

Feb 20, 2024 - Goma: Scenes of desperation [excerpt from UN News]

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), fighting between the M23 armed group and national forces has further compounded the dire humanitarian situation in the east, the head of the UN Mission in the country, MONUSCO [the UN Peacekeeping Force], said on Tuesday.

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UN Special Representative Bintou Keita said conditions are desperate in the severely overcrowded displacement sites in and around Goma.

“More than 400,000 displaced persons have now sought refuge in the city, including 65,000 in the past two weeks, triggering a dramatic increase in cases of cholera due to a lack of safe drinking water, adequate hygiene, and sanitation.”

Sake [another town] currently remains under the control of the Congolese army, known as the FARDC, with support from MONUSCO.

However, “restricted access to M23-controlled territories is isolating Goma from inland territories and disrupting food production, supply chains,” she said. Prices of basic commodities are rising, increasing the risk of public unrest.

Full article: [DR Congo: Fighting threatens stability of entire region, envoy warns | UN News](#)

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Video: [DR Congo violence: Refugees fleeing M23 rebels say they ‘feel powerless’ \(bbc.com\)](#)