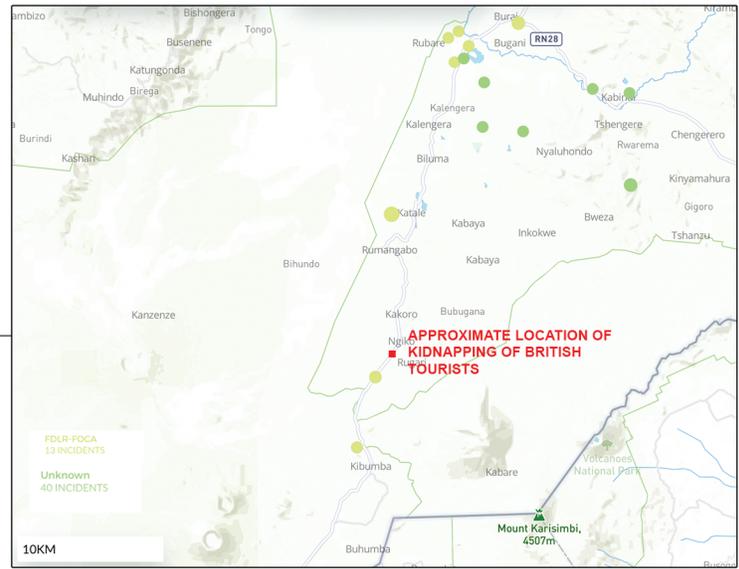


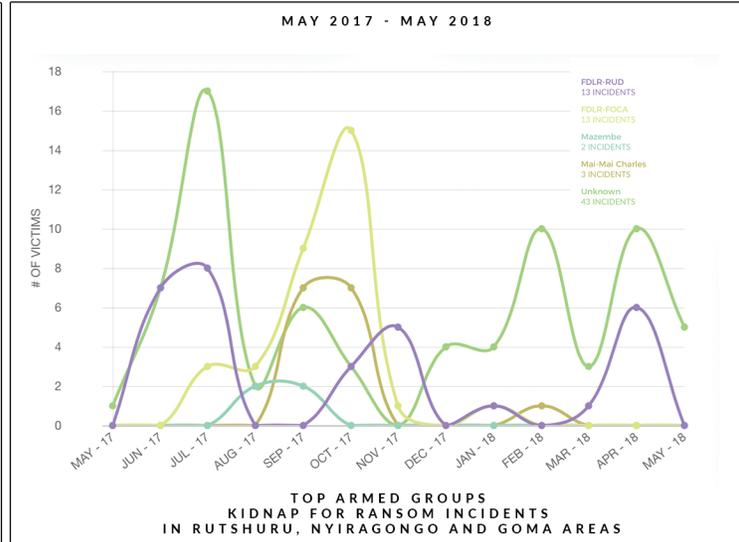
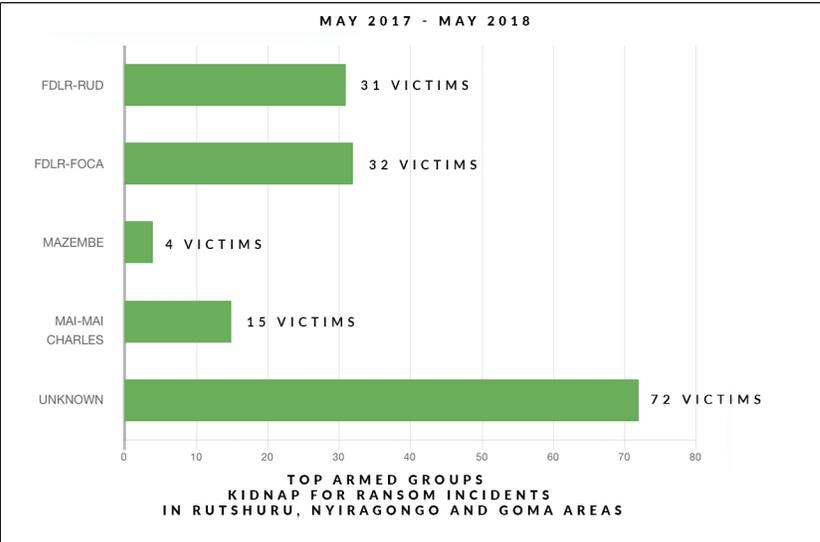
ALL KIDNAP FOR RANSOM INCIDENTS IN RUTSHURU, NYIRAGONGO AND GOMA AREAS

MAY 2017 - MAY 2018



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INSET



Armed Group Bios:

FDLR-FOCA
The FDLR was created in 2000 when ALUR I and II—the rebellions that emerged out of troops belonging to the defeated, pre-genocide Rwandan army and various affiliated militia—merged. The impetus for the merger was to cast aside their association with the genocide, in which some of its leaders had been implicated. The FDLR is the political wing of the organization; the armed wing is called Forces combattantes Abacunguzi (FOCA). Reaching the peak of its military and economic strength in the early 2000s, the FDLR began to suffer defections, with RUD-Urunana and FDLR-Soki splitting off. This was followed by a series of anti-FDLR military operations conducted by the Congolese army, called Umoja Wetu and Amani Leo, although these were often hampered by FDLR-FARDC collusion.

FDLR-RUD
The RUD-Urunana is a splinter faction of the FDLR-FOCA that emerged in 2007 following a leadership quarrel, allegedly over the remuneration of certain units. With a few hundred combatants, Jean-Damascène Ndirabaje, a.k.a. Musare, defected to create the RUD-Urunana, which has since been active in the northern parts of Bwisha and Bwito chefferies in Rutshuru territory. While the military influence of RUD has gradually declined in recent years, the group has allegedly collaborated with different armed groups including FDLR-FOCA as well as Congolese Hutu militias, including several operating under the Nyatura umbrella, during joint military operations and attacks on civilians. In February 2016, its leader Musare was killed in mysterious circumstances. Local sources allege that his murder was linked to the growing rift between Hutu and Nande armed groups. RUD-Urunana still exists but its strength is small compared to the large areas in which it operates.

Mai-Mai Charles
Charles Bokande emerged as an important armed actor in northern Rutshuru territory in 2014, drawing support and recruits from the Nande community. A former combatant of Mai-Mai Jackson and later of Mai-Mai Shetani-FPC of Kakule Muhima, Charles managed to develop an efficient extortion racket along the southern shore of Lake Edward, taxing the lucrative fishing camps. His influence extends to the village of Nyamilima and the Ishasha border post with Uganda. His group is also known as Alliance des forces armées des résistants patriotes Mai-Mai (AFARPM). While Charles claims to protect Rutshuru's Nande population from Rwandophone armed groups, the FARDC, and rangers from Virunga National Park, the group has also frequently engaged in kidnapping and illegal cross-border trade.

Mazembe
Named after the country's most popular football club from Lubumbashi, Mai-Mai Mazembe is a collection of self-defense militia groups that emerged between mid-2015 and early 2016 in response to long-standing FDLR abuses against the Nande and Kobo communities of southern Lubero and Walkale territories. Several Nande and Kobo militias emerged (including Union des patriotes pour la défense des innocents, UPDI) which began attacking Hutu civilians and combatants, often with the support of the NDC-R. While the UPDI joined the NDC-R in 2016, many Mai-Mai Mazembe factions remained autonomous in late 2017. There is no clear coordination between the groups; some occasionally fight with each other but overall the movement has become increasingly antagonistic toward NDC-R. Currently, Mazembe factions control much of southern Lubero with key locations led by Albert Kasheke, Kitete Bushu, a commander known as Kabido, and another commander known as Safari, a former UPCP-Lafontaine commander.

Nyatura John Love
This Nyatura faction was created in 2016 by Muhawenimana Bunombe, a.k.a. John Love. John Love is a Congolese school teacher from the Hutu community who used to run a small computer shop in Nyanzale, western Rutshuru territory. He joined the FDLR and repaired the group's computers while undergoing military training. With the blessing of senior FDLR commanders, he later created his own militia which operates around Muriki in Rutshuru territory with around 100 combatants. John Love's group collaborates with Dominique Nduruhutse's Nyatura-FPC and is part of the CMC coalition. In 2016 and 2017, it engaged in serious fighting against the NDC-R and different Mazembe factions in northern Bwito chefferie, Rutshuru territory, often with tacit FDLR support.

ex-M23
Emanating from a long tradition of Rwandan-backed rebellions in eastern Congo, including the RCD-Goma and the CNRP, the M23 emerged in early 2012 under the leadership of Sultani Makenga and Bosco Ntaganda. Most of its leaders came from the Congolese Tutsi community. While it quickly acquired a significant fighting force, leading to its historic occupation of Goma in November 2012, the M23 was riven by internal fissures from the beginning and never managed to develop the strength of Laurent Nkunda's CNRP. Following regional diplomacy and significant international pressure, the M23 left Goma after around two weeks and participated in peace talks in Kampala with the Congolese government. It split into two factions in February 2013, led respectively by Bosco Ntaganda and Sultani Makenga. With Ntaganda's group fleeing to Rwanda in March 2013, Makenga's bloc faced increasing pressure by FARDC's commando battalions and an aggressive UN force intervention brigade, eventually leading to its demise in November 2013. In early 2017, parts of the former M23 attempted a short-lived revival in Rutshuru territory. There were continued reports of ex-M23 activity in Rutshuru and Masisi territory.

Unknown
The "unknown" category on the KST refers to an incident that is confirmed, but where there is an absence of information regarding the armed group or force responsible, not enough evidence to confirm the identity, or contradictory evidence. In the context of kidnappings in Rutshuru, Nyiragongo, and Goma, many unidentified criminal actors have been responsible for such incidents in recent years. This sometimes includes individuals who are reportedly former soldiers, former members of armed groups, or other bandits who reportedly work in collaboration with the Congolese army, police, or local government officials, who may provide free passage and/or profit from any ransom payments. However, their exact identity is not verified so they are listed as "unknown" on the KST.

The Kivu Security Tracker (KST) is a joint project of the Congo Research Group, based at New York University's Center on International Cooperation, and Human Rights Watch. The goal of the Kivu Security Tracker is to map violence by state security forces and armed groups in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo to better understand trends, causes of insecurity and serious violations of international human rights and humanitarian law. You can contact us at info@kivusecurity.org.