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Office of the Spokesperson and Media Relations

MONUSCO Force Updates

Goma, 20 February 2024: The United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) is supporting the Congolese army by defending positions that are protecting the civilian population in the cities of Sake and Goma in North Kivu province. These positions remain intact, despite coming under fire from the March 23 Movement offensive, which escalated on 7 February 2024.

Due to the deteriorating security situation along the critical national highway RN2 linking Sake and Goma, MONUSCO is bringing in South African troops from its Force Intervention Brigade, based in Beni in the northern part of the province. The reinforcements will support MONUSCO's Indian, Moroccan and Uruguay contingents, which have been defending blocking positions in the area since Operation Springbok was launched in late October 2023.

The acting MONUSCO Force Commander Major General Khar Diouf met with the Military Coordinator in North Kivu, Lieutenant -General Fall Sikabwe on 16 February to fine-tune joint military action in the defence of Sake and Goma, as well as denounce the increasingly sophisticated coordinated disinformation campaigns targeting the UN Peacekeepers. These attacks affect the effectiveness of the Blue Helmets in the field.

The disinformation has triggered attacks on MONUSCO convoys, equipment and personnel and is severely hampering the Mission's effectiveness and Operation Springbok's capacity.

The heavy fighting between the armed forces of the DRC and the M23 has caused thousands of Congolese people, including women, children, persons with disability and the elderly to flee their homes and United Nations Peacekeepers are facilitating a safe passage from the battle zones to more secure areas.

While further to the north in Rutshuru territory, with Operation Helping Hand, MONUSCO forces have established a security perimeter near its Kitchanga base to help protect 25 000 civilians seeking shelter from the deteriorating security situation. The presence of the UN Peacekeepers has enabled assistance, including water and medical aid to be provided.



In Ituri, on February 16, 2024 at least 15 civilians were killed after clashes between the opposing armed rebel groups, CODECO and Zaire in Kafe, 32 km east of Bunia. MONUSCO and FARDC deployed joint patrols to the area to ensure protection of civilians and deter further armed group activity in the area.

On February 9, 2024, MONUSCO helped facilitate negotiations in Gali Locality to end a longstanding community conflict. MONUSCO military and civilian teams participated in the meeting which ended with both communities promising to stop hostilities and build towards a peaceful cohabitation.