

ANALYSIS OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION

IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO



A UNJHRO team in a human rights monitoring mission at an internally displaced persons (IDP) site in Tanganyika Province, June 2026

JUNE 2026

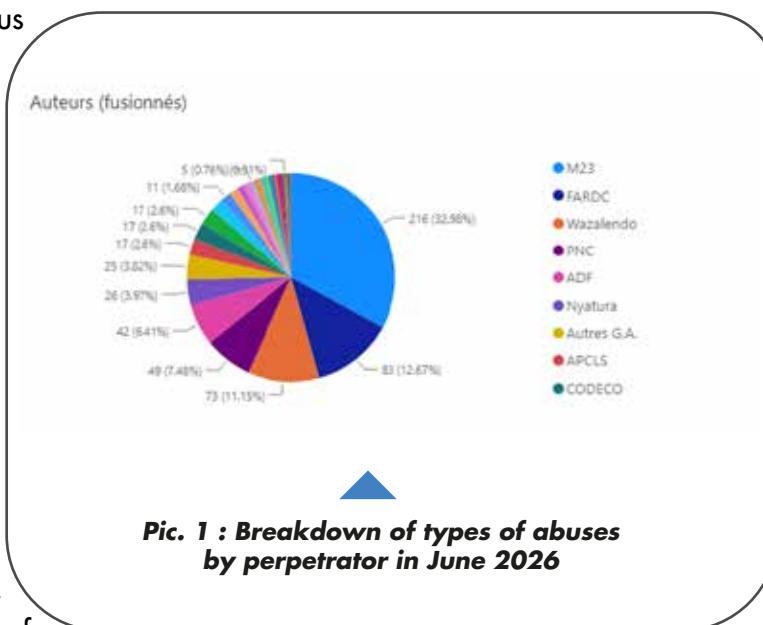
General overview of the human rights situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

In June 2026, the general situation of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo continued to deteriorate. It was characterized by ongoing violence in conflict-affected provinces, restrictions on civic space and persistent issues in places of detention. In Ituri, North Kivu and South Kivu, the situation was further worsened by the Ebola virus disease (EVD) epidemic. June also saw the authorities and the Alliance Fleuve du Congo/Mouvement du 23mars (AFC/M23) implement various restrictive measures affecting the exercise of fundamental freedoms and increasing the risk of human rights violations for the population, particularly the violations of the right to life, health and physical integrity.

In June 2026, UNJHRO documented 657 violations and abuses of human rights affecting at least 1,187 victims, which represents a 36% increase compared to the 481 violations and abuses documented in May. This increase reflects the ongoing conflicts in the east, particularly in the provinces of Ituri, North Kivu and South Kivu, where attacks by armed groups against populations and clashes between state armed forces and these groups continue, and intensify, with grave consequences for civilian populations. While the number of violations and abuses increased in June, the number of victims remained stable compared to May. This situation reflects a decrease of deadly attacks carried out by the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) during this period. This development is partly due to the

increased deployment of patrols by the Forces Armées de la République Démocratique du Congo (FARDC) in areas affected by ADF attacks in the provinces of Tshopo and Bas-Uélé

Documented violations and abuses indicate a high prevalence of mistreatment and gunshot and knife injuries (221 cases), violations and abuses of the right to life (149 cases), violations of freedom and security of the person (158 cases), and of the right to property (118 cases).



Armed groups remained the main perpetrators of human rights violations and abuses in conflict-affected areas. Among others, the AFC/M23 was responsible for the largest number of documented cases (216), followed by Wazalendo groups (73 cases), ADF (42) and Nyatura (26). Violations were also attributed to state

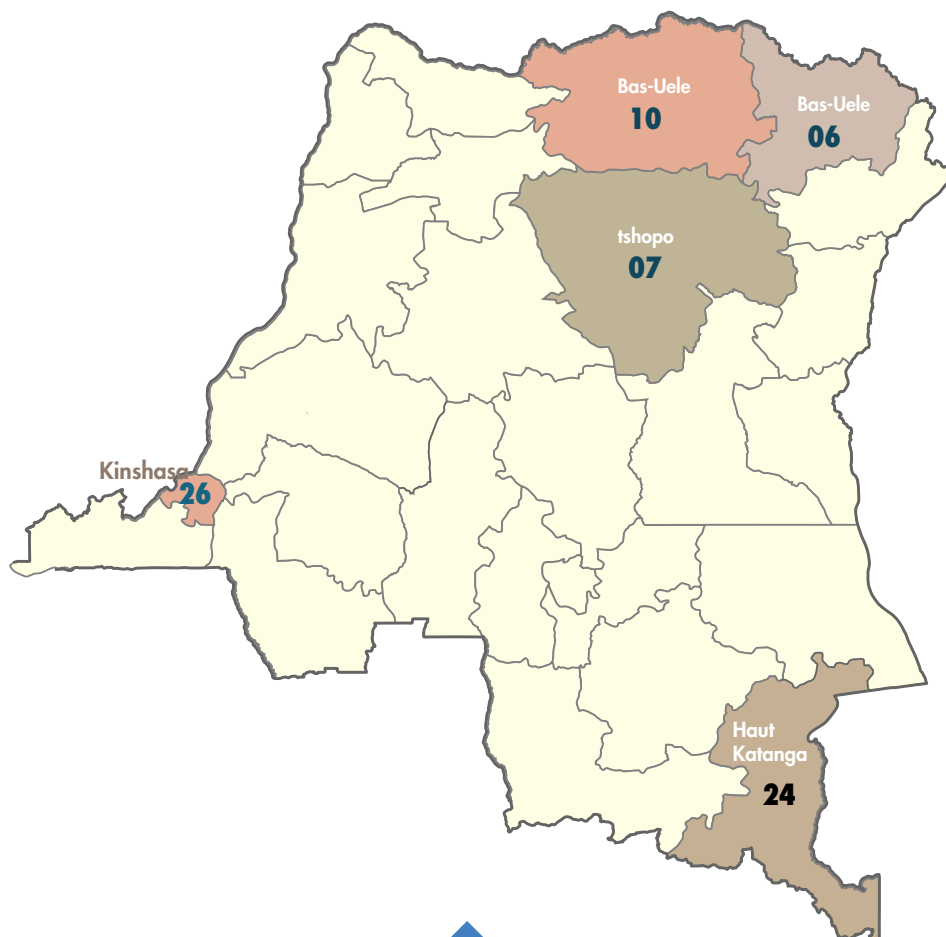
agents, including members of the FARDC (94 cases) and the Police Nationale Congolaise (PNC) involved in 63 cases.

While the provinces affected by conflict concentrated most of the documented human rights violations and abuses (88%), human rights violations and abuses also continued to be documented in non-conflict provinces, primarily in the context of law enforcement and the administration of justice. Furthermore, tensions related to the constitutional reform project have resulted in restrictions to fundamental freedoms, particularly the right to peaceful assembly, confirming the trend of shrinking civic space observed in recent months.

Human rights situation in provinces not affected by the conflict^[1]

During the period under review, UNJHRO documented 83 violations and abuses of human rights in provinces not affected by the conflict. Most of

these cases (77) were attributed to state actors, while six violations were attributed to members of armed groups. These violations and abuses



Pic. 2 : Geographical distribution of human rights abuses and violations in provinces not affected by armed conflict in June 2026

1 Kinshasa, Haut-Katanga, Tshopo, Equateur, Kasai Central, Kasai Oriental, Haut-Uélé, Lualaba, Kasai, Mai-Ndombe et Kongo Central

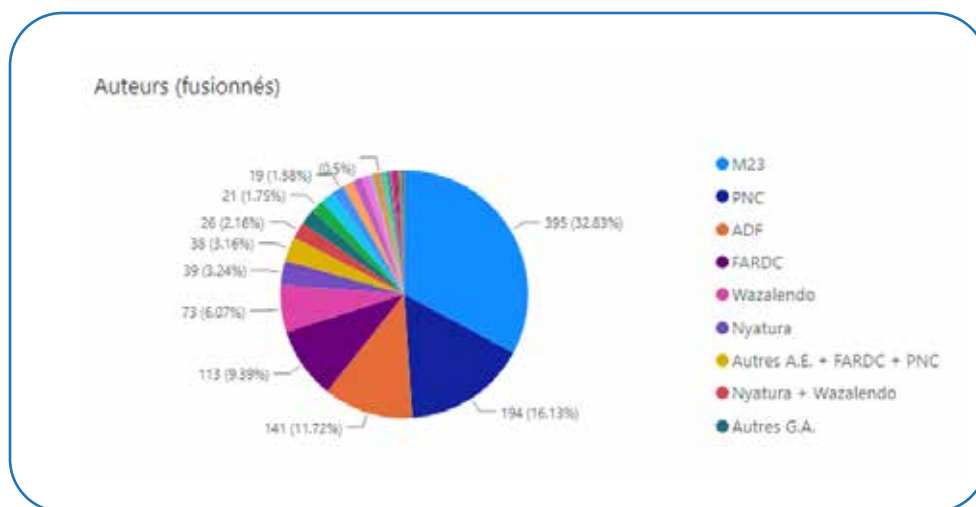
affected 283 victims, including 231 men, 34 children and 17 women. PNC agents were the main perpetrators of violations and abuses of human rights, with 47 violations documented, followed by FARDC soldiers, including the Republican Guard, with 39 violations. The Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) was responsible for four violations in the Bas-Uélé province.

Geographically, Kinshasa remains the most affected province with 26 violations documented, followed by Haut-Katanga (24 violations), Haut-Uélé (10 violations and abuses), Tshopo (seven violations and abuses), Bas-Uélé and Lualaba (six violations and abuses each).

The most frequently documented violations and abuses are related to the right to liberty and security of the person (26 violations), primarily in the form of arbitrary arrests and illegal detentions (24 cases). These were followed by violations of the right to physical integrity (21 violations) and to the right to life (17 violations, including 15 extrajudicial or summary executions) as well as 15 cases of illegal appropriation and two cases of destruction of property.

UNJHRO also documented at least two viola-

tions relating to the exercise of public freedoms. The first relates to the repression on 12 June 2026 in Kinshasa of a gathering of the opposition organized to protest the adoption process of a referendum law that is perceived as potentially paving the way for a constitutional revision and a third presidential term. Clashes between PNC agents and FARDC soldiers and members of the Force du Progrès de l'Union pour la Démocratie et le Progrès Social, armed with machetes, sticks, and stones, resulted in at least one person dead and 38 others injured, including four opposition political party leaders. Six vehicles were also set on fire in front of the headquarters of the Engagement pour la Citoyenneté et le Développement (ECIDE) party. The second violation of public freedom relates to the arrest of 19 members of the political party Nouvelle Génération pour l'Emergence du Congo (18 men and one woman) on 24 June 2026 in Kinshasa. These activists were arrested by *PNC agents as they were leaving a meeting. They were preparing a peaceful demonstration to demand the release of their national president, a former Minister of Justice.



Pic. 3 : Alleged perpetrators responsible for the highest number of killings

Human rights situation in conflict-affected provinces^[2]

In provinces affected by the conflict, the situation remained particularly worrying in June 2026 due to the ongoing activity of armed groups, the continuation of military operations and the weakness of preventive protection mechanisms, particularly in rural areas. The North Kivu and Ituri provinces experienced the most serious incidents documented during the period under review, primarily attributed to the ADF. The attacks targeted civilians in their homes, fields, agricultural settlements, along roadways, and in villages located in areas affected by the presence and movements of armed groups. These attacks resulted in summary executions, kidnappings, injuries, pillaging, the destruction of homes, motorcycles and commercial property, as well as population displacement.

During June 2026, UNJHRO documented

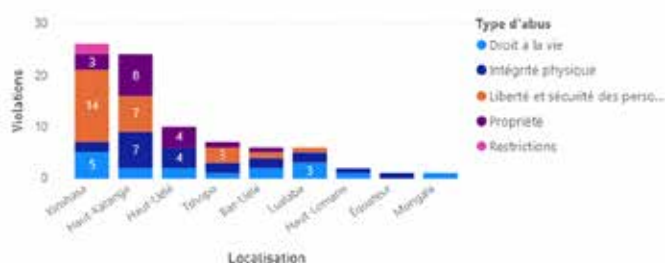
574 violations and abuses of human rights in conflict-affected provinces, an increase of 26 per cent compared to the previous month (393 violations and abuses).

Armed groups were responsible for most of the documented violations and abuses (487 violations and abuses, or 74 per cent). As in the previous month, the AFC/M23 was responsible for the greatest number of violations (216), followed by the Wazalendo groups (73) and the ADF (42) and Nyatura (26). State agents were responsible for 84 violations (14 per cent), primarily attributed to members of the FARDC (62 violations) and the PNC (15 violations).

As in the previous month, violations and abuses of the right to life, primarily summary and extrajudicial executions, caused the greatest number of victims. UNJHRO documented 121 cases affecting 288 victims, including 188 men, 66 women, 32 children and three persons of unknown gender. During the same period, 119 cases of ill-treatment affecting 156 men, 40 women, 22 children and five persons of unknown gender, 92 cases of abductions affecting 224 victims, including 167 men, 34 women and 23 children were also recorded. Finally, 49 cases of sexual violence were recorded, affecting 75 victims, including 56 women, 17 girls and two men.

In June, North Kivu and Ituri were the provinces most affected by violations and abuses of human rights, with the most emblematic incidents occurring mainly in the Beni territory in North Kivu and the Mambasa territory in Ituri. This concentration suggests a localized intensi-

Province par groupe d'abus



Pic. 4 : Types of abuses by province not affected by armed conflict in June 2026

2 UNJHRO classifies the following provinces as conflict-affected: Ituri, Maniema, North Kivu, South Kivu, and Tanganyika.

fication of the threat rather than a widespread expansion across all provinces in conflict. For example, on the night of 2–3 June in Mbau, in the Beni territory, ADF combatants summarily executed at least 18 civilians, including women and children, and injured at least nine others. The incident occurred during a simultaneous attack on several neighbourhoods, followed by the fire of houses, shops and vehicles. The simultaneous nature of the attack,

the targeting of inhabited areas, and the combination of summary executions, kidnappings, and destruction of property illustrate a strategy aimed at terrorising the population, disrupting local protection mechanisms, and reducing civilians' access to their livelihoods. Other incidents documented in the same territory confirm this trend^[3].

Conflict-related sexual violence

In June 2026, the UNJHRO documented 46 cases of conflict-related sexual violence, affecting at least 73 victims, including 56 women, 15 girls and two men. This represents a 4% increase on the previous month, during which 40 cases affecting 70 victims were recorded. As in previous months, the North Kivu province accounted most of victims, at 73% of the total, with 44 women, six girls and two men, followed by South Kivu, which accounted for 16% of victims, with 10 women and two girls. The Ituri province accounts for 11% of victims, with two women and six girls.

Unlike the previous month, armed groups were the main perpetrators of documented sexual violence, affecting 56 victims and accounting for 77% of all recorded victims. The AFC/M23 was responsible for most of these acts of violence, affecting 34 victims, including 30 women, three girls and one man. This group was followed by Wazalendo groups

responsible for eight victims, the APCLS responsible for five victims, and the Forces Démocratiques de Libération du Rwanda (FDLR) for three victims. State agents were responsible for 23% of the documented cases affecting 17 victims. Twenty percent of the cases affecting 15 victims were attributed to the FARDC, including 11 women and four girls. One case affecting a girl was attributed to a PNC agent.

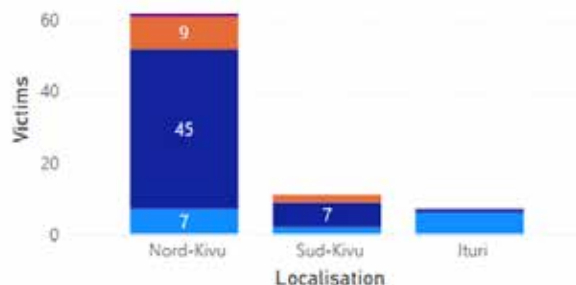
Of the 46 documented incidents, the majority involved gang rapes (13 cases), frequently accompanied by looting, abductions and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or summary executions.

Regarding victim assistance, most victims received medical care, which was supplemented in some cases by psychological and/or legal support. However, in certain cases, medical and legal assistance could not be provided due to a lack of information on

3 On the night of 5-6 June, in Matiba, five civilians were summarily executed and a house was set on fire. On 6 June, two civilians were killed in an ambush on the Mbau-Kamango axis in Kelekele, while at least two motorcycles were set on fire. On 7 June, in Vikemo/PK8, four civilians, including three women, were killed during an incursion. On 11 June, in Muzambayi in the Boikene district of the city of Beni, at least three civilians were executed and several homes were destroyed by fire, prompting a protest by the local population. On 12 June, in the Kididiwe-Lezigo agricultural zone, five farmers were summarily executed and several properties, including houses, agricultural produce and a motorbike, were destroyed. Taken together, these incidents show that civilians are particularly vulnerable when carrying out agricultural activities, travelling on roads or living in poorly secured peripheral areas.

Province by Victim Type

● Enfant ● Femme ● Homme ● Inconnu

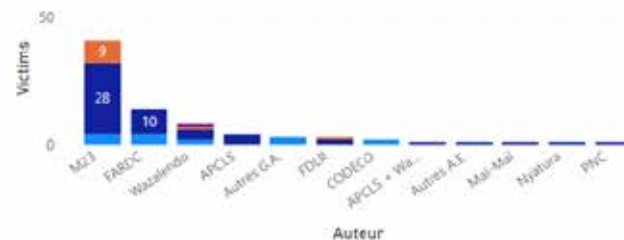


Pic. 5 : Types of victims by province in June 2026

the assistance received and the unavailability of post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) kits in some conflict-affected areas.

Actors (Merged) by Victim Type

● Enfant ● Femme ● Homme ● Inconnu



Pic. 6 : Percentage of victims by alleged perpetrator in June 2026

Civic space

UNJHRO documented 17 violations and abuses of human rights relating to civic space, resulting in 68 victims, including two women. This increase of 11 violations and 46 victims compared to May (six violations and 22 victims) is due to the repression of demonstrations around the constitutional reform project. These violations and abuses were recorded in North Kivu (5), South Kivu (4) and Kinshasa (8). Six of these violations and abuses were committed by armed groups (three by Wazalendo, two by ADF and one by Twirwaneho), and 11 by state agents (PNC).

In terms of individual protection, UNJHRO documented seven cases of individual protec-

tion, including two attributable to the PNC, two involving the judicial authorities, one involving the intelligence services, and three involving armed groups. These cases were recorded in four provinces: Tshopo (one case); Kinshasa (one case); North Kivu (three cases); and Ituri (two cases). Following UNJHRO's assessment of these cases, nine beneficiaries (seven human rights defenders, all male) and two journalists (one male and one female) received advice on self-protection to improve their security, as well as advocacy and follow-up support.

Impact of Ebola on human right



In June 2026, as part of the response to the Ebola virus disease, national and provincial authorities adopted several measures that affected the exercise of certain fundamental freedoms. These included the closure of the national airport in Bunia on 6 June, just a few days after its reopening on 1 June, the limitation of public gatherings to 50 people as set out in the Ituri provincial order of 29 June 2026, and the prohibition of large gatherings in the provinces of Kinshasa, Tshopo, Haut-Uélé and Bas-Uélé decreed by the Minister of the Interior. Although these measures aimed to protect public health, they restricted the enjoyment of the freedoms of movement and peaceful assembly.

The Ebola outbreak and shortcomings in the response adversely affected the right to health of Ebola patients, other patients, and healthcare workers. Attacks on response teams, strikes by healthcare professionals, a lack of resources and the temporary closure of certain healthcare facilities, which characterized June, reduced access to care, prevention and medical treatment, contributing to several Ebola-related deaths. In this context, response teams also remained exposed to

serious risks to their physical integrity due to persistent mistrust and hostility within certain communities. In June, at least 15 documented incidents resulted in physical assaults, death threats, destruction of property, and obstruction of public health operations, thereby undermining the effective implementation of the response efforts. The attack carried out on 10 June 2026 against a surveillance team in Tutu, during which a medical doctor was captured, tied up, and threatened with death by armed individuals, highlights the high risks that health personnel and response actors continue to face in the discharge of their duties.

The Ebola epidemic has affected the enjoyment of the rights of women and indigenous peoples. Women have seen their access to health services, including maternal care and services for survivors of sexual violence, further limited. Indigenous peoples have been particularly affected by measures that are often poorly adapted to their socio-economic and cultural realities, reducing their ability to protect themselves against the disease and affecting their livelihoods.

Developments in the fight against impunity

During the reporting period, 12 legal proceedings were initiated by military courts against 11 FARDC soldiers and one Wazalendo group member. These proceedings resulted in the conviction of the 11 FARDC soldiers and one Wazalendo member for offences related to human rights violations and abuses. Four FARDC soldiers and one Wazalendo combatant were sentenced to death. In the context of these proceedings, 102

victims and witnesses (35 men, 28 women, 2 girls and 37 boys) received judicial protection with the support of UNJHRO.