

Question for written answer E-003441/2023

to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

Rule 138

Hilde Vautmans (Renew)

Subject: Violations of human rights of displaced persons and women's rights in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

Earlier this year, the UNHCR reported large-scale human rights violations in Congo¹. On 30 October, in addition, the International Organisation for Migration reported that almost seven million people were on the move – the highest number ever recorded². As the security situation deteriorates, especially in North Kivu and Ituri, humanitarian needs are increasing. In addition, reports point to the dire situation of women and girls in eastern Congo, in particular in the Bulengo displacement camp and surrounding areas. Every day, on average, seventy victims of sexual violence seek medical assistance in clinics run by Médecins Sans Frontières³.

1. How can the European Union support the Congolese Government and civil society in their efforts to strengthen good governance, the rule of law and security sector reforms in the eastern provinces?
2. What measures is the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy taking to protect the rights and well-being of vulnerable sections of the population, such as women and children?
3. How can the European Union and its Member States work together to combat the culture of impunity for perpetrators of sexual violence in DRC and promote justice for victims?

Submitted: 22.11.2023

¹ <https://www.unhcr.org/news/briefing-notes/unhcr-expresses-grave-concern-protection-people-displaced-violence-eastern-dr>

² <https://reliefweb.int/report/democratic-republic-congo/record-high-displacement-drc-nearly-7-million>

³ <https://www.doctorswithoutborders.ca/drc-the-daily-struggles-of-women-in-gomas-displacement-camps/>