



PRESS RELEASE

PRESS RELEASE ON THE MASSACRES OF CIVILIANS IN KISHISHE, RUTSHURU TERRITORY IN DRC

The Secretariat of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region is gravely concerned by reports of massacres allegedly committed against civilians by M23 armed movement in Kishishe located in Rutshuru territory in the North-Kivu in the night of 29th and 30th November 2022, which led to declaring national mourning for three days throughout DRC.

The Conference Secretariat calls on all parties to the conflicts to strictly respect the Luanda Roadmap, which calls for an immediate ceasefire and the immediate withdrawal of M23 elements from the territories that they occupy.

The Conference Secretariat considers that these massacres committed against civilians could constitute war crimes and crimes against humanity and that they should not remain unpunished.

As the situation remains extremely volatile, the Conference Secretariat calls on the DRC Government and MONUSCO to make the protection of civilians a priority against further retaliatory attacks.

The Conference Secretariat calls for an independent investigation into the alleged murders so that the perpetrators and their accomplices are held accountable.

The Conference Secretariat finally presents its deepest condolences to the Government of DRC and the Congolese people and stands firm to help and support DRC to achieve peace and promote stability.

Bujumbura 6th December 2022