

Democratic Republic of Congo - Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on Thursday 28 September 2023

Information on the current security situation

Agence France Presse in September 2023 notes that:

“The DRC's east has been ravaged by militia violence for three decades, a legacy of regional wars that flared in the 1990s and 2000s. The UN peacekeeping mission in the region, in place since 1999, is one of the largest and costliest in the world, with an annual budget of about \$1 billion. But the UN comes in for sharp criticism in the DRC where many people perceive the peacekeepers as failing to prevent conflict” (*Agence France Presse* (21 September 2023) *DR Congo calls for swift withdrawal of UN peacekeepers*).

Business Monitor Online in September 2023 states that:

“...violence across the DRC is increasing...” (*Business Monitor Online* (18 September 2023) *Political Risks To Remain Elevated In DRC In Coming Quarters*, p.3).

In September 2023 the *International Crisis Group* points out that:

“...armed groups are...roaming the countryside, looting the region's natural resources and killing civilians” (*International Crisis Group* (15 September 2023) *Massacre in Goma Clouds DR Congo's Elections and UN Mission's Future*, p.3).

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

“Attacks by armed groups and recurring inter-communal violence have threatened populations in the eastern provinces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) for nearly 30 years. More than 120 militias and armed groups actively operate in Ituri, North Kivu, South Kivu and Tanganyika provinces, many of whom regularly perpetrate widespread violations and abuses that may amount to crimes against humanity and war crimes” (*Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect* (31 August 2023) *Democratic Republic of the Congo*, p.1).

The *Associated Press* in August 2023 points out that:

“Three decades of conflict in the northeastern region has displaced over 6 million people, according to the U.N., with the crisis intensifying since 2021. Critics say the mission, which was the target of deadly protests in July 2022, has done little to help protect civilians from overlapping conflicts in eastern Congo” (*Associated Press* (31 August 2023) *Clash between armed forces and protesters in Congo kills at least 26, local official says*).

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).

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