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## PRESS RELEASE

### **MONUSCO condemns the ADF armed group's attack that claimed the lives of 43 civilians in Komanda and intensifies protection efforts in Ituri**

**Kinshasa, 27 July 2025** – The United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) strongly condemns the attack that took place during the night of 26 to 27 July 2025 in Komanda (approximately 60 km southwest of Bunia), in Irumu territory, Ituri.

According to official reports, the attack by elements of the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) armed group resulted in the death of at least 43 civilians (19 women, 15 men, and nine children). Most of the victims were reportedly killed with bladed weapons inside a place of worship. Several individuals were abducted. Homes and shops were also set on fire, further worsening an already extremely concerning humanitarian situation in the province.

MONUSCO expresses its deep outrage at these heinous acts of violence, which constitute serious violations of international humanitarian law and infringements on human rights. The Mission extends its sincere condolences to the bereaved families and communities and reaffirms its solidarity with the affected populations. It urges the Congolese authorities to conduct a thorough investigation into these killings and to bring those responsible to justice. The Mission also reiterates the United Nations Secretary-General's call for all foreign armed groups to lay down their weapons unconditionally and return to their countries of origin.

“These targeted attacks against defenceless civilians, particularly in places of worship, are not only appalling but also in violation of all human rights standards and international humanitarian law. MONUSCO will continue to work tirelessly alongside the Congolese authorities to protect the population in line with its mandate,” said Ms. Vivian van de Perre, Deputy Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Protection and Operations and Acting Head of MONUSCO.

In coordination with local authorities, the Mission has provided support for the response, including the organization of burials and the provision of medical care for the wounded. At the same time, MONUSCO has intensified its security efforts in and around Komanda by increasing the frequency of patrols in the area.

MONUSCO remains fully committed to working alongside the Congolese authorities and local communities to help prevent future attacks, protect civilians, reduce tensions, and contribute to the stabilization of areas affected by armed violence.