

DR Congo: President Tshisekedi wants UN peacekeepers to leave

September 26, 2023

September 26, 2023: New York: **President Felix Tshisekedi** of the **Democratic Republic of Congo** (DRC) has called for the withdrawal of the MONUSCO (**United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the DR Congo**), by the end of this year. The mission was established in 2010 to help quell insecurity in the DRC's east, where armed groups fight over territory and resources. However, its presence has become increasingly unpopular in recent years due to its failure to protect civilians from violence, sparking deadly protests.

MONUSCO was established by the United Nations Security Council to monitor the peace process of the Second Congo War and subsequent conflicts. MONUSCO started working on 1 July 2010. MONUSCO took over from an earlier UN peacekeeping operation, the United Nations Organization Mission in Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC).

Speaking at the United Nations General Assembly, Tshisekedi criticized the peacekeeping mission for its inability to cope with the rebellions and armed conflicts that have plagued the country for the past 25 years. He instructed his government to begin discussions with UN authorities for an **accelerated withdrawal** of MONUSCO by bringing forward the start of this progressive withdrawal from December 2024 to December 2023.



Félix Tshisekedi, 5th President of DRC from 24th January, 2023

*Leader of **Union for Democracy and Social Progress** from 31st March 2018*

19th Chairperson of the African Union (6th Feb 2021-5th Feb 2022)

The UN peacekeeping mission was established to help stabilize DRC and protect civilians from violence. However, its presence has been criticized for failing to

achieve these goals. At least 56 people were killed and dozens wounded in an army crackdown on violent anti-UN demonstrations in the **eastern city of Goma** last month. Another protest in July 2022 resulted in more than 15 deaths, including three peacekeepers in Goma and the **city of Butembo**.



“People had expectations that if their government is unable to protect them, at the least, the UN would do it. But over the years, the UN was unable to prevent attacks or to respond to them adequately, so they [citizens] feel like they [the UN] are useless,” Amnesty International’s **Jean-Mobert Senga** told Al Jazeera.

Tshisekedi’s pronouncement came just weeks after the seven-nation East African Community (EAC) extended the mandate of a regional military force deployed to quell violence in eastern DRC. The decision was made after a meeting of EAC leaders in Kenya. The force includes troops from **Burundi, Kenya, Uganda** and **South Sudan**.

Note: Please see “**Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC): History from 1960s -in Parts: Parts 1 & 2**” at <https://diqinews360.com/democratic-republic-of-congo-history-in-parts-parts-1-2/> for a brief note on the natural resources of DRC and its turbulent history from 1960 to 1964, including information about the Soldiers’ Mutiny of July 1960, and, the Katanga and the South Kasai rebellions.

BACKGROUND: The DRC has been plagued by corruption and political instability. The country has not had a peaceful transfer of power since gaining independence from Belgium on June 30, 1960. **Former President Joseph Kabila ruled** the country **for 18 years** before stepping down in 2019. **His successor, Tshisekedi,** has promised to address corruption and improve governance.

Tshisekedi’s election victory in 2018 was disputed by the opposition leader **Martin Fayulu,** who alleged that Tshisekedi had struck a deal with Kabila to rig the election. The election observers from the Catholic Church were not able to say that the election was fair and transparent. An election with less controversies would have lent a greater legitimacy to the Presidency.

By—**Abel** in Burundi

----Editorial by www.DiGiNews360.com----

www.DiGiNews360.com stands for the Global South to develop by bootstrapping and to provide to its citizens a life of dignity through building an effective democracy. If President Tshisekedi wants to manage DRC, without depending on external help, www.DiGiNews360.com would have welcomed it. But, we hope President Tshisekedi would be able to maintain peace and keep DRC, particularly its eastern areas, safe.

www.DiGiNews360.com calls on UN Security Council and the UN Secretary-General to introspect about why **UN Peace-keeping Forces (UNPF)** have failed in creating a sense of security among the people in Africa over the last more than 6 decades. **António Guterres**, the Secretary-General must work with the Security Council and with the President of UNGA to re-think about the effectiveness of UN in preventing wars and of UNPF in facing up to Jehadi and fissiparous forces.

A democratic regime earns its legitimacy only if the elections, through which it comes to power are fair and transparent. President Tshisekedi election process was marred by controversies. The Observers Group of the Catholic Church was dissatisfied by the conduct of elections.

www.DiGiNews360.com commends peaceful transfer of power for the first time on January 24, 2019, after 30th June 1960. We call upon the **Independent National Electoral Commission (CENI)** of DRC to learn from the experience so that the next elections would be more credible. www.DiGiNews360.com also calls upon the **Opposition parties and the Constitutional Court** to start establishing proper democratic conventions so that DRC can provide good governance through a strong democracy.

The people and more particularly the public intellectuals in DRC must start taking up responsibility for their country and must stop the easier path of blaming others (like the ex-colonial power Belgium, the west in general and the Chinese for imposing tough conditions for their loans) for the poor state of governance and for failure in improving the quality of life of the people even after 63 years of independence. The Global South can and must become a place, worth living.

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