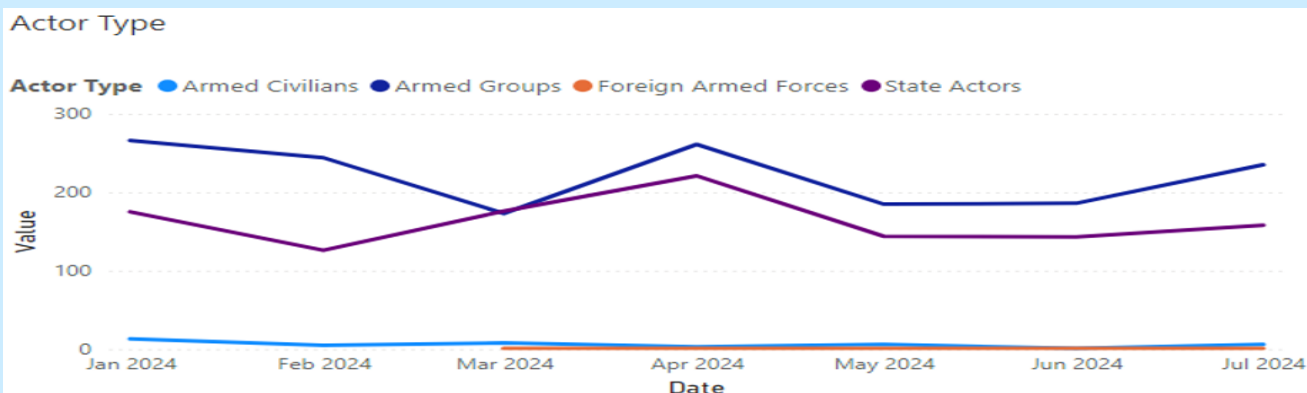
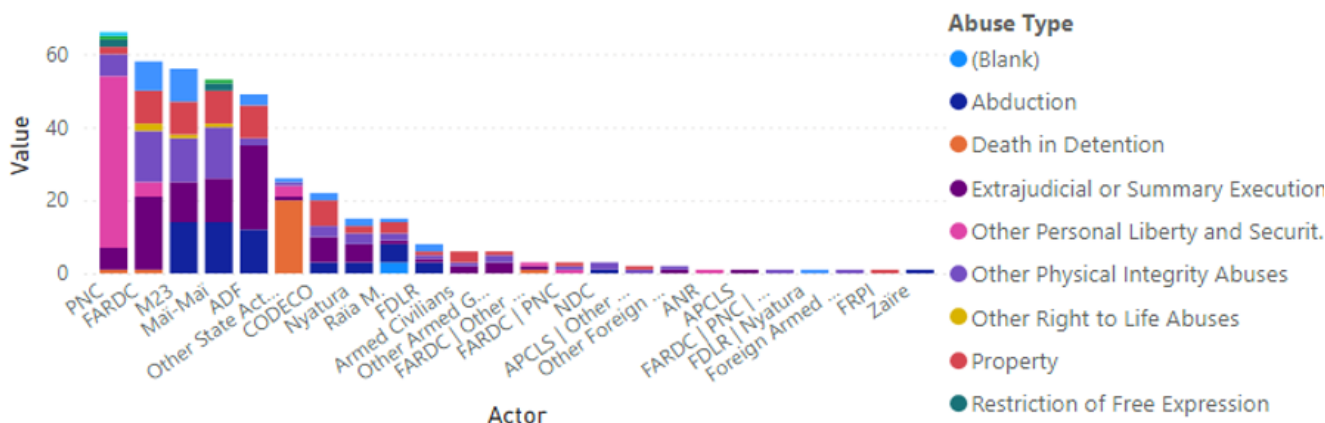


General situation: evolution of human rights violations and abuses since January 2024



The security situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, marked by widespread violence gave rise to numerous human rights violations and abuses. Between January and July 2024, the UNJHRO documented 2,278 human rights violations and abuses in the provinces affected by the conflict. In North Kivu, the human rights situation continued to deteriorate due to clashes between the Forces armées de la République démocratique du Congo (FARDC) and the M23/RDF coalition. Furthermore, the M23's territorial gain towards Lubero territory was accompanied by numerous violations of human rights and international humanitarian law. At the same time, attacks by other armed groups such as the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) and the Coopérative de développement du Congo (CODECO), the Mai-Mai, the Zaire group, the FDRL and others intensified in North Kivu and Ituri provinces. Despite Operation Shujja by the Congolese and Ugandan armies against the ADF, this group carried out deadly attacks against civilians, resulting in mass murders, kidnappings and destruction of property. The rise in power of the Wazalendo, who fight alongside the FARDC, has also contributed to insecurity and an increase in human rights abuses, with attacks on civilians in the Petit and Grand Nord Kivu territories.

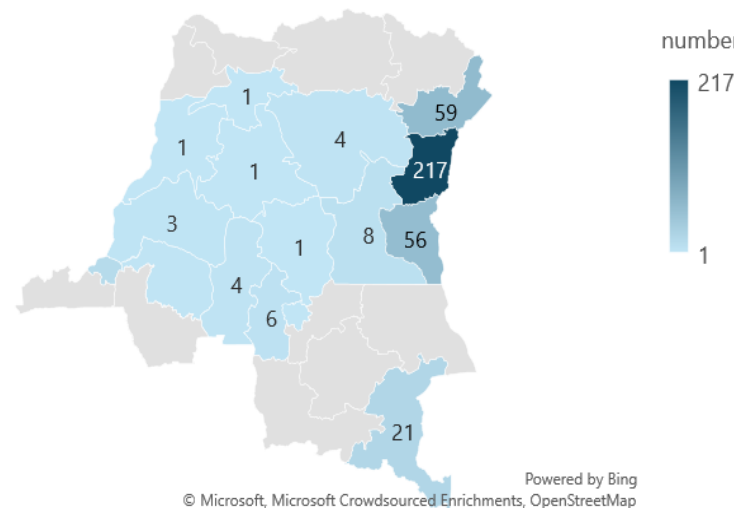
Actor and Abuse Type



Out of the violations and abuses documented during the period under review, 95 concerned the right to life, resulting in the death of 282 victims. The UNJHRO documented 56 cases of abduction involving 228 victims, 68 violations and abuses of the right to physical integrity involving 141 victims, 204 victims of violations of the right to personal freedom, 141 victims of physical harm, 130 victims of property rights violations and 52 victims of conflict-related sexual violence. The number of victims of summary and extrajudicial executions may be explained by the intensification of clashes between the parties to the conflict and attacks by armed groups on civilians, either as reprisals or aiming at resupplying. Concerning the victims killed during the clashes between the FARDC/VDP Wazalendo and the M23/RDF, most were civilians killed or wounded during attacks, in their fields, on the roads, in their homes or victims of crossfire during the clashes between the parties to the conflict. As for the ADF, the high number of victims of summary execution (162 victims) is explained by multiple murderous attacks carried out in reprisal against civilians accused of collaborating with the FARDC during the Shujaa military operation against the group, as well as incursions into villages, fields, roads and drinking establishments, killing and wounding unarmed civilians, burning down homes and looting property. Meanwhile, in Ituri, attacks on ethnic grounds continue, notably by CODECO.

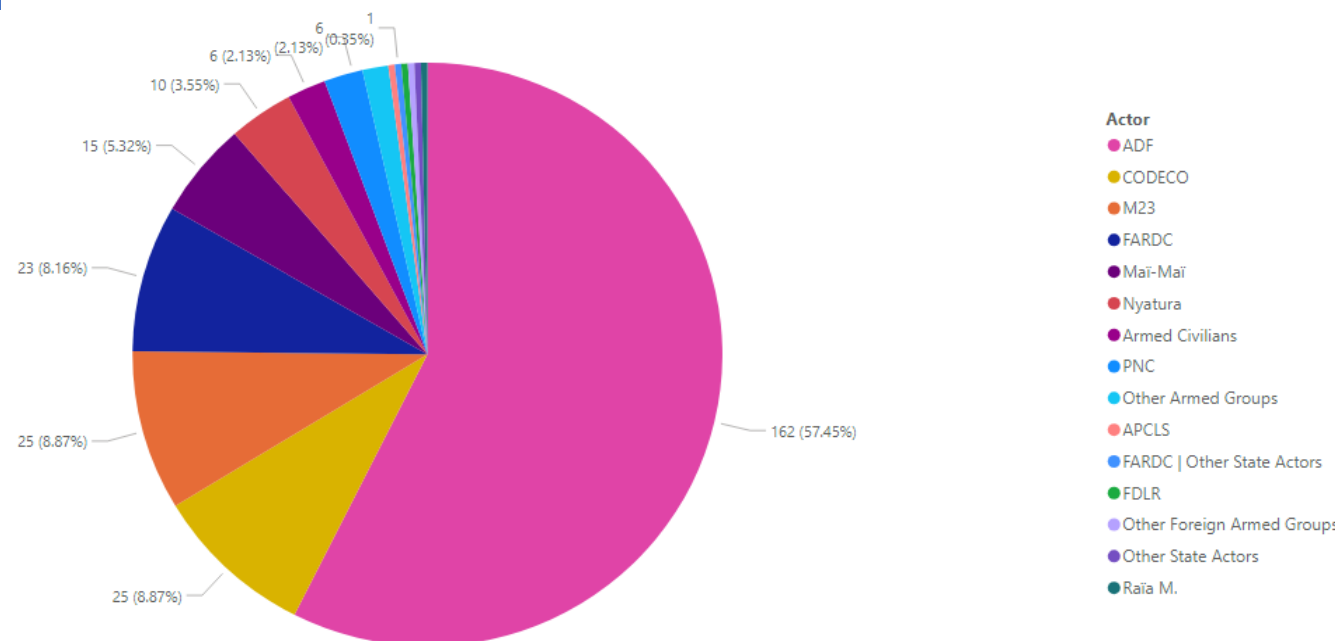
General trends of human rights situation during August 2024

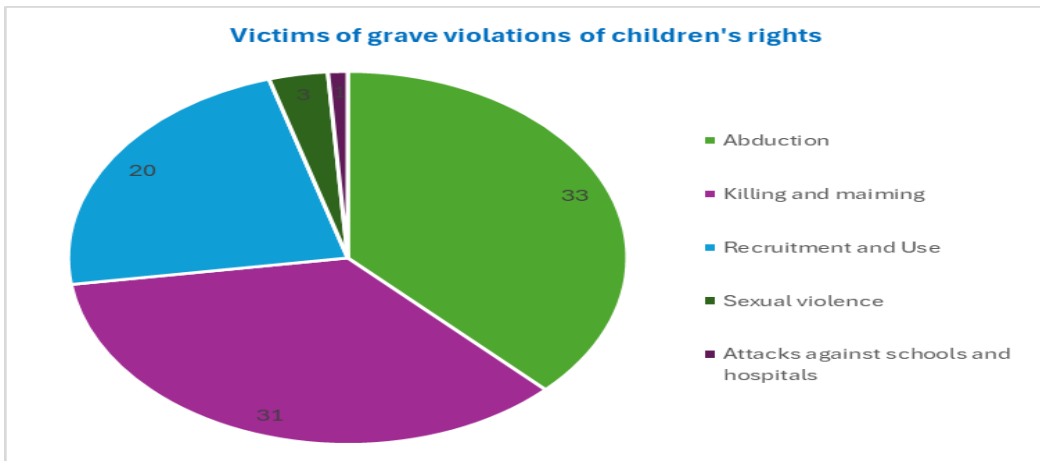
Human rights violation by province



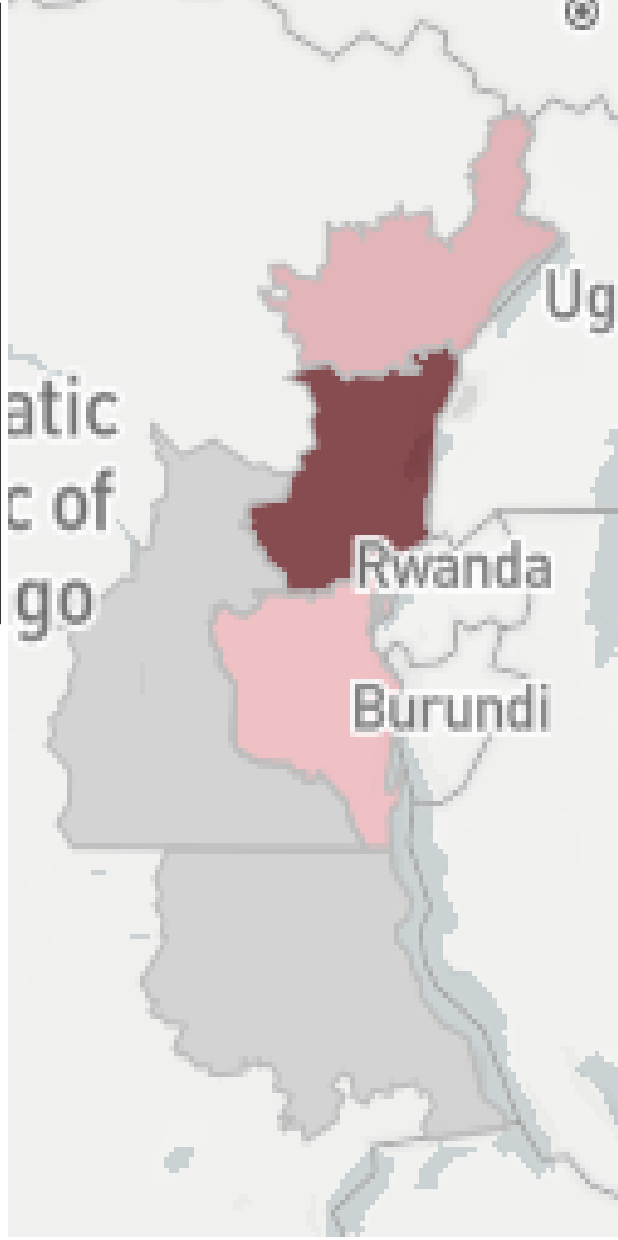
Most violations and abuses were committed in conflict-affected provinces, accounting for 85% of all recorded cases. The province of North Kivu alone recorded half of these cases, with 217 violations and abuses (54%), followed by Ituri with 59 violations and abuses (15%), and South Kivu with 56 violations and breaches (14%). Among the provinces not affected by the conflict, the most affected are Haut-Katanga (21 violations and abuses, or 5%), Kinshasa (15 violations and abuses, or 4%), Kasaï-Central (six violations and abuses, or 1%), Kasaï and Tshopo (four violations and abuses each, or 4%).

Victims of summary and extrajudicial executions by perpetrator



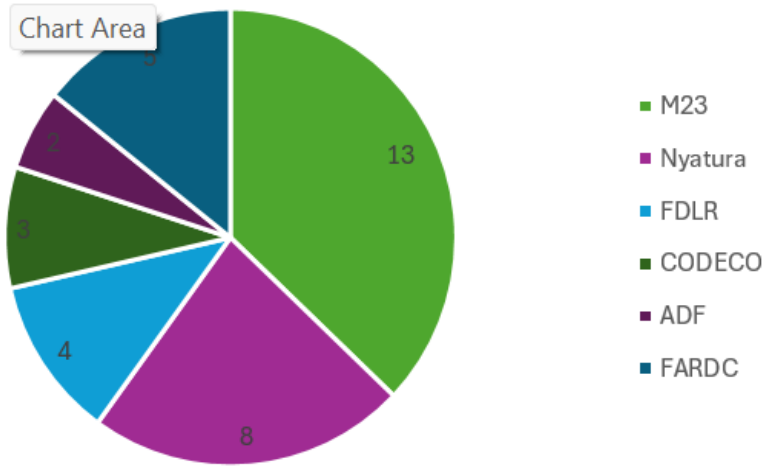


In the month under review, the UNJHRO recorded 19 incidents of Conflict related sexual violence against women, involving 35 victims (all women), compared with seven victims in the previous month. Seven of these incidents involved rape, five involved gang rape, three involved rape followed by the execution of the victims and one each involved rape and abduction, forced nudity and attempted rape. Armed groups were responsible for 94% of this sexual violence, with a total of 33 victims, including the M23 with 13 women, the Nyatura factions with eight women, the FDLR with four women, CODECO with three women and the ADF with two women. State agents committed five cases of conflict-related sexual violence, all attributable to the FARDC (five women). The province with the highest number of victims of sexual violence was North Kivu, with 29 women, followed by Ituri with four women and Maniema with two women.

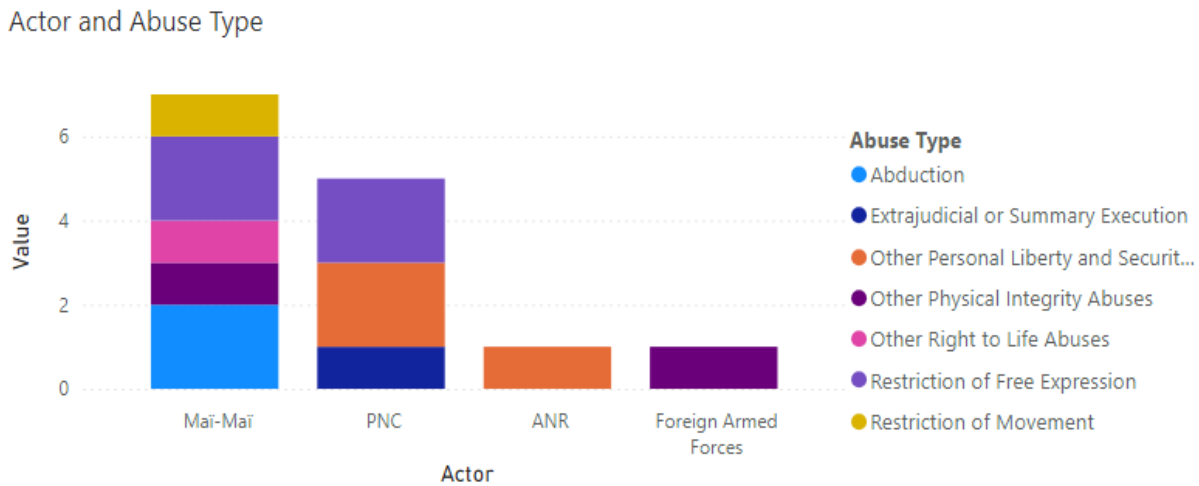


Out of the 33 children abducted (27 boys and 6 girls), 20 were abducted for extortion, 5 for recruitment and use and 8 for unspecified reasons. The abductions were attributed to the M23 (22), ADF (9), CODECO (1) and Mai-Mai Mazembe (1). Most of the abductions took place in North Kivu (26), followed by Ituri (7). CPS verified the recruitment and use of 20 children (17 boys and 3 girls) aged between 6 and 17. All the children played various support roles (escort, fetish guardians, porters, etc), except for 5 who were used as combatants. 7 children were under the age of 15 at the time of their recruitment.

CRSV victims by perpetrator



Human Rights situation in Democratic space.



In July 2024, the UNJHRO documented 14 human rights violations and abuses related to democratic space, resulting in 28 victims, all men. This is an increase on the number of violations documented in June 2024 (three violations with three victims). Seven of these violations were committed by members of armed groups, six by State agents and one by elements of foreign forces. The violations and abuses documented during the reporting period were violations of the right to personal freedom (five violations), the right to freedom of expression and opinion (four violations), the right to physical integrity (two violations), the right to life (two violations), and the right to freedom of movement (one violation).

Administration of justice.

Since the lifting of the moratorium on the death penalty in March 2024, there have been a total of 90 death sentences (all men). This measure, announced as a response to the fight against terrorism and high crime, and to punish military personnel guilty of acts of treason in the context of the ongoing military operations against the M23, has led to 58 members of the FARDC, 24 leaders of the M23, 6 militants from the Force du Progrès group, 1 PNC officer, and the Coordinator of the AFC being sentenced to death since March 2024. It should be noted that for the whole of 2023, the Congolese courts handed down death sentences to 101 defendants prosecuted for violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, including 23 members of the FARDC, two members of the PNC, 34 members of armed groups and 42 civilians.

Technical Cooperation

In July 2024, the UNJHRO continued to support the Congolese government and civil society in promoting and protecting human rights. The UNJHRO organised at least 13 activities throughout the country, benefiting 1,154 people, including 825 men and 329 women. For example, on 29 July 2024, the UNJHRO provided financial and technical support to the Ministry of Human Rights for the organisation of a workshop to validate the report of the 4th cycle of the Universal Periodic Evaluation (UPE) of the Democratic Republic of Congo, to be held on 5 November 2024. The workshop was followed on 30 and 31 July by a briefing session on the UPR for staff from the Ministry of Human Rights, the National Human Rights Commission (CNDH), members of the UN Country Team's human rights thematic groups and members of civil society.

INDIVIDUAL PROTECTION

During the month of July, the UNJHRO documented 13 cases of individual protection, including two attributable to PNC officers, one to FARDC soldiers, three to administrative, judicial and intelligence service authorities, and seven to elements of armed groups. These cases were recorded in seven provinces: Haut-Uélé, Ituri, Kwango, Kinshasa, Haut-Katanga, North Kivu and South Kivu. Following the UNJHRO's examination of these cases, 21 beneficiaries, including four women (15 human rights defenders, including four women, and six journalists), received support to improve their security.

