Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC): Demonstrations that allegedly took place on 3 and 4 June 2004 in Kinshasa, including the arrest of members and supporters of the Congolese Rally for Democracy (Rassemblement congolais pour la démocratie, RCD-Goma)

Research Directorate, Immigration and Refugee Board, Ottawa

Corroborating sources noted the violent demonstrations that were held on 3 June 2004 (Africa Confidential 11 June 2004) and 4 June 2004 in Kinshasa (Keessing's June 2004, 46045; AFP 8 June 2004; ibid. 5 June 2004) and in some other cities in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) (Africa Confidential 11 June 2004, 1; Keessing's June 2004, 46045; Africa Research Bulletin 29 July 2004, 15784), such as Kindu, Kisangani and Lubumbashi (Africa Confidential 11 June 2004, 1; Africa Research Bulletin 29 July 2004, 15784). In the beginning, students (ibid.; AFP 8 June 2004; Africa Confidential 11 June 2004, 1) and workers (ibid.; Africa Research Bulletin 29 July 2004, 15784) were protesting the inability of the United Nations Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (Mission des Nations Unies en République démocratique du Congo, MONUC) (ibid.; Africa Confidential 11 June 2004, 1; Keessing's June 2004, 46045; AFP 11 June 2004; ibid. 8 June 2004) and the Congolese government (Africa Confidential 11 June 2004, 1) to prevent the city of Bukavu from falling into the hands of dissident soldiers (ibid.; Keessing's June 2004, 46045; Africa Research Bulletin 29 July 2004, 15784; AFP 11 June 2004; ibid. 8 June 2004). However, the demonstrations soon transformed into [translation] "the pillage of MONUC offices" (AFP 8 June 2004; ibid. June 5 2004; AP 3 June 2004) and riots (Africa Confidential 11 June 2004, 1).

The various sources consulted estimated that 2 to 12 people were killed-some by MONUC forces and others by the Congolese police (Africa Confidential 11 June 2004, 1; AFP 8 June 2004; ibid. 6 June 2004; ibid. 5 June 2004; ibid. 3 June 2004; Keessing's June 2004, 46045).

Also, rioters destroyed the offices of some political parties, including those of President Joseph Kabila's People's Party for Reconstruction and Democracy (Parti du peuple pour la reconstruction et le développement, PPRD) (Africa Confidential 11 June 2004, 1; Africa Research Bulletin 29 July 2004, 15784), Jean-Pierre Bemba's Movement for the Liberation of the Congo (Mouvement de libération du Congo, MLC) (ibid.; AP 3 June 2004; Africa Confidential 11 June 2004, 1) and Joseph Olengankoy's Innovative Forces for Union and Solidarity (Forces novatrices de l'union sacrée, FONUS) (ibid.).

No information on the arrest of members and supporters of the Congolese...
Rally for Democracy (Rassemblement congolais pour la démocratie, RCD-Goma) could be found among the sources consulted by the Research Directorate.

This Response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Research Directorate within time constraints. This Response is not, and does not purport to be, conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim for refugee protection. Please find below the list of additional sources consulted in researching this Information Request.

References


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Additional Sources Consulted


**Internet sites, including:** AllAfrica, Amnesty International (AI), ASADHO, digitalcongo.net, European Country of Origin Information Network (ecoi.net), Fédération international des ligue des droits de l'homme (FIDH), Human Rights Watch (HRW), International Crisis Group (ICG), MISNA, United Nations Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUC), United States Department of State.

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