



Democratic Republic of the Congo – Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on 15 January 2013

Information on a protest outside the UN HQ in Kinshasa on/around 23 November 2012. Were the participants prominently women? What was the reason for the protest? Was there any trouble/arrests? Was the protest monitored by security forces?

An article published by The Telegraph refers to a protest march in Kinshasa on 23 November 2012 as follows:

“Hundreds of women marched on Friday to the headquarters of the United Nations mission in Democratic Republic of the Congo, in Kinshasa, to protest against the armed uprising of M23 rebels.” (The Telegraph (23 November 2012) *Congolese women march for peace; Hundreds of women march to the United Nations' Congo headquarters in Kinshasa to condemn the violence of M23 rebels*)

A video of this march may be viewed on The Telegraph website at:
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/africaandindianocean/democraticrepublicofcongo/9700021/Congolese-women-march-for-peace.html>

A Congo News Agency report states:

“Thousands of women protested against the M23 rebels in Kinshasa on Friday in the biggest demonstration yet in DR Congo’s capital against the rebels’ capture of the eastern Congo city of Goma on Tuesday. Women, coming from all walks of life, took to the streets to condemn the M23 rebels, and the failure of the Congolese army and United Nations peacekeepers to stop the rebels’ advance. Many wearing black outfits to express their unhappiness, they marched from the capital’s main street, the Boulevard du 30 juin, to the United Nations mission in DR Congo (MONUSCO) headquarters in Kinshasa, where they joined other women who have been protesting there since Wednesday. The peaceful women’s protest was held under the watchful eyes of the Congolese police, ever more wary because demonstrations against the M23 elsewhere across DR Congo have also turned on the ruling PPRD party and MONUSCO.” (Congo News Agency (24 November 2012) *Thousands of Women March Against M23 Rebels in Kinshasa*)

An Agence France Presse report states:

“In DR Congo's capital Kinshasa, the interior ministry temporarily banned peace protests Saturday, blocking students from holding a planned rally. ‘The interior ministry said demonstrations were banned to give diplomacy a chance,’ student leader Dieumerici Bebeti told AFP. An interior ministry source confirmed the ban on condition of anonymity. ‘Not all demonstrations are banned. There are certain demonstrations that are liable to lead to

destruction and violence, and those are temporarily suspended,' the source said. The move came after several thousand women, including Justice Minister Wivine Mumba Matipa and several lawmakers, marched Friday against the violence." (Agence France Presse (24 November 2012) *Regional leaders tell DR Congo rebels to 'stop war'*)

This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Research and Information Unit 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.

References:

Agence France Presse (24 November 2012) *Regional leaders tell DR Congo rebels to 'stop war'*

<http://www.lexisnexis.com>

(Accessed 15 January 2013)

This is a subscription database

Congo News Agency (24 November 2012) *Thousands of Women March Against M23 Rebels in Kinshasa*

<http://congonewsagency.com/2012/11/24/thousands-of-women-march-against-m23-rebels-in-kinshasa/>

(Accessed 15 January 2013)

The Telegraph (23 November 2012) *Congolese women march for peace; Hundreds of women march to the United Nations' Congo headquarters in Kinshasa to condemn the violence of M23 rebels*

<http://www.lexisnexis.com>

(Accessed 15 January 2013)

This is a subscription database

Sources Consulted:

BBC Monitoring

Electronic Immigration Network

European Country of Origin Information Network

Google

Lexis Nexis

MONUSCO

Refugee Documentation Centre Query Database

UNHCR Refworld

UN News Centre