

Killings of Women and Children at Bukombo: The Igisenge Hutu Association Alert, 15 January 2024

Bwito Chiefdom, Rutshuru Territory, North Kivu, DRC

-1.20° S, 29.13° E

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Incident Date: 15 January 2024

Fatalities: 10

Injured: 7 abducted

Aggressor(s): March 23
Movement (M23)

Victim(s) Profile: Congolese civilians,
women/children

On 15 January 2024, the Igisenge Hutu cultural association reported that approximately ten civilians, including women and children, had been shot dead in the Bukombo groupement of Rutshuru Territory, attributing the killings to M23 fighters. The association publicly called on the Congolese government and the international community to intervene. This followed a separate clash in the same groupement on 3-4 January 2024, in which Radio Okapi reported at least five civilians killed and five kidnapped.

The bodies of roughly ten civilians, including women and children, were discovered on 15 January 2024 in the Bukombo groupement. The Igisenge Hutu association, a cultural and advocacy body representing Hutu communities in the region, issued a statement describing the deaths as a “macabre discovery” of civilians it said had been killed by M23 fighters, and called for government and international intervention to protect the population. The association's statement noted the killings as the latest in a series of attacks against civilians attributed to M23 in the region, explicitly referencing the November 2022 Kishishe massacre as precedent.

An earlier internal summary of this period additionally states that some bodies were found en route to the Birambizo parish concession, and that seven residents were forcibly captured by M23 with no subsequent word of their welfare. Birambizo is the administrative and religious center (chef-lieu) of Bukombo groupement, home to both a Catholic parish and the Birambizo General Referral Hospital, so this detail is geographically consistent with the area, but it was not corroborated by the Congo Inter reporting identified in this review, and should be treated as an open item pending further sourcing.

Separately, and distinct from the 15 January killing, Radio Okapi reported that intense clashes between M23 and FARDC took place in the Bukombo groupement (and the neighboring Mufunyi/Shanga groupement of Masisi's Bahunde Chiefdom) on 3–4 January 2024, leaving at least five civilians dead and five kidnapped. Local notables discovered three bodies in Mashiga village of Bukombo groupement on 3 January, with a further five people reported missing in Muko village the same day.

- Two distinct events in January 2024 are documented for Bukombo groupement: a 3–4 January clash (5 dead, 5 kidnapped, per Radio Okapi) and the 15 January killing of ~10 civilians including women and children (per Igisenge Hutu / Congo Inter). These should not be merged into a single casualty count.
- The Birambizo parish and seven-abduction details attributed to the 15 January incident on the source page were not found in the primary Congo Inter article reviewed here; they may derive from additional local or NGO reporting not identified in this review.
- No independently sourced GPS coordinates for Mashiga, Muko, or the Birambizo parish concession specifically were identified; Bukombo groupement generally lies roughly 100 km north of Goma along the RP1030 corridor.

References

Kabonzo Madila Pacheco, "RDC : Nouveau massacre de civils dans l'Est de la RDC, alerte Igisenge," Congo Inter, 15 January 2024, <https://congointer.info/2024/01/15/rdc-nouveau-massacre-de-civils-dans-lest-de-la-rdc-alerte-igisenge/>.

"Bwito Chiefdom," Wikipedia, accessed 16 July 2026, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bwito_Chiefdom.