

Flygtningenævnets baggrundsmateriale

Bilagsnr.:	483
Land:	Den Demokratiske Republik Congo
Kilde:	UN High Commissioner for Refugees
Titel:	UNHCR sounds alert as fresh violence in DR Congo's Ituri province displaces thousands
Udgivet:	6. februar 2018
Optaget på baggrundsmaterialet:	28. maj 2018

UNHCR sounds alert as fresh violence in DR Congo's Ituri province displaces thousands

This is a summary of what was said by UNHCR spokesperson Babar Baloch – to whom quoted text may be attributed – at today's press briefing at the Palais des Nations in Geneva.

06 February 2018 | عربي



Cyclists and pedestrians cross a bridge near the town of Bunia in Ituri province in north-eastern Democratic Republic of Congo. © UNHCR/Masimango Cimanuka

UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, is gravely concerned about escalating violence in Ituri province of north-eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), creating new displacement over the last four days.

At least 30 people are reported to have been killed amid conflict between the Hema and Lendu ethnic groups. Many villages have been burned to the ground in Ituri's Djugu territory, according to initial information by UNHCR monitors in the affected areas. Fighting among the two communities had previously devastated the region from 1999 to the early 2000s, leading to large scale internal displacement and refugee movements to Uganda.

Now, UNHCR offices on both sides of the border are once more on high alert. Initial reports put the number of internally displaced in the thousands. Refugee arrivals in Uganda also picked up significantly on Monday, with 1,386 people crossing Lake Albert to the village of Sebagoro, some 270 kilometres northwest of the capital Kampala.

We fear the fighting could spread to neighboring areas, particularly because of the circulation of light weapons in the region. Meanwhile, as physical access in certain communities remains limited, the displaced populations are without any assistance, despite their urgent needs for food and other basic relief items. Greater efforts to ensure security and humanitarian access in the area are vital.

In total, some 5 million people have been displaced by conflicts in DR Congo, 4.35 million of them internally and an additional 674,879 as refugees - including into Burundi last week.

For more information on this topic, please contact:

- In DRC, Andreas Kirchhof, kirchhof@unhcr.org, +243 81 700 9484
- In Uganda, Duniya Aslam Khan, khand@unhcr.org
- In Geneva, Aikaterini Kitidi, kitidi@unhcr.org, +41 79 580 8334

Related news and stories

STORIES

VIDEOS

Uganda: Transforming the lives of refugee women

Congo dance project helps refugees take steps towards rebuilding lives

VIDEOS

DR Congo: All-girls football team gives Burundian refugees hope

VIDEOS

DRC: South Sudanese war widows join forces

STORIES

Football gives Burundian girls strength to deal with trauma

VIDEOS

DRC: Hundreds of thousands flee as displacement crisis in Tanganyika worsens

[ABOUT US](#) [EMERGENCIES](#) [WHAT WE DO](#) [NEWS AND STORIES](#)
[GOVERNMENTS AND PARTNERS](#) [GET INVOLVED](#)

© UNHCR 2001-2018

[Media centre](#)

[Emergencies portal](#)

[Contact us](#)

[Data](#)

[Terms & conditions of use](#)

[Careers](#)

[Refworld](#)

[Privacy policy](#)

[Report fraud or abuse](#)

[Business](#)

STAY CONNECTED

Subscribe to our newsletter

Follow:

