

# Off the Record

**Documentation of Massacres and Mass Rapes  
Committed from 2016 to 2018 Against the  
Indigenous Batwa People in the Province of Tanganyika,  
Democratic Republic of the Congo**



# Off the Record

## Documentation of Massacres and Mass Rapes Committed from 2016 to 2018 Against the Indigenous Batwa People in the Province of Tanganyika, Democratic Republic of the Congo

***Initiative for Equality (IfE)***

PO Box 1144, Rapid City, South Dakota 57709 USA

<https://www.initiativeforequality.org/>

with contributions from

The Investigation Team, an inter-ethnic group comprised of individuals under the coordination of a local civil society organization; they remain unnamed to avoid the possibility of reprisals

Member organizations of Réseau Initiative for Equality (RIFE), a regional network of Batwa rights organizations in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Burundi and Rwanda

Members of the International Batwa Support Committee, a global committee comprised of individuals supporting the Batwa rights movement in the African Great Lakes region

***Off the Record: Documentation of Massacres and Mass Rapes Committed from 2016 to 2018 Against the Indigenous Batwa People in the Province of Tanganyika, Democratic Republic of the Congo***

Occasional Report (April 2019)

*Initiative for Equality (IfE)*

<https://www.initiativeforequality.org/>

**Editor**

Deborah S. Rogers

**Authors**

Anonymous (authors who remain unnamed to protect them from reprisals)

Deborah S. Rogers

**Translators**

Temo Dias (*International Batwa Support Committee*)

Anonymous authors (from local languages)

**Photo credits**

Cover photo: Enamiruwa Basimika Julien

3-part montage (from left): Félicien Mirindi, Enamiruwa Basimika Julien, Batundi Hangi Vicar

**Acknowledgements**

We thank and honor all those individuals of the Investigation Team who selflessly put their lives at risk in order to gather this information and bring it to the world's attention, in the hope that the conflict will be stopped and the survivors will receive the care and assistance they need. We look forward to a day when they can be named, thanked and honored publicly.

We are extremely grateful for the support provided by *Urgent Action Fund-Africa*, which made this on-the-ground investigation possible.

We especially thank Temo Dias for a superb job of translating this report into French; much of the work done late at night under very tight deadlines.

**Acknowledgements, continued**

Many thanks to the following individuals for their helpful advice regarding how to approach the security-related concerns in publishing this report: John Pettus (*Fiskkit*); Mark Lattimer (*Ceasefire Centre for Civilian Rights*; formerly with *Minority Rights Group International*).

Above all, we thank the survivors of these atrocities for their willingness to talk with our Investigators. They shared information and revisited the pain of these events, at great risk to their own well-being, in the hope that they and their loved ones will receive urgently-needed assistance, justice, respect, dignity, human rights, and an end to the conflict. We must not let them down.

**Rights & Permissions**

This document is a report of *Initiative for Equality (IfE)* based on contributions from on-the-ground partners. *IfE* does not guarantee the accuracy of the data presented in this document. Each contributor holds the rights to further publication of the materials they submitted. The document may be copied in whole or in part, and made available for non-commercial uses, as long as it is attributed properly.

**Citation**

Rogers, DS (ed). 2019. ***Off the Record: Documentation of Massacres and Mass Rapes Committed from 2016 to 2018 Against the Indigenous Batwa People in the Province of Tanganyika, Democratic Republic of the Congo.*** Occasional Report, April 2019 (Rapid City, SD, US: *Initiative for Equality*).

**Dedication**

*We commit ourselves to seeking assistance and justice for these women and men and their families out of profound outrage and profound love.*

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>Page</u>	<u>Section</u>
1	<b>I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</b>
1	1.1. Alarms and Responses
1	1.2. Civil Society Interventions
2	1.3. Interviews and Data from Survivors
2	1.4. Reasons for the Attacks
2	1.5. Genocide, Crimes Against Humanity, War Crimes and Ethnic Cleansing
2	1.6. Current Situation
2	1.7. Recommendations for Action
3	1.8. Call for Immediate Protection, Assistance, Policy Changes and Prosecutions
4	<b>II. INTRODUCTION</b>
4	2.1 Initial Alarms and Responses
4	2.2. Background to Conflict
5	2.3. Civil Society Interventions
6	2.4. Current Situation
6	<b>III. INVESTIGATION METHODOLOGY</b>
6	3.1. Goals and Objectives
7	3.2. Locating Survivors
7	3.3. Security and Ethics Concerns
7	3.4. The Investigation Team
7	3.5. Time Frame of the Investigation

8	3.6. Data Collected
8	3.7. Difficulties Faced
9	<b>IV. RESULTS OF INVESTIGATION</b>
9	4.1. Interviews and Data from Survivors
10	4.2. Specific Atrocity Events Documented
13	4.3. Excerpts from Interviews
14	4.4. Photographic Documentation
14	4.5. Status and Needs of Survivors
14	4.6. Reasons for Massacres, Mass Rapes and other Atrocities
17	<b>V. ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSIONS</b>
17	5.1. Overview of Events
19	5.2 Definitions of Genocide, Crimes Against Humanity, War Crimes and Ethnic Cleansing
19	5.3. Reasons for the Conflict
20	5.4. Contributions to Understanding of Security Situation
21	5.5 Need for Care for Survivors
21	5.6 Additional Documentation Needed
21	5.7. Recommendations for Action
22	5.8. Call for Immediate Protection, Assistance, Policy Changes and Prosecutions

## **TABLES**

9	Table 1. Interviewees and categorized individuals at four IDP camps
11	Table 2. Atrocity events by date and location, with estimated numbers
12	Table 3. Overview of Rapes and Deaths of Batwa people, Tanganyika Province, 2015-2018

## **FIGURES**

10      Figure 1. Map of Tanganyika Province, showing the atrocity event locations

## **ATTACHMENTS**

23      Attachment 1. Timeline of Atrocities Against Batwa in Tanganyika Province



*Once again, humanity is faced with a choice of whether to ignore warning signs, or to take the difficult measures required to prevent genocidal violence. This time, perhaps the most ancient people on earth are threatened. We exhort national and regional leaders and the world community to pay attention, consider all options, provide needed support, and take careful but urgent actions to protect the survival, well-being and rights of the Batwa people in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and beyond.*

## I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### Alarms and Responses

In southeastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), a massacre near Moba in Tanganyika Province on 13-14 January 2017 killed an estimated 600 Indigenous Batwa people (also known as Twa, Bambuti, Mbuti, or Pygmies). In addition, some 1,600 women and girls were raped during the violent onslaught, with more than 40 dying within several weeks from the brutality and lack of medical care.

While people on the ground were able to get word to us within two days, in the aftermath we were not able to obtain the kinds of details needed to document the slaughter. News reports signaled that something serious had happened, citing 24 deaths, but were devoid of details. Over the next 15 months, an official MONUSCO investigation was reportedly made but apparently suppressed. Additional information was gathered by civil society groups working in collaboration with Batwa community members, but progress in documenting what had really happened was painfully slow in the face of official silence, security concerns in the conflict zone, and lack of media interest.

Meanwhile, additional large-scale massacres and mass rapes of Batwa were coming to light in Tanganyika Province, raising the alarm that this was a pattern of attacks, with the intention of eradicating the Batwa population from that region of DRC. Was this to be an off-the-record genocide?

### Civil Society Interventions

In April of 2018, armed with descriptions of some of these massacres and mass rapes, several of our network's partners from the African Great Lakes region traveled to the UNHQ in New York to ask for help. We met with the UN's Special Rapporteur for Rights of Indigenous People and delivered a petition to her from our regional Batwa network calling for a full investigation. We also met with the Team Leader for MONUSCO (UN's peace-keeping force for DRC) in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations at the UN.

Alarmed by incoming reports of these large-scale atrocities against the Batwa, and frustrated by the lack of official action, certain of our network members organized a mission to assess and document cases of severe human rights violations



and massacres in Tanganyika Province. After many delays caused by lack of funding, ongoing security concerns and new violence prior to the national elections, the mission finally took place in January of 2019.

### **1.3. Interviews and Data from Survivors**

The investigation team was able to locate and gather information from a total of over 239 individuals during the time period of January 10 to 30. The individuals were located in IDP (internally displaced persons) camps, having fled from the various locations where atrocity events took place. All of the individuals interviewed were from the Batwa ethnic group.

There were seven known events during which atrocities took place, for which the investigation team attempted to gather documentation, which took place during a 13-month period between November 2016 to November 2017, inclusive, in Tanganyika Province, DRC. These seven events resulted in the deaths of an estimated 1,110 Batwa people. Coupled with several other such events from the same region but outside that narrow timeframe, we are relatively certain of over 1,961 deaths of Batwa men, women and children, and well over 2,110 rapes of Batwa, primarily girls and women, between 2015 through 2018.

Of the people encountered in the IDP camps who had survived these atrocities, more than 456 were documented to be in urgent need of medical and psychosocial care for their injuries and trauma. All the above numbers are thought to be gross underestimates due to the extreme difficulty in gathering this information.

### **1.4. Reasons for the Attacks**

Extensive interviews on both sides of the conflict revealed many reasons for the attacks, which can be summarized in these three categories:

(1) prejudice by Bantu people (agriculturalists who migrated into the region over the centuries) against the Indigenous Batwa (hunter-gatherers who were living in the forest since time immemorial), resulting in discrimination, exploitation, dehumanization (including sexual fetishization), violence and fear;

(2) lack of enforced security, rule of law, and access to justice in Tanganyika Province, resulting in a escalating cycle of attacks, fear, preemptive self-defense, and revenge; and

(3) the larger economic context of exploitation and extraction, where militaristic aggression, land grabs and resource trafficking are richly rewarded, while the majority of citizens languish in severe poverty.

### **1.5. Genocide, Crimes Against Humanity, War Crimes and Ethnic Cleansing**

Under the definitions provided by the UN's Office on Genocide Prevention, the atrocities our investigation has documented probably qualify as Genocide, Crimes Against Humanity, War Crimes, and perhaps as Ethnic Cleansing (which is less well defined). The specific documented acts which appear to meet these definitions include:

- use of rape as a weapon of war;
- taking of Batwa children by other ethnic groups for use as babysitters, servants and herders;
- abusive treatment of these Batwa children and teenagers;
- use of torture and dismemberment to terrorize the Batwa population; and
- preemptive and willful killing on a large scale.

### **1.6. Current Situation**

The situation remains alarming today. In the last six months of 2018, intercommunal clashes across Tanganyika Province have reportedly resulted in 558 deaths, 259 injuries, thousands of displaced people and thousands of women raped. Nearly 500,000 people from Tanganyika province have been forced to flee their homes because of serious violence and killings in the last 15 months, the majority in the regions of Kalemie and Nyunzu.

### **1.7. Recommendations for Action**

Based on the results of this report, the following recommendations have been formulated:

1. Provide immediate psychosocial, medical, economic and legal support to all the victims of these serious violations, including those in IDP camps as well as those remaining in the villages, and facilitate their reintegration into their respective communities.



2. Launch a meaningful follow-up investigation to gather additional and more precise data.
3. Investigate the taking of Batwa children from their families and subsequent abusive treatment including rapes and killings, and develop and enforce policies to prevent the removal of children from their families.
4. Establish a mechanism for communication, monitoring and sharing of information on serious human rights violations in Tanganyika Province, and ensure capacity-building of civil protection monitors throughout the province.
5. Fund and implement a genuine grass-roots peace-building approach to transform inter-community conflicts on the ground, and move towards peaceful cohabitation.
6. Disseminate legal instruments to various mandated actors at the local, national, regional and international levels, to explain the roles they must play.
7. Advocate with competent institutions to provide immediate security for the victims of violence that reported these cases.

#### **1.8. Call for Immediate Protection, Assistance, Policy Changes and Prosecutions**

This investigation and report warrant an urgent response, having provided sufficient documentation

to conclude that genocidal crimes against the Batwa people are taking place in Tanganyika Province, Democratic Republic of the Congo. The above-stated need for additional investigation and documentation does not absolve authorities of their responsibility to act immediately to do the following:

1. protect the lives and well-being of survivors and victims in IDP camps and affected villages, and others who may be targeted in the future;
2. provide all care and assistance needed to restore physical health, emotional strength, human dignity, and a reasonable means of subsistence to these people who have been so brutally attacked and terrorized;
3. alter the larger context by adopting and enforcing national and international policies that value and protect the lives and rights of the Indigenous Batwa people living in this region, and alter the economic circumstances so they no longer create distress and incentivize land grabs which can lead to such attacks; and
4. seek justice for the victims and provide disincentives for future attacks, by prosecuting the perpetrators of these atrocities.

~~~~~

*Nearly 60 years after the deaths of Patrice Lumumba and Dag Hammarskjöld, the Katanga region is yet again on the brink of a deadly disaster. Prospects for peace are highly uncertain, and the future of the Indigenous Batwa and Bambuti people in this region is ominous. The world community must stop looking away, international institutions must fulfill their mandates, and the national Congolese government must prioritize the well-being of its people. The disastrous conflict must be stopped – not through military interventions, but through reining in the corrupt economic and political practices that allow, incentivize and perpetuate this genocidal brutality.*

## II. INTRODUCTION

### 2.1 Initial Alarms and Responses

In southeastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), a massacre near Moba in Tanganyika Province<sup>1</sup> on 13-14 January 2017 killed an estimated 600 Indigenous Batwa<sup>2</sup> people outright. In addition, some 1,600 women and girls were raped during the violent onslaught, with more than 40 dying within several weeks from the brutality and lack of medical care.

While people on the ground were able to get word to us within two days, in the aftermath we were not able to obtain the kinds of details needed to document the slaughter. News reports<sup>3</sup> signaled that something serious had happened, citing 24 deaths and indicating that UN Deputy Special Representative David Gressly planned to visit the site, but were devoid of details.

Over the following 15 months, an official MONUSCO investigation was reportedly made but apparently suppressed, presumably due to concerns about pressure from the Congolese government. National authorities would have had no interest in bringing the massacre to light within the context of the very contentious run-up to the mandated national elections which then-President Joseph Kabila was attempting to prevent. Additional information was gathered by civil society groups working in collaboration with Batwa community members, but progress in documenting what had really happened was painfully slow in the face of official silence, security concerns in the conflict zone, and lack of media interest. Meanwhile, additional large-scale massacres and mass rapes<sup>4</sup> of Batwa were coming to light in Tanganyika Province, raising the alarm that there was a pattern of events constituting genocidal attacks, with the intention of eradicating the Batwa population from that region of DRC.

### 2.2. Background to Conflict

The larger African Great Lakes region has been devastated by conflict for the past three decades. Initially precipitated by the events leading up to the 1994 genocide in Rwanda, these conflicts have led to estimated deaths ranging upwards to over 6 million<sup>5</sup>. In 2018, the UNHCR estimated 4.4 million internally displaced persons in DRC, with another 620,000 Congolese refugees in neighboring countries<sup>6</sup>. Burundi has also experienced politically motivated extra-judicial killings and rights violations, and has been the recent subject of several UN inquiries<sup>7</sup>.

---

<sup>1</sup> Formerly part of Katanga Province, and still called 'ex-Katanga' by many local people

<sup>2</sup> The Batwa people, also called Twa, and the closely related Bambuti, also called Mbuti, are also often referred to by the old term 'Pygmies' (felt by some to be pejorative). Throughout this report, we use the term 'Batwa' to refer to both the Batwa and the Bambuti, except in the case of direct quotes. The non-Indigenous tribes are collectively called 'Bantu' and are often identified by their specific tribal name (primarily Luba or Baluba, and Tabwa or Batabwa).

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.rfi.fr/afrique/20170116-rdc-lourd-bilan-affrontements-entre-pygmees-bantous-tanganyika>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.initiativeforequality.org/fieldreports/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.caritas.org/2010/02/six-million-dead-in-congos-war/>  
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2223004/>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.unhcr.org/en-us/statistics/unhcrstats/5b27be547/unhcr-global-trends-2017.html>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/ColBurundi/Pages/ColBurundi.aspx>

Tanganyika Province, a part of the former Katanga Province, is an extremely mineral-rich region, which has suffered much conflict as a result<sup>89</sup>. Various factions have been vying for control of the wealth since the early 1960s or before, leading to multiple conflicts – including a secession attempt, and the 1961 death of UN Secretary General Dag Hammarskjöld as he arrived to negotiate an end to the mining-related civil war there<sup>10</sup>.

Within this larger context, one group merits special attention. The Indigenous Batwa people, ancient inhabitants of the Congo Basin forests, have been the subject of massive land grabs, rights violations, sexual violence and killings over the past three decades. The Batwa, with an estimated regional population of perhaps 1 million, are specifically targeted for several reasons. They hold the traditional land rights across the region under international law<sup>11</sup>, which are coveted by other ethnic groups and economic actors for the riches of minerals and timber. Furthermore, they are often seen as sub-human by neighboring tribes due to cultural and physical differences, and Batwa women are often fetishized by a belief held by other ethnic groups that having sex with them will protect a man's health and life<sup>12</sup>.

Over the past 3 years, the situation for the Batwa in Tanganyika Province has greatly deteriorated. Although relations have been strained between Batwa and Bantu since well before colonization, the conflict between the Batwa and the Luba people in Tanganyika Province (former Katanga) surged in 2013 in the territories of Manono, Kabalo, Nyunzu, Moba and Kalemie; all very under-developed areas. The conflict then erupted violently around Manono in mid-2016. Massacres of many hundreds of Batwa, along with mass rapes, torture, house burnings and individual killings, were reported to us from across the province. In some territories, more than eighty percent of the population, including both Batwa and Bantu people, had been displaced to the town of Kalemie, fleeing conflict as their home villages were occupied by militias who were committing massacres.

### 2.3. Civil Society Interventions

In April of 2018, armed with descriptions of some of these massacres and mass rapes, several of our network's partners from the African Great Lakes region<sup>13</sup> traveled to the UNHQ in New York to ask for help. We met with the UN's Special Rapporteur for Rights of Indigenous People and delivered a petition to her from our regional Batwa network calling for a full investigation. We also met with the Team Leader for MONUSCO (UN's peace-keeping force for DRC) in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations at the UN, who told us he was aware of the killings but his "hands were tied" because the DRC government was on the verge of removing MONUSCO<sup>14</sup>.

Alarmed by incoming reports of these large-scale atrocities against the Batwa, and frustrated by the lack of official action, certain of our network members were finally able to organize a mission to assess and

---

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2014/jan/30/drc-democratic-republic-congo-katanga-humanitarian-catastrophe-un>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.crisisgroup.org/africa/central-africa/democratic-republic-congo/katanga-tensions-drcs-mineral-heartland>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/jan/12/former-raf-pilot-shot-down-un-chief-dag-hammarskjold-1961-plane>

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouseoples/declaration-on-the-rights-of-indigenous-peoples.html>

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.refworld.org/pdfid/4bf389f82.pdf>

<sup>13</sup> Initiative for Equality (IfE) is a global network of scholars and activists working to end social, economic and political inequalities. Our network in the African Great Lakes region, called *Réseau Initiative for Equality* (RIFE) has 18 formal partner organizations and many informal partners, several of whom contributed to this report, and all of whom remained unnamed here for their safety.

<sup>14</sup> Personal communication; UN HQ, 19 April 2018

document cases of severe human rights violations and massacres in Tanganyika Province. After many delays caused by ongoing security concerns and new violence prior to the national elections, the mission finally took place in January of 2019. The investigation was undertaken with the intention of documenting these massacres and mass rapes, clarifying the security situation and the potential existential threat to the Batwa people in Tanganyika Province, and assessing urgent needs of affected victims and survivors.

The rest of this report describes the mission, what we learned, our analysis of the situation, and recommendations for urgently needed action. The objectives, methodology and investigation team are described in *Section III. Investigation Methodology* of this report. Detailed results and findings of the investigation are provided in *Section IV. Results of Investigation* as well as in *Attachment 1. Timeline of Atrocities Against Batwa in Tanganyika Province*. The results are then analyzed, conclusions are drawn and recommendations made in *Section V. Analysis and Conclusions*.

#### **2.4. Current Situation**

The situation remains alarming today. In the last six months of 2018, intercommunal clashes across Tanganyika Province have reportedly resulted in 558 deaths, 259 injuries, thousands of displaced people and thousands of women raped. Nearly 500,000 people from Tanganyika province have been forced to flee their homes because of serious violence and killings in the last 15 months, the majority in the regions of Kalemie and Nyunzu. Almost 85 percent of those living in the IDP camps which the investigation team visited do not have access to safe drinking water and adequate medical care, and 80 percent do not have latrines. Most of the people in the camps do not have shelter – only a mosquito net or tarpaulin.

Thus, nearly 60 years after the deaths of Patrice Lumumba<sup>15</sup> and Dag Hammarskjöld, the ex-Katanga region is again on the brink of a deadly disaster. Locally, people lament that this conflict is a forgotten crisis. Prospects for peace are highly uncertain, and the future of the Indigenous Batwa and Bambuti people in this region is ominous. The world community must stop looking away, international institutions must fulfill their mandates, and the national Congolese government must prioritize the well-being of its people. The disastrous conflict must be stopped – not through military interventions, but through reining in the corrupt economic and political practices that allow, incentivize and perpetuate this genocidal brutality.

### **III. INVESTIGATION METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1. Goals and Objectives**

The long-term goal of this investigation was to find ways to end massacres, violations and atrocities against Batwa girls, women, boys and men in the region of eastern and southeastern DRC in general, and in Tanganyika Province in particular.

---

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/poverty-matters/2011/jan/17/patrice-lumumba-50th-anniversary-assassination>

The immediate objectives of this investigation were as follows:

1. to identify particular atrocity events (mass rapes, massacres, mass graves)
2. to update understandings of the security situation in Tanganyika Province
3. to identify individuals who are victims of rape and other violence, and/or survivors of massacres
4. to evaluate the needs of these victims of serious human rights violations and survivors of mass rapes and massacres
5. to determine the origins of this conflict
6. to make recommendations for possible future interventions to end such attacks

### **3.2. Locating Survivors**

To locate survivors, the investigation team worked together with individuals familiar with the original communities that were attacked, or having contacts within groups of displaced persons living in IDP camps after the attacks. The interviews took place in IDP camps where many of the Batwa villagers had fled after the attacks. Other locations of interest will be discussed in Section IV. Results.

### **3.3. Security and Ethics Concerns**

Security and ethics concerns related to the sensitive nature of this investigation were placed first and foremost in training the investigation team members. The primary security objectives were to undertake to investigation without attracting the attention of potential perpetrators or those complicit with the perpetrators, to keep the identities of the investigation team confidential, and to keep the identities of the survivors who consented to be interviewed confidential. The primary ethical concerns were to undertake the interviews in a way that minimized trauma to the survivors, respected their wishes to speak or not speak, kept their identities confidential, and offered them only realistic hopes for future interventions.

### **3.4. The Investigation Team**

The investigation team consisted of three men and three women, with both Batwa and Bantu ethnic groups represented. The team operated under the technical support of an experienced consultant in charge of providing development of data collection tools, staff training on data collection techniques for victims, norms and ethical standards for data collection and securing information provided by victims; and taking photos and videos. Because local officials and members of the armed forces were potentially complicit in the atrocities, the investigation was conducted in relative secrecy and it was not possible to request permissions.

### **3.5. Time Frame of the Investigation**

The investigation was conducted over a 21-day period from January 10 to January 30, 2019. The investigation had originally been planned for November and then December of 2018, but security concerns and problems related to the ongoing national elections in DRC delayed the mission until January of 2019.

### **3.6. Data Collected**

The data intended to be collected by the investigation team included:

- location and identification of survivors of large-scale attacks in Tanganyika Province over the previous 36 months
- details on the attacks including –
  - their reasons
  - their locations
  - how they took place
  - numbers and ages of individuals killed, raped or otherwise injured
  - the ethnic groups involved
  - impacts to people and communities
  - displacement caused by attacks
  - aftermath of attacks
- location and status of physical evidence such as mass graves
- photos of physical evidence including graves, corpses and severe injuries
- personal interviews of survivors
- current health and needs of the victims interviewed

Audio and visual data (videos and images) were collected using a NIKON brand digital camera and a Techno Y2 portable Android phone. Other data were collected on data sheets, used to organize focus group input and individual interviews from members of the communities. Photos taken on November 05, 2017, corresponding to the day of one particular massacre with a mass grave, were accessed.

### **3.7. Difficulties Faced**

During the mission we faced several significant difficulties due to the politically sensitive nature of the investigation, the trauma experienced by survivors, the risks they still face, and the ongoing conflict in the region.

Our access to data was limited because members of the provincial government did not want to talk about mass rapes, massacres or mass graves; therefore many others refused to cooperate with the investigation to avoid antagonizing these officials. Furthermore, because government authorities were cited among the people involved in the massacres, many victims were afraid to provide information for fear of prosecution by perpetrators or complicit authorities suspected of being behind these atrocities.

Another problem related to the outcomes of previous interviews. Many survivors were extremely disappointed because they had been interviewed by other organizations, but these interviews had not so far led to any assistance or possible solutions. This dissuaded some victims from once again describing the situations experienced during the crisis.

Another major obstacle was the increasing insecurity in the region. Due to illegal road blocks established by armed groups and militias, the province has limited access in many areas more than 60 km from the city of Kalemie, including the KALEMIE-NYUNZU axis, the KALEMIE-KABALO axis, and the KALEMIE-MANONO axis, to mention only a few. These regions are accessible only by air for organizations affiliated with Eco flight, UNAS and MONUSCO. Travel by railway is also very risky in these areas because at several points along the railroad there are groups of militias.

## IV. RESULTS OF INVESTIGATION

### 4.1. Interviews and Data from Survivors

The investigation team was able to locate and gather information from a total of over 239 individuals during the time period of January 10 – 30. The individuals were located in four IDP (internally displaced persons) camps, having fled from the various locations where atrocity events – described below – took place. All of the individuals interviewed were from the Batwa ethnic group (also known as Twa, Bambuti, Mbuti, or Pygmy).

These individuals provided information in two ways: through detailed individual or group interviews, and through the provision of data by allowing themselves to be categorized into groups of survivors. *Table 1* provides a summary of the numbers of individuals interviewed (individually or in groups) or allowing themselves to be categorized into groups (survivors of rapes; survivors of massacre) at each of the four IDP camps. Note that the two numbers – total interviewees and total providing data – cannot be added for a grand total because many of those providing data were also interviewees.

**Table 1. Interviewees and categorized individuals at four IDP camps**

| IDP CAMP            | # Women Interviewed Individually | # Men Interviewed Individually | # Women Interviewed In Groups | # Men Interviewed In Groups | TOTAL # Interviewed in Detail | Data from Women Survivors of Massacres | Data from Men Survivors of Massacres | Data from Women Survivors of Rapes | Data from Men Survivors of Rapes | TOTAL # Providing Data |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------|
| A                   | 3                                | 5                              | 10                            | 5                           | 23                            | 30                                     | 80                                   | 60                                 | 4                                | 174                    |
| B                   | 10                               | 3                              | 17                            | 15                          | 45                            | 12                                     | 22                                   | 29                                 | 0                                | 63                     |
| C                   | 2                                | 0                              | 0                             | 0                           | 2                             | 0                                      | 0                                    | 2                                  | 0                                | 2                      |
| D                   | 0                                | 0                              | 0                             | 0                           | 0                             | 0                                      | 0                                    | 0                                  | 0                                | 0                      |
| TOTAL INTERVIEWEES: |                                  |                                |                               |                             | 70                            | TOTAL PROVIDING DATA:                  |                                      |                                    |                                  | 239                    |

The largest number of detailed interviews took place at IDP Camp B, and the largest number of people categorized into groups was at IDP Camp A. Only two people were willing to speak at IDP Camp C, and none were willing to speak at IDP Camp D, due to fear of reprisals and mistrust of the outcomes of the interview process.

In Camp A, 140 people including 60 women (victims of sexual violence) and 80 men (survivors of massacres) were interviewed. Among them, 8 individual interviews were organized, including 5 with men and 3 with women.

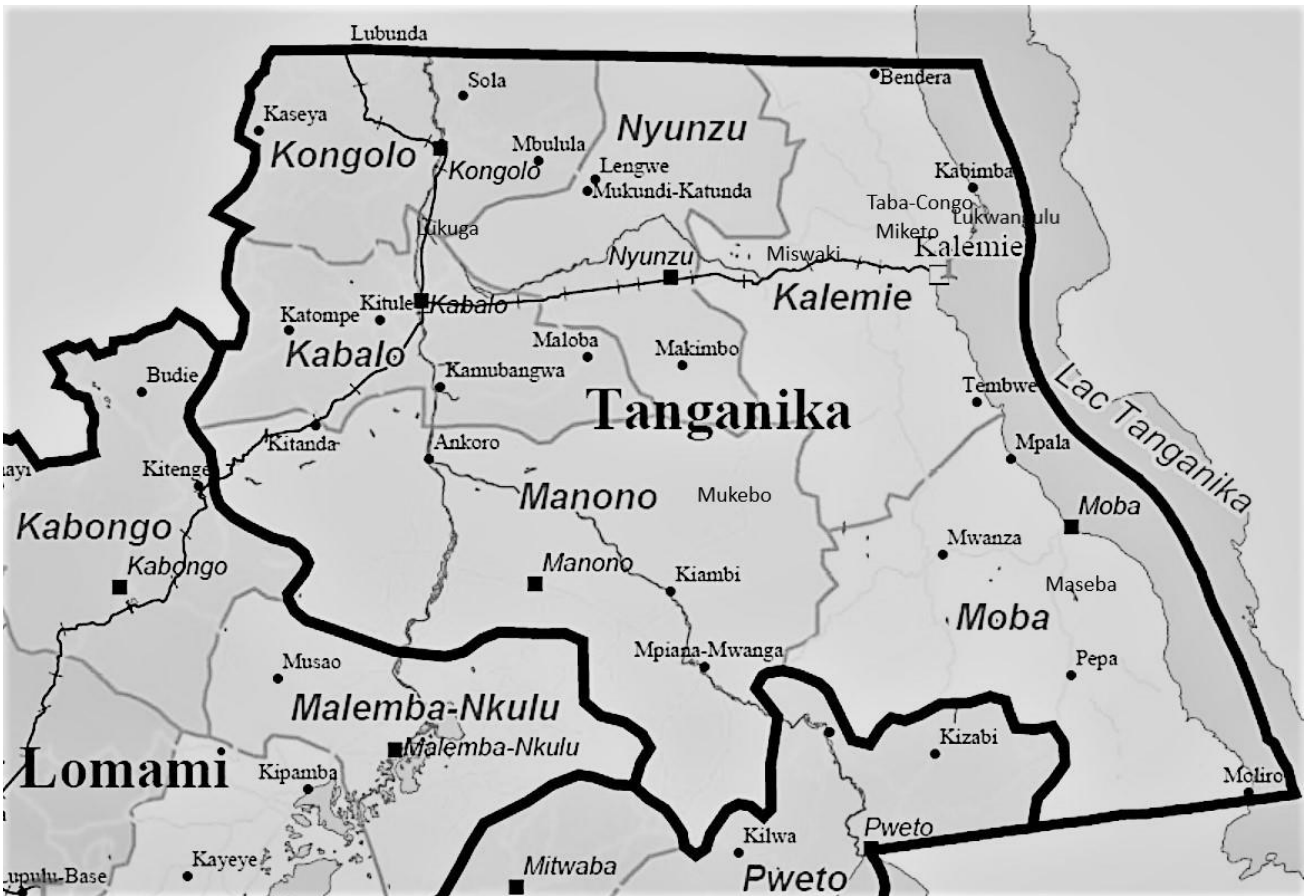
In Camp B, which held around 800 displaced people from Nyunzu, Manono and Miswaki, a total of 45 people were contacted. These included 29 women (victims of sexual violence) and 22 men (survivors of brutal massacres of indigenous peoples). Thirteen individual interviews were organized with 10 women and 3 men, while 32 group interviews were held with the men and women encountered in the camp.

In Camps C and D, there were around 1,300 people including 600 women and 300 men, 250 girls and 150 boys, including children. Given the trauma of these displaced persons following the attacks they experienced, and because the local authorities and other organizations (preceding our investigation) had



failed to provide care for the vulnerable cases, most people contacted were afraid to share information on the subject. Therefore, only two women talked with us individually.

**Figure 1. Map of Tanganyika Province, showing the atrocity event locations**



**4.2. Specific Atrocity Events Documented**

There were seven specific events during which atrocities took place, for which the investigation team attempted to gather documentation. These seven events took place in a 13-month period between November 2016 to November 2017, inclusive. All took place in Tanganyika Province, Democratic Republic of Congo (also called ex-Katanga, and formerly known as Katanga Province or simply Katanga). See *Figure 1* for a map of Tanganyika Province and the locations of the seven atrocity events.

*Table 2* provides a summary of the seven atrocity events documented, including a brief description of the location and event, best estimates of numbers of men and women affected (raped, killed or seriously injured), best estimates of total numbers of individuals killed, and brief notes about what happened, the aftermath, and difficulties in obtaining documentation. All of the individuals documented as raped or killed were from the Batwa ethnic group.

**Table 2. Atrocity events by date and location, with estimated numbers**

| ATROCITY EVENTS & OUTCOMES IN TANGANYIKA PROVINCE                                                                   | # WOMEN              | # MEN             | TOTAL # PEOPLE AFFECTED | TOTAL # PEOPLE KILLED | NOTES                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 05-06 November 2016 (Miswaki) - massacre resulting in over 321 deaths, buried in mass grave                         | 108                  | 213               | 321                     | 321                   | More than 300 Batwa persons are reported interred in a mass grave at Miswaki                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Around 09 January 2017 (across Manono & Kabalo Territories) - killings of young servants, baby-sitters, and herders | 230 women, 615 girls | 118 men, 628 boys | 1591                    | unknown               | The affected families fled to 11 IDP camps as well as about 230 foster families, and are only now in the process of beginning to return.                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 13-14 January 2017 (near Moba; Maseba) - over 600 Batwa killed, approximately 1600 women and girls raped            | 1780                 | 420               | 2200                    | 600                   | women were systematically raped by the Bantu for power, according to those contacted in the IDP camps. Most rape victims were women and girls who were raped by Bantu militia groups, FARDC elements, local authorities and civilians.                                                                                   |
| 04 July 2017 (Lukwangulu IDP camp near Kalemie) - 189 Pygmies killed                                                | 112                  | 77                | 189                     | 189                   | The Batwa were killed by Bantu after the Bantu had raped their wives and daughters, whom they used as servants, babysitters and herders                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 16 October 2017 (North Lukuga in Nyuzu territory) - 187 cases of sexual violence                                    | 184                  | 3                 | 187                     | unknown               | During this period in October of 2017, 187 victims of sexual violence were identified and reported to us. Most of them have not had access to medical, psychosocial or legal services. Some are living with fistulas that urgently require surgical intervention. It is unknown how many, if any, of these victims died. |
| 05 November 2017 (near Moba) - sexual violence against more than 263 women and girls                                | 263                  | 0                 | 263                     | unknown               | On November 5, 2017, almost one year after the large massacre in Moba, more than 263 Batwa women and girls were again victims of sexual violence perpetrated by the Bantu. It is unknown how many, if any, of these victims died.                                                                                        |
| 15 November 2017 (Miswaki) - killings and rapes by Baluba in Miketo group, 15 km from Nyemba                        | 12                   | 25                | 37                      | unknown               | See interview with one victim in Section IV. Results.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>TOTALS (incomplete data):</b>                                                                                    | <b>2459</b>          | <b>738</b>        | <b>3197</b>             | <b>1110</b>           | <b>These figures are gross underestimates due to difficulties in obtaining complete information.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |

Each of the atrocity events from November 2016 through November 2017 is listed, summarized, and then described in greater detail in *Attachment 1. Timeline of Atrocities Against Batwa in Tanganyika Province*. The Timeline also includes other events from 2013 through 2018 which were not documented by this current study. We clearly specify our sources in the Timeline, although we withhold names to protect certain investigators.

The information in the Timeline which came from this current investigation includes mostly first-hand reports of events experienced or witnessed by the interviewed individuals. Much of the information from other sources was obtained directly from survivors, their family members or other members of the community, shortly after the event. In some cases, information was methodically obtained by previous investigations, to compile names of those raped and/or killed by talking with individuals from their

communities. In other cases, the information was obtained from news media sources, who cited their information as having come from multilateral peacekeeping forces (MONUSCO), other UN agencies such as OCHA, or through interviews with local people having first-hand knowledge, such as doctors.

The Timeline details an estimated total of well over 1,961 deaths of Batwa people, and an estimated total of well over 2,110 rapes of Batwa people, primarily girls and women. Table 3 summarizes the data from *Attachment 1. Timeline of Atrocities Against Batwa in Tanganyika Province*.

**Table 3. Overview of Rapes and Deaths of Batwa people, Tanganyika Province, 2015-2018**

| LOCATIONS                                                  | DATES               | RAPES OF BATWA             | DEATHS OF BATWA                       | OTHER DETAILS                                                               |
|------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Manono & Nyunzu Territories                                | Jan – Sep 2015      | 60                         | 200                                   | 113 villages burned                                                         |
| Cotanga (Nyunzu Territory)                                 | 02 Sep 2016         |                            | 2                                     |                                                                             |
| Yuzu, Kabalo, Manono and Kongolo Territories               | early Sep 2016      |                            | 78                                    | 428 displaced Bantu (Baluba) persons                                        |
| Miswaki (west of Kalemie)                                  | 05-06 Nov 2016      |                            | 321                                   | Mass grave; hundreds wounded                                                |
| Manono Territory                                           | 20 Dec 2016         |                            | 5                                     | 181 wounded by national government FARDC and PNC forces                     |
| Nyunzu, Kabalo, Manono, and Kongolo Territories            | Nov & Dec 2016      |                            | 449 Batwa and Bantu <b>(overview)</b> | 273 seriously wounded, 3,120 homes burned and thousands of displaced people |
| Manono & Kabalo Territories                                | Around 09 Jan 2017  |                            | "many"                                | Children and teenagers killed                                               |
| Maseba and Moba, south of Kalemie                          | 13-14 Jan 2017      | 1,600                      | 600                                   | national government FARDC and PNC forces complicit                          |
| Taba-Congo, north of Kalemie                               | 29 Apr 2017         |                            | 8                                     | for killing a cow                                                           |
| Lukwangulu, near Kalemie                                   | 04 Jul 2017         |                            | 189                                   | fight in IDP camp                                                           |
| North Lukuga in Nyuzu territory                            | 16 Oct 2017         | 187                        |                                       |                                                                             |
| Moba, south of Kalemie                                     | 05 Nov 2017         | 263                        |                                       | Perpetrators categorized; many are police or military                       |
| "across the region" (same towns & territories named above) | Nov 2017 – Jan 2019 | "thousands"                | 558                                   | 259 injuries; nearly 500,000 displaced persons                              |
| <b>TOTALS for Tanganyika Province (underestimates)</b>     | <b>2015 - 2018</b>  | <b>2,110 (+ thousands)</b> | <b>1,961 (+ many)</b>                 | <b>Around 500,000 displaced persons</b>                                     |

### 4.3. Excerpts from Interviews

Many of the 70 interviews obtained in this investigation were extremely moving, and put a human perspective on what could otherwise be perceived as incomprehensible numbers. The following excerpts are examples of the stories the investigation team heard. Certain details are redacted to avoid identification of the survivors who were interviewed.

(1) A blind and widowed woman, aged about ---, was met by militia on November 05, 2017, when the militia lodged a spear in her thigh after raping her. People fleeing the clashes found her in the road crossing the railroad that leads to Kalemie from Nyunzu. They put her on the train to ---, to a camp for displaced people where she still finds herself until today, but with some of the arrow still in her thigh. According to interviews conducted with this victim, she has difficulty standing, and the part of the wound still hurts because since the incident the victim has never received any medical, psychosocial or legal assistance. She had trouble identifying the perpetrators since she is blind.

(2) "My name is ---. We were in Miswaki village. My uncles, my parents were killed by the Bantu in Miketo group, 15 km from Nyemba. On this date of November 15, 2017, we heard people coming with whistles – Malewa<sup>16</sup>. Looking outside we see the Baluba, so we left for Moba where we met with a vehicle coming from Lubumbashi that led us to Kalemie, where we were welcomed by host families. We were threatened with lack of food by the host families – myself, my aunt, my children and other family members – where we had to work for host families to find food at night. So my aunt decided to go harvest the maize in her field at ---. Therefore we crossed paths again with the Baluba, who raped me and my aunt, and the --- children were killed. Me and my aunt remained raped. This is how a Musukumeni [traveling salesman on bicycle] saw what had happened and helped us. These militia members fled because they had fetishes. The Musukumeni saw the event and transported us to --- where we were greeted by ---. [He] brought us to the association which took us to the state clinic where we had first medical help, me and my aunt. But that was not enough, because I remained a widow without a husband since my husband was killed and buried in a mass grave where about 300 people were buried, including my husband. The men begin to avoid me and no one cares about me, and they tell me that they cannot do anything about me because I am raped. I received care at the state clinic but I no longer have strength to do work. I have trouble identifying the perpetrators because they masked their faces. More than ten Baluba raped me, until they perforated my uterus<sup>17</sup>, me and my aunt."

(3) A photo showing a mass grave was provided by a victim encountered in the IDP camp, who took the photo in 2017 during her passage while fleeing a massacre. This is how she came across the mass grave where some bodies had already decomposed. About 300 Batwa people were reported buried in this mass grave at Miswaki, 60 km from Kalemie.

(4) We heard a sad story of a Batwa man rescued from brutal massacre, whose wife, children and other family members were killed during a massacre in Mukwaka about 60 km from Kalemie. He is now in the village of ---.

---

<sup>16</sup> "Malewa" dancing and whistling is a form of dance used by the rebels to designate victory and terrorize opposing groups.

<sup>17</sup> i.e. created internal injuries known as fistulas, which may or may not have affected the uterus

(5) We heard the story of a Twa child, an orphan whose two parents were murdered by the Baluba, who found herself in a makeshift house without any assistance, having fled with her neighbors from ---, her village of origin.

(6) We heard the story of a widowed woman, physically disabled and a victim of sexual violence, survivor of a brutal massacre perpetrated by the Bantu in the village of ---. Her husband and --- children were killed during a massacre perpetrated by the Bantu against the Twa that took place November 05, 2017.

(7) We heard the story of a woman from the Batabwa community, married to a Twa man, was savagely killed by her brothers for the sole cause of having in her belly a pregnancy from a Twa man from ---.

(8) We heard the story of two young Batwa from Nyunzu who were murdered; as one was trying to defend his wife and --- children against serious violations, he found himself unable to confront a multitude of militias, which is how he ended up with an ax lodged in his head.

#### **4.4. Photographic Documentation**

The investigation team took photos and filmed videos during the investigation. They also collected existing photos from survivors whom they interviewed, and from --- and --- who have direct knowledge of the events and survivors. These include graphic photos of human torture, death, dismemberment and the mass grave at Miswaki.

#### **4.5. Status and Needs of Survivors**

One of the objectives of this investigation was to evaluate the needs of the survivors of these serious human rights violations, mass rapes and massacres. After reviewing the interviews and data collected, the investigation team concluded: "At the end of the mission, several needs were highlighted, although some victims received partial medical assistance. Currently more than 456 cases of sexual violence have been reported by those interviewed, and their situation remains aggravated. The data are alarming given the situations experienced by the victims, most of whom have been psychologically affected. Interventions are urgently needed to provide assistance to victims of sexual violence identified, both in the IDP camps and for [uncounted] others still in the villages targeted by the atrocities."

#### **4.6. Reasons for Massacres, Mass Rapes and other Atrocities**

In order to develop strategies for stopping the massacres, rapes and other atrocities perpetrated against the Batwa people, it is necessary to understand the reasons, motivations and incentives driving these atrocities. Different people have different explanations for why these took place, including the following:

(a) *Magic*: According to the sources contacted during the investigation on the ground, as well as from the data coming from different victims interviewed, it was said that on November 5, 2017, in the locality of Moba, during the attack of Bantus against the Batwa, the sexual violence perpetrated was motivated by two main reasons:

- The Bantu think that having sex with a Twa woman creates protection and they will no longer be hit by bullets; "to have sex with a Twa woman is more than putting on all the bullet-proof vests in the world".
- The Bantu say that they have sex with Twa women to have powers and enrich themselves, because the Batwa have a power of wealth and everyone having sex with the Batwa is suddenly enriched.

(b) *Revenge*: On October 16, 2017, in the locality of North Lukuga in Nyuzu territory, there was a systematic attack of Baluba peoples in coalition with the Batabwa against indigenous Twa peoples, resulting in more than 187 cases of sexual violence against Twa girls and women. Those interviewed said this attack was due to vengeance of the Bantu peoples against the Batwa, following warnings that the Batwa were planning an attack against the Bantu.

On November 5, 2016, more than 321 deaths and hundreds of wounded were recorded in Miswaki. Explanations collected from the families of the victims of the massacre indicate that this was due to an attempt by Batwa to attack the Bantu after recording cases of rape of Twa girls taken as servants, baby-sitters and cattle herders by the Bantu. When the Bantu heard that the Batwa were organizing a revenge attack to recover their girls and boys taken as servants, baby-sitters and herders, they proceeded to kill the young Batwa cited above. So they suddenly went down to different Twa villages to kill the Batwa and commit brutal slaughter, and buried them in a mass grave the night of November 6, 2016.

(c) *Economic disagreements*: According to interviews held with victims in the various IDP camps, "the violence began towards the end of 2013 when Batwa refused to pay taxes to sell to the market the caterpillars they gather in the forest and which constitute a popular food, says one version. They reportedly responded and the violence escalated, with Batwa and Luba soon forming self-defense militias and attacking opposing groups."

(d) *Allegations of spying*: According to another version, "the origin of the killings cites the recruitment of Batwa by the Congolese army, to gather intelligence about the secessionist movement Bakata Katanga, composed mainly of Luba, who then took revenge on Batwa villages."

From the Timeline in Attachment 1: " On 09 January 2017, people from the Baluba community killed many Indigenous (Batwa/Bambutu) youth who were working for them, including babysitters, herders and domestic workers. This took place 40 km from Nyunzu and Kabalo in the province of Katanga [i.e. Tanganyika]... the massacre of Indigenous teens was committed by the Baluba because during the ongoing conflict, all teenage Bambutu [Batwa] boys and girls (under age 18) were enlisted (by both sides) and forced to function as spies."

(e) *Sexual jealousy*: Another version, coming from an organized interview with women in the IDP camps, "speaks of a Twa man who had found his wife in flagrante delicto (having sex) with a Bantu. The evil had arrived. The Twa man did not want to finish this problem himself, so while trying to take revenge he went to get the 'Percis', who were like the Batwa police. The Percis came and directly grabbed the man who was courting the wife of a Twa man; when they went with him, the Batwa called Percis beat him, and the man died."

(f) *Cycles of revenge*: The interview with women (mentioned in (e) above) continued: "... This [sexual jealousy] is where the killings started, with the Bantus in turn revolting, saying "how is it that the Batwa will start treating us like this? We have to stand up to beat them, and it explodes again. When the Batwa saw the Bantu, they killed him just the same as among the Bantu. But the Batwa, when they find you in a village, they will begin to burn it." According to members of the investigation team, many cases of kidnappings, torture, as well as cases of violence against women and girls of indigenous Twa peoples, have been recorded because of this cycle of protection and revenge.

*(g) Killings of cattle:* Around all the villages such as at Mukebo, Lwaba, Nzoa Mukasa, Zaire, Kiansongo, Miswaki, cattle were killed [by the Batwa] with the arrow or the machete. Villagers [Bantu] fled to Mukimbo village in Nyunzu territory.

*(h) Socioeconomic decline for Bantu:* According to investigation team members, "If relations have been strained between Batwa and Bantu since well before colonization, the conflict between the Twa and the Luba in former Katanga surged in 2013 in the territories of Manono, Kabalo, Nyunzu, Moba, and Kalemie – very underdeveloped areas. The social situations of the Batwa and Bantu have come closer because the decline in the standard of living of the latter [Bantu] has pushed them closer to the forest as a means of substance; the forest which feeds the Batwa."

*(i) Discrimination:* Investigation team members say that "this situation also fuels leadership conflicts between members of different ethnicities, given that the indigenous peoples (Batwa) suffer from discrimination in the condition of life that they lead, when faced with the Bantu people." ... "Given that the area is surrounded by a small number of security agents not trained in the procedure for the protection of minority peoples, these people suffer from this kind of discrimination." ... "In this area, it seemed useless, even regrettable, to notice with bitterness that Batwa often remain excluded in the management of public affairs." See also point (n) below.

*(j) Changing expectations of Batwa about discrimination:* According to investigation team members, "If the Batwa are at a disadvantage compared to the Bantu, there are also now an elite few [Batwa] who have learned that there are human rights. When international NGOs arrive, the Luba people of this region find that the Batwa are favored." ... "The conflicts of the region are nonetheless joined with the context of the disadvantaged/ inferior situation in which Batwa are traditionally found with respect to the Bantu. They claim the same rights as their neighbors. They complain that they have no MPs or senators, and that they have to pay an illegal customary fee to the Bantu people. But to have difficulties of access to priority when faced with an administration represented by Bantu who discriminate against them; to be forced to do forced labor for the Bantu; not to marry the Bantu women while Bantu are courting their wives..."

*(k) Land and resource grabs by Bantu ethnic group:* Investigation team members continued, "...not to receive compensation for the continued destruction of the forest by the Bantu – the forest which is their nourishing mother." See point (n) below.

*(l) Lack of education by Batwa:* Investigation team members continued, "In relation to all these blatant injustices, add the weakness of the Batwa's bargaining capacity, as they live in non-hierarchical societies and often have few members who have had access to education."

*(m) Military action favors Bantu ethnic group:* Investigation team members continued, "Due to insecurity, the army is now on the ground, and the Batwa find that military justice, exerted by the Bantu, favors the Luba [a Bantu group]."

*(n) Prejudice and land grabs:* A previous investigation, conducted in February through April of 2017 in this same region in Tanganyika Province and also in neighboring Fizi Territory of Sud-Kivu Province, found that there are strongly-held grievances by both Bantu and Batwa people, each against the other group. A delegation from a civil society organization, including both non-Indigenous and Batwa



members, embarked on a mission to compile information on the conflict between Indigenous (Batwa and Bambuti) and non-Indigenous (Bafulero and Banyamulenge) people in the regions of Manono, Kabalo, Yunzu [Nyunzu] and Kakinga (Tanganyika Province) and Force Bendera (a worker housing site for the now-defunct Kiyimbi Hydro-power Station on the border between Territory of Fizi, Sud-Kivu Province, and Tanganyika Province).

According to people this prior investigation talked with, the Bafulero, Baluba and the Banyamulenge people accused the Batwa [Bambutis] of:

- claiming complete ownership of the entire forest as an ancestral heritage, which they (the non-indigenous people) consider to be in bad faith;
- embarrassing themselves in front of persons from the Bafulero, Baluba, or Banyamulenge communities;
- stealing the Bafulero and Banyamulenge cattle to use as food in replacement for game that has become rare in the forest;
- subscribing to animistic values and beliefs;
- sowing jealousy and an inferiority complex;
- lacking a spirit of initiative and entrepreneurship;
- being underdeveloped intellectually; and
- plundering property and setting fire to dwellings.

The Bambuti [Batwa] in turn accused the Bafulero, Baluba and Banyamulenge [Bantu] communities of the following:

- destroying the forest by the uncontrolled logging of trees, and causing the extinction of wild animals due to the seasonal migration of their cattle herds;
- objectifying the Bambutis [Batwa] and subduing them into slavery in their own land;
- destroying the environment of the forest on which their daily lives depend (fruit, honey, animal protein, fishing);
- bringing the Banyamulenge to occupy the entire forest with their pastures; and
- depriving them of all political, economic, social and cultural privileges.

The various reasons, (a) through (n) above, are not mutually exclusive, and likely all play a role in the ongoing conflict.

## **V. ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSIONS**

### **5.1. Overview of Events**

Despite the extreme difficulties of collecting data from survivors who feel threatened with further violence if they speak out (discussed in detail below) during an ongoing conflict, we feel confident in concluding that many hundreds of Indigenous Batwa people have been killed in several very targeted massacres between late 2016 through the end of 2018 in Tanganyika Province, DRC. We estimate the number killed during this time period to be at least 1,100, although it could be much larger given our inability to access many of the affected villages and territories. Including other massacres that we know

about from earlier investigations, the number of Batwa killed in Tanganyika Province between 2015 through 2018 comes to an estimated total of 1,960 – almost certainly a gross underestimate.

Furthermore, we are confident in concluding that over 2,000 Batwa girls and women have been raped in mass rape events between late 2016 through the end of 2018 in Tanganyika Province, DRC. The use of mass rape as a weapon of war over the past few decades is well-documented for DRC. Indeed, the newly-designated Nobel laureate, Dr. Denis Mukwege, is a Congolese doctor who specializes in reparative surgery and psychosocial care for women affected by sexual violence, working in nearby Sud-Kivu Province of DRC. However, there are reasons to believe that Batwa girls and women are particularly targeted (discussed in detail below).

These killings and rapes are set in the larger context of conflict in the DRC, which has resulted in an estimate 5 to 6 million deaths since the mid-1990's. Why, then, should we pay attention to these more recent attacks against Batwa people in Tanganyika Province? There are several reasons why this focus is important.

- (1) The majority of the conflicts and deaths in DRC took place in the late 1990's and early 2000's. Therefore, these recent deaths that we have documented represent an upsurge in conflict, following a relative lull.
- (2) The majority of the conflicts and deaths in DRC took place in more northern regions of DRC such as Ituri and Nord-Kivu Provinces. Therefore, these recent deaths that we have documented represent a shifting of the conflict southward, into zones where conflict cannot be attributed to the influx of refugees or militias from Rwanda and Uganda.
- (3) These massacres and mass rapes specifically target Indigenous people (the Batwa) who are already in a very fragile position, having lost their lands and livelihood as hunter-gatherers, and having suffered severe discrimination, marginalization, disempowerment and dehumanization for many decades or even centuries. They are mostly excluded from education, governance and the economy. Their children are being taken by non-Indigenous Bantu communities to serve as babysitters, servants and herders, and then raped or killed in certain circumstances. Some of the Indigenous communities are on the verge of starvation. Although the Batwa in Tanganyika Province have formed a self-defense militia called 'Perci', their capabilities are extremely limited, their weapons being primarily short-range bow-and-arrows, and any conflict is very asymmetric.
- (4) There is already a documented history of large-scale genocidal attacks against these Indigenous people, with an estimated 10,000 Batwa people having been killed during the Rwandan genocide in 1994, and unknown numbers, perhaps in the tens of thousands according to one source, killed during the "Effacer le Tableau" ("Erasing the Board") campaign in 2002-2003. This latter was an intentional terror campaign, directed by Jean-Pierre Bemba (later convicted, then freed by the International Criminal Court), to eradicate the Batwa people and free up access to the mineral- and timber-rich regions in Ituri Province, DRC, in 2002-2003.<sup>18</sup>

---

<sup>18</sup> [https://minorityrights.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/MRG\\_Rep\\_Twa\\_ENG.pdf](https://minorityrights.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/MRG_Rep_Twa_ENG.pdf)  
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/africa/rebels-eating-pygmy-as-mass-slaughter-continues-in-congo-despite-peace-agreement-123435.html>

## 5.2 Definitions of Genocide, Crimes Against Humanity, War Crimes and Ethnic Cleansing

Under the definitions provided by the UN's Office on Genocide Prevention, the atrocities our investigation has documented probably qualify as Genocide, Crimes Against Humanity, War Crimes, and perhaps as Ethnic Cleansing (which is less well defined)<sup>19</sup>.

The specific documented acts which appear to meet these definitions and that have been perpetrated against the Batwa in Tanganyika Province between 2016 to 2018 include:

- use of rape as a weapon of war, including mass rapes, gang rapes, rapes with weapons, and rapes so brutal they result in permanent physical harm and documented deaths
- taking of Batwa children and teenagers by other ethnic groups, and using them to serve as babysitters, servants and herders
- abusive treatment of these Batwa children and teenagers, including rapes and killings
- use of torture and dismemberment to terrorize the Batwa population
- preemptive and willful killing on a large scale, far beyond that utilized for self defense

## 5.3. Reasons for the Conflict

As we attempt to determine the origins of this conflict, complexity is a dominant feature. Many reasons – outlined in *Section V. Results* – have been proposed as an explanation for specific attacks, or for the larger ongoing conflict. Despite this complexity, each of the suggested reasons might reasonably be placed into at least one section of the following three-part explanatory scheme.

(1) There has been a very long regional history of discrimination against the Batwa. Decades and even centuries of prejudice by Bantu people (agriculturalists who migrated into the region over the centuries) against the Indigenous Batwa (hunter-gatherers living in the forest since time immemorial), has resulted in discrimination, exploitation (including slavery), dehumanization (including sexual fetishization), violence and fear. This toxic combination of historical grievances and guilt is compounded by differences in belief systems and culture, as well as in levels of poverty, education, and political power between the Bantu and the Batwa.

(2) Given the lack of enforced security, rule of law, and access to justice in Tanganyika Province, both Batwa and Bantu communities have become trapped in a cycle of committing specific offenses, generating fear, seeking to exercise preemptive self-defense, attempting to exact revenge, and consequent escalation of the cyclical conflict. This cycle seems to have flared up since 2013, perhaps at the same time that the national government, police and armed forces under Joseph Kabila lost their ability to keep the security situation in eastern DRC under control – thus leaving a vacuum that was filled by militias.

(3) Last but not least, the larger economic context of the region, nation, and province is one of exploitation and extraction. Illegal or quasi-legal militaristic aggression, land grabs and resource trafficking are richly rewarded, while the majority of citizens languish in severe poverty. Rampant

---

<sup>18</sup> continued <https://web.archive.org/web/20160304025741/http://www1.american.edu/ted/ice/pygmy.htm>  
<http://sierraherald.com/icc-bemba-guilty.htm>

<sup>19</sup> <https://www.un.org/en/genocideprevention/genocide.shtml>

corruption by those who are politically connected diverts resource profits into private bank accounts, often off-shore; meanwhile the national government has no funds for security or development. Multilateral bodies as well as European, North American, Middle Eastern and Asian business interests bear significant blame for establishing business relationships with corrupt local officials, for facilitating the extraction of unethically produced resources, and for the illicit diversion of funds off-shore.

In short, the Indigenous Batwa people have been pushed to the very bottom of a corrupt, discriminatory and brutal system of exploitation, historically rooted and locally and globally maintained, in which the resources found on traditional Batwa lands are valued far more greatly than the protection of Batwa well-being, culture and lives. The neighboring Bantu communities are also caught up in this same corrupt system and are also struggling to survive economically, often through attempts to eliminate competition for land and resources to which they feel the Indigenous Batwa are making an unfair claim.

#### **5.4. Contributions to Understanding of Security Situation**

One of the objectives of this investigation was to update understandings of the security situation in Tanganyika Province. By interviewing or collecting data from survivors of these massacres or mass rapes, we have significantly added to the documentation of events which were known or rumored in general outline, but had not been documented or described by national or provincial officials, UN agencies, or international NGOs.

One conclusion we firmly draw from this documentation is that the security situation in Tanganyika Province is as bad as or worse than has been rumored over the past three years. Not only are the national and local government actors (including the National Police and national Armed Forces) failing to prevent the violence, but in certain cases they are actually complicit, according to survivors and others who were present during the atrocities.

Another conclusion we tentatively draw from this documentation is that we are seeing a continuation of the problems experienced in the Katanga region since at least the 1960's. The Katanga secessionist movement of the early 60's was driven by a desire to control the vast mineral wealth of this region. This in turn led to the death of UN Secretary Dag Hammarskjöld, whose plane crashed – likely shot down – as he sought to negotiate an end to the civil war there in order to strengthen national control over the mineral deposits. Although Tanganyika Province (ex-Katanga) remains part of the Democratic Republic of Congo now, the fight over control of the mineral wealth there is still playing out, including through the killings of the Batwa people – the original Indigenous land rights holders.

Multiple peace agreements and non-aggression pacts between the two communities have been powerless to extinguish the conflict. Negotiation efforts to date have been brokered by the former Joseph Kabila government and other entities under government influence. They have been criticized by local civil society for failing to bring the right parties or representatives to the table<sup>20</sup>. This has led to

---

<sup>20</sup> "The Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of the Interior and Security, Emmanuel Ramazani Shadary arrived in Kalemie, capital of the Province of Tanganyika, on 22 February 2017 to open a forum of reconciliation between "Pygmies and Bantu" (Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples)." ... " According to a civil society organization which attended this forum, it will not result in the desired outcomes because neither the leadership of the Indigenous communities (e.g. Nyumbaisha and Sept Sept, political leaders in Nyunzu and Manono) nor the Bantu Luba peoples of Nyunzu, Manono and Kabalo were invited to participate." <https://www.initiativeforequality.org/fieldreports/>

agreements that were adopted but not implemented, because they did not enjoy the support of parties in conflict on the ground.

### **5.5 Need for Care for Survivors**

Another central objective of this investigation was to evaluate the needs of these survivors of massacres, sexual violence and related atrocities. From the information obtained from 70 interviewees and 239 survivors, more than 456 cases of sexual violence were reported to the investigation team. The situation of these survivors remains unacceptable or critical. While some have had preliminary medical attention, most are still suffering from grave physical harm and unaddressed psychological trauma. We conclude that medical, psychosocial, economic and security interventions are still urgently needed to provide assistance to survivors of sexual violence and other atrocities identified, both within the IDP camps and for others still in the villages targeted by the atrocities.

### **5.6 Additional Documentation Needed**

The data in this report, comprising documentation of numerous atrocity events, are adequate for the conclusions we have drawn, but could benefit from additional investigation under circumstances more conducive to compiling quantitative documentation of the genocidal actions. As described in *Section III. Investigation methodology*, it was impossible to reach most of the affected communities without access to a helicopter, due to security issues along the roads and rail lines. Moreover, many of the survivors in the accessible IDP camps were afraid to speak to any investigators, with good reason.

Finally, much of the documentation collected could not be circulated for analysis because it became apparent that it was too sensitive, and posed a serious risk to the lives of the interviewees if the materials were somehow intercepted. This prevented accurate numerical analysis, because without access to individual data sheets, it was impossible to tell which individuals fell into only one category (for example, interviewees who experienced rape) and which fell into two or more categories (for example, interviewees who experienced rape and were also survivors of massacres).

A meaningful follow-up investigation is needed, under the following circumstances:

- Strong security measures that protect the investigation team.
- Access to travel by helicopter.
- Reliable and effective policing to protect survivors so they can trust that they will not be attacked if they provide information to investigators.
- Legal protections in place so survivors cannot be victimized by any officials who prefer the testimony to be covered up.
- Provision of medical and psychosocial care so the survivors can trust their testimony will result in meaningful help.
- Official protection guaranteed for all collected documentation so it cannot be intercepted, leaked or destroyed.

### **5.7. Recommendations for Action**

Based on the results of this report, the following recommendations have been formulated:

1. Take urgently needed action to care for those who have experienced sexual violence, and ensure the holistic care of the 457 victims of serious human rights violations we have already identified in IDP camps.

2. Identify other survivors who have remained silent in the villages that have experienced atrocities, including Kabalo, Manono, Miswaki, Moba, Nyunzu and others.
3. Provide psychosocial, medical, economic and legal support to all the victims of these serious violations, and facilitate their reintegration into their respective communities.
4. Launch a meaningful follow-up investigation as described in the subsection immediately above.
5. Investigate the taking of Batwa children from their families and subsequent abusive treatment including rapes and killings, and develop and enforce policies to prevent the removal of children from their families.
6. Establish a system and mechanism for communication, monitoring and sharing of information on serious human rights violations in Tanganyika Province.
7. Establish and ensure capacity-building of civil protection monitors throughout the province.
8. Raise awareness and strengthen the capacity of the population regarding the transformation of inter-community conflicts and the move towards peaceful cohabitation.
9. Disseminate legal instruments to various mandated actors at the local, national, regional and international levels, to explain the roles they must play in the fight against serious human rights violations and genocidal crimes in Tanganyika Province.
10. Advocate with competent institutions to provide security for the victims of the violence that reported these cases.

#### **5.8. Call for Immediate Protection, Assistance, Policy Changes and Prosecutions**

This investigation and report warrant an urgent response, having provided sufficient documentation to conclude that genocidal crimes against the Batwa people are taking place in Tanganyika Province, Democratic Republic of the Congo. The above-stated need for additional investigation and documentation does not absolve national and international authorities of their responsibility to act immediately to do the following:

1. protect the lives and well-being of survivors and victims in IDP camps and affected villages, and others who may be targeted in the future;
2. provide all care and assistance needed to restore physical health, emotional strength, human dignity, and a reasonable means of subsistence to these people who have been so brutally attacked and terrorized;
3. alter the larger context by adopting and enforcing national and international policies that value and protect the lives and rights of the Indigenous Batwa people living in this region, and alter the economic circumstances so they no longer create distress and incentivize land grabs which can lead to such attacks; and
4. seek justice for the victims and provide disincentives for future attacks, by prosecuting the perpetrators of these atrocities.

Once again, humanity is faced with a choice of whether to ignore the warning signs, or to take the expensive, risky and politically difficult measures required to prevent genocidal violence. We exhort national and regional leaders and the world community to pay attention, consider all options, provide needed support, and take careful but urgent actions to protect the survival, well-being and rights of the Batwa people.

~~~~~

## **Attachment 1. TIMELINE OF ATROCITIES AGAINST BATWA IN TANGANYIKA PROVINCE**

**Date:** 2013 forward

**Location:** territories of Manono, Kabalo, Nyunzu, Moba, and Kalemie, Tanganyika Province

**Summary:** Conflict between the Twa and Bantu people of various ethnicities, including the Luba, in Tanganyika Province (formerly called Katanga Province) surged beginning in 2013 in the territories of Manono, Kabalo, Nyunzu, Moba, and Kalemie.

**Source:** this January 2019 investigation

**Description:** Conflict between the Twa and Bantu people of various ethnicities, including the Luba, in Tanganyika Province (formerly called Katanga Province) surged beginning in 2013 in the territories of Manono, Kabalo, Nyunzu, Moba, and Kalemie. According to interviews held with victims in IDP camps, the violence began towards the end of 2013 when Batwa refused to pay taxes to sell to the market the caterpillars they gather in the forest and which constitute a popular food, says one version. They reportedly responded and the violence escalated, with Batwa and Luba soon forming self-defense militias and attacking opposing groups. According to another version, the origin of the killings cites the recruitment of Batwa by the Congolese army, to gather intelligence about the secessionist movement Bakata Katanga, composed mainly of Luba, who then took revenge on Batwa villages. Another version speaks of a Twa man who had found his wife having sex with a Bantu. The Twa man did not want to deal with this problem himself, so he went to get the "Percis", who were like the Batwa's police; this led to cycles of defense and revenge. Another factor suggested was killings of livestock by Batwa, former hunters who now have limited access to their traditional lands. Around villages such as Mukebo, Lwaba, Nzoa Mukasa, Zaire, Kiansongo, and Miswaki, cattle were killed by Batwa with arrows or machetes. Bantu villagers fled to Mukimbo village in Nyunzu territory.

---

**Date:** September 2014

**Location:** Lubumbashi, Tanganyika Province

**Summary:** In September 2014, certain Lubas were sentenced to 15 years in prison for crimes against humanity committed against the Batwa.

**Source:** this January 2019 investigation

---

**Date:** 2013 through 2015

**Location:** territories of Kalemie, Nyunzu and Manono, Tanganyika Province; court case in Lubumbashi

**Summary:** The Lubumbashi Court of Appeals opened a case on August 12, 2015, against 34 individuals accused of "crimes of genocide" in the inter-communal conflict between Bantus and Batwa in the province of Tanganyika. The defendants, who include both Indigenous Batwa and Bantu Luba individuals, are accused of murder, rape, house burning and "crimes of genocide".

**Source:** Information provided by a news article published by Radio Okapi<sup>4</sup>, based on UN reports and on a statement issued by Human Rights Watch (which quotes MONUSCO<sup>5</sup>)



<http://www.radiookapi.net/actualite/2015/08/13/conflit-luba-twa-au-tanganyika-ouverture-dun-proces-contre-34-personnes>

<http://www.radiookapi.net/2016/06/29/actualite/justice/lubumbashi-reprise-du-proces-de-32-pygmees-et-bantous-accuses-de>

**Description:** The Lubumbashi Court of Appeals opened a case on August 12, 2015, against 34 individuals accused of “crimes of genocide” in the inter-communal conflict between Bantus and Batwa since 2013 in the new province of Tanganyika (ex-Katanga). The defendants, who include both Indigenous Batwa and Bantu Luba individuals, are accused of murder, rape, house burning and “crimes of genocide”. This is the first time a court has raised charges of genocide, which is normally reserved for the International Criminal Court (ICC). According to a press release from the NGO Human Rights Watch (HRW), published on 11 August, “The UN has reported [since the beginning of the conflict in 2013] hundreds of civilians killed, dozens of razed villages, and tens of thousands displaced from their native village”. The HRW statement also denounces events of 30 April 2015, when Luba fighters attacked a camp for displaced people [presumably Indigenous] outside the city of Nyunzu.

From later article (29 June 2016): The trial of the thirty-two Batwa and Bantus prosecuted by the Congolese justice system for the crime of genocide and crimes against humanity resumed Tuesday June 28 in the prison of the Kasapa in Lubumbashi. They are accused of crimes allegedly committed during the conflict between the two communities in the territories of Kabalo and Manono (Tanganyika Province) since 2013.

---

**Date:** January through September of 2015 (article published 22 September 2015)

**Location:** (1) village of Kitutwa in the territory of Manono; (2) territory of Nyunzu, in northern Tanganyika Province

**Summary:** A clash between Bantu and Batwa in June of 2015 killed four people in the village of Kitutwa in the territory of Manono. In the territory of Nyunzu, Tanganyika Province, the conflict between Batwa and Bantu has already killed about two hundred people, some 60 women raped and 113 villages burned since January 2015.

**Source:** News report published by Radio Okapi, MONUSCO’s news station in DRC

<http://www.radiookapi.net/2015/09/22/actualite/societe/tanganyika-installation-des-comites-de-paix-entre-bantous-et-pygmees>

**Description:** The last clash between Bantu and Batwa last June [i.e. June 2015] killed four people in the village of Kitutwa in the territory of Manono. This attack was said to have occurred in retaliation for the incursions of the Indigenous peoples, perpetrated in the Bantu villages surrounding the Bakongolo chiefdom. In the neighboring territory of Nyunzu, still in northern Katanga [i.e. now in Tanganyika Province], the inter-communal conflict between Batwa and Bantu has already killed about two hundred people, some 60 women raped and 113 villages burned since January 2015.

**Date:** 02 September 2016

**Location:** Cotanga, Territory of Nyunzu, Tanganyika Province

**Summary:** Clashes between members of the Batwa and Bantu communities have taken place over the past three days in the territory of Nyunzu, Tanganyika Province. Some sources report several deaths but this record has not been confirmed by any official source. The treasurer of an NGO in Mukwaka, 25 km from Nyunzu, said a man was killed by an Indigenous militia on Friday (September 2). Within the Indigenous community, there are two deaths registered since the beginning of these clashes.

**Source:** News report based on interviews with multiple involved parties; published by Radio Okapi<sup>4</sup>

<http://www.radiookapi.net/2016/09/03/actualite/securite/tanganyika-reprise-des-affrontements-entre-pygmees-et-bantous>

---

**Date:** early September 2016; report dated 20 September 2016

**Location:** Territories of Nyunzu, Kabalo, Manono and Kongolo, Tanganyika Province (all west of Kalemie)

**Summary:** A local NGO sent a staff person to investigate recent clashes between the Indigenous Bambuti (Batwa) minority and the Bantu Bahemba majority in the territories of Nyunzu, Kabalo, Manono and Kongolo, in Tanganyika Province west of Kalemie. Casualties are estimated at 78 deaths and 428 displaced persons.

**Source:** information was gathered and report prepared by local civil society individuals who undertook an on-the-ground investigation in the conflict zone

**Description:** In early September 2016, a local civil society group sent a staff person to investigate recent clashes between the Indigenous Bambuti (Batwa) minority and the Bantu Bahemba majority in the territories of Nyunzu, Kabalo, Manono and Kongolo, in Tanganyika Province west of Kalemie. The accounting of casualties is estimated at a total of 78 deaths and 428 displaced persons. The displaced persons, mostly Bantu (Balubas), are now living outside, their houses having been burned. The weapons used during these clashes include arrows, spears, machetes, and tree branches. The reason given for these confrontations is that the Bambuti (Batwa) consider themselves threatened, despised and even objectified by their Bantu neighbors. According to the investigators, the majority of the Bambuti forests are now controlled by the Bantu, including mining lands. The Bambuti live from their forests by gathering fruit, honey and fish and hunting game, so when they are deprived of the forest, their lives are essentially over. Hence, they are determined to continue their way of life, although often oppressed by the Bantu through confrontations.

---

**Date:** November 05-06, 2016

**Location:** Miswaki, 60 km from Kalemie, Tanganyika Province

**Summary:** More than 321 Batwa were killed and hundreds were wounded in Miswaki, when the Bantu heard that the Batwa were organizing an attack to recover their girls and boys taken as servants, after some of the girls were raped. The Batwa who were killed were then buried in a mass grave at Miswaki.

**Source:** This January 2019 investigation.

**Description:** The data collected from the families of the victims of the massacre indicate that on November 5, 2016, more than Batwa 321 deaths and hundreds of wounded were recorded in Miswaki,

60 km from Kalemie. This was in response to an alleged planned attempt by Batwa to attack the Bantu, after recording cases of rape of Twa girls taken as servants, baby-sitters and cattle herders by the Bantu. When the Bantu heard that the Batwa were organizing an attack to recover their girls and boys taken as servants, baby-sitters and herders, they proceeded to kill the young Batwa cited above. They quickly went down to different Twa villages to kill the Batwa and commit brutal slaughter, and buried them in a mass grave the night of November 6, 2016. According to the people contacted, who are in most cases families of the victims, more than 321 dead Batwa were buried in the mass grave at Miswaki.

---

**Date:** 20, 21 and 23 November 2016

**Location:** in the area of Miswaki, along the rail line 70 km west of Kalemie, Tanganyika Province

**Summary:** The Batwa militia killed 3 people and burned houses on November 20; and killed approximately 30 people on November 23. On November 21, the Bantu Luba militia attacked a UNHCR - MONUSCO convoy, wounding two troops with arrows.

**Source:** (a) News report based on interviews with several witnesses and a doctor at the nearby hospital; published by Radio Okapi, the UN's news station in DRC

<http://www.radiookapi.net/2016/11/20/actualite/securite/tanganyika-3-morts-dans-une-attaque-des-pygmees-muswaki>

(b) & (c) News report based on interviews with multiple involved parties and quoting a MONUSCO spokesperson; published by Radio Okapi, the UN's news station in DRC

<http://www.radiookapi.net/2016/11/24/actualite/securite/rdc-30-morts-dans-une-nouvelle-attaque-attribuee-aux-pygmees-muswaki>

**Description:**

(a) The Batwa killed three people and wounded four others in an attack on Sunday (November 20th) in Muswaki<sup>21</sup>, 70 km west of Kalemie, Tanganyika Province. The Indigenous militia also burned houses in this part of the country. The attack by the militia led to the displacement of inhabitants in the area.

(b) The Batwa – Luba conflict also resulted in another attack in Nyemba<sup>22</sup> on 21 November against a UNHCR – MONUSCO convoy. During this attack, attributed to the Luba armed elements, two Benin blue helmets [UN troops from Benin] were wounded by arrows.

(c) Approximately 30 people, including several children, were killed in a new attack (November 23<sup>rd</sup>) attributed to “indigenous-pygmy populations” in the Muswaki<sup>2</sup> area west of Kalemie. The massacre was confirmed by several residents fleeing the troubled area. MONUSCO spokesman Félix Prosper Basse, said the situation is “more than worrying” because of the conflict between the non-Indigenous Luba and the Indigenous Batwa communities in the triangle formed by locations Mitwaba – Manono – Pweto [far to the south].

---

<sup>21</sup> Note that some place names have multiple contradictory spellings; e.g. Miswaki/Muswaki, and Nyemba/Niemba

<sup>22</sup> Note that some place names have multiple contradictory spellings; e.g. Miswaki/Muswaki, and Nyemba/Niemba

**Date:** 20 December 2016

**Location:** Territory of Manono, Tanganyika Province

**Summary:** Clashes between the Batwa and Congolese National Police and National Armed Forces left an estimated 5 dead and 181 wounded, according to government sources.

**Source:** The report was compiled from a variety of sources including the administrator of Manono Territory, local hospitals, individuals in touch with the affected Batwa communities, and Radio Okapi (the UN's news source).

**Description:** On 21 December 2016 it was reported that the previous day (20 December 2016), around 4 am, there were clashes between Batwa and the Congolese National Police in conjunction with the FARDC (national armed forces), in the province of ex-Katanga (Tanganyika), Territory of Manono. There were several people dead and wounded according to the administrator of this territory. Many people fled the clashes to other places and may still be safe. According to other sources, including hospitals, there were 5 dead and 98 wounded; this is the provisional casualty list from this confrontation. The Indigenous Batwa people have fled far from the communities surrounding the center of Manono territory, taking their wounded who are being cared for by traditional medicines.

On 07 January 2017 (two and a half weeks later), the provincial government of Katanga [Tanganyika Province] now reports over Radio Okapi that there were 181 people wounded for the two communities in the conflict on 20 December 2016, just in the territory of Manono alone. The provincial government says it will take care of all the wounded.

---

**Date:** November and December of 2016 (overview of above-cited incidents)

**Location:** territories of Nyunzu, Kabalo, Manono, and Kongolo; Tanganyika Province

**Summary:** Casualties estimated for November and December of 2016 for both Bambuti (Batwa) and Bantu (Luba) are 449 dead, 273 seriously wounded, 3120 homes burned and thousands of displaced people.

**Source:** The numbers of casualties were provided by a civil society group conducting on-the-ground surveys in the region; data were "furnished by Pygmy leaders"; documents not shown to protect sources

**Description:** Indigenous peoples (Batwa/Bambuti) are currently the victims of conflicts of all kinds in DR Congo. Such is the case of the Province of Tanganyika (ex-Katanga), where the conflict between the Bantus (Luba) and the Indigenous Batwa and Bambuti has caused several cases of human rights violations (killings, burned houses, forced population displacement, etc.). This conflict is more pronounced in the four territories of Nyunzu, Kabalo, Manono and Kongolo. The casualties estimated for November and December 2016 in both camps (Indigenous/Bambuti and Bantu/Luba), according to some sources, stand at 449 dead, 273 seriously wounded, 3,120 homes burned and thousands of displaced people.

---

**Date:** Around 09 January 2017

**Location:** Manono Territory; Kabalo Territory; localities of Kasinge, Kadima, Kabula, Katutu, Kashale, Kamubangwa, Kyalo, Ngwenwa – 40 km from Nyunzu and Kabalo, Tanganyika Province

**Summary:** An unknown number of Batwa youth (babysitters, servants and herders) were massacred by their Bantu (Baluba) employers.

**Source:** Information came from local on-the-ground investigators (in January), several discussions with a provincial government official, and from a 08 May 2017 meeting between officials of the FARDC (DRC's national armed forces) and the Bambuti [Batwa] people, co-hosted by MONUSCO; we also have photos of several injured people, and a video statement by a Bambuti leader outside the 08 May meeting.

**Description:** Around 09 January 2017, people from the Baluba community killed many Indigenous (Batwa/Bambuti) youth who were working for them, including babysitters, herders and domestic workers. This took place 40 km from Nyunzu and Kabalo in the province of Katanga [i.e. Tanganyika]. The context was ongoing attacks between the Indigenous (Batwa) and Baluba people in the two territories of Manono and Kabalo. Many people had been killed or wounded, and many houses burned. In the territory of Nyunzu, 40 km away, the massacre of Indigenous teens was committed by the Baluba because during the ongoing conflict, all teenage Bambuti [Batwa] boys and girls (under age 18) were enlisted (by both sides) and forced to function as spies. Indigenous leaders are calling for a demobilization program for these young people, and their reintegration at all levels. The affected families fled to 11 IDP camps as well as about 230 foster families, and are only now in the process of beginning to return.

---

**Date:** 13-14 January 2017

**Location:** in the locality of Maseba and Moba, south of Kalemie, Tanganyika Province

**Summary:** An estimated 600 Batwa were massacred and an estimated 1600 girls and women were raped in a 24-hour period.

**Source:** Informants checked this information thoroughly with multiple local sources, including provincial government officials, people on the ground (who are prepared to accompany any serious investigation of the massacre), and an officer of FARDC who was on the ground and confirmed the massacre. There was also a terribly inadequate news article:

<http://www.rfi.fr/afrique/20170116-rdc-lourd-bilan-affrontements-entre-pygmees-bantous-tanganyika>.

This information was confirmed by our January 2019 investigation.

**Description:** On the night of 14 January 2017, there was a nighttime attack by BaTabwa (Bantu people) against Indigenous people (Batwa and Bambuti) in the locality of Maseba, near Moba, Kalemie Territory. More than 600 Indigenous people were slaughtered. During the attack, at least 1600 women and girls were raped by BaTabwa (Bantu) forces, and are being cared for using traditional medicines because the victims are in the displacement zone which has no health centers. More than 40 of the women and girls who were raped are on the verge of death, as of the time of our first detailed report from on the ground (early 2017). One inadequate news report, published right after the 14 January 2017 massacre, says that only 24 people died during the described event, but also says that Congolese armed forces have now deployed reinforcements in the territory of Moba, and that UN Deputy Special Representative David Gressly could visit the province mid-week.

---

**Date:** 29 April 2017

**Location:** near Taba-Congo, 22 km north of Kalemie, Tanganyika Province

**Summary:** After killing a cow, eight Batwa were killed and dismembered by a Bantu defense militia.

**Source:** details from a local civil society group with contacts in the region; later confirmed by various on-the-ground sources for MONUSCO and OCHA in the region

**Description:** After Batwa hunters killed a cow, on 29 April 2017 the Local Elements of Bantu Defense organized an attack in complicity with the FARDC soldiers in their communities, during which they killed 8 Batwa. They then cut their bodies into pieces, taking the body parts back to their village of Taba-Congo (10 km from where this massacre was going on) and displaying them. All this took place before the eyes of the political-administrative authorities of the region, and nothing was done for the protection of the Indigenous people.

---

**Date:** 04 July 2017

**Location:** Lukwangulu, near Kalemie, Tanganyika Province

**Summary:** 189 Batwa killed in or near the Lukwangulu IDP Camp north of Kalemie, after Batwa killed two Bantus

**Source:** account from person who has direct connections to Indigenous communities under attack, who has compiled list of all Batwa persons killed on 04 July 2017

Information confirmed by our January 2019 investigation.

<https://actualite.cd/2017/07/04/rdc-nouveaux-affrontements-entre-pygmees-bantous-pres-de-kalemie/>

**Description:** According to Actualite news, clashes between “Pygmy militiamen” and Bantu people in Lukwangulu, a town 14 kilometers north of the city of Kalemie, capital of the province of Tanganyika, took place starting the morning of 04 July 2017. The clashes were allegedly triggered after the Batwa killed two Bantus in a camp for displaced people near the town of Kalemie, according to a radio journalist broadcasting from Kalemie. The violence, for which there is no casualty list yet, has also forced many residents of Kalemie’s outlying areas and neighborhoods to move to the city center, according to Rogatien Kitenge, a civil society spokesman for Tanganyika Province.

According to our sources with direct connections to the Indigenous (Batwa/Bambuti) communities under attack, 189 Batwa people were killed on 04 July 2017, including 77 men, 112 women, and children.

According to our January 2019 investigation, the Batwa were killed by the Bantu after they (the Bantu) had raped their women and girls that they used as servants, babysitters and herders.

---

**Date:** October 16, 2017

**Location:** locality of North Lukuga in Nyuzu Territory, Tanganyika Province

**Summary:** A systematic attack by Baluba peoples in coalition with the Batabwa against indigenous Batwa peoples resulted in more than 187 cases of sexual violence against Batwa girls and women

**Source:** Our January 2019 investigation.

**Description:** On October 16, 2017, in the locality of North Lukuga in Nyuzu Territory, there was a systematic attack of Baluba peoples in coalition with the Batabwa against indigenous Batwa peoples which resulted in more than 187 cases of sexual violence against Twa girls and women due to vengeance of the Bantu peoples against the Batwa, following warnings that the Batwa were planning an attack against the Bantu. During this period, groups of Bantu militias engaged in 187 cases of sexual violence against Twa women and girls.

---

**Date:** November 5, 2017

**Location:** locality of Moba, Tanganyika Province

**Summary:** more than 263 women and girls aged between 10 and 35 years old were victims of sexual violence during Bantu attacks against the Batwa; perpetrators were categorized

**Source:** This January 2019 investigation.

**Description:** Survey data from our mission show that, on November 5, 2017, in the locality of Moba, more than 263 women and girls aged between 10 and 35 years old were victims of sexual violence during the attacks against the Batwa. With regard to the perpetrators of this violence, the statistics show that of the alleged perpetrators of sexual violence against Twa women and girls, Bantu militia groups rank first with 184 cases or 69.9%, followed by FARDC (Forces Armées de la République Démocratique du Congo) with 40 cases or 15.3%, then come the elements of the Congolese national police with 27 identified cases or 10.2%, then civilians and local authorities and teachers come to the last level with 12 cases or 4.6%.

---

**Date:** November 15, 2017

**Location:** Miswaki, 15 km from Nyemba/Niemba

**Summary:** killings and rapes of Batwa by Baluba in Miketo group

**Source:** This January 2019 investigation

**Description:** "...we were in Miswaki village, my uncles, my parents were killed by the Bantu in Miketo group 15 km from Nyemba. On this date of November 15, 2017, we heard people coming with whistles, Malewa. Looking outside we see the Baluba, so we left..."

[Note: the "Malewa" dancing and whistling is a form of dance used by the rebels to designate victory and terrorize opposing groups.]

---



**Date:** over the past 15 months (overview of incidents from November 2017 to January 2019)

**Location:** across the region (in the named territories of Tanganyika Province)

**Summary:** Nearly 500,000 people from Tanganyika province have been forced to flee their homes because of serious violence and killings in the last 15 months; intercommunal clashes have reportedly resulted in 558 deaths, 259 injuries, thousands of displaced people and thousands of women raped in the last six months.

**Source:** this January 2019 investigation

~~~~~