



KIVU SECURITY TRACKER

THE DEADLIEST MONTH EVER RECORDED BY KST

MONTHLY REPORT : NOVEMBER 2019

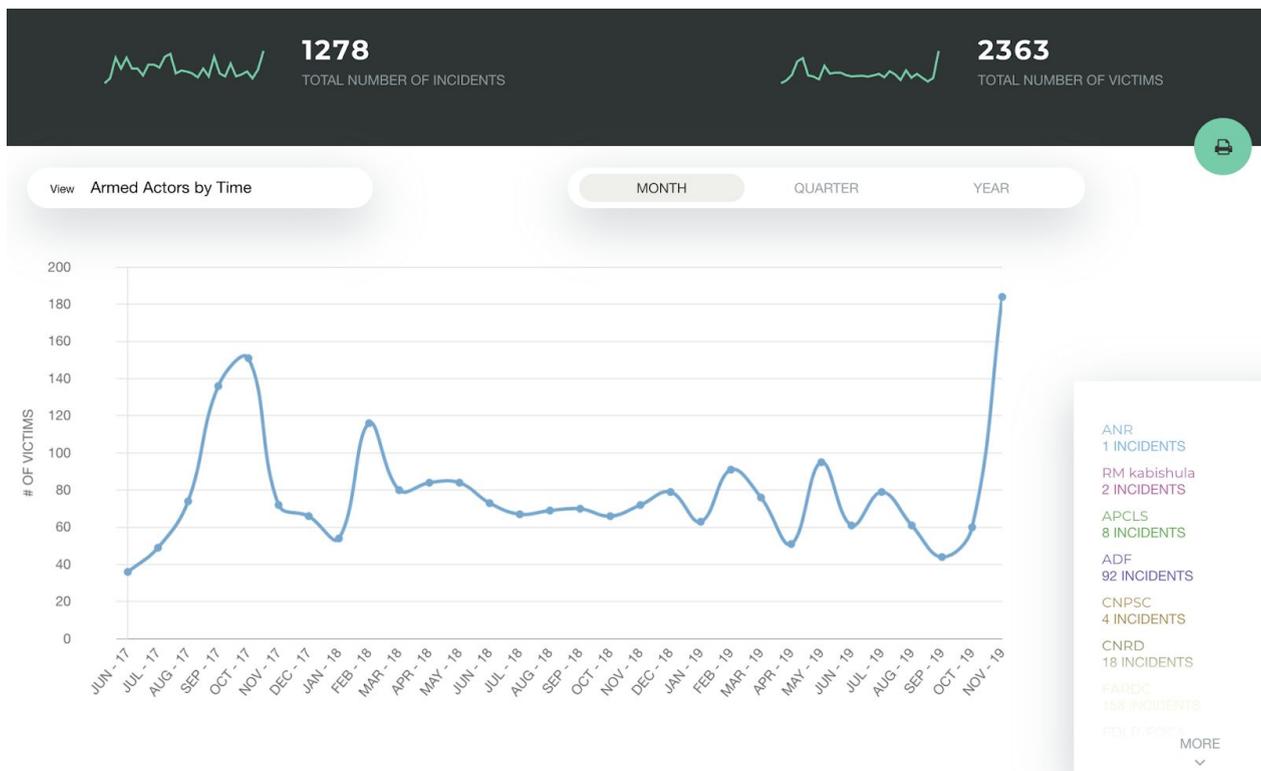
182 violent deaths (↑203% from October 2019)
 137 abducted or kidnaped (↓13%)
 62 clashes (↑17%)

The Kivu Security Tracker (KST) recorded the death of 182 civilians in November, the deadliest month since our tracking began in June 2017.

This death toll can largely be explained by the massacres attributed to the Allied

Democratic Forces (ADF) in Beni territory. These provoked violent protests in reaction, mainly directed at the UN Mission in DRC (MONUSCO), that in turn were violently repressed.

Two other hotspots were particularly active in November: the first in Rutshuru and Kalehe territories, following the offensive led by the FARDC against the Rwandan Hutu uprisings, and the second in the High Plateaus of Mwenga, Fizi and Uvira, in which civilians were regularly targeted.



Number of civilians killed since the creation of KST in June 2017.

Beni and Butembo: Series of Massacres by the ADF

November was a particularly deadly month for civilians in Beni territory, with the killing of 123 civilians by armed groups documented by KST. This is the first time since the start of the project in June 2017 that a series of massacres on such a scale has been recorded in Beni territory. It is also probably the deadliest month since November 2014, in which 149 civilians were killed according to a report by the Congo Research Group (CRG).

Most of the massacres which took place in November 2019 occurred on the road between Beni and Eringeti with the ADF responsible for the vast majority of cases: KST has identified the ADF as the perpetrator in 15 of the 17 massacres carried out by armed groups in the territory. The two remaining massacres were committed by unknown groups, with the possibility that these were also committed by the ADF.

These attacks were likely in response to the operations launched by DRC armed forces (FARDC) on October 30. FARDC has claimed that it has dismantled many ADF bases. KST has been able to verify the taking of Mapobu, which UN experts on the DRC had identified as the nerve center of the group in its last report. However, in that clash, ADF losses seemed to have been minimal in November.

These massacres of civilians provoked significant protests from November 22, mainly against MONUSCO, accused of inaction. Its Boikene camp in Beni was partly destroyed by the protesters. During the repression of these protests, 9 civilians were killed in Beni and Butembo, according to data collected by KST. At least one of these civilians seems to have been killed by a Malawian Blue Helmet of MONUSCO's Force Intervention Brigade (FIB). An investigation has been opened on this matter.

The heavily downgraded security situation in this territory risks provoking a resurgence of the Ebola epidemic. Following the attack against the Ebola Treatment Center (ETC) in Mangina on November 27, causing one casualty among the Mai-Mai Baraka and in Biakato in Ituri province, most of the humanitarian workers have left the area.

On November 25, MONUSCO and the Congolese army agreed to relaunch joint operations against the ADF, which has not occurred since 2018. However, details of such cooperation are still to be discussed.

Lubero: Surrender by the Mai-Mai Kabido

There were seven clashes in this territory in November, mainly between the FARDC and Mai-Mai groups. These led to the surrender of some 50 members of the Mai-Mai Kabido to MONUSCO, who were subsequently handed over to the FARDC.

Also, a Mai-Mai group from Ituri province, led by Mangaribi, attacked a mine in Asalia, from where it stole gold.

Masisi, Rutshuru and Kalehe: Hunt for Rwandan Hutu Rebels Steps Up

There was a continuation of the FARDC campaign against the Rwandan Hutu rebels, including the killing of the commander of the Rally for Unity and Democracy (RUD-Urunana), Juvénal Musibamana, aka Jean-Michel Africa, and of four of his men in an ambush on November 9 in

Makoka, close to the Ugandan border. On November 26, the FARDC then launched a major operation against the National Council for Renewal and Democracy (CNRD) in Kalehe territory. According to several military, diplomatic, and civilian sources, Rwandan special forces are reported to have taken part in the killing of Jean-Michel Africa as well as in the offensive against the CNRD.

The Nduma Defense of Congo-Renové (NDC-R, an armed group supported by some Congolese army officers) of Guidon Shimiray also launched an offensive in Rutshuru territory against the Congolese Hutu militia Nyatura FDP in Mashango, Makomale, Bukovi, Karambi and Kivuma on November 16.

These various operations provoked movements of rebels, their allies, and their dependents, as well as civilians fleeing the fighting. In total, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) registered the displacement of 15,000 people in the second half of the month (in French). CNRD combatants and dependents have headed towards Shabunda, Mwenga, Kabare and Walungu territories. The arrival of the Nyatura Kavumbi has also been reported in the Masisi territory.

The Rwandan Hutu rebellions now appear weakened. Since the death of Jean-Michel Africa, the identity of the new leader of RUD remains unknown.

The Rwandan army, which seems to be regularly present in these territories, was reported to have killed three civilians (one man and two boys), mistaken for Rwandan Hutu rebels, in the village of Mugomba, in the territory of Rutshuru on November 17, according to a local government source and several local residents. They were reported to have taken the bodies away with them.

Walikale: New Alliance around Guidon

The NDC-R, the rebellion led by Guidon Shimiray announced a great alliance with five Raia Mutomboki (Ntoto) and Mai-Mai (Kifuafua Delphin, Mazembe, Mac de Mbura Matondi and Simba) groups in Bukumbwira, in Walikale province on Saturday November 30. This new coalition has been baptized the "Congolese Patriot Resistance Fighters' Network" (RPRC). The main aim of this new alliance is possibly to strengthen its position prior to negotiating its participation in the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) program, even if Guidon has in the past announced his intention to lay down arms. Another one of his concerns could be to try to obtain immunity from prosecution under Congolese law.

Goma and Nyiragongo: Support for Beni

The capital city of North Kivu also saw protests denouncing the situation in Beni territory, particularly on November 28, a day on which a protester was shot.

There has also been an increase in insecurity compared with October with three deaths recorded by KST. On each occasion the attackers fled with money taken from their victims.

Bukaru and Kabare: Enduring Insecurity

High-level insecurity persisted in Bukavu and Kabare with 12 incidents recorded by KST, compared with 13 the previous month. These were mainly killings and looting. This could partly be explained by a lack of involvement by recently demobilized police as well as FARDC soldiers.

Mwenga, Fizi and Uvira: High Plateaus Still Torn by Clashes

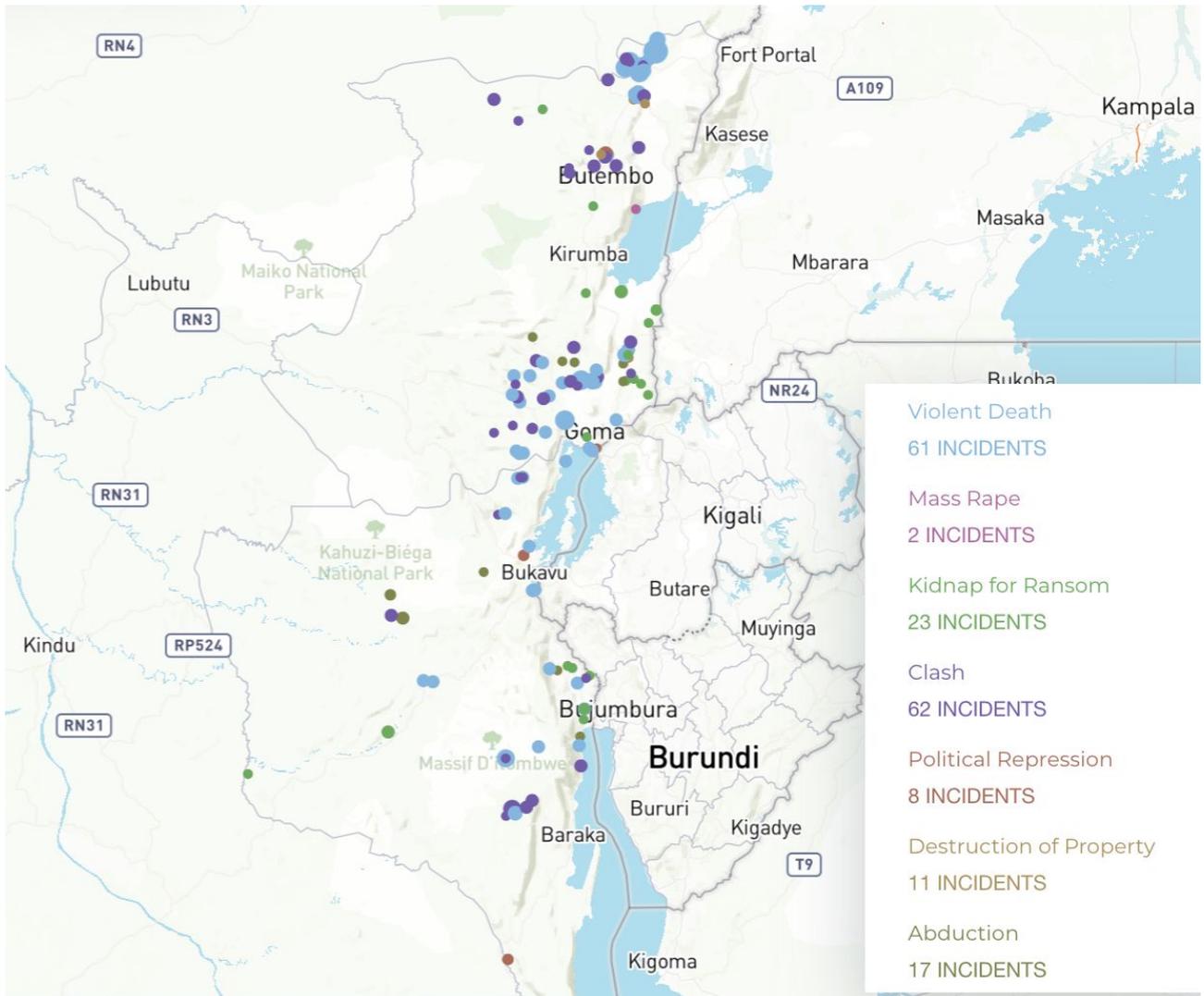
The situation remains out of control on the High Plateaus of Minembwe and Itombwe. KST recorded 2 clashes and 2 killings (update) in this area, in keeping with October's levels. Fighting continued between Mai-Mai groups of the "National People's Coalition for the Sovereignty of Congo" (CNSPC) and Banyamulenge militias (Ngumino and Twiganeho). These armed groups regularly target civilians, cattle and property of other communities. The localities of Minembwe, Kamombo, Cakira, Kabara, Mikenge, Itombwe, Muranvya, Maheta, Masata and Mugeti are now home to a significant number of displaced Banyamulenge who have taken refuge there, surrounded by hostile Mai-Mai groups, while other communities' populations are also being displaced. In October, OCHA estimated there were 49,000 displaced persons around Minembwe, 1,500 around Mikenge and 63,000 between Abala and central Fizi (in French).

The human cost of this crisis is high (at least 13 civilians have been killed in the three territories of Mwenga, Fizi and Uvira in November) even if this is not on the same scale as that of Beni. However, well-known figures from various communities are again among the ranks of the victims of seemingly targeted killings, which risks entrenching mistrust between these communities. For example, the mother of the Mai-Mai Chief, Ebu-Ela, was killed on November 28 by Ngumino and Twiganeho militia members in the village of Kalingi, which caused a retaliatory attack by the Mai-Mai.

Shabunda : Chinese Interests Targeted

The company, Regal Mining, was targeted by attacks on two of its sites in the Shabunda and Mwenga territories on November 21. Six Chinese citizens as well as two Congolese people were captured in this two-pronged attack. At least one of the attacks was led by the Mai-Mai group Malaika, which demanded a ransom of 10,000 dollars.

These attacks are symptomatic of the lack of state control in Shabunda territory, even if security in the territory has improved slightly, with 11 recorded incidents, compared with 16 in the previous month.



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