



## COI QUERY

Country of Origin	DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO (DRC)
Title	Security Situation in Kinshasa
Reference period	March 2024 to 30 June 2025
Topic(s)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. <a href="#">Political and security developments in DRC</a></li><li>2. <a href="#">Security situation in Kinshasa</a></li><li>3. <a href="#">Sexual violence</a></li><li>4. <a href="#">Humanitarian situation</a></li><li>5. <a href="#">Internally displaced persons (IDPs)</a></li></ol>
Date of completion	1 July 2025
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# COI QUERY RESPONSE – DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO (DRC)

## Security Situation in Kinshasa

### 1. Political and security developments in DRC

Throughout 2024, the armed conflict in the eastern provinces of North Kivu, Ituri and South Kivu<sup>1</sup> continued,<sup>2</sup> during which, ‘attacks against civilians continued’ as fighting between armed groups and government forces escalated.<sup>3</sup> Hostilities in North Kivu caused mass displacement, disrupted aid and food supply in Goma, and saw the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (FARDC), allied militias, Rwandan troops, and the M23 armed group commit abuses against civilians and displaced populations.<sup>4</sup> Freedom House noted that ‘physical security is tenuous due to violence and human rights abuses committed by government forces and armed rebel groups, particularly in the east’.<sup>5</sup>

As reported, since January 2025, fighting between Congolese armed forces and militant groups led by the M23 armed group has intensified in Eastern DRC, particularly in North Kivu and South Kivu provinces, while the M23 armed group advanced and gained control over areas in North Kivu, including the city of Goma, and in South Kivu.<sup>6</sup>

On 27 June 2025, sources reported that Rwanda and the DRC signed a US-mediated peace agreement,<sup>7</sup> which ‘outlined standard provisions for territorial integrity, disarmament, and the return of refugees’.<sup>8</sup>

Sources described that throughout 2024, authorities repressed opposition members, civil society activists, critics, and journalists.<sup>9</sup> Citizens were ‘increasingly unable to freely exercise basic civil liberties’.<sup>10</sup> Fundamental rights, particularly freedom of expression, peaceful assembly, and association, were restricted, especially in the Ituri and Nord-Kivu provinces under martial law.<sup>11</sup> Amnesty International (AI) further reported that the Justice Minister announced in March 2024 that executions would ‘resume to address “treason” in the army’

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<sup>1</sup> CFR, Global Conflict Tracker: Conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo, 9 June 2025, [url](#)

<sup>2</sup> Freedom House, Freedom in the World 2025 - Democratic Republic of the Congo, 2025, [url](#); CFR, Global Conflict Tracker: Conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo, 9 June 2025, [url](#)

<sup>3</sup> AI, The State of the World's Human Rights; Democratic Republic Of The Congo 2024, 29 April 2025, [url](#)

<sup>4</sup> HRW, World Report 2025 - Democratic Republic of Congo, 25 January 2025, [url](#)

<sup>5</sup> Freedom House, Freedom in the World 2025 - Democratic Republic of the Congo, 2025, [url](#)

<sup>6</sup> CFR, Global Conflict Tracker: Conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo, 9 June 2025, [url](#); International Crisis Group, Turbulence in the DRC Raises Hard Questions for the EU, 30 January 2025, [url](#)

<sup>7</sup> Al Jazeera, DRC's peace deal with Rwanda risks swapping war for resource exploitation, 26 June 2025, [url](#); BBC News, DR Congo and Rwanda sign long-awaited peace deal in Washington, 27 June 2025, [url](#)

<sup>8</sup> Al Jazeera, DRC's peace deal with Rwanda risks swapping war for resource exploitation, 26 June 2025, [url](#)

<sup>9</sup> AI, The State of the World's Human Rights; Democratic Republic Of The Congo 2024, 29 April 2025, [url](#); HRW, World Report 2025 - Democratic Republic of Congo, 25 January 2025, [url](#)

<sup>10</sup> Freedom House, Freedom in the World 2025 - Democratic Republic of the Congo, 2025, [url](#)

<sup>11</sup> AI, The State of the World's Human Rights; Democratic Republic Of The Congo 2024, 29 April 2025, [url](#)

amid the M23 resurgence and to 'curb violence in urban areas, including Kinshasa', leading to a spike in death sentences.<sup>12</sup> According to the same source, around 250 extrajudicial executions occurred by government forces throughout 2024.<sup>13</sup>

## 2. Security situation in Kinshasa

Information on the security situation in Kinshasa, covering January 2022 to February 2024, can be found in the EUAA COI query response on [Security Situation in Kinshasa](#), published on 22 February 2024.

According to a COI Focus published in February 2025 on the security situation in the DRC by the Centre for Documentation and Research (CEDOCA), the country-of-origin information unit of Belgium's Office of the Commissioner General for Refugees and Stateless Persons (CGRS), [informal translation] 'regarding Kinshasa, sporadic security incidents were reported during 2024, including demonstrations, an attempted coup, an escape from Makala prison, and some incidents in the rural area of Maluku commune due to the conflict taking place in the neighbouring province of Mai-Ndombe'.<sup>14</sup> The same source, citing information from the United Nations Joint Human Rights Office, stated that the province of Kinshasa was [informal translation] 'unaffected by armed conflict' and that [informal translation] '[s]ince the deterioration of the security situation in the east in 2025, apart from demonstrations against Western embassies, no major security incidents have been reported in Kinshasa'.<sup>15</sup>

In January 2025, protesters in Kinshasa attacked embassies and set fires amid an outburst of demonstrations against the M23's rebel offensive in the eastern region.<sup>16</sup> Africa News described that during the 'anti-Rwandan protests' demonstrators carried Congolese flags and showed support for President Tshisekedi amid ongoing M23 clashes with DRC forces in the eastern city of Goma.<sup>17</sup> AI further added that throughout 2024, 'protests were held nationwide, including in the capital, Kinshasa, in relation to the armed conflict'.<sup>18</sup> The protests were also concerning the alleged support of Western countries,<sup>19</sup> including France, the UK and the USA, for Rwanda.<sup>20</sup>

On 3 September 2024, sources illustrated that an attempted mass breakout occurred at Kinshasa's Makala Central Prison, leaving 129 people dead, including as a result of a

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<sup>12</sup> AI, The State of the World's Human Rights; Democratic Republic Of The Congo 2024, 29 April 2025, [url](#)

<sup>13</sup> AI, The State of the World's Human Rights; Democratic Republic Of The Congo 2024, 29 April 2025, [url](#)

<sup>14</sup> Belgium, CEDOCA, COI Focus, Republique Democratique du Congo: Situation sécuritaire [Democratic Republic of the Congo: Security Situation], 25 February 2025, [url](#), p. 2

<sup>15</sup> Belgium, CEDOCA, COI Focus: Republique Democratique du Congo: Situation sécuritaire [Democratic Republic of the Congo: Security Situation], 25 February 2025, [url](#), p. 2

<sup>16</sup> Reuters, Congo protesters storm Kinshasa embassies over conflict in east, 28 January 2025, [url](#); Euro News, Protesters attack foreign embassies in DR Congo over M23 rebel advance, 28 January 2025, [url](#)

<sup>17</sup> Africa News, People in Kinshasa protest against Rwanda and the crisis in the eastern DRC, 29 January 2025, [url](#)

<sup>18</sup> AI, The State of the World's Human Rights; Democratic Republic Of The Congo 2024, 29 April 2025, [url](#)

<sup>19</sup> Reuters, Congo protesters storm Kinshasa embassies over conflict in east, 28 January 2025, [url](#); AI, The State of the World's Human Rights; Democratic Republic Of The Congo 2024, 29 April 2025, [url](#)

<sup>20</sup> AI, The State of the World's Human Rights; Democratic Republic Of The Congo 2024, 29 April 2025, [url](#)

stampede, and nearly 60 others injured.<sup>21</sup> Furthermore, sources citing an internal report by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), revealed that more than 260 women were subjected to sexual assault and rape during the prison break.<sup>22</sup>

On 19 May 2024, a failed coup d'état led by U.S.-based Congolese politician Christian Malanga occurred in the DRC, during which armed men attacked the presidential palace in Kinshasa, leading to the arrest of 50 individuals.<sup>23</sup> A military court in the DRC sentenced 37 individuals involved in the coup d'état to death on multiple charges, including terrorism.<sup>24</sup>

An intercommunal conflict between the Teke and Yaka ethnic groups, which began in February 2022 over land rights and tax collection in Mai-Ndombe province, has affected neighboring provinces to Kinshasa.<sup>25</sup> For additional information on this conflict, see EUAA COI Query response on [Teke and Yaka intercommunal conflict in the city of Kinshasa](#), published on 7 November 2024.

### 3. Sexual violence

Information on sexual violence in Kinshasa could not be found among the sources consulted by EUAA within time constraints. However, the following information may be relevant.

Sources described that sexual and gender-based violence was 'common'<sup>26</sup> and throughout 2024, there was an 'alarming increase in reported cases of sexual and gender-based violence, including conflict-related sexual violence'.<sup>27</sup>

For further information on sexual violence in the DRC, see EUAA COI query response on [Sexual and gender-based violence \(SGBV\) against women](#), published on 23 June 2025.

### 4. Humanitarian situation

Information on the humanitarian situation in Kinshasa was scarce among the sources consulted by EUAA within time constraints. However, the following information may be relevant.

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<sup>21</sup> BBC News, More than 100 killed in failed DR Congo jailbreak, 3 September 2024, [url](#); DW, DR Congo: 129 killed in attempted prison break, 3 September 2024, [url](#)

<sup>22</sup> Reuters, More than 260 women sexually assaulted during Congo prison break, UN report shows, 12 September 2024, [url](#); HRW, Protect Women and Girls in DR Congo's Prisons, 20 September 2024, [url](#)

<sup>23</sup> Reuters, DRC army says it stopped attempted coup involving US citizens, 20 May 2024, [url](#); Al Jazeera, Who was behind the DRC's attempted coup, and were Americans involved?, 20 May 2024, [url](#)

<sup>24</sup> Al Jazeera, DR Congo military court sentences 37 to death in coup trial, 13 September 2024, [url](#)

<sup>25</sup> USDOS, 2023 Country Report on Human Rights Practices – Democratic Republic of the Congo, 23 April 2024, [url](#), pp. 45-46; New York Times (The), Congo's 'Other' Conflict Kills Thousands in West Near the Capital, 19 July 2024, [url](#); New Humanitarian (The), Conflict in western DRC simmers unnoticed amid rebel gains in the east, 12 February 2024, [url](#)

<sup>26</sup> Freedom House, Freedom in the World 2024 - Democratic Republic of the Congo, 2024, [url](#)

<sup>27</sup> AI, The State of the World's Human Rights; Democratic Republic Of The Congo 2024, 29 April 2025, [url](#)

In June 2025, at least 29 people were killed in floods and landslides in Kinshasa, ‘following unusually heavy rains in the dry season’.<sup>28</sup> The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) reported that the event displaced more than 36 000 people.<sup>29</sup>

In April 2025, torrential rains in Kinshasa caused the Ndjili River to overflow, killing over 30 people, submerging hundreds of buildings, and prompting emergency evacuations and rescue efforts, as described by news sources.<sup>30</sup> Moreover, the IFRC, in its report on the floods, noted 165 fatalities, 28 injuries, more than 7 000 displaced people, and a total of over 60 000 people affected throughout the Kinshasa capital city area.<sup>31</sup>

In an April 2025 article, the news source, The Conversation, described the floods as ‘recurrent’, attributing this to Kinshasa’s lack of ‘necessary drainage infrastructure’.<sup>32</sup> Citing the UN World Urbanisation Prospects, it also noted that the growing severity of the floods is largely due to the rapid expansion of Kinshasa.<sup>33</sup>

## 5. Internally displaced persons (IDPs)

Sources described that the DRC had recorded over 7 million IDPs by the end of 2024,<sup>34</sup> with 80 % having been forced to flee due to armed conflict.<sup>35</sup> According to statistics from the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), ‘the province of Kinshasa has seen a substantial reduction in its displaced population, from over 260,000 to 125,560 people’ between 2023 and 2024.<sup>36</sup> IOM further noted that ‘the considerable return dynamic in the province is attributed to the return of households previously displaced by flooding in the Kinshasa region’.<sup>37</sup>

For additional information on the situation of IDPs in Kinshasa, see EUAA COI query response on [Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons \(IDPs\) in Kinshasa](#), published on 2 October 2024.

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<sup>28</sup> BBC News, Heavy rains in dry season cause havoc in DR Congo's capital, 16 June 2025, [url](#)

<sup>29</sup> IFRC, COD: Flood - 06-2025 - Floods in the city of Kinshasa, June 2025, [url](#)

<sup>30</sup> Africa News, Dozens dead, homes destroyed in flooding in the DR Congo capital, 8 April 2025, [url](#); BBC News, Dozens die after torrential rain hammers Congolese capital, 7 April 2025, [url](#)

<sup>31</sup> IFRC, COD: Flood - 04-2025 - Floods in the city of Kinshasa, April 2025, [url](#)

<sup>32</sup> Conversation (The) Why Kinshasa keeps flooding – and why it’s not just about the rain, 17 April 2025, [url](#)

<sup>33</sup> Conversation (The) Why Kinshasa keeps flooding – and why it’s not just about the rain, 17 April 2025, [url](#)

<sup>34</sup> AI, The State of the World's Human Rights; Democratic Republic Of The Congo 2024, 29 April 2025, [url](#); UNHCR, Global Report 2024 – Situation Overview: The Democratic Republic of the Congo situation, [url](#), p. 2

<sup>35</sup> AI, The State of the World's Human Rights; Democratic Republic Of The Congo 2024, 29 April 2025, [url](#)

<sup>36</sup> IOM, DRC, Internal Displacement Overview 2024 Published, 15 November 2024, [url](#), p. 4

<sup>37</sup> IOM, DRC, Internal Displacement Overview 2024 Published, 15 November 2024, [url](#), p. 4

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