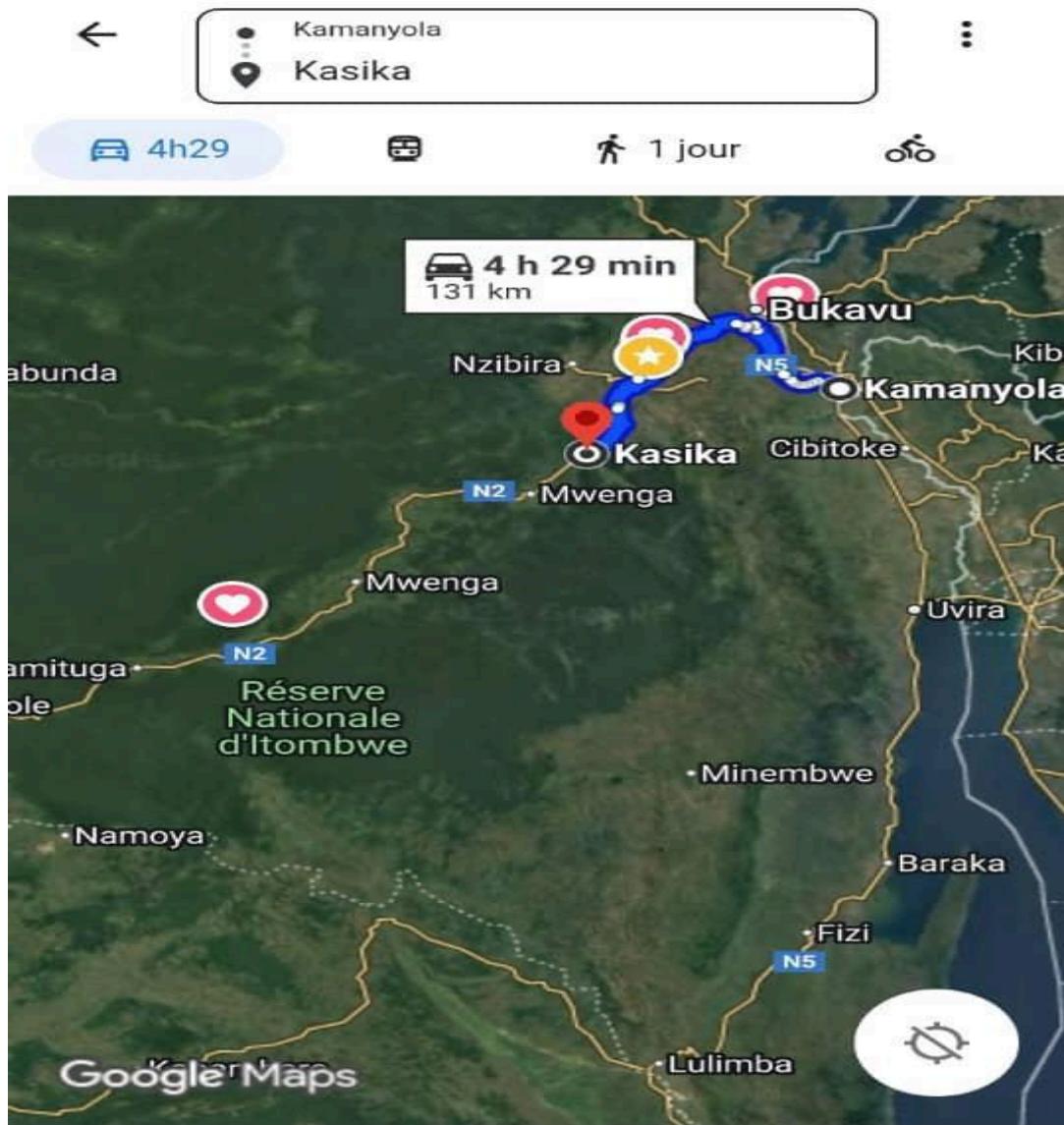


WhatsApp Vidéo 2025-11-24 à 14.26.07_40e8b1d9.mp4

The death toll from the massacre attributed to M23 rebels in the town of Katana, north of Bukavu, has risen from 6 to 22, according to consistent accounts gathered from civil society, medical sources and survivors. The attack took place during the night between Saturday and Sunday. All the victims were

accused by the attackers of collaborating with the Wazalendo. The attackers also took four hospital guards, whom they killed with machetes along the way. It is 3:16 p.m. in Katana. There is no activity. The population is terrorised. Some residents have abandoned their homes to seek refuge elsewhere. Families from Chibimbi, Chahoboka, Chanyena and Chirehe have fled for fear of another incursion. The rebels are patrolling these villages.

In Mwennga, the Wazalendo and FARDC sabotage the RDF-M23 rebels in Mwennga in the Kilungutwe area.



4 h 29 min (131 km)

Via N2

▲ Utiliser la navigation dans l'application

≡ Étapes

The RDF-M23 rebels provoked the valiant Wazalendo fighters of self-proclaimed General HONDWA RUMA and Foka Maike, who were camped in their positions. This provocation caused deadly damage to the enemy.

The valiant Wazalendo and FARDC fighters let them in and ambushed them corner by corner. The Rwandan RDF-M23 did not understand what had happened to them. The survivors will tell the stories to others and to their children. They died like flies in a Maya net.

The self-proclaimed general HONDWA RUMA announced directly that the rebels who insist on pursuing the Mwenga line will return as corpses; none will return alive.

"The Rwandans are cursed. They are traumatised by the blood of our brothers, so for them, killing or dying for illegitimate causes remains a legacy left to them by their parents. They were not satisfied with the blow I dealt them in the Itombwe Nature Reserve, where they lost more than three battalions. and Colonel Ndabagaza began killing the wounded because there was no way to transport them to Bukavu. They are still coming to provoke us here, but I think the response has been well defined against these black sheep of Kagame. I don't want to say too much, but I can tell you that we signed a contract to defend our country, and we will do so with precision. The Rwandans who are trying to impose war on us will not return home alive. Kilungutwe has been liberated through force and determination, and several rebels have been neutralised. We are here, and we will eradicate Kagame's bandits, said the self-proclaimed General RUMA HONDWA."

It should be noted that the locality of Kilungutwe was liberated by the valiant Wazalendo and FARDC fighters after intense fighting . The Wazalendo, under

the command of self-proclaimed General Hondwa Ruma, who are familiar with their land, inflicted heavy losses on Kagame's bandits with ambushes here and there..

KILUNGUTWE

DRC: Rising Tensions in the East

In the villages of Kilungutwe, Kasika, and Kalama, located in the Wamuzimu group (Mwenga territory), many residents have fled to the mountains for safety. The withdrawal of the FARDC (Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of Congo) and Wazalendo fighters toward Kamituga and Mwenga-centre surprised local populations, reigniting anxieties in an area already plagued by chronic insecurity.

In Kamituga, Tuesday, November 25, 2025, was a particularly tense day. Shops, stores, and kiosks remained closed, and economic activity slowed to a crawl. "The sound of gunfire raises fears that the fighting will spread to Kamituga, which has so far been relatively spared," says Salibo Eric, a local civil society activist.

Attack helicopters in action in Kilungutwe, Kasika and Tubimbi in South Kivu on Sunday, November 30, 2025

Several rebel strongholds and convoys were fiercely attacked by attack helicopters supported by Sukhoi Su-25 fighter jets. Since early morning, attack

helicopters and fighter jets have concentrated their bombing on Rwandan convoys at the front.

Helicopters are bombing, snipers are firing from the air from the helicopters, and the Sukhoi Su-25s are bombing. The rebels are already struggling in three localities: Kilungutwe, Kasika, and Tubimbi. A large number of enemy deaths have already been reported. Seven high-ranking Rwandan army officers have just disappeared in the airstrikes. Local sources confirm that the airstrikes are continuing, with helicopters tracking the bandits who are trying to hide in civilian homes. The Wazalendo and the FARDC are also conducting ground counter-offensives against the bandits; more than 263 rebel bodies lie on the ground and several others are wounded.

“The leaders of the M23 (Joseph Kabila, Paul Kagame, Ange Kagame, Azarias Roberto, and the Rwandan and Ugandan Ministers of Defense, Sulutani Makenga) organized meetings with the following objectives:

- 1. To seize control of Greater Kivu, bypassing the administration of Kinshasa and the Congo River Alliance (AFC),*
- 2. To officially occupy the territory and proclaim a new republic (Republic of Kivu) led by Joseph Kabila Kabange and his Rwandan allies,*
- 3. To kill all the Wazalendo who joined the AFC/M23, after having killed numerous Rwandans since the beginning of the aggression in Bunagana, a practice that was not the case in 2012 and 2013,*

4. To kill all political figures, starting with Nanga and others, in order to suppress all claims, according to their private agreement with Paul Kagame and Joseph Kabila Kabange,

5. To establish a Hima empire Operational Method:

1 and 2: Total reconquest of the remaining territory and cities of Greater Kivu (north and south)."

"3: Application of the rubber method to a cow  or goat , using direct poisoning with a mediator, as in the case of the deaths of General Bauma (already deceased in the DRC) and Magufuli in Tanzania.

4. Regarding him:

Nanga and his entire gang, Félix Tshisekedi, President of the DRC; Costa Mutamba, Minister of Justice of the DRC; Thérèse Kayikwamba, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs; Jean-Pierre Bemba, Minister of State for Transport and Communication; Mbusa Nyamwisi Antipas, the national disgraced leader; Burundian President Pierre Nguru Zahra; South African President Ramafoza Suril; and the Congolese who joined the AFC after the total conquest: With the help of France as the main partner and certain American millionaires, they set up a system to ensure that all Congolese would side with the AFC/M23. They would be equipped with weapons that had automatic locking mechanisms and then put on the front lines to be exterminated by the Kinshasa regime, or, as with the use of poison, by our young defenders on the front lines.

“So we are sending a message to the Congolese government to use a combined military and air force and to find an appropriate diplomatic solution.

We urge the African Union and the international community to find a way to end this war in the east, as it risks plunging Africa into mourning and ending lives.”

“We urge parents to teach their children the history of this aggression, because even if the war is stopped, historically it is only the beginning of a war.

We urge the Wazalendo to respect customary norms and to cease hostilities, for it is written: never betray yourself or your ancestral land.

We urge the Congolese traitors who have joined the terrorist movement to disassociate themselves from this Rwandan group, because they have a plan to create a Hima empire, supporting Kagame wherever he is found, ultimately erasing the Bantu people from our land.”

“According to the Walendos, The population everywhere is being asked to refuse all forms of colonization and the payment of taxes in the areas conquered by Rwandans. Troops are to increase clashes before the Rwandan and Congolese presidents sign agreements to pressure the DRC into recognizing the balkanization.

Kamanyola was an obstacle to the M23 reaching Uvira. Therefore, a decision was made to cross Katogota.”

SUNDAY'S CLASHES IN KATOGOTA, DECEMBER 2, 2025

- *Some elements of Wazalendo (allied with government forces) attacked the positions of Wazalendo, Burundians and FARDC in Katogota. These clashes affected the villages of Luvungi Luberizi and Sange, while other clashes were reported in Kaziba (with enormous losses of several hundred among the M23-AFC soldiers), Kabare, and in the Uvira highlands. On December 2, 2025, the army announced the recapture and control of Katogota (as well as two other strategic locations). The army and the Wazalendo claim to have inflicted heavy losses on the enemy, which allowed them to regain control. Clashes broke out between the FARDC and the M23-AFC near the Rurambo hills in Uvira territory, where the M23-AFC used human shields. Reports indicated burned churches, destroyed and burned schools, incinerated homes of peaceful citizens, and deaths and injuries resulting from bombings launched from Bugarama.*

Consequences for this population and humanitarian context

- *Houses were burned down in nearby villages.*
- *Injured civilians were reported, and residents of Lubarika, Luvungi, and other nearby towns fled in fear of the fighting. Several bombs fell on these villages.*

- *Katogota is part of the Ruzizi Plain, a strategic area straddling several territories and borders—giving these clashes significant geopolitical importance.*
- *These clashes are occurring just as a peace agreement is about to be signed, making the resumption of hostilities all the more worrying—some see it as an attempt to sabotage the peace process.*
-



WhatsApp Vidéo 2025-12-07 à 07.00.00_eb7460e9.mp4



WhatsApp Vidéo 2025-12-06 à 18.58.58_f0867500.mp4



IV. Trends in violations in territories occupied by the M23/AFC since September 2025

A. War crimes and genocide

- The investigators state that members of the M23, the Wazalendo, and, in some cases, the FARDC, committed war crimes related to murder, torture, hostage-taking, deliberate attacks against civilians or protected property, looting, sexual violence, the recruitment of child soldiers, illegal detention, sexual slavery, and the displacement of the civilian population. An Excel spreadsheet attached to this report details these incidents. Among the acts investigated, the belligerents committed acts of genocide, such as murder, serious harm to physical and mental integrity, and the intentional subjection of the group to lethal living conditions.
- Sexual violence related to the conflict

JUSTICE CONGO GROUP has documented widespread cases of sexual violence and looting committed by members of the FARDC and the Wazalendo during their territorial conquests. Civil society organizations have reported cases of sexual violence, primarily against women and girls. Witnesses and victims described armed men (FARDC and militias) forcibly entering homes, stealing valuables, raping women and girls, and in some cases, enslaving other women and girls for sexual purposes. Some women who resisted their attackers were raped and executed. Men were also raped, stripped, and beaten. Women were gang-raped by members of the FARDC and the Wazalendo as they fled. Some of these incidents are detailed in the attached Excel file.

Summary Executions

Burundian soldiers executed FARDC soldiers who had fled the front lines from Mwenga to Kamituga. The M23 killed FARDC collaborators and some suspected members of civil society. They fired indiscriminately on civilians in Nzibira after the FARDC bombardment. Thieves and suspects alike were burned alive. Summary executions of civilians by the FARDC followed clashes with the Wazalendo, most often in retaliation for the victims' alleged support of the Wazalendo. See attached list.

Since September, clashes in the Kabare and Walungu territories have been frequent, with the Wazalendo carrying out incursions and encircling the city of Bukavu.

Clashes took place in several villages in the Walungu, Kabare, and Shabunda territories, where General Maheshe Simba Wankutu's command routed the M23 before the latter recaptured Nzibira. The villages of Muzinzi and Mubone were under M23 control; many soldiers fell on the battlefield, including civilians. Photos illustrate the sequences of this fighting in Walungu. Images of the clashes in Muzinzi, including some of the victims, are also available.



During their flight, the civilians murdered by M23 terrorists in Bwahungu in the Rubimbi Grouping and Muzinzi in the Mulamba Grouping are:

1. *NTAHORHULI KATEMA. Age; 73*
2. *MUGULA BA2 DAVID Age 43*
3. *BISIMWA ZIDANE age29*

4. *MPINDULO Magwiso age 82*
5. *MWENE KATEMA age 25*
6. *PASCAL BIKALIRA age;22*
7. *RUSINGA. Age; 34*
8. *MURHENGWA Age; 62*
9. *MWA BUGORHE*
10. *MASHANZA CIKULI Age; 71*

No justice has been served, and other incidents are on the list.

Recruitment and Use of Children

According to information received, some Wazalendo groups are using children under the age of 18. The M23 used young people forcibly taken from the city of Bukavu, who received training and were sent to the front lines. Other children recruited in this way were used as ammunition carriers, escorts, for domestic tasks, and in surveillance or espionage roles. The M23 also uses minors to transport ammunition along the Nzibira-Shabunda axis.

● *Restrictions on freedom of movement, discrimination and hate speech*

Between Kamanyola and the city of Uvira, there are 19 checkpoints, and at each one, travelers are required to pay between 30,000 and 50,000 Congolese francs. Vehicles coming from Uvira are not allowed to travel beyond Luvungi. Traders travel towards Bunyakiri, Butembo, Beni, and other villages in North Kivu. In South Kivu, residents from government-controlled areas are not permitted to enter M23-held territory. Hate speech and

discrimination are rife on both sides of the conflict. Some M23 infiltrators have been burned alive in Sange. The M23 has imposed tolls on every road. All positions of responsibility are held by individuals of Rwandan descent, or Banyamulenge, rather than Tutsis.

Documented crimes and violations related to Nzibira, Kasika, Katogota, Luvungi, Mwenga, Kabare

- *During the various clashes in these villages, crimes and violations were committed by the belligerents, and a thorough investigation is necessary, despite the presence of human rights incidents and crimes against humanity documented in an appendix to this report. The victims deserve justice and reparations, and the perpetrators must face the full force of the law.*
- *Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources*
- *Since the M23 has controlled areas near or within the park, there has been a sharp increase in the illegal logging of wood for charcoal production (makala) as well as unregulated transport.*
- *According to local sources, the M23 collects taxes, as elsewhere, which benefit the group. These taxes include those from the Luhizi mining area, the Twangiza mine, and Karembo (Tubimbi), as well as payments from Régideso (the national water utility), SNEL (the national electricity company), and all provincial taxes in the areas occupied by the M23. Mineral mining is also taking place in Kahuzi-Biega National Park.*
- *Forest degradation and loss of forest cover*

- *Satellite images show significant loss of forest cover within Kahuzi-Biega National Park following M23 offensives.*
- *Reduced monitoring by park rangers (eco-guards) due to the conflict makes incursions, illegal logging, and artisanal mining easier.*
- *Risks to wildlife, particularly Gauer gorillas*
- *With reduced patrols and increased insecurity, endangered species in the park, such as Gauer gorillas (eastern lowland gorillas), are more vulnerable to poaching, trapping, and habitat disturbance.*
- *The transport of timber and charcoal also creates new routes through the forest, facilitating access to previously protected areas.*

Threats to Indigenous Communities (Banyamulenge)

- *The Banyamulenge, communities of Rwandan origin residing in the Lemera area of the Ruzizi Plain, are receiving threats for their collaboration with the M23.*
- *An arbitration tribunal has been established at the DGM (General Directorate of Migration), where detainees receive 60 lashes every morning and are subjected to lethal forms of torture. Cases of murder, injury, arbitrary arrest, rape, and forced displacement have been reported, including the forced recruitment of young people. In the park, the Pygmies have fled their grazing lands controlled by the M23.*

Intimidation and threats against critical activities and voices

Individuals who denounce abuses or criticize the M23 are arrested by intelligence agents stationed in public places and on public transportation.

V. Shared Responsibilities

A. Perpetrators

Since the beginning of hostilities, all parties to the conflict in North and South Kivu have committed serious human rights violations and abuses, as well as serious violations of international humanitarian law. These crimes could lead to the establishment of a criminal tribunal for the Congo for all authorities responsible for these crimes.

FDLR (Rwandan Hutu rebels) responsible for massacres, rapes, and looting (natural resources) in North Kivu.

Wazalendo (local armed groups) often perpetrate abuses against local communities, traders, and M23 traitors; the Wazalendo also fight the Bayamulenge, who are allied with the M23. Among the Wazalendo are also those who were once perpetrators of crimes, thefts, and abuses, some of whom have been convicted (Yakutumba).

M23: Since 2022, expansion into South Kivu, accused of massacres and resource exploitation. The M23 seeks to impose Tutsis on Congolese soil and impose Nilotic populations, basing its claim on the defense of minorities: the Banyamulenge in the Kivu highlands and the Tutsi in the provinces of North Kivu and Ituri. The M23 drops bombs

on villages, resulting in the deaths of residents, the destruction of schools, churches, and homes, and a mass displacement of the population to safe zones. The M23 engages in the illegal exploitation of natural resources (parks, mines, human resources), the forced recruitment of young people, and the destruction of fauna and flora—in short, biodiversity. M23 elements assigned to the traffic police have even managed to shoot drivers of vehicles caught driving at fault.

Red Tabara and other Burundian rebels commit atrocities in the territories of Uvira, the highlands, and Fizi. This group is allied with the Banyamulenge to defend the Tutsi and is a group that failed a coup in Burundi and is supported by Rwanda. Red Tabara, allied with the Banyamulenge, fights against the Wazalendo Biloze Bishambuke group and the Wazalendo of the Yakutuma group in Fizi.

Some members of the FARDC (Congolese army), the Wazalendo, are accused of rape and extrajudicial killings. Some rebels suffer summary executions. Locals are also perpetrators of crimes: Thieves and criminals caught are burned alive.

B. Crimes against humanity

The M23 continues to specifically target the civilian population. Crimes against humanity, including murder, severe deprivation of liberty, torture, rape, sexual slavery, and enslavement in mass graves and burial camps, have been documented. During the recapture of villages near Mwenga, Uvira, and Kaziba, their soldiers who fell on the battlefield were buried in mass graves,

and the bodies of Rwandan officers were repatriated to Rwanda. M23 bombs killed civilians in the villages. Discriminatory insults and tribal segregation are commonplace among the M23. Arrests and summary executions are not recorded within the M23. Recruitment, forced imprisonment, and indiscriminate bombing of villages during defeats demonstrate the M23's commitment (as seen in the recent clashes between the M23 and the Wazalendo in Katogota, Kaziba, Mwenga, and Shabunda). Members of the M23 committed rape and other forms of sexual violence, including acts of sexual slavery, primarily targeting women and girls, as well as widespread torture and other ill-treatment and summary executions.

C. Certainty of Perpetrators

Some witnesses identified the perpetrators of the crimes, according to other witnesses and victims. Others did not identify the perpetrators or feared reprisals from specific individuals, including high-ranking officials. The incidents in the attached file specify the location and witnesses, but our focal points and victims exist.

D. State Responsibility

The Democratic Republic of the Congo is responsible for the violations committed by its armed forces, including widespread sexual violence and the sexual slavery of girls in villages, as well as the looting perpetrated during the withdrawal of its forces. Kasika was the scene of looting during the withdrawal of a FARDC brigade towards Kamituga. Fleeing attacks in

Tubimbi, FARDC elements looted shops in Kasika and Mwenga town. They abandoned weapons and ammunition and fled with residents' motorcycles. Several Chinese nationals were killed by bombs dropped by the FARDC in the Karembo mining area.

Rwanda also bears some responsibility for the violations committed by its armed forces deployed along the Burhale-Mwenga axis. In Masisi, Ruthuru, and Nyiragongo, the government dropped bombs on M23 positions. RDF elements are directly involved in committing crimes against humanity and human rights. In Nzibira, several people were killed, and the M23 advance caused population displacement. In Mwenga, residents fled into the forest. In the event of a defeat on the front lines, the damage is enormous, and responsibility is shared.

VII. Challenges Related to Accountability

Accountability is a crucial pillar for ending the serious violations of human rights and international humanitarian law documented in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo. The lack of effective prosecutions and appropriate sanctions against the perpetrators and instigators of the crimes committed fosters a climate of impunity, encouraging the repetition of violence and the normalization of the most serious crimes.

1. Individual and Command Criminal Responsibility

The facts documented in this report engage the individual criminal responsibility of the direct perpetrators, as well as the command responsibility of the military, political, and administrative authorities who ordered, facilitated, supported, or tolerated the commission of the crimes. In accordance with international law, no one may invoke their official position or orders received to escape justice.

2. State Responsibility

Information corroborated by reports from UN Groups of Experts highlights Rwanda's international responsibility through the direct involvement of its authorities in supporting armed groups operating in eastern DRC.

This situation engages the responsibility of the Rwandan state for violating:

the UN Charter;

the principle of non-interference;

the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the DRC;

and its obligations under international humanitarian law.

3. National and International Judicial Mechanisms

JUSTICE CONGO GROUP emphasizes the need to:

strengthen the capacity of Congolese national courts to effectively prosecute international crimes;

resort, in cases of national failure or incapacity, to the competent international judicial mechanisms, including the International Criminal Court (ICC);

and explore the establishment of hybrid or special mechanisms dedicated to crimes committed in eastern DRC.

4. Targeted Sanctions and Enforcement Measures

Accountability cannot be effective without the adoption of targeted, deterrent, and enforceable sanctions against:

Rwandan political and military officials involved; leaders and sponsors of armed groups; and any person or entity contributing to the financing, arming, or logistics of the violence.

These sanctions must be implemented within the framework of the strict implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2773.

5. Truth, Reparations, and Guarantees of Non-Recurrence

Accountability also implies: official recognition of the violations suffered by victims; effective access to adequate reparations, including compensation, medical and psychological rehabilitation, and socio-economic reintegration; and the adoption of guarantees of non-recurrence, particularly through institutional, security, and judicial reforms.

6. Commitment of JUSTICE CONGO GROUP

JUSTICE CONGO GROUP reaffirms its commitment to:

continue the rigorous documentation of violations;

preserve evidence in accordance with international standards;

*support victims in their pursuit of justice; and
and advocate for effective accountability, an essential condition for
lasting peace.*

VIII. Conclusion

This consolidated report by JUSTICE CONGO GROUP highlights the gravity, continuity, and systematic nature of violations of human rights and international humanitarian law committed in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, particularly in the provinces of North Kivu and South Kivu, between September and December 2025.

The documented facts reveal war crimes and crimes against humanity, characterized in particular by summary executions, conflict-related sexual violence, the recruitment and use of children, forced displacement of populations, the destruction of civilian infrastructure, and the illegal exploitation of natural resources. These violations were perpetrated against a backdrop of collapsing state authority in several areas, directly harming civilian populations, particularly women, children, and internally displaced persons.

The information gathered and analyzed by JUSTICE CONGO GROUP corroborates the findings of several reports by UN Groups of Experts, which document the direct and indirect involvement of Rwanda, including certain Rwandan political and military authorities, in supporting armed groups operating in eastern DRC, notably the AFC/M23 movement. This

involvement constitutes a serious violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Democratic Republic of Congo, as well as a clear breach of the fundamental principles of the UN Charter.

In this context, the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 2773 represents a major step forward. However, the lack of its effective implementation continues to fuel impunity and the ongoing violence. JUSTICE CONGO GROUP insists on the imperative need for the strict, full, and uncompromising implementation of this resolution, coupled with targeted sanctions against the States, authorities, and individuals responsible for or complicit in the documented crimes.

The persistence of impunity, the silence or inaction of certain international actors, and the inadequacy of mechanisms for the protection of civilians contribute to the prolongation of a humanitarian and security crisis with dramatic consequences. Without urgent, coordinated action based on international law, the region remains exposed to chronic instability and ongoing human suffering.

Faced with this situation, JUSTICE CONGO GROUP reaffirms its commitment to continuing the rigorous documentation of these crimes.

IX. Recommendations

To all belligerents:

- *Respect international law ratified by all and avoid harming civilians with indiscriminate bombing of buildings, infrastructure (schools, hospitals), and populated areas.*

- *Respect human life and avoid using sexual and physical violence as a weapon of war without reparations, and protect all victims.*
- *Avoid involving children in the conflict and reintegrate those still involved into civilian life.*
- *Withdraw from illegally occupied infrastructure (schools, hospitals, third-party homes).*
- *Suspend hostilities.*
- *Avoid acts of trauma and terror to establish authority, torture in prisons, and restore back the DRC public prosecutor's offices and courts.*

To the authorities of the Democratic Republic of Congo:

The Congolese government's primary responsibility is to protect its people, not to transfer this responsibility entirely to Burundi and the Wazalendo. The fundamental security problem is the inability of the Congolese security forces to protect their citizens. Currently, the Wazalendo and Burundian armed forces in the Democratic Republic of Congo are under-equipped to confront the forces of the M23/Rwanda and Uganda, which possess surface-to-air missiles, GPS-guided mortars, and other high-tech weaponry.

Restructure the Congolese army and refrain from directly participating in the war of aggression waged by the M23, while respecting ratified international law.

Neutralize the FDLR as a proscribed group (through dialogue between Hutus and Tutsis) and organize the Wazalendo and other armed groups involved in the conflict alongside the FARDC.

Bring criminals to justice, implement transitional justice in relevant cases, and seek reparations for victims. Restore the courts and tribunals in the area occupied by the M23 after this agreement.

Fully respect the agreements undertaken by international organizations.

To the Rwandan authorities:

Cease all forms of support enabling or materially contributing to the operations of the M23 in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Withdraw from the territory of the DRC and respect its borders.

Relocate those displaced by the conflict and facilitate their recovery of their land. Remain neutral in the conflict between Congolese Tutsis and properly manage the Rwandan refugee problem. Clearly assert its interests in the DRC. Resisted the idea of partitioning the provinces of North and South Kivu to annex them to Rwanda, Uganda, and the Hima Tutsi Empire, using neighboring countries as proxies, including Rwanda, Uganda, Kenya (EAC), and in collusion with the Congolese national government, a government established by the Rwandan government. To ensure the effectiveness and efficiency of this annexation project, these two countries are using their proxy, the M23, a terrorist movement composed primarily of Tutsis, which continues to kill mercilessly and plunge Congolese families into mourning in the provinces of North and South Kivu, including Ituri province.

To the international community:

Enforce the signed agreements and the sustainable solutions reached through a win-win approach.

Strictly and without delay implement UN Security Council Resolution 2773. Take appropriate coercive measures against states and actors that violate this resolution.

Maintain pressure on Rwanda to cease all support for the M23 and non-state armed groups and to abandon the idea of the balkanization of the DRC.

Seek compensation from Rwanda for all the damage caused during its aggression against the DRC through the M23 and during its withdrawal.

Support the establishment of the Criminal Court for the Congo.

Support humanitarian organizations to ensure comprehensive and non-discriminatory assistance, particularly to victims of sexual violence, children, and those who have experienced summary executions and damage to infrastructure.

To international and humanitarian organizations:

Strengthen emergency humanitarian assistance to affected populations; Pay particular attention to women, children, victims of sexual violence, and internally displaced persons;

Support mechanisms for documentation, victim protection, and evidence preservation.

Promote the implementation of the mapping report that has been cheveld at the UN.

Please for those who are interested in this report Contact us on the below email. It contained the material, the summary table of multiple cases of human rights violations and other abuses.

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