DRC - Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on Thursday 24 January 2019

Information on current security situation in North Kivu/Goma

Reuters in January 2019 notes the:

"…widespread militia violence in eastern Congo…" (Reuters (23 January 2019) *Congo records one-day record for confirmed Ebola cases*

In January 2019 *Deutsche Presse-Agentur* states that:

"At lest 17 people were killed during clashes between two Burundian rebel groups in east Congo" (Deutsche Presse-Agentur (17 January 2019) *At least 17 dead after clashes between rebels groups in Congo*).

A report issued in January 2019 *Deutsche Presse-Agentur* states in a document that:

"Suspected rebels kill 10 in eastern Congo Goma…" (Deutsche Presse-Agentur (8 January 2019) *Suspected rebels kill 10 in eastern Congo*).

A report issued in January 2019 by the *United Nations Security Council* notes that:

"Instances of political intolerance and violence occurred from 6 to 18 December, mainly in Kalemie, Tanganyika; Kisangani, Tshopo; the area of Kitchanga, North Kivu; Lubumbashi, Haut-Katanga; and Tshikapa, Kasai, resulting in the reported deaths of at least nine civilians and one police officer as well as injuries to several others. The incidents were mainly clashes between supporters of opposing political parties that involved the use of lethal and non-lethal weapons by the police to disperse the crowds, clashes between supporters of political parties and the Congolese National Police and attacks by armed elements on campaign convoys" (United Nations Security Council (4 January 2019) *United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo: Report of the Secretary-General*, p.1).

This document also states that:

"The security situation remained fragile in some parts of eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, where armed groups continued to carry out destabilizing activities, in particular in Beni and Lubero territories in North Kivu…" (ibid, p.5).

An undated document issued by the *Council on Foreign Relations* states that:

"At least seventy armed groups are believed to be currently operating in the eastern region of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Despite the stabilizing presence of nineteen thousand UN peacekeepers, the stronger militant groups in the region, like the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR) and the Ugandan Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), continue to terrorize communities and control weakly governed areas of the country, financing their activities by exploiting the

country's rich natural resources" (Council on Foreign Relations (Undated) *Violence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo*).

In January 2019 *Human Rights Watch* issued a report commenting on events of the preceding year including noting that:

> "More than 140 armed groups were active in eastern Congo's North Kivu and South Kivu provinces, and many continued to attack civilians, including the largely Rwandan Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR) and allied Congolese Nyatura groups, the Ugandan-led Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), the Nduma Defense of Congo-Renové (NDC-R), the Mazembe and Yakutumba Mai Mai groups, and several Burundian armed groups. Many of their commanders have been implicated in war crimes, including ethnic massacres, rape, forced recruitment of children, and pillage" (Human Rights Watch (17 January 2019) *World Report 2019, Democratic Republic of the Congo*, p.2).

In December 2018 the *United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the DR Congo* notes that:

> "Hundreds of extrajudicial killings and cases of torture and sexual violence against civilians have been documented during the last two years in North Kivu province in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)…The security and humanitarian situation in North Kivu steadily deteriorated between January 2017 and October 2018, the report says, with the number of human rights violations and abuses amounting to one-third of all the human rights violations documented across the entire country" (United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the DR Congo (19 December 2018) *DRC: UN reports hundreds of human rights violations as security situation in North Kivu deteriorates*, p.3).

A report issued by the *Kivu Security Tracker* in November 2018 states:

> "Against the backdrop of pervasive insecurity around Goma town in the form of armed banditry, killing and kidnapping, local communities have begun to fear the politicization of violence" (Kivu Security Tracker (November 2018) *Monthly Report: November 2018*, p.2).

The *Jamestown Foundation* in November 2018 states that:

> "Nord Kivu province borders Uganda and Rwanda to the east and has absorbed defeated militant groups from both countries. Scores of armed groups are active in the region now despite the presence of large numbers of UN peacekeepers and troops of the Armed Forces of the DRC (Forces Armées de la République Démocratique du Congo—FARDC)" (Jamestown Foundation (2 November 2018) *Violence and Viruses: How a Poorly Armed Insurgency in the Congo Poses a Global Threat; Terrorism Monitor Volume: 16 Issue: 21*, p.1).

A published in October 2018 by the *Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project* points out that:

> "The North Kivu province is the site of a disproportionate share of the violent events and protests in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). In 2018 thus far, 51% of violent events and protests have taken place in the province" (Armed Conflict

Location and Event Data Project (26 October 2018) *Layered Insecurity In North Kivu: Violence And The Ebola Response*, p.1).

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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.

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