

Flygtningenævnets baggrundsmateriale

Bilagsnr.:	1041
Land:	Den Demokratiske Republik Congo
Kilde:	Freedom House
Titel:	Freedom in the World 2025. Democratic Republic of the Congo
Udgivet:	2025
Optaget på baggrundsmaterialet:	22. august 2025



FREEDOM IN THE WORLD 2025

Democratic Republic of the Congo

18

NOT FREE

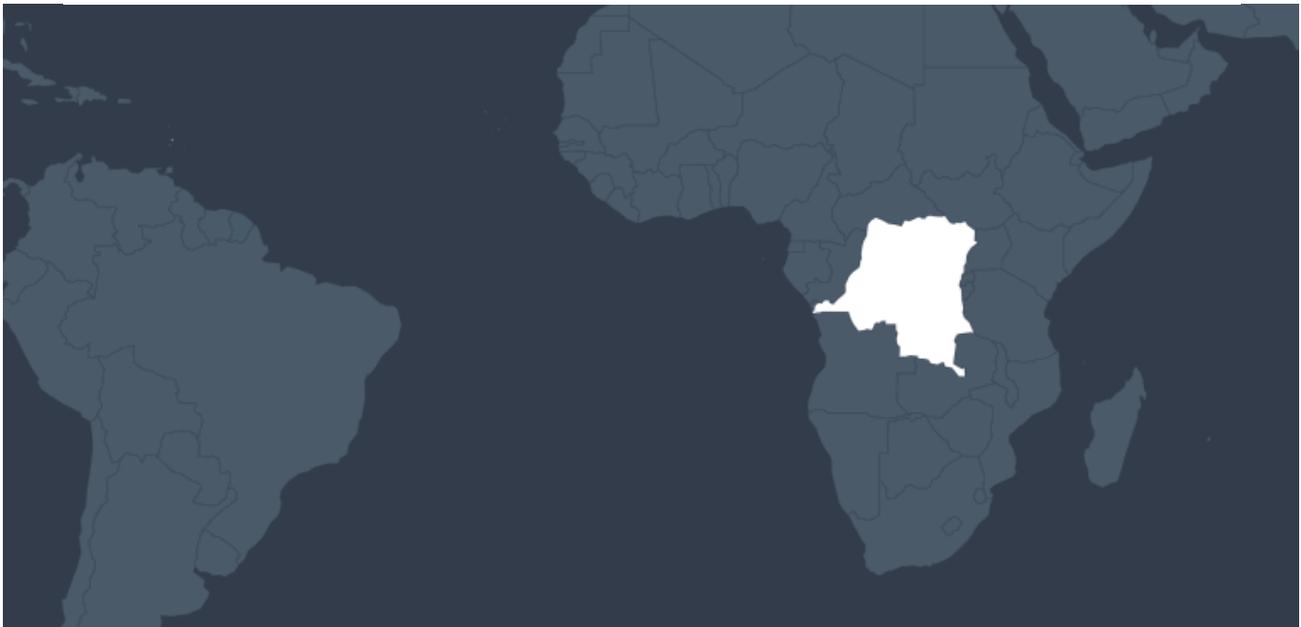
/100

<u>Political Rights</u>	4/40
<u>Civil Liberties</u>	14/60

LAST YEAR'S SCORE & STATUS

19/100 Not Free

A country or territory's Freedom in the World status depends on its aggregate Political Rights score, on a scale of 0-40, and its aggregate Civil Liberties score, on a scale of 0-60. See the methodology.



Overview

The political system in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is paralyzed due to the manipulation of the electoral process by political elites, and is heavily influenced by a long-running conflict in the east of the country. Citizens are increasingly unable to freely exercise basic civil liberties, and corruption is endemic. Physical security is tenuous due to violence and human rights abuses committed by government forces and armed rebel groups, particularly in the east.

Key Developments in 2024

- After winning elections in late 2023 that were marred by significant logistical and security problems, historically low turnout, and allegations of fraud, incumbent Felix Tshisekedi began his second term in January. An observer mission run by the country's Roman Catholic and Protestant churches released its final report in June, assessing the presidential election and concurrent legislative and local elections as featuring “numerous irregularities likely to undermine the integrity of the election results,” but stopping short of calling the polls fraudulent.
- Three prominent opposition figures—Jean-Marc Kabund, leader of the Alliance for Change party; Mike Mukebayi, a former member of the provincial parliament for Together for the Republic; and Seth Kikuni, head of the Track for Emergence party, and who ran for president in 2023—were in prison at year's end. Kabund was serving a seven-year sentence after being convicted in 2023 on charges including insulting the head of state; Mukebayi was also arrested in 2023 and was awaiting trial on similar charges. Kikuni was arrested in September after criticizing Tshisekedi at a rally, and sentenced to one year in prison in November for “civil disobedience.” Protesters rallied in Kinshasa in September to demand their release.
- In October, journalists Érasme Kasongo Kalenga and Patrick Lokala were arrested after alleging embezzlement of mining royalties by the Kyona Ngoie chiefdom, and criticizing the judiciary, respectively. Kasongo was held overnight, and Lokala was released on bail weeks later, in late November.
- Conflict in eastern provinces, particularly involving the M23 rebel group backed by Rwandan authorities, persisted during the year. Ongoing mediation under the Luanda Process, aimed at easing tensions between the DRC and Rwanda over security and rebel groups, was deadlocked at year's end. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) reported that by

the end of May, 1.77 million people in North Kivu had been displaced by M23 attacks, and noted an increase in sexual violence and exploitation targeting women and girls.

- M23's occupation of mining districts in eastern DRC, and resulting disruption to civilian life and governance, exacerbated forced labor and child labor.

This report has been abridged for Freedom in the World 2025 due to ongoing budget constraints. Freedom in the World is entirely funded by nongovernmental sources such as private foundations, corporations, and individuals like you. Please consider making a [donation](#) to support future editions of this vital resource.

For additional background information, see last year's full report.

Political Rights

A. Electoral Process

A1 0-4 pts

Was the current head of government or other chief national authority elected through free and fair elections?

0/4

A2 0-4 pts

Were the current national legislative representatives elected through free and fair elections?

1/4

A3 0-4 pts

Are the electoral laws and framework fair, and are they implemented impartially by the relevant election management bodies?

0/4

B. Political Pluralism and Participation

B1 0-4 pts

Do the people have the right to organize in different political parties or other competitive political groupings of their choice, and is the system free of undue obstacles to the rise and fall of these competing parties or groupings?

1/4

B2 0-4 pts

Is there a realistic opportunity for the opposition to increase its support or gain power through elections?

0/4

B3 0-4 pts

Are the people's political choices free from domination by forces that are external to the political sphere, or by political forces that employ extrapolitical means?

0/4

B4 0-4 pts

Do various segments of the population (including ethnic, racial, religious, gender, LGBT+, and other relevant groups) have full political rights and electoral opportunities?

1/4

C. Functioning of Government

C1 0-4 pts

Do the freely elected head of government and national legislative representatives determine the policies of the government?

0/4

C2 0-4 pts

Are safeguards against official corruption strong and effective?

1/4

C3 0-4 pts

Does the government operate with openness and transparency?

0/4

Civil Liberties

D. Freedom of Expression and Belief

D1 0-4 pts

Are there free and independent media?

1/4

D2 0-4 pts

Are individuals free to practice and express their religious faith or nonbelief in public and private?

3/4

D3 0-4 pts

Is there academic freedom, and is the educational system free from extensive political indoctrination?

2/4

D4 0-4 pts

Are individuals free to express their personal views on political or other sensitive topics without fear of surveillance or retribution?

1/4

E. Associational and Organizational Rights

E1 0-4 pts

Is there freedom of assembly?	1/4
-------------------------------	-----

E2 0-4 pts

Is there freedom for nongovernmental organizations, particularly those that are engaged in human rights- and governance-related work?	1/4
---	-----

E3 0-4 pts

Is there freedom for trade unions and similar professional or labor organizations?	1/4
--	-----

F. Rule of Law

F1 0-4 pts

Is there an independent judiciary?	1/4
------------------------------------	-----

F2 0-4 pts

Does due process prevail in civil and criminal matters?	0/4
---	-----

F3 0-4 pts

Is there protection from the illegitimate use of physical force and freedom from war and insurgencies?	0/4
--	-----

F4 0-4 pts

Do laws, policies, and practices guarantee equal treatment of various segments of the population?	0/4
---	-----

G. Personal Autonomy and Individual Rights

G1 0-4 pts

Do individuals enjoy freedom of movement, including the ability to change their place of residence, employment, or education?

1/4

G2 0-4 pts

Are individuals able to exercise the right to own property and establish private businesses without undue interference from state or nonstate actors?

1/4

G3 0-4 pts

Do individuals enjoy personal social freedoms, including choice of marriage partner and size of family, protection from domestic violence, and control over appearance?

1/4

G4 0-4 pts

Do individuals enjoy equality of opportunity and freedom from economic exploitation?

0/4

Score Change: The score declined from 1 to 0 because M23's occupation and exploitation of mining districts in eastern DRC, and resulting disruption to civilian life and governance has exacerbated forced labor and child labor.



On Democratic Republic of the Congo

See all data, scores & information on this country or territory.

[See More >](#)

Country Facts

Population

99,010,000

Global Freedom Score

18/100 **Not Free**

Other Years

2024

**Be the first to know
what's happening.**

[Subscribe](#)

Join the Freedom House weekly
newsletter

ADDRESS

1850 M St. NW Floor 11
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 296-5101

GENERAL INQUIRIES

info@freedomhouse.org

PRESS & MEDIA

press@freedomhouse.org

@2025 FreedomHouse