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COI QUERY RESPONSE

DRC – HUMAN RIGHTS

In November 2024 *Human Rights Watch* states that: “...the government has cracked down on its critics and has increasingly restricted fundamental liberties, including by curtailing freedom of expression and peaceful demonstrations. At least three politicians and two human rights defenders are currently arbitrarily detained.”¹

In September 2024 the *United Nations Human Rights Council* notes that: “During the reporting period, the Joint Office documented a decrease of some 30 per cent in human rights violations and abuses related to democratic space (from 296 to 208). State actors were responsible for 90 per cent of the violations documented, most of which concerned the rights to liberty and security of person and freedom of opinion and expression.”²

A report issued in September 2024 by *Amnesty International* states that: “Journalists, civil society activists, and political opponents have faced threats, arbitrary detention, and judicial harassment.”³

A report issued in August 2024 the *Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights* states that: “The Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders expressed alarm at the fact that, from June 2023 to April 2024, the United Nations Joint Human Rights Office in the Democratic Republic of the Congo had documented incidents of intimidation, threats of physical

¹ Human Rights Watch (4 November 2024) DR Congo President Suggests Changes to Term Limits

² United Nations Human Rights Council (30 September 2024) Human rights situation and the activities of the United Nations Joint Human Rights Office in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (September 2024), p.8

³ Amnesty International (30 September 2024) DRC President Felix Tshisekedi must be held accountable for human rights violations, p.2

violence, attacks and acts of reprisals targeting 387 human rights defenders and 67 journalists, perpetrated by both State agents and armed groups.”⁴

In June 2024 *Amnesty International* states that: “...human rights...priorities include ensuring effective civilian protection in conflict zones, addressing impunity for crimes under international law and other serious human rights violations, fixing the criminal justice system, upholding the rule of law and ending restriction on civic space, as well as increasing allocation of and better management of resources for enhanced realisation of social and economic rights.”⁵

The *United Nations Security Council* in June 2024 notes that: “Between 20 March and 31 May, 1,169 human rights violations and abuses were documented across the country.”⁶

Human Rights Watch in May 2024 points out that: “Since 2020, the authorities have increasingly cracked down on journalists, human rights and democracy activists, critics of the government, and opposition party members and officials.”⁷

In March 2024 *Human Rights Watch* states that: “President Tshisekedi faces significant challenges, including worsening violence in the east with the ongoing armed conflict with the Rwanda-backed M23 armed group as well as other fighting involving various non-state armed groups, continuing violence in and around the western province of Mai-Ndombe, rising tensions among communities in the southern Katanga region, rising hate speech, and one of the world’s biggest displacement crises.”⁸

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⁴ Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (29 August 2024) *Democratic Republic of the Congo: Compilation of information prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights*, p.5

⁵ Amnesty International (24 June 2024) *DRC: Human rights priorities for the government of Democratic Republic of Congo during President Tshisekedi’s second term*, p.1

⁶ United Nations Security Council (20 June 2024) *United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo; Report of the Secretary-General*, p.5

⁷ Human Rights Watch (27 May 2024) *DR Congo: Uphold Rights, Rule of Law After Failed Coup*

⁸ Human Rights Watch (6 March 2024) *A Human Rights Agenda for the Democratic Republic of Congo*, p.1

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