

DRC: 4 villages are empty after fighting between army and militiamen in Masisi/North Kivu.

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Luhanga Village (North-Kivu), emptied of its inhabitants after an attack by Mayi-Mayi militiamen, Sunday 27 novembre 2016. Ph. Radio Okapi/Rosalie Zawadi

At least four villages in the Masisi territory (North Kivu) have been emptying themselves of their inhabitants since Sunday, June 2. These villages, located about 5 kilometres from the capital of the territory, have been the scene of clashes between the army and combatants identified as FDLR/CNRD for the past three days. The Territory Administrator states that the security situation in the region remains volatile.

The clashes between the FARDC and these alleged rebels of the National Council for Renewal and Democracy (CNRD) took place in the towns of Loashi and Showa, west of the capital of Masisi territory, indicate the sources of local civil society.

The latter indicate that the army is still trying to prevent these Rwandan Hutu rebels from making their way to Virunga National Park via the Osso sector and the Bashali chiefdom. But several rebels, heavily armed and dressed similar to those of the FARDC, reportedly managed to pass before disappearing into the wild, say the same sources.

About ten rebels were reportedly captured by the FARDC, the administrator of Masisi territory told Radio Okapi.

The first fighting in Kazinga and Nyamaboko II last Friday forced the inhabitants to leave the villages of Loashi, Katuunda, and Ngesha to find refuge elsewhere, particularly in Masisi-centre.

Attacks carried out between 25 December 2018 and 10 January 2019 by the NDC-Renovated/Nyatura coalition had dismantled the CNRD rebel base in Faringa in southern Rutshuru territory. The latter then left for South Kivu for Ziralo. For the past three days, they have been trying to return to the area.

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