



CALMUN'24
AFRICAN UNION
STUDY GUIDE



Agenda Item: Kivu Conflict

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Letter from the Secretary General

2. Glossary

Colonization: the act of one country taking control of an area that is not originally a part of the colonizer country, especially by using force, and sending people from mainland to live there. Colonization generally is done for economic purposes, such as the usage of indigenous people for cheap labor or resource extraction.

Ethnicity: a group of people who share common cultural traits, such as language, religion, ancestry, and traditions. These features set the national identity, which then brings the idea of nationality and independence itself.

Paramilitary Organizations: groups that are formed and trained similarly to the military, but independent of any legal establishment's armed forces. Paramilitary groups can range from militias and guerrilla forces to private security firms. Their actions can vary widely, sometimes even pushing the line between legal and illegal activities.

évolués: a French label used during the colonial era to refer to a native African or Asian who had “evolved” by becoming “Europeanized” through education, assimilation, or adoption of “European values” and culture.

Asylum: the protection granted by a state to someone who has left their home country as a political refugee.

MLC: Movement for the Liberation of the Congo (MLC) is the main opposing party supported by Rwanda. It was founded after the Second Congo War and claimed to be linked with the local militias.

Mai Mai Groups: local self-defense militias that claim to be the real defenders of natives. There are numerous different Mai Mai groups throughout the region.

3. Introduction to the Committee

The African Union is a continental body that is the decision-making mechanism for the future of the African continent consisting of 55 countries. It was officially established in 2002 as an heir to the Organization of African Unity (OAU, 1963-1999) whose mandate is:

- To promote the unity and solidarity of the African States;
- To coordinate and intensify their cooperation and efforts to achieve a better life for the peoples of Africa;
- To defend their sovereignty, territorial integrity, and independence;
- To eradicate all forms of colonialism from Africa; and
- To promote international cooperation, having due regard to the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.



The conflict in Kivu has been a major concern of the continent for decades. The deeply rooted ties of the conflict go back to the beginning of the late modern period when settlements of Africa by colonial powers started. As it is seen in most of the states in Africa, country borders were not designed according to ethnicities or the will of the people instead, they were drawn according to regions' colonial past. Therefore, there are many reasons behind Africa's current unrest.

***In the 7th Edition of CALMUN, the African Union committee will start in the year 2012, however, the delegates must have the background knowledge for the course of the committee.**

4. Background

a. Congo

The involvement of Congo in this issue began when King Leopold the Second of Belgium decided on his own that the international powers left Belgium behind and that the only way out of it was to establish colonies in Africa. Luckily for him, Belgium was seen as a buffer between the British and its rivals; therefore, the objective of Leopold was highly supported by the governments of Britain and their allies. It frustrated the King that the Congo basin was not touched by any European powers at that time and was ready to be seized. In the beginning, the plan was to establish a puppet government under Belgian rule called the “Free State of Congo”. The state functioned well enough until 1908, as it was reported that the officials of the state were committing serious human rights abuses, exploiting natural resources, and condemning Belgian rule in the international arena.

Until its independence, the faith of the people was mostly the same as the others. When Congo gained independence from Belgium on June 30, 1960, it was immediately met by several separatist movements; It was met with the assassination of Prime Minister Patrice Lumumba, the seizure of power in a coup by Mobutu Sese Seko in 1965, and the change of its name from Zaire to the Democratic Republic of Congo in 1971, upon Mobutu's decision. He ruled with an oppressive, personalist regime until the First Congo War toppled him in 1997. Following a name change, the nation experienced the Second Congo War, which took place from 1998 to 2003 and claimed 5.4 million lives.

President Joseph Kabila, who ruled the nation from 2001 to 2019, brought an end to the war, but human rights conditions in the nation remained insufficient with often seen abuses, including arbitrary detention, torture, and limits on civil liberties. Kabila was replaced with Félix Tshisekedi in the 2018 general election, marking the nation's first peaceful transfer of power since independence.

i. First Congo War

The First Congo War, often known as Africa's First World War that happened between 1996 and 1997, was an international military conflict and civil war that broke out in Zaire (current Democratic Republic of the Congo), which had a significant impact on Sudan and Uganda.

Zaire was on the verge of being a failed state by 1996 after years of internal conflict, tyranny, and economic decline. The Rwandan genocide, as well as persistent regional rivalries and feelings ignored since the [Congo Crisis](#) (The Congo crisis is a period of political conflict and turmoil that occurred immediately after the independence of the Republic of Congo from Belgium, which took place between 1960 and 1965, and ended after some important political steps.) , had destabilized the eastern regions of the country. State authority had largely crumbled in many areas, leaving warlords, rebel groups, and in-fighting militias—some of which were openly hostile to the government, others sympathetic—to hold the real power. The Zairean Armed Forces were in a distressing state, and the people of Zaire became restless and angry at the corrupt and incompetent government. Because Mobutu was terminally ill, he was unable to maintain control over the various factions of the government, which raised concerns about their allegiance. Mobutu's dictatorship was effectively politically and financially bankrupt since the conclusion of the [Cold War](#) rendered his staunch anti-communist position insufficient to justify the political and financial backing he had received from the capitalist countries. When Rwanda invaded Zaire in 1996 to drive out several rebel groups that had sought asylum there, the situation ultimately reached an all-time high. As more nations joined the invasion—including Uganda, Burundi, Angola, and Eritrea—and a Congolese alliance of anti-Mobutu rebels was put together, the assault swiftly intensified. Mobutu's administration fell apart in a matter of months, despite the help of ally militias as well as Sudan's. Despite its brief duration, the war was characterized by significant ethnic violence and enormous destruction, with hundreds of thousands of people passing away in battle and related events. The Mobutu regime was overthrown, and Zaire changed its name to the Democratic Republic of the Congo. But there was little political change as a result, and Kabila (Laurent-Désiré Kabila overthrew Mobutu Sese Seko and took over the presidency of the period.) became dissatisfied acting as a stand-in for his earlier backers.

Kabila sought to form a coalition with Namibian, Angolan, Zimbabwean, and Zambian forces to prevent a coup. Soon, a string of African states, from Libya to South Africa, were included, albeit their backing varied.

ii. [Second Congo War](#)

The Second Congo War, which took place between 1998 and 2003, often referred to as the “African War”, saw Burundi and Rwanda understand that this diversity of what was once a united nation consisting of two major ethnicities, Hutus and Tutsi, was the main reason behind the war, and since the Second World War, One of the important points is that it is considered the deadliest conflict ever experienced. As an aftermath of the first Congo War and [Rwandan Genocide](#), Hutu extremists who were responsible for the genocide fled to eastern Congo (then Zaire) and continued to pose a threat to Rwanda. Tensions escalated as Rwanda and Uganda, which supported different rebel groups, sought to influence the political situation in Congo to protect their interests. The invasion of Congo by Rwandan and Ugandan forces, purportedly to remove security worries related to the presence of Hutu rebels, ignited the start of the conflict. But these nations also aimed to seize control of the Congo's rich natural resources. The violence swiftly spread beyond just Rwanda and Uganda to include the Congolese government, rebel groups, and several other African nations. Many armed organizations, both domestic and international, joined the conflict. The poor opportunities caused by the conflict have led to a humanitarian crisis. A shocking number of lives were lost as a result of the widespread violence, displaced populations, and disease. To put an end to the fighting, in 1999 a ceasefire agreement was signed in Lusaka, Zambia. Fighting continued despite the agreement's approval.

The United Nations and other international organizations became involved in the conflict. The UN sent MONUC in 2000 (later renamed MONUSCO), the largest peacekeeping force in its history, to the area. The distinction between rebel organizations, militias, and national armies became blurry because of war's integration with local and regional conflicts. It became challenging to tell who was battling whom and why.

In 2002 [Sun City Agreement](#), the name of the Casino that leaders met in, under the supervision of the UN was agreed upon, However, it has not come far beyond a goal and the recognition of the rebel parties.

We, participants at the Inter-Congolese Dialogue, ie delegates of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Congolese Rally for Democracy, the Movement for the Liberation of Congo, the main organisations and parties of the political opposition as well as representatives of the *forces vives* of the Country, the Congolese Rally for Democracy-Liberation Movement, the Congolese Rally for Democracy-National and the Mai-Mai, hereinafter referred to as “the Parties”, meeting at Sun City, Republic of South Africa, on 2 April 2003.

First Paragraph of the Sun City Agreement, setting the parties involved

b. Rwanda

The history of Rwanda goes way back into the past. The clan (*Ubwoko*) was the earliest type of social organization in the region. The clans were not restricted by geographic location or ancestry, and the majority included *Hutu*, *Tutsi*, and *Twa* people. Beginning in the 15th century, clans merged into kingdoms. One kingdom, ruled by King Gihanga, was able to unite a number of its nearby provinces to form the Kingdom of Rwanda. Approximately eight kingdoms had existed in what is now Rwanda by the year 1700. One of these, the Tutsi Nyiginya clan's Kingdom of Rwanda, rose to prominence in the middle of the eighteenth century. During the nineteenth century, during King Kigeli Rwabugiri's rule, the kingdom attained its highest size. Rwabugiri established administrative reforms such as *Ubugake*, where Tutsi patrons ceded cattle and, consequently, privileged status to Hutu or Tutsi clients in exchange for economic and personal service, and *Ubugetwa*, a corvée system in which Hutu felt obligated to labor for Tutsi chiefs. Rwabugiri also expanded the kingdom to the west and north. The Hutu and Tutsi groups split apart as a result of the changes that have been undertaken in Rwabugiri rule. Although the Twa were doing better than they had in pre-Kingdom times—some even rose to the position of court dancers—their numbers were still in decline.

The land was given to the German Empire by the Berlin Conference in 1884, which designated it as a component of German East Africa. The first European to cross the entirety

of Rwanda in 1894, explorer Gustav Adolf von Götzen traveled from the southeast to Lake Kivu and met the king. The colonial era in Rwanda began in 1897 when Germany formed an alliance with the king and established a presence there. The social structure of the nation was not dramatically altered by the Germans, but they did have an impact by supporting the king and the established hierarchy and giving local chiefs authority. In 1922, Belgian forces began to control both Rwanda and Burundi under a League of Nations mandate called Ruanda-Urundi and began a period of more overt colonial rule after their invasion of both countries in 1916 during World War I. In an effort to reduce the chance of famine, the Belgians modernized and centralized the political structure and implemented massive initiatives in agriculture, health care, public works, and education, as well as new crops and enhanced agricultural methods. Following New Imperialism, both the Germans and the Belgians promoted Tutsi supremacy, viewing the Hutu and Tutsi as distinct races. Belgium established an identity card system in 1935, designating each person as either Tutsi, Hutu, Twa, or Naturalized.

After the Second World War, Belgium remained in control of Ruanda-Urundi as a UN trust territory with the responsibility of overseeing eventual independence (of which Rwanda made up the northern part). The 1959 Rwandan Revolution resulted from rising tensions between the Hutu emancipation movement and the Tutsi, who supported early independence. Hutu activists began killing Tutsi and destroying their homes, driving more than 100,000 people to seek asylum in neighboring nations. The country chose to remove the monarchy in a 1961 referendum conducted by the suddenly pro-Hutu Belgians. On July 1, 1962, Rwanda officially became independent from Burundi. This date is recognized as Independence Day, a national holiday. Cycles of violence ensued, with the Hutu responding by massacring and oppressing the *Tutsi* while exiled Tutsis attacked from neighboring nations. Juvénal Habyarimana was installed as president in a military takeover in 1973. Pro-Hutu prejudice persisted, but there was more economic progress and less violence directed against Tutsis. The Twa were still ostracized, and by 1990 the government had almost completely expelled the Tutsi from the forests where they then resided, as if banishing them to the surrounding urban settlements. Many of them ended up as beggars. Competition for land rose due to Rwanda's population growth, from 1.6 million in 1934 to 7.1 million in 1989.

The Rwandan Civil War began in 1990 when the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF), a rebel organization made up of Tutsi refugees, attacked northern Rwanda from its base in Uganda.

The organization criticized the Hutu-dominated administration for failing to democratize and address the issues of these refugees. Despite the fact that neither side was able to win the conflict decisively, it had already begun to damage Habyarimana's authority by 1992. Large-scale protests compelled him to form a coalition with the domestic opposition and eventually sign the 1993 Arusha Accords with the RPF. On April 6, 1994, a plane carrying Habyarimana was shot down near the airport in Kigali, interrupting the cease-fire. The Rwandan genocide started within a few hours of the plane being shot down. Between 500,000 and 1,000,000 Tutsis and politically moderate Hutus were killed over about 100 days through carefully planned attacks carried out under the direction of the temporary government. Even though they weren't the intended target, several Twa were also killed. By mid-July, the Tutsi RPF restarted their offensive and seized power. Major powers were reluctant to contribute to the already overstretched UN peacekeeping force, which limited the international response to the massacre. Two million Hutus fled to nearby nations, especially Zaire, due to the fear of the RPF-sourced retaliation. In addition, the RPF-led army played a significant role in the First and Second Congo Wars. With the creation of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) and the reinstatement of Gacaca, a traditional village court system, a time of peace and justice in Rwanda started. Nowadays, Rwanda is experiencing massive development under the Tutsi-owned government in the areas of democratization, human rights, the economy, and justice.

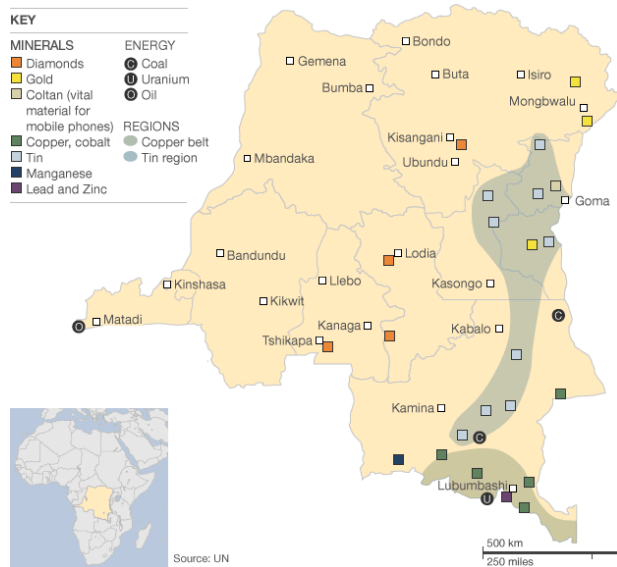
5. Origins of the Region

As for the geography, DRC is sitting on the second biggest river basin in Africa, making its soil extremely fertile. Even though there are some arid regions in the south, the country is charmed with natural resources. Also, it is important to note that the eastern borders of the nation stretch to the ends of the Nile. Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Tanzania, the Central African Republic, and South Sudan form its northern and eastern borders, Zambia form its southeast and Angola its southwest borders. The nation's little Atlantic coastline, the Angolan exclave of Cabinda, and the Congo (Brazzaville) are all located to the west.

Mineral reserves are the principal economic resource of the nation; about 90% of exports are made up of mining products. One of the elements that drew European powers to the Congo in the 19th century was the richness of minerals in the province of Katanga.

Copper, manganese, coal, silver, cadmium, cobalt, zinc, cassiterite, germanium (a fragile element used as a semiconductor), gold, palladium (a metallic element used as a catalyst),

uranium, and platinum are among the minerals that can be found in Katanga. Cassiterite, columbo tantalite, wolframite (a tungsten source), beryl, gold, and monazite are all found in the area west of Lake Kivu. Huge natural gas deposits of methane, carbon dioxide, and nitrogen are also present in Lake Kivu. In contrast to the central sections of the country, which are rich in industrial diamonds, south-central Congo has quantities of iron ore and gem-quality diamonds. Nations’

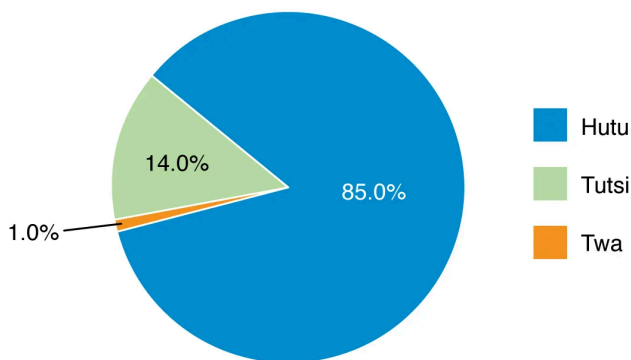


hydroelectric potential could fulfill the needs of all Africa.

a. Ethnic Composition

The following charts are the most trustworthy data that international researchers could gain:

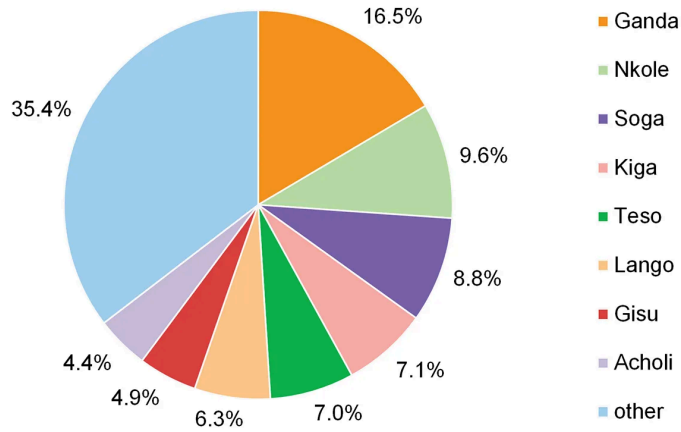
Ethnic composition (2002)



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Rwanda's ethnic composition in 2002

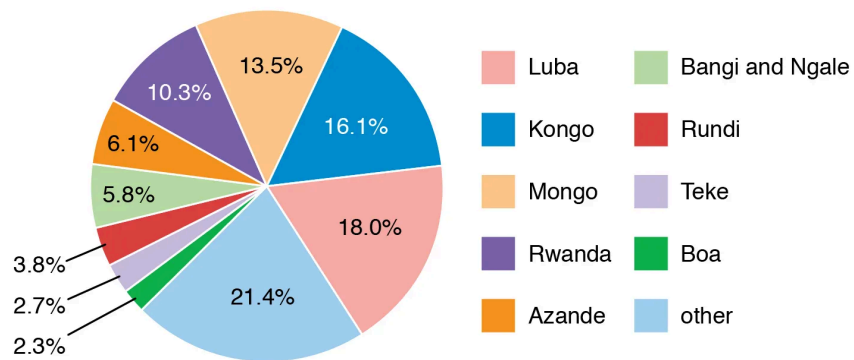
Uganda ethnolinguistic composition (2014)



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Uganda's ethnic composition in 2014

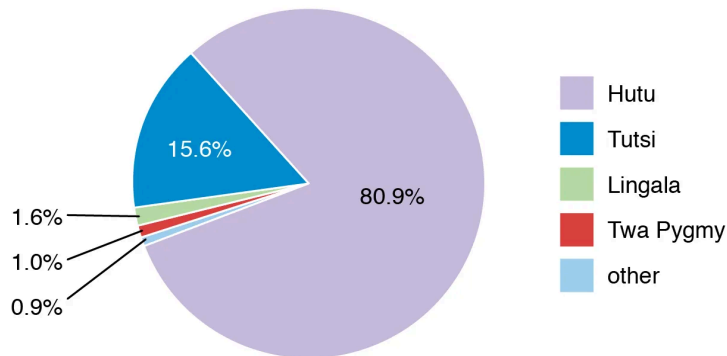
Ethnic composition (1983)



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Democratic Republic of the Congo's (DRC) ethnic composition in 1983

Ethnic composition (2000)



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Burundi's ethnic composition in 2000

6. Belligerents and Parties Involved

To avoid repetition in the following chapter, it is an obligation to establish that most of the third-party groups claim to be defending their own nations' interests with their actions and they believe that their own states' acts are insufficient.

a. CNDP



After being offered a high-ranked position in the army of the transitional government, Laurent NKUNDA founded the National Congress for the Defense of the People (Congrès national pour la défense du peuple, CNDP), a political armed militia. The organization is opposed to the military of DRC, while they were fighting in the Kivu conflict. The

CNDP broke apart in January 2009, and Nkunda was detained by the Rwandan authorities. It

was intended to incorporate the surviving CNDP splinter group, led by Bosco Ntaganda, into the armed forces of the country.

b. AFDRC(Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of Congo)

The official organization in charge of protecting the Democratic Republic of the Congo is called the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (FARDC; French: Forces armées de la république démocratique du Congo). As part of the peace process that followed the end of the Second Congo War in July 2003, the FARDC was patchily restored. AFDRC is the main and only operating power of the Congolese government.

c. MONUSCO

On July 1st, 2010, MONUSCO replaced the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC), a previous UN peacekeeping operation. The new mission has been permitted to act in any means necessary to carry out its mandate, which includes supporting the Government of the DRC in its stabilization and peace-maintaining efforts as well as protecting civilians from physical harm.

d. FDLR (Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda)



Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda is a paramilitary organization in Kivu. FDLR is one of the Rwandan organizations left in the region, an ethnic Hutu organization opposed to Tutsi domination.

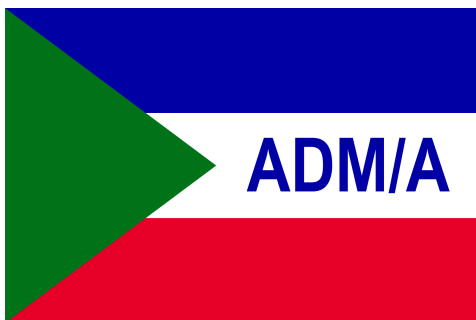
Under the direction of Paul Rwarakabije, it was established in September 2000 by the fusion of various Rwandan refugee organizations, notably the erstwhile Army for the Liberation of Rwanda (ALR). It was operational during the Second Congo War's final stages and the succeeding insurrections in Kivu.

e. APCLS

The Alliance of Patriots for a Free and Sovereign Congo, also known by the abbreviation APCLS or Alliance des patriotes pour un Congo liber et souverain, is an armed paramilitary group that operates in the Democratic Republic of the Congo's northeast.

APCLS is regarded as one of the biggest mai-mai (local or ethnic militia) groups operating in the province and has a long history of operation in Masisi Territory, North Kivu. The Hunde ethnic community provides the majority of support for the APCLS, which was founded in 2006. The Tutsi ethnic groupings, which are thought to pose a threat to the stability of the Congolese state and are sponsored, in particular, by Rwanda, are at the core of its philosophy. It is estimated that this force is made up of 1500 men.

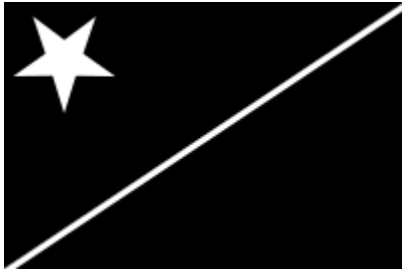
f. ADF



ADF is an Islamist paramilitary group operating in Kivu. The Allied Democratic Forces (French: Forces démocratiques alliées; abbreviated ADF), is regarded as a terrorist organization operating in Uganda and DRC. Although its activities began in western Uganda, it has spread to the neighboring DRC.

Muslims from the Baganda and Basoga ethnic groupings make up the majority of Uganda's ADF combatants. The ADF has been active on the borderline with Uganda in North Kivu since the late 1990s. Even though the ADF has been strongly damaged by numerous military offensives, it has been able to recover because its networks for funding and recruiting have remained undisturbed. The offenses are not only operated by national armies, but it is also expected that other paramilitary groups out offenses on ADF as well.

g. NDC-Renovated



Along with other NDC commanders, including the movement's head of intelligence, Gilbert Bwira Chuo, who became his deputy, Guidon broke away from Nduma Defense of Congo (NDC) in September 2014 and founded a rival faction known as the NDC-Rénové. Internal conflicts within the first group of the NDC regarding leadership and revenue distribution led to the formation of this entity.

The NDC's leader at the time, Sheka, kept irking his team members with his tendency to claim entire credit for their successes and with the unequal distribution of finances. Many of his troops defected from him to join Guidon and all of his other conspirators in the new gang as a result of this and his propensity to underpay his soldiers.

h. CNPSC



A group of armed rebels in the east of the Democratic Republic of the Congo is known as the National Coalition of the People for the Sovereignty of Congo (French: Coalition Nationale du Peuple pour la Souveraineté du Congo). The coalition is made up of about 12 different Mai-Mai tribes from South Kivu province and its surroundings. It was established on June 30, 2017, which is regarded as Congolese Independence Day.

William Yakutumba, a seasoned Mai-Mai commander who has been fighting the government since 2007, is the main figurehead of the group. The group has committed to fight for the ouster of both Félix Tshisekedi and Congolese President Joseph Kabila. The coalition has also been heavily involved in battles with the Banyamulenge-led Ngumino and Twiganeho militias as of 2019.

i. M23

The March 23 Movement, known as the Congolese Revolutionary Army, or just M23 for short, is a rebel military organization made up mostly of Tutsi people. It operates in the province of North Kivu from its stronghold in the DRC's eastern regions.

A lot of people were displaced as a result of the M23's failed uprising attempt against the DRC government in 2012–2013. The International Conference on the Great Lakes Region asked M23 to leave Goma, the capital of a province with a million residents, after it gained control of it on November 20, 2012, because the DRC government had finally decided to negotiate. According to the UN's research, this organization was founded and funded by Rwanda.

j. Mai Mai Groups

Mai-Mai groups are the general reference to

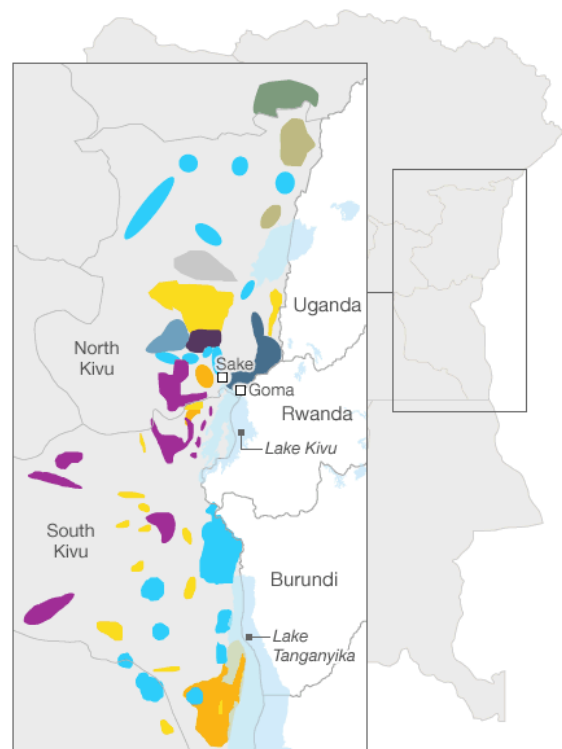
paramilitary organizations in the DRC, willing to defend local communities.

There are also a variety of other smaller organizations which will be listed and hyperlinked;

- PFB
- Raia Mutomboki
- NFL
- Coalition of Congolese Patriotic Resistance
- Rally for Congolese Democracy–Goma

RCD-

- REBEL GROUPS**
- UN forces and the Congolese army are present in large towns
 - ADF-NALU**
Ugandan-led Islamists
 - APCLS**
Mai Mai group
 - FDLR**
Mostly Hutu Rwandan rebels
 - FRPI**
Based in gold-rich Ituri region
 - M23**
Mostly Tutsi, said to be Rwandan-backed
 - Rai Mutomboki**
Anti-FDLR group
 - Sheka**
Mai Mai group
 - UPCP**
Loose coalition of smaller nationalist groups
 - Mai Mai groups**
Local forces claiming to act in self-defence
 - Other armed groups**



7. Footsteps Into the Present

The peace process in North Kivu was already beginning to fall apart at the beginning of 2004, even though all parties agreed to join a transitional administration and combine their armies into a single national army. But it became apparent very immediately that not all parties were dedicated to keeping the peace. Three top Rally for Congolese Democracy (RCD) officials resigned in July 2006 to create a political formation that later became the National Congress for the Defense of the People (CNDP) insurrection. This was a trailer of things to come. The area was once more shaken by the conflict that rivaled the Second Congo War in violence.

Nkunda's forces started fighting the DRC army in Sud-Kivu in 2004. In June of that same year, his forces held Bukavu for eight days, during that time he was charged with war crimes. According to Nkunda, he was seeking to stop the ethnic Tutsi Banyamulenge genocide in the eastern DRC. MONUSCO denied this claim. A part of Nkunda's army was split apart after UN negotiations successfully secured the removal of his forces from Bukavu to the Masisi jungles. The divided part departed for Rwanda under Colonel Jules Mutebusi's command. According to reports, over 150,000 Kinyarwanda speakers (of Nkunda's language group) moved from Sud-Kivu to Nord-Kivu because they feared possible reprisal assaults by the DRC army.

2005 was a silent year for Nkunda. He felt enough just to condemn the government. However, some amount of men joined his force from RCD-Goma. The DRC army, which had also been charged by the MONUC with war crimes, engaged in battle with Nkunda's troops in January 2006. In the area of Sake, there were more fights in August 2006. After an international arrest warrant was obtained for Nkunda, MONUC declined to detain him, claiming that "Mr. Laurent Nkunda does not present a threat to the local population, thus we cannot justify any action against him." Nkunda was subject to restrictions from the UN Security Council as late as June 2006. RCD-Goma soldiers attacked DRC army posts in Nord Kivu on December 7, 2006. According to reports, the DRC army was able to retake their strongholds with the help of MONUC, and 150 RCD-Goma fighters were killed in the process. Around 12,000

residents from the DRC have escaped to Kisoro District in Uganda. Seven people were killed by a rocket launched from the DRC into the Kisoro District that same day.

Early in 2007, the central DRC government made an effort to reduce the threat posed by Nkunda by attempting to better integrate his troops into the FARDC, the country's military forces, through a process known as "mixing." This, however, backfired, and now it looks that Nkunda, rather than controlling two brigades of troops, controlled five from around January to August. According to UN peacekeeping chief Jean-Marie Guehenno, "Mr. Nkunda's forces are the single most serious threat to the stability in the DR Congo." on July 24, 2007.

Early in September, a smaller DRC army was being besieged in Masisi by Nkunda's forces, and MONUC helicopters were transporting government troops to liberate the town. There were reports of numerous male fatalities, and a significant conflict was still ongoing. On September 5, 2007, Nkunda urged the government to restart the peace process after government FARDC soldiers apparently deployed a Mil Mi-24 helicopter gunship and then killed 80 of his fighters. "The government side is responsible for obstructing the peace process. We are requesting that the administration resume the peace process because that is the only effective method to address the Congolese issue." he said. In order to force the kids to join their ranks, Nkunda's soldiers "raided ten secondary schools and four primary schools" in September. Officials from the UN claim that in violation of international law, boys were taken as warriors and females were seized as sex slaves. The government gave Nkunda's forces till October 15th, 2007 to start disarming. After this deadline passed without any action, President Joseph Kabila issued an order to the military on October 17 to get ready to forcibly disarm Nkunda's men. Government troops moved closer to the Kichanga stronghold of the Nkunda. A few days later, thousands of people who had fled the violence in Bunagana between the government-allied Mai-Mai and the Nkunda came in Rutshuru. Separate reports indicated that Nkunda-affiliated groups were being attacked by government troops in the area of Bukima, close to Bunagana, as well as that some refugees were crossing the border into Uganda. Over 370,000 individuals are said to have been displaced by the violence since the year's commencement.

Early in November 2007, Nkunda's forces took control of Nyanzale, a town located about 100 kilometers north of Goma. The army station was reportedly abandoned along with the reports of the capture of three nearby villages. The town of Mushake, which overlooked a

crucial road, was taken by the 82nd Brigade as a consequence of a government offensive in early December (although Reuters claims a FARDC integrated brigade, the 14th, took the town). This happened after the announcement of the UN to support the Congolese government by providing military equipment. Governments of Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi and the US provided the mentioned and vowed not to help the negative forces, which was used for Nkunda and other rebellions as something like "You know who". After a series of postponements, it was agreed to hold peace talks from 6 to 14 January. Nkunda's group did show up for the negotiations, but on January 10, 2008, they left because of their concerns about one of their members being arrested but they returned to talking. The deadline for the negotiations was extended twice, first to 21 January 2008 and then to 22 January 2008, when it appeared that an agreement was close to being agreed upon. Due to last-minute arguments over war crimes cases, it was further prolonged until January 23, 2008. The peace agreement, which was signed on January 23, 2008, included terms for an immediate halt to hostilities, the gradual withdrawal of all rebel forces from the province of North Kivu, the resettling of tens of thousands of residents, and immunity for Nkunda's army. The deal prompted the UN and FARDC to remove FDLR troops from Kivu. The CNDP forces declared war on the FDLR and renewed hostilities, which included abuses against civilians, as a result of their dissatisfaction with the progress made and the failure to resettle refugees, s The Rwandan Government and The Democratic Forces of Liberation for Rwanda did not attend to the talks, it may make the deal instable. On October 26, 2008, Nkunda's rebels took control of Virunga National Park and a sizable military camp, planning to use them as bases from which to conduct assaults. This took place when the peace pact collapsed and following fighting forced hundreds to flee. Due to its advantageous location on a major route heading to the city of Goma, the park was invaded. On October 27, protests were seen near the UN settlement in Goma, and locals threw Molotov cocktails and rocks at the structure, saying that the UN personnel had done nothing to stop the rebel advance. Under pressure from the rebel army, the Congolese national army also made a "major retreat". From 26 October to 6 November, a series of clashes and battles were made between UN/governmental forces and rebel groups. During this period, the conflict became an item in the international arena and drew attention t the region. It was reported by the UN that Angolan forces were seen engaged in combat with rebel forces alongside the government. On 22 January 2009, Nkunda was captured in a western province of Rwanda with the cooperation of the Congolese army and Rwandan military.

These events marked the end of the Kivu Conflict at that time. A peace deal was agreed between CNDP and the government with the provisions of CNDP becoming a political party.

In the eastern Congo province of South Kivu, attacks on the villages of Ekingi and Busurungi were linked to the FDLR Rwandan Hutu insurgents on the weekend of May 9–10(2009). At Ekingi, an estimated 90 persons perished, including 60 civilians and 30 government personnel. At Busurungi, "dozens more" were reportedly also killed. The Congolese Army and MONUC both conducted investigations and found FDLR guilty. In the weeks before, the FDLR had invaded several other communities, and there had been battles between the FDLR and the Congolese Army, during which government forces reportedly suffered casualties. Operations to destroy the FDLR were being planned by the Congolese Army and MONUC.

The CNDP and the government reached a peace agreement in March 2009, which allowed the former to establish a political party in return for the release of its prisoners. Rewind to April 2012, when ex-CNDP troops rebelled and established the M23 rebel organization led by Bosco Ntaganda. They engaged in combat with government forces and took over Goma in November 2012. UN peacekeepers stood by without taking any action, claiming their restricted mission. After talks, M23 left Goma in December. African leaders agreed to a peace agreement for the DRC's east in February 2013 but excluded M23. Conflicts and leadership changes were a result of internal M23 conflicts. An innovative peacekeeping tactic was adopted in March 2013 when the UN Security Council decided to send an intervention brigade under MONUSCO, which was permitted to launch targeted offensives against dangerous armed groups. In response to the escalating conflict in the DRC's east, the UN Security Council established a "intervention brigade" as a body of the MONUSCO peacekeeping force in March 2013. This brigade, which was made up of infantry battalions, artillery, special forces, and reconnaissance units, intended to increase civilian security while assisting stabilization operations by disarming adversarial forces. The brigade had reached its maximum strength by October 2013, when Malawian troops joined the armies of Tanzania and South Africa. Together, they were instrumental in driving the M23 rebels away from their starting points, particularly in August 2013.

In 2017, the DRC experienced intensified conflict, which resulted in the displacement of approximately 1.7 million people. Ulrika Blom, a Norwegian aid worker, compared this

humanitarian disaster to the wars in Yemen, Syria, and Iraq. Further violence resulted from anti-government rebels' attempt to seize Uvira in September 2017. paramilitary groups like the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) carried out assaults over the years that killed a huge number of civilians and officials. Up to 15 UN peacekeepers died in an ADF attack on a UN base in December 2017. Many people condemned this attack and the UN Secretary-General called it a "war crime." The tragedy signaled a sad uptick and the largest loss of peacekeepers since 1993. All through ADF and Islamist organizations carried out many raids, offenses, and attacks on both civilians and the official military and UN. Approximately 25 was listed in one year and many people were killed.

A new onslaught by the M23 Movement in North Kivu began on March 28, 2022, apparently with help from Rwanda and Uganda. Tens of thousands of refugees were forced to flee due to the onslaught, although by June the rebels had gained considerable ground. Other places, including Nyagatare, Butare, Bukavu, Fizi, and Uvira, experienced war. M23 must unite with the contending parties to establish a governing coalition. The M23 military was under the command of General S. Makenga. Although there are now twice as many migrants, the initial refugee groups have not yet been resettled.

8. Effect on Population

It was also verified by MONUSCo in 2012 that at least 1000 children were used as combatants. Another study found that a minimum of one member from every household in the region is engaged with one of the paramilitary organizations.

North and South Kivu have become chaotic and disordered due to the Kivu conflict. According to MONUSCO, rampant sexual assault on women has been committed in this region by all parties to the conflict, something that the UNHCR has denounced. Girls have been used as sex slaves in militia formations as well as cases of both women and girls being raped and sexually assaulted. The incident of sexual assault that received the greatest attention took place in Minova in November 2012. Right after the rebellions went back to the town they assaulted women and children for three days. Naturally, international condemnation and pressure were increasing which led to an investigation by the army.

However, that was all. This is the example that we are fully sure of. It is estimated that in every town that is invaded or seized by these organizations, these kinds of events occur.

In the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Ituru and Kivu, the United Nations Agency for Refugees (UNHCR) has warned about a developing humanitarian crisis. In February, violence in the North Kivu province of the DRC forced approximately 300,000 people to migrate across the Rutshuru and Masisi areas, according to UNHCR spokesperson Matthew Saltmarsh. He told reporters in Geneva that "citizens continue to pay the heavy and bloody price of conflict, including women and children who barely escaped the violence and are now sleeping in the open in spontaneous or planned sites, exhausted and traumatized." Even though 12 different NGOs are operating in the region due to the attacks of the M23 rebellion, they are not enough. Since the M23 began an onslaught last year after emerging from hibernation in 2021, Goma has been in danger. The region's nations have sent out a unified force with the goal of stabilizing the area after the DRC accused Rwanda, which Kigali denies, of assisting the organization. The violence has continued even though several attempts at a ceasefire have been made. Around Lake Kivu, There is a trading hub serving almost a million people which has been affected by the displaced people. The majority of the land roads to Goma have now been blocked, making air travel the only dependable supply route. The EU plane is transporting hygiene kits, medicine, and emergency shelters.

9. Points to Cover

- Is all of the population, both male and female, protected from sexual violence? If not, what will the African Union provide to cure the problem?
- How could the UN prevent negative international influence from being effective in the region?
- How could the UN prevent child employment?
- How could refugees seeking affordable accommodation, education, and healthcare be settled and taken care of...?
- How can citizens be more isolated from the conflict?
- Why are peace deals ineffective and what could be done to make them?

10. Resources and Further Reading

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