

## Democratic Republic of the Congo

**The information below is based on the Report of the Secretary-General on Conflict-related Sexual Violence (S/2018/250), issued on 23 March 2018<sup>1</sup>**

37. During the period under review, the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) verified 804 cases of conflict-related sexual violence, affecting 507 women, 265 girls, 30 men and 2 boys, representing an increase from the previous reporting period. During the same period, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) reported 5,783 cases of sexual violence in conflict-affected provinces, more than twice as many as in 2016. Approximately 72 per cent of cases were attributed to non-State armed groups, notably Twa militia in Tanganyika and the Force de résistance patriotique de l'Ituri (FRPI) operating in Irumu territory in Ituri. More than half of the sexual assaults by FRPI involved multiple attackers, and 40 per cent of incidents were perpetrated in conjunction with looting, pillage and theft.

**The information below is based on the Report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict (A/72/361-S/2017/821), issued on 24 August 2017<sup>2</sup>**

66. The rape of 170 girls and 1 boy was verified, with 87 violations taking place in North Kivu and 50 in Ituri. The main perpetrators among armed groups were FRPI (42), FDLR (14) and Nyatura (10). FARDC was responsible for 64 cases, including 1 boy in detention, the Congolese National Police for 12 cases and the Agence nationale de renseignement for 1 case.

**The information below is based on the Report of the Secretary-General on conflict-related sexual violence (S/2017/249), issued on 15 April 2017<sup>3</sup>**

32. In 2016, the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) verified 514 cases of conflict-related sexual violence. The victims included 340 women, 170 girls, three men and one boy. During the same period, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) reported 2,593 cases of sexual violence in conflict-affected provinces.

**The information below is based on the Report of the Secretary General on conflict related sexual violence (S/2015/203), issued on 23 March 2015<sup>4</sup>**

23. Unprecedented steps were taken by the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in 2014, including the prosecution of high-ranking army officers and the payment of reparations to survivors of conflict-related sexual violence. At the same time, the year under review was marked by a resurgence of violence by armed groups, including an increase in rape and forced displacement. From January to September 2014, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) recorded 11,769 cases of sexual and gender-based violence in the

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<sup>1</sup> Full text available [here](#)

<sup>2</sup> Full text available [here](#)

<sup>3</sup> Full text available [here](#)

<sup>4</sup> Full text available [here](#)

provinces of North Kivu, South Kivu, Orientale, Katanga and Maniema; 39 per cent of these cases were considered to be directly related to the dynamics of conflict, perpetrated by armed individuals. As in 2013, North Kivu and Orientale remain the provinces most affected by conflict-related sexual violence, with 42 per cent of all incidents taking place in Orientale. During the same period, the United Nations confirmed 698 cases of conflict-related sexual violence affecting 361 women, 332 girls, 3 men and 2 boys. In 31 per cent of these cases, the perpetrators were members of government security forces, with members of the armed forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (Forces armées de la République démocratique du Congo) responsible for 201 incidents, the national police implicated in 157 incidents and the national intelligence agency responsible for 2 cases. Investigations into abuses committed by members of the armed forces in the course of military operations against the Alliance des patriotes pour un Congo libre et souverain in Masisi territory between February and April 2014 found that rape had been used to punish members of the Hunde population, who were perceived to support the Alliance; at least 20 women were raped by members of regiments 804 and 813.

24. Violations committed by armed groups represent 69 per cent of all confirmed cases of conflict-related sexual violence. The main perpetrator, Mai-Mai Simba/ Morgan, was identified as responsible for 117 rapes. Other groups bearing responsibility for conflict-related sexual violence in areas under their control include the Front de résistance patriotique de l'Ituri, the Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda, the Raia Mutomboki, Nyatura, the Alliance des patriotes pour un Congo libre et souverain, Mai-Mai Simba/Lumumba and other Mai-Mai groups. In Orientale province, Mai-Mai Simba/Morgan continued to use sexual violence to spread fear and also compelled civilians to undertake forced labour in mining areas. In February 2014, reports of rape, sexual slavery and forced pregnancy targeting women because of their ethnicity surfaced in Katanga province, committed by both Batwa and Baluba armed men to humiliate members of the opposing group. The internally displaced population remains particularly vulnerable to conflict-related sexual violence in the context of such ethnic clashes, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) having documented 2,343 alleged incidents.

**The information below is based on the Report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (S/2014/453), issued on 30 June 2014<sup>5</sup>**

43. Boys were also among the victims, with 11 cases documented during the reporting period. Nine of those boys were raped by FDLR and Mayi-Mayi Cheka elements, along with 55 girls, during the attacks on 13 villages on the Mpofi-Kibua axis (Walikale territory) between 30 July and 2 August 2010. Sexual violence against boys remains largely underreported as a result of social stigma and the inadequacy of services for male victims.

**The information below is based on the Report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (S/2010/369), issued on 9 July**

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<sup>5</sup> Full text available [here](#)

## 2010<sup>6</sup>

38. Cases of sexual violence against boys have also been reported. For example, the Child Protection Section of MONUC documented two cases of sexual violence against boys (7 and 10 years old, both in South Kivu). In both cases, FARDC soldiers were subsequently arrested.

### **The information below is based on the Report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (S/2008/693), issued on 10 November 2008<sup>7</sup>**

42. In the period from June 2007 to the end of June 2008 in Ituri, out of 6,766 cases reported and assisted by partners of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), 2,893 were children (43 per cent): 2,516 girls and 377 boys. In cases of child rape, 42 per cent of the perpetrators were members of the security forces or armed groups and 58 per cent were civilians.

43. During the same period in North Kivu, out of 4,770 cases assisted by UNICEF partners, 1,821 were children (38 per cent): 1,794 girls and 27 boys. For cases of rape of children, 70 per cent of the perpetrators were members of the security forces or armed groups and 30 per cent of the perpetrators were civilians.

44. In South Kivu, out of 6,242 cases of sexual violence reported and assisted by UNICEF partners, 803 were children (13 per cent): 798 girls and 5 boys. For cases of child rape, 45 per cent of the perpetrators were members of the security forces or armed groups and 55 per cent were civilians.

### **The information below is based on the Report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (S/2007/391), issued on 28 June 2007<sup>8</sup>**

40. Despite all of the initiatives undertaken to counter sexual violence and the adoption of two national laws on sexual violence on 20 July 2006, the number of sexual abuses remains extremely high. Sexual violence has occurred virtually unabated, in a climate of impunity and judicial dysfunction. Although the reported rate of sexual violence remains high, such incidents are underreported and accurate statistics are difficult to obtain because of a number of factors, including the fear of ostracism and retribution which prevents survivors from coming forward; the prohibitive distance and lack of access to medical care owing to the prevailing security situation in some areas; a lack of faith in the judicial system; and the local tendency of amicable settlement, whereby the perpetrator pays the victim an agreed-upon sum or value in kind. During the period covered by the present report, 12,867 survivors of sexual violence were identified by United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) partners in the eastern region of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Of those survivors, 4,222 were children (3,740 girls and 482 boys). Children represent an alarming 33 per cent of survivors of sexual violence. Of 100 survivors in Ituri, 43 were children (of whom approximately 18 per cent were boys). Of the aforementioned 4,222 children, information on the perpetrators is available in only 690 cases; in 29 cases, the perpetrators were members of FARDC or PNC (4.2 per cent); in 458 cases,

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<sup>6</sup> Full text available [here](#)

<sup>7</sup> Full text available [here](#)

<sup>8</sup> Full text available [here](#)

they were from armed groups (66 per cent); and in 203 cases, they were civilians (29 per cent).

**The information below is based on the Report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (S/2006/389), issued on 13 June 2006<sup>9</sup>**

29. In the Kivus, many rape cases attributed to armed military groups of Rwandan origin have been registered by child protection network partners. A local health centre in Kibirizi, in the Rutshuru area of North Kivu Province, in January 2006 had registered 174 cases of rape, allegedly perpetrated by Interahamwe and FARDC soldiers since the beginning of 2005; 80 per cent of the cases involved girls.

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<sup>9</sup> Full text available [here](#)