



PR/OSMR/2019

Office of the Spokesperson and Media Relations

PRESS RELEASE

MONUSCO is concerned by the heavy loss of lives after an unauthorised demonstration in Goma

Kinshasa, 31 August 2023: The United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, MONUSCO, has received reports of the deaths of civilians during an unauthorised demonstration in Goma on Wednesday 30 August 2023. In accordance with their primary responsibility for security in the country, the Congolese defence and security forces attempted to prevent the demonstration that was going to be violent, according to its organisers.

The Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of MONUSCO, Ms. Bintou Keita deeply regrets that the banned demonstration resulted in the deaths of civilians, police officers and members of the Congolese armed forces, as well as injuries to many others.

The Mission expresses its sincere condolences to the authorities and people of the DRC, to the families of those who died, and wishes a speedy recovery to the injured.

MONUSCO remains concerned by the threats of violence made prior to the demonstration and reiterates the importance of the peaceful resolution of disputes and concerns through inclusive dialogue.

The Mission encourages the Congolese authorities to conduct a prompt and independent investigation and calls them to treat those detained humanely and to respect their rights under the Constitution and the country's international obligations.

The Mission will continue to monitor the situation and provide the authorities with the necessary support to ensure that human rights are respected in the maintenance of law and order and in the treatment of detainees.