The Democratic Republic of Congo’s (DRC) town of Mweso in Masisi, North Kivu Province is still reeling from the tragic deaths of 19 people following killings in Congo's North Kivu province on Tuesday and were carried out by the Allied Democratic Forces, armed militants believed to be linked to the extremist Daesh group. According to the UN, nearly 7 million civilians have already fled their villages throughout the DRC because of the insecurity caused by armed groups and the fighting.

"The rebels, having realised that they had lost control of the town of Mweso, dropped 120 mm mortar bombs indiscriminately in the town, causing the death of 19 people and wounding 27 innocent civilians," said Amos Moss, a local resident. "We are still in shock. This is not the first time we have experienced violence. It is getting worse every day."

This week, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, who is on tour in Africa, is expected to discuss security issues in the DRC with Lourenço. Before launching his African tour, Blinken met Rwanda's President Paul Kagame to discuss the future of the relationship between the two countries and the situation in the DRC. However, Kagame has been criticized for his handling of the conflict in the DRC and his close ties to the rebels in the region.

"The situation in the DRC is complex and volatile," said Blinken. "We need to find solutions that will bring peace and stability to the region. This is why we are working closely with our African partners to find a way forward."
According to a Global Justice Centre article, the Khmer Rouge utilised the rhetoric of “liberating women” to hide their systematic sexual abuse and exploitation. Influenced by a “warrior culture” saturated with violence.

On January 29, 2024, the Islamic Resistance of Iraq and other Shia militias that operate in the region began targeting bases housing US soldiers in mid-October in response to the Israel onslaught in Gaza. The White House is supporting Israel’s brutality against Palestinians.

The US, he added, does not care about endangering shipping and turning the Red Sea into a battlefield, nor does it have any problem with expanding the scope of the war and intensifying the situation in the region.

The UK Maritime Trade Operations agency was alerted to the offshore blast 57 nautical miles (106 km) west of Hodeidah. The Israeli attacks on Yemen are aimed at destroying the country’s military capability, and the Houthis’ attacks are in response to the war crimes in Chechnya. Khadzhikurbanov received a presidential pardon after being released from prison and fighting in Ukraine. Exporting Human Abuses

In their Spring 2023 report, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) strongly condemned the forced “russification” of deported children, noting that the russification process was “clearly justified aggression and other crimes. Dmitry Medvedev, the ex-president of Russia and the current deputy chairman of the Russian Security Council, follows the rhetoric of the Rwandan Radio of a Thousand Participants in Propaganda Talk Shows or Administrators of Anonymous Telegram Channels.

Russian authorities adopted a number of documents, creating a legal basis for committing crimes that are components of genocide. These are: restrictions on the rights of Ukrainians who have not received a university education or who have been denied it; restrictions on the rights to property, housing, and economic activity; and restrictions on freedom of movement and residence. The state-owned media publish materials that not only dehumanize Ukrainians but also contain recommendations for the implementation of the “russification” process. The textbooks on the history of Russia contribute to the formation of students’ biases, characterized by a negative attitude towards Ukrainians, who are portrayed as persons incapable of creating their own state and repeat the same rhetoric, but also rationalize the genocide of Ukrainians.

The Bible is not the only religious text that can be used to justify aggression and other crimes. Krstic was convicted in 2004 of aiding and abetting genocide — the first person to be sentenced for Srebrenica crimes by the Hague Tribunal. Reminiscing on the MeToo Movement that took the world by storm, an NGO in Cambodia launched a campaign for female survivors of the brutal

As Somalia does not have a square metre to manoeuvre, Ethiopia must skilfully walk back, disown the MoU it inked with Hargeisa and, when the time is right, start engaging for commercial maritime access. The boundaries of the maritime zone between both countries need to be determined. The UN maritime division serves as a platform to overcome territorial disputes.

Exploiting those sentiments and grievances, al-Shabaab has already started to manipulate the situation and is primed to recruit youth in the name of religion and pan-Somalism. In other words, Al Shabaab will repeat the same rhetoric, but also rationalize the genocide of Ukrainians and contain specific recommendations for its implementation.

The breakdown of diplomatic relations between Somalia and Ethiopia has limited options. The UN maritime division is eager to promote a solution to these disputes.

Proving
needs to stop, and the junta must be held accountable for their actions,” said Rosanna Ocampo, Director Asia Department at Civil Rights Defenders. “The situation for human rights in Burma is appalling. For three years now, the military junta has cracked down violently on civilians, democracy activists, human rights defenders, and peaceful protesters. This is subject to the death sentence.

Attacks on civil society have also increased. The arrests of human rights defenders and journalists continue to have a chilling effect. Nearly 20,000 political prisoners remain in detention, and over 160 people have been displaced.

Despite the military’s brutal response, people have come together to fight the dictatorship. Nationwide mass protests, boycotts, strikes, and coordinated civil disobedience movements have taken place. Human rights defenders and activists have launched a coup to try to take control over the country. During the November 2020 elections in Burma, the National League for Democracy led by Aung San Suu Kyi, won a landslide victory. This triggered a reaction from the military, which claimed that there had been widespread election fraud. This claim, however, was turned down by the election commission. On 1 February, as the parliament was scheduled to hold its first session since the elections, the military launched a coup to try to take control over the country.

The UN Security Council should meaningfully follow up on its December 2022 resolution on Myanmar by imposing an arms embargo, including jet fuel, and refer the country situation to the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia. Canada, the European Union, the United Kingdom, and the United States have imposed and expanded sanctions since the coup, but sanctions on jet fuel have been inconsistent.

A spokeswoman from a local ethnic and women’s rights group, the Ta’ang Women’s Organization, said she fled Namhkam township on December 2 after repeated junta airstrikes in her village. “At first, I hid in the forest, but I was spotted and captured by the junta. They tortured me and my husband for 11 days. They interrogated us about the location of my village and asked me to denounce my relatives.” The Ta’ang Women’s Organization is part of a national movement of women’s rights organizations, which has called for the military junta to be held accountable for its crimes.

“War crimes investigations are severely lacking, even as the military junta continues killing people with impunity,” said Elaine Pearson, Asia director at Human Rights Watch. “We continue to see widespread extrajudicial executions, arbitrary arrests, torture, and extrajudicial killings. The junta’s deliberate attacks on civilians, including women and children, must be probed as war crimes. Amidst reports of the junta’s massive attack on the Shwe Mann Win area, which has resulted in the deaths of over 100 civilians, the junta must be held accountable for its crimes.

Additional Resources

Worth Reading

Myanmar: Military Abuses Against Civilians Intensify (Human Rights Watch)

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