

Flygtningenævnets baggrundsmateriale

Bilagsnr.:	1028
Land:	Den Demokratiske Republik Congo
Kilde:	Reporters Sans Frontières (RSF)
Titel:	DRC: M23 tightens its grip on local media in North and South Kivu
Udgivet:	16. maj 2025
Optaget på baggrundsmaterialet:	23. juli 2025



Document #2125359

RSF – Reporters Sans Frontières (Author)

DRC: M23 tightens its grip on local media in North and South Kivu

Several months after taking Goma and other cities in the provinces of North and South Kivu, the M23 rebel group has tightened its grip on the news in the occupied territories. Reporters Without Borders (RSF) condemns this strategy of controlling information — which targets local media — and is very concerned about pressure on the regions' journalists.

Since seizing major territories in North and South Kivu, the M23 rebel group has been working hard to win over public opinion. The latest example of these efforts is a training course on “M23 ideology” that was held in March in Rutshuru territory, North Kivu, for people from various professions.

As part of this course, members of the M23 communications unit organised a meeting with around sixty media managers and journalists from the province on 23 February in Bukavu (capital of South Kivu), to give them ten or so directives. These included bans on broadcasting statements by the Congolese authorities, the M23's opponents; relaying negative information about the M23; and ordering the verb “occupy” be replaced with “liberate” in all journalistic content about the takeover of territories. Despite several attempts to contact M23 spokesman Lawrence Kanyuka by WhatsApp, he did not respond to RSF requests for comment.

“Many reporters flee the provinces of North and South Kivu — where many cities are under M23 control — because they fear for their safety. They are often victims of threats, warnings or even kidnapped and held for several days. The latest measures taken by the rebel group are worrying and hamper the freedom of information of journalists, who are trying to carry out their

work in this particularly difficult context. RSF condemns this growing control of information, which is tantamount to propaganda, and calls on the M23 to respect the right to information.

Sadibou Marong
Director, RSF Sub-Saharan Africa

Since the capture of Goma and Bukavu, several journalists who have condemned the abuses committed by the rebel group feel they are in danger. In February, two media managers in North Kivu were kidnapped and held by the rebel group for at least ten days, and many have been threatened or intimidated. One reporter has been the target of anonymous taunting messages asking why he had stopped publishing since his town was taken over by the armed group. Another was pressured by high-ranking members of the M23 to join their ranks.

Between pressure and attacks, conditions for journalists have deteriorated considerably since the beginning of 2024. RSF [recorded](#) at least 26 community radio stations that had been looted or closed down in North Kivu province between January 2024 and January 2025.

ecoi.net description:

Provinces of North and South Kivu: M23 rebels exert pressure on local media and try to gain control over reporting

Country:
Congo, Democratic Republic

Source:
[RSF – Reporters Sans Frontières](#) (Author)

Published:
24 April 2025

Original link:
<https://rsf.org/en/drc-m23-tightens-its-grip-local-media-north-and-south-kivu>

Document type:
Appeal or News Release

Language:
English

Available on ecoi.net since:
16 May 2025

Document ID:
2125359

Austrian Red Cross Austrian Centre for Country of Origin and Asylum Research and Documentation (ACCORD)	Wiedner Hauptstraße 32, 1041 Wien T +43 1 589 00 583 F +43 1 589 00 589 info@ecoi.net	Contact Imprint & Disclaimer F.A.Q. Data Protection Notice
--	---	---

ecoi.net is run by the Austrian Red Cross (department ACCORD) in cooperation with Informationsverbund Asyl & Migration. ecoi.net is funded by the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, the Austrian Ministry of the Interior and Caritas Austria. ecoi.net is supported by ECRE & UNHCR.

