



DRC - Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on Thursday 6 & Friday 7 December 2012

Information on conflict between M23 and FARDC in Goma on 6 November 2012; What were the reasons for the conflict; Any reports of residents fleeing Goma on 6 November 2012, due to the conflict; Information on M23's withdrawal from Goma

No information on conflict between M23 & FARDC in Goma on 6 November 2012 could be found among sources available to the RDC.

A report issued in November 2012 by *Human Rights Watch* states:

“The M23's latest offensive began on November 15 with M23 rebels fighting UN peacekeepers and Congolese army forces as the rebels progressed toward Goma. By the early afternoon of November 20, after heavy fighting in and around Goma, the M23 had taken control of key areas of Goma” (Human Rights Watch (20 November 2012) *DR Congo: US Should Urge Rwanda to End M23 Support*).

A report published in November 2012 by the *International Peace Information Service* includes a “Timeline of M23's expansion in Eastern DRC” which includes Goma (International Peace Information Service (30 November 2012) *Mapping Conflict Motives: M23*, pp.6-7).

A publication in December 2012 by the *United Nations News Centre* points out that:

“Monitored by peacekeepers from the UN Organization Stabilization Mission in the DRC (MONUSCO), M23 fighters withdrew from the city over the weekend, in line with requirements laid out in a communiqué of a regional group, the International Conference of the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR). The communiqué also restricted the M23 outside of the 20 kilometre zone around Goma and called on them to cease all military activity while a long-lasting solution continues to be worked on” (United Nations News Centre (3 December 2012) *Humanitarian situation in eastern DR Congo remains 'extremely worrying' – UN official*).

A report issued by *BBC News* in December 2012 notes:

“Congolese troops returned to the key city of Goma on Monday after M23 rebels withdrew during the weekend under a regionally brokered deal... The rebels left Goma 11 days after seizing it from Congolese troops backed by UN peacekeepers” (BBC News (3 December 2012) *Congo army returns to Goma as M23 demand negotiations*).

In December 2012 *Agence France Presse* states:

“Democratic Republic of Congo troops entered the eastern mining hub of Goma Monday, two days after rebel M23 fighters withdrew in line with a regionally brokered deal” (Agence France Presse (3 December 2012) *DR Congo army enter Goma after rebel pullout*).

This article also states:

“The rebels' lightning capture of Goma on November 20 -- eight months after they launched an uprising against Kinshasa -- had sparked fears of a wider war and major humanitarian crisis, and their withdrawal was widely welcomed. Dozens of government army trucks crammed with heavily armed soldiers entered the regional capital of around one million people in the afternoon, after trundling along the shores of Lake Kivu. A battalion of around 600 men in total is expected to move into Goma, the main city in the mineral-rich Kivu region, while government officials have also begun to arrive back to reassert their authority after 12-days of rebel rule. While the M23 fighters have left the city, rebels remained camped just beyond the outskirts, appearing to break a deal to pull back 20 kilometres (12 miles) from Goma, with residents fearing renewed clashes as the two sides edge closer” (Ibid).

In December 2012 *The Economist* points out that:

“Human-rights watchers in the city say the M23 has left sleepers behind to subvert the security forces and undermine the government” (The Economist (8 December 2012) *Eastern Congo, Power vacuum*).

References

Agence France Presse (3 December 2012) *DR Congo army enter Goma after rebel pullout*

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<http://www.hrw.org/news/2012/11/20/dr-congo-us-should-urge-rwanda-end-m23-support>

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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.

Sources Consulted

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Electronic Immigration Network
European Country of Origin Information Network
Freedom House
Google
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Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada
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