



Democratic Republic of Congo – Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on Friday 29 September 2023

Information on the human rights situation nationwide and in North Kivu

A report issued in September 2023 by the *United Nation Security Council* states that:

“The security situation in North Kivu...remained volatile...” (United Nations Security Council (21 September 2023) *United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo: Report of the Secretary-General*, p.4

This document also states that:

“Ahead of the general elections, the reporting period was marked by new reported incidents of intimidation and violence targeting political opposition figures, civil society actors, human rights defenders and journalists” (ibid, p.6).

Business Monitor Online in September 2023 comments on:

“...M23...operating across swathes of eastern DRC, focused largely on North Kivu. Data from the Kivu Security Tracker indicate that violent deaths in the three eastern provinces have remained high despite the presence of both the EACRF and MONUSCO, the UN peacekeeping mission in the country” (Business Monitor Online (18 September 2023) *Political Risks To Remain Elevated In DRC In Coming Quarters*, p.2).

In September 2023 *Agence France Presse* states that:

“...North Kivu, has been plagued for years by violence by numerous armed groups” (Agence France Presse (8 September 2023) *18 killed by militia in northeast DR Congo: local sources*).

A report issued in August 2023 by *Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect* states that:

“The security situation in Ituri and North Kivu has deteriorated in recent months...” (Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect (31 August 2023) *Democratic Republic of the Congo*, p.2).

In August 2023 *Human Rights Watch* states in a report that:

“The authorities in the Democratic Republic of Congo have targeted leaders of opposition political parties, restricting their fundamental liberties and arresting party officials since May 2023...” (Human Rights Watch (22 August 2023) *DR Congo: Crackdown on Opposition Ahead of Elections*, p.1).

In August 2023 the *Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights* notes:

“...the continuing conflict in the east of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. This crisis, exacerbated by the M23 offensive, has spread to several localities in North Kivu Province, with the large-scale use of weapons and explosives. It is also causing significant population movements” (Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (10 August 2023) *Technical assistance and capacity-building in the field of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo - Report of the team of international experts*, p.5).

A report issued in August 2023 by the *United Nations Security Council* states that:

“Security has deteriorated most sharply in Ituri and North Kivu” (United Nations Security Council (2 August 2023) *Options for adapting the configuration of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo: Report of the Secretary-General*, p.3).

This document also states that:

“In the past year, the political and security environment has deteriorated sharply, creating a severe humanitarian and protection crisis in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo” (ibid, p.2).

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