



AI Index: AFR 62/5917/2017
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Item 10 – Interactive Dialogue on the Democratic Republic of Congo

Amnesty International's oral statement to the 34th session of the UN Human Rights Council
(27 February-24 March 2017)

Mr. President,

Amnesty International welcomes the Human Rights Council's continued interest in the human rights situation in the DRC.

Since 2015, we have documented patterns of human rights violations and crimes under international law linked to the end of President Kabila's second and last constitutional term¹.

Amnesty International has documented the use of disproportionate, excessive and lethal force by the security forces in handling demonstrations.² The Joint Human Rights Office documented the killing of at least 93 people in the context of the 19 September³ and 19 December⁴ protests. To date no serious investigations have been conducted.

The government continues to restrict civic space by banning opposition and civil society groups from organizing or expressing themselves on issues of public interest. Security forces, including the National Intelligence Service, continue to carry out arbitrary arrests and unlawful detentions of those calling for free and fair elections.

Authorities have failed to provide adequate remedies for recent inter-ethnic violence in Rutshuru. In the Kasai region, government forces have allegedly used excessive force against the armed group Kamuina Nsapu.⁵ The abduction on 12 March of two UN experts and four Congolese aides who were

¹ Amnesty International, Treated like Criminal: DRC's Race to Silence Dissent, 26 November 2016. <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/afr62/2917/2015/en/>

² Amnesty International, DRC: Deadly protest violence must be averted, 18 November 2016, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2016/11/drc-deadly-protest-violence-must-be-averted/>

³ Joint Human Rights Office, Principales tendances de violations des droits de l'homme au cours du mois de septembre 2016, 25 October 2016 <https://monusco.unmissions.org/principales-tendances-de-violations-des-droits-de-l%E2%80%99homme-au-cours-du-mois-de-septembre-2016>

⁴ Joint Human Rights Office, Rapport sur les violations des droits de l'homme en RD Congo dans le contexte des événements du 19 Décembre, 28 February 2017 <https://monusco.unmissions.org/rapport-sur-les-violations-des-droits-de-l%E2%80%99homme-en-rd-congo-dans-le-contexte-des-%C3%A9v%C3%A8nements-du-19>

⁵ Joint Human Rights Office, L'ONU Condamne l'usage excessif et disproportionnée de la force lors des

investigating recent attacks is a sign of further deterioration of the human rights situation in the Central Kasai province.

Amnesty International urges the DRC to:

- promptly and independently investigate security forces' violence and human rights violations during protests and state authority enforcement operations;
- lift all unlawful bans on protests and facilitate demonstrations organized by the opposition and civil society groups;
- engage in a meaningful reform of the National Intelligence Service and establish an oversight mechanism of its activities
- step up efforts – in collaboration with UN forces - to protect civilians in the area of armed conflict and adequately address interethnic conflicts.

affrontement au Kasai Central, 14 February 2017 <https://monusco.unmissions.org/rdc-lonu-condamne-lusage-excessif-et-disproportionn%C3%A9-de-la-force-lors-daffrontements-au-kasa%C3%AF>