



Refugee Documentation Centre (Ireland)  
LEGAL AID BOARD

**DRC - Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on Wednesday 14 & Thursday 15 November 2012**

**Information on Camp Kokolo in Kinshasa including:  
Location, what is based there, who is in charge of the camp et al**

In November 2008 a report published by *Human Rights Watch* include the following description:

“...Camp Kokolo, a large military base in central Kinshasa...” (Human Rights Watch (November 2008) *“We Will Crush You”, The Restriction of Political Space in the Democratic Republic of Congo*, p.44).

A report issued in March 2012 by United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

“The Kokolo camp is located in the commune of Bandalungwa is a camp where the detention cells of the FARDC military police are located” (United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (March 2012) *Report of the United Nations Joint Human Rights Office on Serious Human Rights Violations Committed by Members of the Congolese Defense and Security Forces in Kinshasa in the Democratic Republic of the Congo between 26 November and 25 December 2011*, p.13/footnote 22).

FARDC is an acronym for The Forces armées de la République démocratique du Congo.

In May 2011 a publication issued by the *United Nations Secretary General* describes the following incident:

“In the meantime, on 27 February, unidentified armed men launched an attack on the presidential residence in Kinshasa and FARDC Camp Kokolo, during which eight FARDC elements and 17 assailants were killed” (United Nations Secretary General (12 May 2011) *Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo*, p.3).

A report issued in April 2010 by *Freedom House* notes:

“The Kabila government inherited an elaborate system of repression from its predecessors. In addition to Kinshasa’s notorious Camp Kokolo, the government currently maintains various large and small prison facilities under the control of an array of security force agencies” (Freedom House (7 April 2010) *Countries at the Crossroads 2010 - Democratic Republic of the Congo*, p.9).

In March 2012 a document produced by *Amnesty International* includes the following information:

“These waves of arrests in various locations in the country, notably in Kasai Oriental, Équateur, North and South Kivu and Katanga aimed to stifle opposition voices and put an end to the protests launched by the opposition following the announcement of

the elections results. Although some of these people have been released, others are still detained incommunicado in military bases in Kinshasa, notably at Kokolo, and at other locations outside the jurisdiction of the judicial authorities, such as the Tshatshi base or the building of the Litho Moboti Group (GLM)” (Amnesty International (23 March 2012) *Democratic Republic of Congo: The Congolese government must put an end to impunity for serious human rights violations committed by the defence and security forces during the electoral process*, p.2).

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

## References

Amnesty International (23 March 2012) *Democratic Republic of Congo: The Congolese government must put an end to impunity for serious human rights violations committed by the defence and security forces during the electoral process*  
<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/asset/AFR62/003/2012/en/d5854345-8afd-47f2-a3fe-d0a84c78b80e/afr620032012en.pdf>

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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

Amnesty International  
BBC News  
Electronic Immigration Network  
European Country of Origin Information Network  
Freedom House  
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Human Rights Watch  
Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada  
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