



DRC Conflict and M23 Militia

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The ongoing conflict in **the [Democratic Republic of Congo \(DRC\)](#)** has escalated with the **M23 militia**, backed by **Rwanda**, capturing the mineral-rich city of **Goma**.

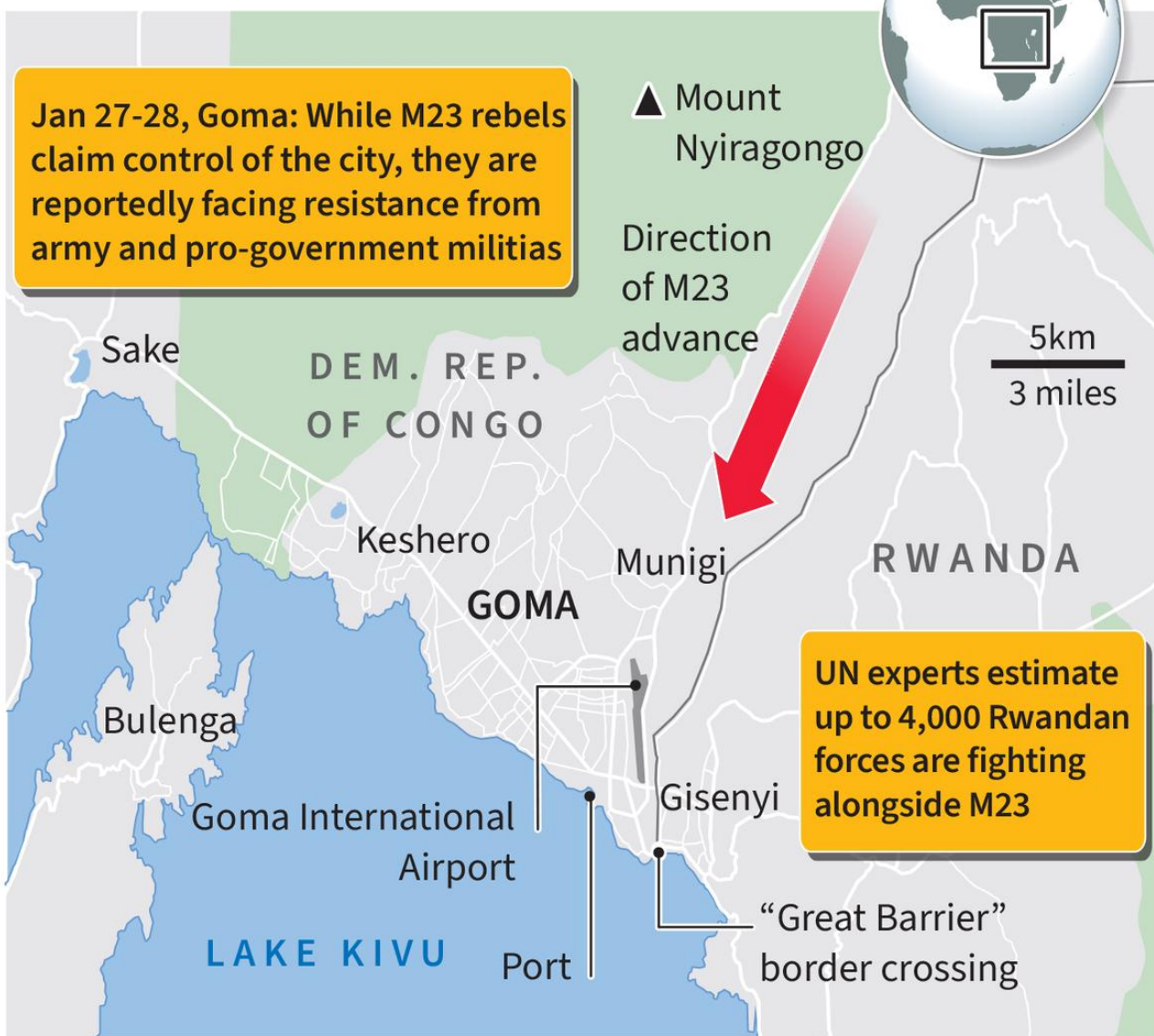
- The conflict has resulted in **2,900 deaths**, displaced nearly **700,000 people**, and spread to **South Kivu province**, a region rich in resources.

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THE M23 MILITIA

- One of about 100 armed factions vying for a foothold in mineral-rich eastern DRC
- Rwandan-backed group which consists primarily of Tutsis who failed to integrate into the Congolese army
- Led major insurgency against the DRC government in 2012, took up arms again in 2022. The group is estimated to have 6,500 fighters



- Latest rebel advance has forced thousands to flee Goma. The city of two million people is a vital humanitarian aid hub for the region
- The UN and other global powers fear that the conflict could spiral into a regional war similar to those of 1996-1997 and 1998-2003

- **M23 Formed in 2012** after the failure of a **2009 peace agreement** between the **DRC government and Tutsi-led National Congress for the Defence of the People (CNDP)**.
 - M23 claims to protect **Tutsis** in DRC, while **Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR)** fights for **Hutus**.
 - Hutu-Tutsi conflicts have existed since **Belgian and German colonial rule**, with Tutsis favored in governance.
- **Rwandan Genocide (1994)** was a **mass killing of the Tutsi ethnic group** by **Hutu extremists** in **Rwanda**.
- The DRC supplies **40%** of the world's **Coltan**, used to make **Tantalum** capacitors for electronics due to its **high charge retention**.

Read More: [Conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo \(DRC\)](#)

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