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COI QUERY

Country of Origin	Democratic Republic of the Congo
Title	National Intelligence Agency (Agence Nationale de Renseignements, ANR); treatment by ANR of individuals who express dissent or are perceived to do so against the government, including ability to track them down; availability of state protection
Reference period	September 2021 to 1 August 2024
Topic(s)	National Intelligence Agency (Agence Nationale de Renseignements, ANR) Treatment by ANR of individuals who expressed dissent or are perceived to do so against the government, including ability to track dissenters Availability of state protection
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Cite as: EUAA, Country of Origin Information Query, Democratic Republic of the Congo, National Intelligence Agency (Agence Nationale de Renseignements, ANR); treatment by ANR of individuals who express dissent or are perceived to do so against the government, including ability to track them down; availability of state protection, 5 August 2024, [url](#)

COI QUERY RESPONSE – Democratic Republic of the Congo

National Intelligence Agency (Agence Nationale de Renseignements, ANR); treatment by ANR of individuals who express dissent or are perceived to do so against the government, including ability to track dissenters; availability of state protection

1. National Intelligence Agency (Agence Nationale de Renseignements, ANR)

The Decree-Law No. 003-2003 on the creation and organization of the National Intelligence Agency (Agence nationale de renseignements, ANR) of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) states the following on ANR's mission:

[Informal translation]

'Art. 3. — Subject to other missions conferred on it and to be conferred on it by specific texts, the National Intelligence Agency's mission is to ensure the internal and external security of the State.

Its duties include the following:

1. research, centralisation, interpretation, use and dissemination of political, diplomatic, strategic, economic, social, cultural, scientific and other information relevant to the internal and external security of the State;
2. investigation and determination, in accordance with law, of offences against State security;
3. surveillance of persons or groups of nationals or aliens suspected of carrying out an activity likely to jeopardize State security;
4. protection of the political environment to guarantee the normal expression of civil rights, in accordance with laws and regulations;
5. fingerprint identification of nationals;
6. search for criminals and other offenders identified by the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL);
7. collaboration in the fight against drug trafficking, fraud and smuggling, terrorism, serious economic crime and all other crimes posing a threat to the State or to humanity.¹

Article 11 of the Decree-Law, on the organisation of the central administration of the Department of Homeland Security (département de la sécurité intérieure, DSI) of the ANR, notes that [informal translation] 'a provincial directorate is established in the capital of each

¹ DRC, Décret-Loi n° 003-2003 portant création et organisation de l'Agence nationale de renseignements, 11 January 2003, [url](#)

province and will include divisions that carry out mutatis mutandis the same duties as the corresponding divisions of the central administration.²

In 2023, the US Department of State (USDOS) reported that, due to inadequate administrative systems, the ANR controlled passport issuance and often delayed or denied authorisation for political figures ‘viewed as critical of the government.’³ The same source stated that detention facilities across the DRC had ‘harsh and life-threatening’ conditions, and that prisons operated by the ANR were even ‘harsher’ than others.⁴

2. Treatment by ANR of individuals who express dissent or are perceived to do so against the government, including ability to track dissenters

In a report published in June 2024, the UN Security Council documented eight incidents of ‘human rights violations and abuses’ committed by ANR members between 20 March and 31 May 2024 across DRC.⁵

According to Amnesty International (AI), in 2024, Congolese security services, including ANR, ‘are increasingly cracking down on peaceful activists.’⁶ Similarly, in May 2022, Reporters Without Borders (Reporters Sans Frontières, RSF) reported on ‘the growing list of abuses against journalists – including intimidation, interrogations, arrests and [...] torture – by the Democratic Republic of Congo’s National Intelligence Agency (ANR).’⁷ According to a report by the United Nations Joint Human Rights Office (UNJHRO), of the 801 human rights violations and abuses that were documented in November 2021 alone across the DRC, 39 % of these incidents were attributed to state agents and ANR officers, including at least 40 cases of extrajudicial executions.⁸

Indicative incidents of abductions by ANR agents against individuals who express dissent or are perceived to do so against the government, as reported by sources, included:

- In February 2024, media reported that seven youth activists were abducted by suspected ANR agents during a rally in Kinshasa organised ‘to draw attention to the security crisis in the east of the country’.⁹ One of the arrested activists in a statement on social media noted that during his arrest and ‘brief detention at the ANR premises

² DRC, Décret-Loi n° 003-2003 portant création et organisation de l’Agence nationale de renseignements, 11 January 2003, [url](#)

³ USDOS, 2023 Country Report on Human Rights Practices – Democratic Republic of the Congo, 23 April 2024, [url](#), p. 27

⁴ USDOS, 2023 Country Report on Human Rights Practices – Democratic Republic of the Congo, 23 April 2024, [url](#), p. 5

⁵ UN Security Council, United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo: Report of the Secretary-General, 20 June 2024, [url](#), para. 22

⁶ AI, DR Congo’s arrest of activists invokes déjà vu of growing repression, 16 February 2024, [url](#)

⁷ RSF, Three journalists tortured by DRC intelligence agency, 23 May 2022, [url](#)

⁸ Radio Okapi, RDC : 800 cas de violations des droits de l’homme recensés en novembre 2021, 6 January 2022, [url](#); UN News, RDC : 800 cas de violations des droits humains recensés en novembre 2021, 7 January 2022, [url](#)

⁹ Reuters, DR Congo youth group says seven activists abducted by suspected security agents, 4 February 2024, [url](#); Voice of Africa (VOA), DRC Security Agents Abduct Seven Activists, Says Youth Group, 4 February 2024, [url](#)

on Mwene-Ditu Avenue' he was subjected to 'cruel and degrading treatment', including death threats and physical violence.¹⁰

- In May 2023, a human rights activist within the opposition political party Envol, told Human Rights Watch that he was abducted by ANR officers in civilian clothes after attending a political meeting.¹¹ Amnesty International reported that, according to the activist's lawyer, after being detained for six weeks by the ANR, he was charged with "contempt of the president" and "harmful imputations" due to a social media post he shared.¹² The activist faced prosecution under the digital code law but was provisionally released in December 2023.¹³
- In February 2023, ANR officers abducted and arrested a satirical comedian over a video sketch he had published a year earlier.¹⁴ According to Human Rights Watch, an ANR officer told a family member that the video was 'considered insulting to President Felix Tshisekedi'.¹⁵
- In May 2022, in Boende, the capital of the northwestern province of Tshuapa, three journalists working for local radio stations 'were threatened by the ANR's local director, forced to undress, placed in detention and then tortured and denied food for several hours,' after being released.¹⁶ Earlier that day, the three journalists were summoned to the local ANR headquarters over their recent 'Let's Talk About Education' programme, where they discussed irregularities in the secondary school graduation exams.¹⁷
- In June 2022, two journalists, one of US nationality and one Congolese, were arrested in Lubumbashi, located in the southwest of DRC, and detained at the ANR premises in Kinshasa.¹⁸ The journalists were filming a series of reports on nature conservation, the economy, and culture in DRC¹⁹, and were suspected of having had unauthorised contacts with armed groups active in the above region.²⁰ The journalists were later released after 6 and 22 days of detention.²¹

According to 2023 country report by USDOS on human rights practices, government authorities reportedly detained suspects in unofficial facilities, including ANR detention

¹⁰ Fred Bauma, [X], posted on: 7 February 2024, [url](#)

¹¹ HRW, DR Congo: Prominent Activist Abducted, 23 May 2024, [url](#)

¹² AI, The State of the World's Human Rights; Democratic Republic of the Congo 2023, 24 April 2024, [url](#)

¹³ AI, The State of the World's Human Rights; Democratic Republic of the Congo 2023, 24 April 2024, [url](#); Actualite.CD, RDC: le militant de l'opposition Len's Omelonga condamné à 7 mois de prison, 6 November 2023, [url](#)

¹⁴ HRW, Satire in Congo is No Laughing Matter, 27 February 2023, [url](#); USDOS, 2023 Country Report on Human Rights Practices: Democratic Republic of the Congo, 23 April 2024, [url](#)

¹⁵ HRW, Satire in Congo is No Laughing Matter, 27 February 2023, [url](#)

¹⁶ RSF, Three journalists tortured by DRC intelligence agency, 23 May 2022, [url](#);

¹⁷ RSF, Three journalists tortured by DRC intelligence agency, 23 May 2022, [url](#); JED, Les Pages Sombres d'ela Liberté de la Presse en RDC, 2023, [url](#), p. 53

¹⁸ Actualite.cd, RDC : le journaliste Joseph Kazadi libéré après 3 semaines de détention au secret, 5 August 2022, [url](#) ; RFI, RDC: deux journalistes dont un Américain arrêtés par les services de renseignement, 18 July 2022, [url](#)

¹⁹ RFI, RDC: deux journalistes dont un Américain arrêtés par les services de renseignement, 18 July 2022, [url](#)

²⁰ Actualite.cd, RDC : le journaliste Joseph Kazadi libéré après 3 semaines de détention au secret, 5 August 2022, [url](#)

²¹ Actualite.cd, RDC : le journaliste Joseph Kazadi libéré après 3 semaines de détention au secret, 5 August 2022, [url](#)

centres, sometimes without acknowledging their detention.²² The same source further mentioned that, although the president promised the United Nations (UN) access to all detention facilities, certain ANR prisons remained inaccessible to independent observers.²³ It was reported that in a press release issued in March 2023 the Congolese non-governmental organisation (NGO) Justicia claimed that ANR officers were ‘besieging magistrates chambers and registry offices,’ forcing them to violate the law.²⁴

In September 2023, the Congolese police arrested and questioned a journalist regarding an article that cited a leaked report attributed to the ANR.²⁵ Despite not being named as the author of the article, the journalist was charged ‘with “forgery”, “spreading rumours” and “disseminating false information”’, and faced a trial starting on 13 October 2023 with a potential 15-year prison sentence and was repeatedly denied provisional release.²⁶

3. Availability of state protection

Information on state protection could not be found among the sources consulted by the EUAA within the time constraints of this query.

²² USDOS, 2023 Country Report on Human Rights Practices – Democratic Republic of the Congo, 23 April 2024, [url](#), p. 5

²³ USDOS, 2023 Country Report on Human Rights Practices – Democratic Republic of the Congo, 23 April 2024, [url](#), p. 5

²⁴ RFI, RDC: l’indépendance de la justice mise à mal par l’Agence nationale de renseignements, selon une ONG, 20 March 2023, [url](#); Africa News, L’état de droit se meurt, Justicia Asbl s’insurge contre l’immixtion de l’ANR dans l’administration de la Justice, 20 March 2023, [url](#)

²⁵ AI, The State of the World's Human Rights; Democratic Republic of the Congo 2023, 24 April 2024, [url](#)

²⁶ AI, The State of the World's Human Rights; Democratic Republic of the Congo 2023, 24 April 2024, [url](#)

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