

DRC: in Kisangani, 19 years after the « six-day war », survivors are still waiting for reparation

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A cemetery in Kisangani where victims of a 2002 conflict between militias are buried (illustration image). © CHRISTINE NESBITT/AP/SIPA

Nineteen years after the « six-day war », which pitted the Rwandan and Ugandan forces against each other in early June 2000 in Kisangani, the families of the victims denounce impunity for the perpetrators of this violence, which has caused more than 1,000 deaths. Aline Engbe, one of the survivors, looks back at what happened during these tragic days.

More than 1,000 dead, at least 3,000 wounded and a city partially destroyed. From 5 to 10 June 2000, heavy weapons clashes broke out in Kisangani between Rwandan and Ugandan forces, which had until then provided military support to rebel groups hostile to Laurent-Désiré Kabila's power.

Nineteen years after this « six-day war », and despite the fact that in 2005 the International Court of Justice (ICJ) handed down a judgment condemning Uganda to compensate for the damage caused on Congolese territory - the Congolese State claimed several billion dollars for the crimes committed over the period 1998-2003 - this decision has still not been implemented.