



Refugee Documentation Centre (Ireland)  
LEGAL AID BOARD

## **DRC - Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on Tuesday 19 & Wednesday 20 November 2013**

### **Information on connections between Roger Lumbala/RDC & M23**

*Africa Review* in December 2012 states:

“A current member of the Democratic Republic of Congo National Assembly has announced his allegiance to the M23 rebel movement. On Sunday, Roger Lumbala told Top Congo FM radio in Kinshasa of his “total adhesion” to the rebel movement, but hedged on the question of whether he is a full member. He leads a small political party called the Congolese Rally for Democrats which has four seats in the 500-member National Assembly” (*Africa Review* (31 December 2012) *DR Congo MP says he backs M23 rebels*).

A report issued in January 2013 by the *New Vision* notes:

“The M23 rebels have appointed Roger Lumbala, an opposition Member of Parliament onto their delegation to negotiate with the DRC government in Kampala. Roger Lumbala, who represents the Congolese opposition political party Congolese Rally for National Democracy (RCDN), joins the M23 delegation as the vice chairperson of the negotiating team” (*New Vision* (6 January 2013) *Uganda: M23 Rebels Appoint New Figure Onto Delegation*).

*The Hindu* in November 2013 points out that:

“Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) troops were in a mopping up operation to rout the remaining pockets of the M23 rebel movement, after seizing their last stronghold in a push to finally break the back of the insurgency” (*The Hindu* (2 November 2013) *U.S. envoy calls for ‘semi-permanent solution’ on DRC*).

This article also states:

“After the fall of the rebel headquarters at Bunagana, President Joseph Kabila on Wednesday again urged the M23 fighters to “demobilise voluntarily”, warning that his men would otherwise “make them do so by force”. Mr. Kabila said that “political and diplomatic solutions” remained on the negotiating table in Uganda’s capital Kampala, where the rival sides have held stop-start talks since December and their representatives expressed guarded optimism. “The negotiations are making progress,” M23’s deputy delegation chief Roger Lumbala said at midday on Thursday. “Maybe today, they will have finished and we can put an accord on the table to sign it.” “ (ibid).

In November 2013 *Agence France Presse* states:

“The Democratic Republic of Congo and defeated M23 rebels are set to sign a peace deal Monday in what the UN hopes will be a key step in efforts to end decades of war in the Great Lakes region” (*Agence France Presse* (11 November 2013) *DR Congo, M23 rebels set to sign peace deal*).

This report also points out that:

“Rebel delegate Roger Lumbala said the deal would be signed on Monday evening, with journalists summoned to Uganda’s State House in Entebbe, a town close to Kampala on the shores of Lake Victoria, to await the ceremony. The agreement is expected to settle the fate of about 1,500 M23 fighters who have crossed into Uganda and are languishing in camps along the border. Uganda has refused to hand them over to the DR Congo. Around 100 more injured rebels have crossed to Rwanda” (ibid).

In September 2013 *L’Avenir* states:

“The Names Of The Members Of The M23 Delegation In The Kampala Talks

1. Francois Ruchogoza Tuyihimbaze: first cousin to Bosco Ntaganda, leader of the M23 delegation in the Kampala talks. He is also a former soldier of the Rwanda Defence Force [RDF] and a former fighter of the National Congress for the Defence of the People [CNDP].

2. Rene Abandi Munyarugerero: assistant head of the M23 delegation in Kampala, who is very close to Laurent Nkunda. He is also a former member of the Rally for Congolese Democracy [RCD] and a former fighter of the CNDP.

3. Jean-Serge Kambasu Ngeve: chief negotiator in the Kampala talks, who is very active in the M23 armed group. He is also a former member of the RCD-KML [expansion for KML not found], as well as the CNDP.

4. Tommy Tambwe Rudima: assistant chief negotiator in the Kampala talks and a very active member of the M23 armed group. He is also a former member of the RCD and the Alliance for the Liberation of Eastern Congo [ALEC].

5. Bertrand Bisimwa: Senior rapporteur in the Kampala talks. He is also a former member of the RCD and the CNDP. He succeeded Runiga as the leader of the M23 armed movement.

6. Jean-Baptiste Gasominari: first assistant rapporteur in the Kampala talks. He is a Rwanda national and a former member of the RCD, as well as the CNDP. He is equally a very active member of the M23 armed group” (*L’Avenir* (11 September 2013) *DR Congo newspaper views “criminal” past of M23 rebels ahead of fresh talks*).

In November 2012 a document released by the *Rift Valley Institute* notes:

“The elites of the Congolese Hutu and Banyamulenge communities—which, along with the North Kivu Tutsi community, formed the backbone of both the RCD and, initially at least, the CNDP—have largely boycotted the M23” (Rift Valley Institute (5 November 2012) *From CNDP to M23: The Evolution of an Armed Movement in Eastern Congo*, p.48).

No further information on this issue could be found among sources available to the RDC.

## References

Agence France Presse (11 November 2013) *DR Congo, M23 rebels set to sign peace deal*

<http://reliefweb.int/report/democratic-republic-congo/dr-congo-m23-rebels-set-sign-peace-deal>

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New Vision (6 January 2013) *Uganda: M23 Rebels Appoint New Figure Onto Delegation*

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Attachment not included due to IT limitations

Accessed Tuesday 19 November 2013

This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Refugee Documentation Centre within time constraints. This response is not and does not purport to be conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum. Please read in full all documents referred to.

#### Sources Consulted

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European Country of Origin Information Network  
Freedom House  
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