



Security Council

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Letter dated 30 January 2025 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to write to you concerning the events reported to the Security Council at its meetings on 26 January and 28 January 2025 by Ms. Thérèse Kayikwamba Wagner, Minister of State and Minister for Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and Francophonie of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, concerning the invasion of the Congolese provinces of North and South Kivu by the Rwanda Defence Force (RDF) and their proxies from the terrorist movement Mouvement du 23 mars (M23), in general, and the brutal seizure of the town of Goma, in particular, on 27 January 2025.

My Government reiterates its request, made in the plenary sessions on 26 and 28 January, and urges you to immediately revoke the status of Rwanda as a troop-contributing country to United Nations peace operations, as the coordinated actions of RDF and M23 constitute grave violations of international humanitarian law and compromise the integrity of peace missions (see the report of the Group of Experts on the Democratic Republic of the Congo, [S/2024/969](#), paras. 51–55; and the M23 communiqué dated 24 January 2025).

In her remarks to the Security Council, the Minister of State, while denouncing the aggressive attack by Rwanda on the Democratic Republic of the Congo, praised the heroic and determined defence and ultimate sacrifice made during the fighting by the peacekeepers of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) and the Southern African Development Community Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (SAMIDRC).

My Government recalls that the work carried out by peacekeepers deserves the respect of all States Members of the United Nations, in accordance with the principles underlying the purposes and ideals of the Charter of the United Nations, particularly in the area of maintaining international peace and security.

Peacekeepers are the men and women who, in the name of the ideals of the United Nations Charter, work alongside local communities to advance political solutions, prevent conflicts, protect civilians, strengthen human rights and the rule of law and establish peace, often under difficult and complex circumstances, far from their families and countries. They have made many sacrifices, some have made the ultimate sacrifice, and they deserve the same respect and protection from all peace-loving people.



This harsh reality, which testifies to the degree of commitment of each State Member of the United Nations to peace and security in the world, is totally ignored by Rwanda, whose Defence Force and its M23 proxies have made MONUSCO their main target.

The ferocity of the military violence of Rwanda against MONUSCO is not only unacceptable, in view of that country's status as a troop-contributing country, but it is also a flagrant breach of the most elementary principles of international human rights law and international humanitarian law, principles that are shared by troop-contributing countries in their determination to promote peace.

It is at the cost of this criminal attitude that the Rwandan Defence Forces (RDF) and their M23 auxiliaries are relentlessly pursuing their brutal occupation of the town of Goma, a process that began on 25 January and is continuing, against a backdrop of massacres of defenceless civilians, and above all of MONUSCO and SAMIDRC peacekeepers.

To date, the toll of attacks on MONUSCO personnel since 2022 stands at 25 dead and several injured. As regards SAMIDRC, 23 people have been killed and several injured since that force was deployed. Those losses could have been avoided if the Security Council and the Secretary-General of the United Nations had moved beyond the wait-and-see approach and responded appropriately to my Government's repeated warnings over the past three years.

As the Minister of State reiterated before the Council: "This Council cannot content itself with declarations of concern or simply remain seized of the matter. Its mandate and its duty, is to defend international peace and security, to protect human life without distinction of origin, race, religion or gender. The Council is the guarantor of hope and faith in better days: days of peace, development and prosperity".

This is why my Government calls on the Security Council and the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in a joint effort, to act decisively and immediately, in line with the overwhelming evidence provided by the most recent report of the United Nations Group of Experts and the reality on the ground, particularly in the martyred city of Goma.

In conclusion, I am annexing a table summarizing some of the repeated attacks made by the Rwandan Defence Force (RDF) and their proxies from the M23 terrorist movement since the movement's resurgence in March 2022 against MONUSCO, and against SAMIDRC since the deployment of that force in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Zénon Mukongo Ngay
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex to the letter dated 30 January 2025 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Human and material losses caused by the Rwanda Defence Force (RDF)-Mouvement du 23 mars (M23) coalition to the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) and the Southern African Development Community Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (SAMIDRC)

Year	<i>United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO)</i>	<i>Southern African Development Community (SADC) Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (SAMIDRC)</i>
2022	<p>On 29 March 2022, eight peacekeepers on an evacuation mission in North Kivu lost their lives when the helicopter carrying them was shot down by the Rwanda Defence Force (RDF)/Mouvement du 23 mars (M23).</p> <p>On 1 August 2022: a United Nations supply convoy was attacked around 11 kilometres south-east of the town of Rutshuru by RDF/M23.</p> <p>On 20 October 2022, RDF/M23, from its position on Swema hill (10 km south-east of the town of Rutshuru), fired on a patrol and hit the MONUSCO position on the Kabindi heights, according to United Nations experts.</p> <p>On 29 October 2022, during an exchange of fire between the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (FARDC) and RDF/M23 in the Shwema hills area, also in Rutshuru territory, a mortar shell wounded three peacekeepers.</p> <p>On 1 November 2022, RDF/M23 fired two mortars in the direction of a MONUSCO patrol near Rugari.</p>	
2024	<p>On 2 February 2024, a MONUSCO helicopter carrying out a medical evacuation came under fire from RDF/M23 in the eastern province of North Kivu.</p>	<p>On 14 February 2024, according to South African armed forces, two South African SADC soldiers were killed and three injured when a mortar landed on their base in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, amid growing unrest in the region.</p> <p>On 8 April 2024, three Tanzanian SADC soldiers were killed by mortar fire near their camp in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo.</p>
2025	<p>On 24 January 2025, eight peacekeepers, including three Guatemalans, were injured in Sake by mortar shells from an area controlled by RDF/M23.</p> <p>On January 25, one Uruguayan peacekeeper was killed by RDF/M23.</p>	<p>26 SAMIDRC soldiers injured by RDF/M23.</p> <p>On January 25–26, 16 SAMIDRC soldiers were killed (13 South Africans and 3 Malawians) by RDF/M23.</p>