

PRESS RELEASE FROM JUSTICE CONGO GROUP UK: MARCH 16 2023

Urgent update on eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

Who: Justice Congo Group is an independent campaigning group, seeking to raise awareness and action on the current horrific war situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

DRC's neighbour, Rwanda, is using its M23 militia to invade DRC, with impunity, to secure access to the rich minerals and land in DRC. This is a war in the heart of Africa, comparable to the war in Ukraine. Hundreds of thousands of people displaced, many killed, many raped – largely unreported by national and international media.

What, where, when, why: Our members in Bukavu, South Kivu, DRC, reported Tuesday night March 14 that there is a new strategy being developed by the Rwanda-backed M23 militia. They are involved in peace discussions re: the situation in North Kivu, near Goma. They are “pretending to make peace” there, while secretly preparing to carry out a new invasion in South Kivu.

They are “among the population”, and getting ready to attack the airport, and Bukavu itself. We heard on Tuesday night that the Rwanda-backed M23 are in the hills of Kalehe “at the door of Bukavu”, and that since 6 am Monday March 13, fighting had resumed in nearby villages.

We also heard that the Chief of Mbuku, who acknowledges that M23 is infiltrating his area, sees refugees fleeing to the Haut Plateau, has reported this to the Congolese authorities, but has seen no action up till now.

Everyone in Bukavu and South Kivu, as well as throughout the east of DRC, is living in terror at this time. Please urgently inform your audience about this terrible situation, which is so poorly understood.

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