

Misisi Mining Attack: Killings of Chinese Nationals and Security Personnel in Fizi Territory (October 2023)

Kachemba, Misisi Mining Area, Fizi Territory, South Kivu, DRC

4.770944°S, 28.686861°E

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Incident Date: 9 October 2023

Fatalities: 4 (2 Chinese nationals, 2 security)

Injured: 2

Victim(s) Profile: Chinese mining personnel and private/FARDC security personnel, working age

Aggressor(s): Unidentified armed group; officials attributed the attackers to the village of Kalondakibuyu, Kabambare Territory, Maniema Province

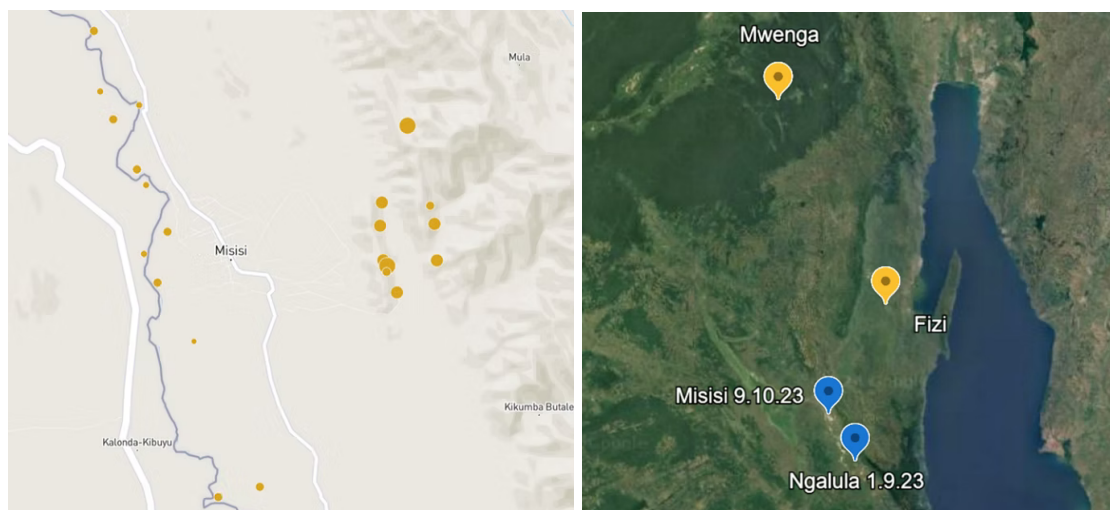
In the early hours of 9 October 2023, unidentified armed attackers struck a mining installation operated by TSM Mining at Kachemba, within the Misisi gold mining area of Fizi Territory, South Kivu Province. Four people were killed: two Chinese nationals and two members of their security detail, and at least two others were injured, including a Ghanaian interpreter and a Chinese national. The attackers seized cash, mobile phones, and other valuables, and clashed with FARDC soldiers guarding the site before withdrawing. Congolese officials attributed the attackers to a village in neighbouring Maniema Province. The attack was the latest in a string of assaults on Chinese-linked mining operations in Fizi Territory in the second half of 2023, in an area IPIS-supported research has separately documented as afflicted by child labour, illegal checkpoints, and environmental harm along its artisanal gold supply chain.



Overnight between Sunday and Monday, 8–9 October 2023, armed individuals intruded into a mining installation operated by TSM Mining at Kachemba, part of the Misisi mining area in Fizi Territory. The attack, which occurred around 01:00, developed into a shootout with FARDC soldiers assigned to protect the foreign workforce. Fizi Territorial Administrator Samy Kalondji Badibanga confirmed four deaths – two Chinese nationals and two others, consistent with other reporting identifying the second pair as members of the victims' security detail – and injuries including a Ghanaian interpreter and a Chinese national. The attackers took cash, mobile phones, travel documents including passports, and other items before withdrawing. Security sources cited by Congolese reporting attributed the attackers to the village of Kalondakibuyu, in Kabambare Territory, Maniema Province, a neighbouring province to South Kivu. Badibanga separately criticized a lack of cooperation from Chinese mining companies operating in the region with local administrative and security procedures, and called for strengthened coordination between FARDC, national police, migration authorities, and intelligence services to protect foreign workers.

This was one of several attacks on Chinese-linked mining operations in Fizi Territory in 2023. On Friday, 1 September 2023, a four-vehicle convoy belonging to TSM Mining: the same company targeted at Kachemba five weeks later was ambushed near the Kimbi river while transporting gold, killing two Chinese nationals, a Congolese soldier, and a driver, and wounding three others; Badibanga attributed those attackers to Kabambare Territory, Maniema, as well. Separate reporting also describes a distinct attack in Kalulula, in “late September” 2023, which also killed four people; it is not established in the sources reviewed whether this is the same event the case file dates to 3 September, a different event, or a misdating of the 1 September convoy ambush. A further attack referenced in the case file for 1 November 2023 could not be independently corroborated in this review. Following the October attack, another Chinese mining firm that had recently begun operations in Misisi suspended activity and withdrew its personnel on the morning of 10 October 2023, citing the deteriorating security situation.

Independent of the security incidents, the Misisi mining area has been the subject of dedicated research by the Congolese civil society organisation Action pour le Développement et la Paix Endogène (APDE), published through IPIS's “Voix du Congo” series, documenting incidents along the artisanal gold supply chain, including mining accidents, violence, illegal checkpoints and taxation, environmental degradation, and child labour reported via the “Kufatilia” community incident-reporting platform.



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