

RWANDA'S 30-YEAR ASSAULT ON CONGO:

HOW TO STOP THE CAULDRON OF WAR & PROMOTE PROSPERITY

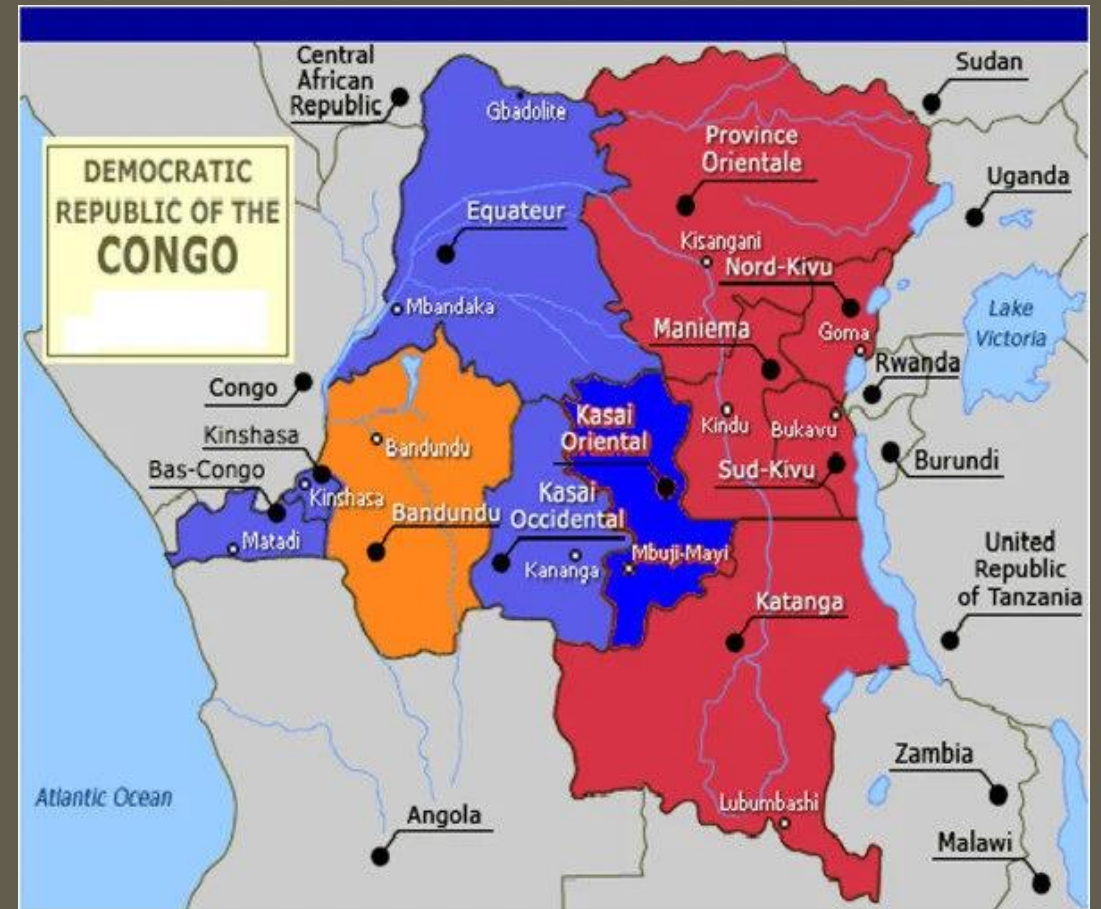
Presentation by Judi Rever

African Bar Association

Sal, Capo Verde

September 22, 2026

THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

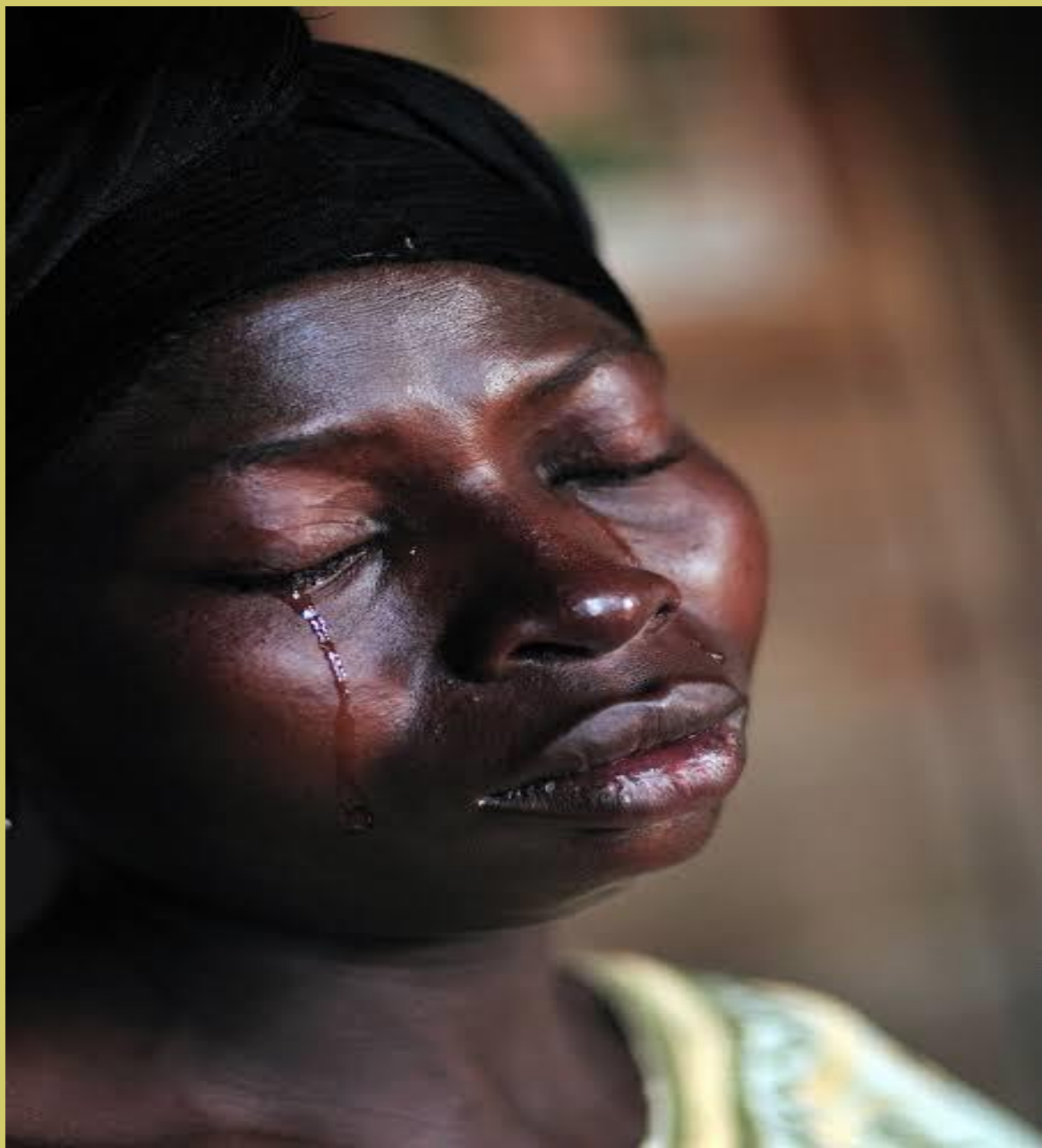




Paul Kagame, leader of the rebel Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF). His troops seized power in Rwanda in 1994 and invaded neighbouring Congo in 1996.



Rwanda's M23 militia in Congo has been accused by the United Nations of committing crimes against humanity, raping women and girls, and executing children.





Decades of war in Congo's eastern provinces of Kivu and Ituri have resulted in approximately **5 million to 6.4 million IDPs**, making it one of the largest and most chronically underfunded displacement emergencies globally.

Highlights

1. After Sudan, the DRC¹ is the country with the second-largest population of internally displaced persons in Africa.
2. Beyond internal displacement, the DRC also serves as a host country for over 600,000 refugees and asylum seekers from neighboring countries.
3. The absence of an adequate civil registration system exposes many people in the DRC to the risk of statelessness, which risks deepening the exclusion of unregistered forcibly displaced people, children not registered with civil authorities, and communities living in affected or hard-to-reach areas. UNHCR has joined the United Nations Legal Identity Program to support the Government of the DRC in establishing a robust, inclusive and crisis-resilient registration system, ensuring that no one is left behind.
4. In eastern DRC, the provinces of Ituri, North Kivu, and South Kivu are grappling with an Ebola virus disease outbreak unfolding in a particularly challenging environment, characterized by persistent insecurity, population displacement, and limited access to essential services.

Refugees and Asylum Seekers in DRC
as of 31 May 2026

603,321

Internally Displaced People (IDP)
as of 31 March 2026

5.77 millions

Returned IDP
as of 31 March 2026

4.26 millions

Repatriated from DRC to neighboring countries
(from 2022 to 2026)

52,022

Repatriated from neighboring countries to DRC
(from 2022 to 2026)

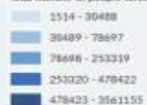
21,055

Congolese Refugees in Africa
as of 31 May 2026

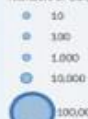
1,302,131*

*Only figures for Rwanda are as of May 31, 2026. Figures for other countries are as of April 30, 2026.

Total number of people forced to flee



Numbers of Congolese refugees



Administrative line
Administrative boundary level 1

Refugee centre
IDP planned settlement
Refugee formal settlement
IDP unplanned settlement
UNHCR Country Office
UNHCR Sub-Office
UNHCR Field Office
UNHCR Field Unit

Confirmed cases of Ebola in the provinces**

3
4 - 79
80 - 874

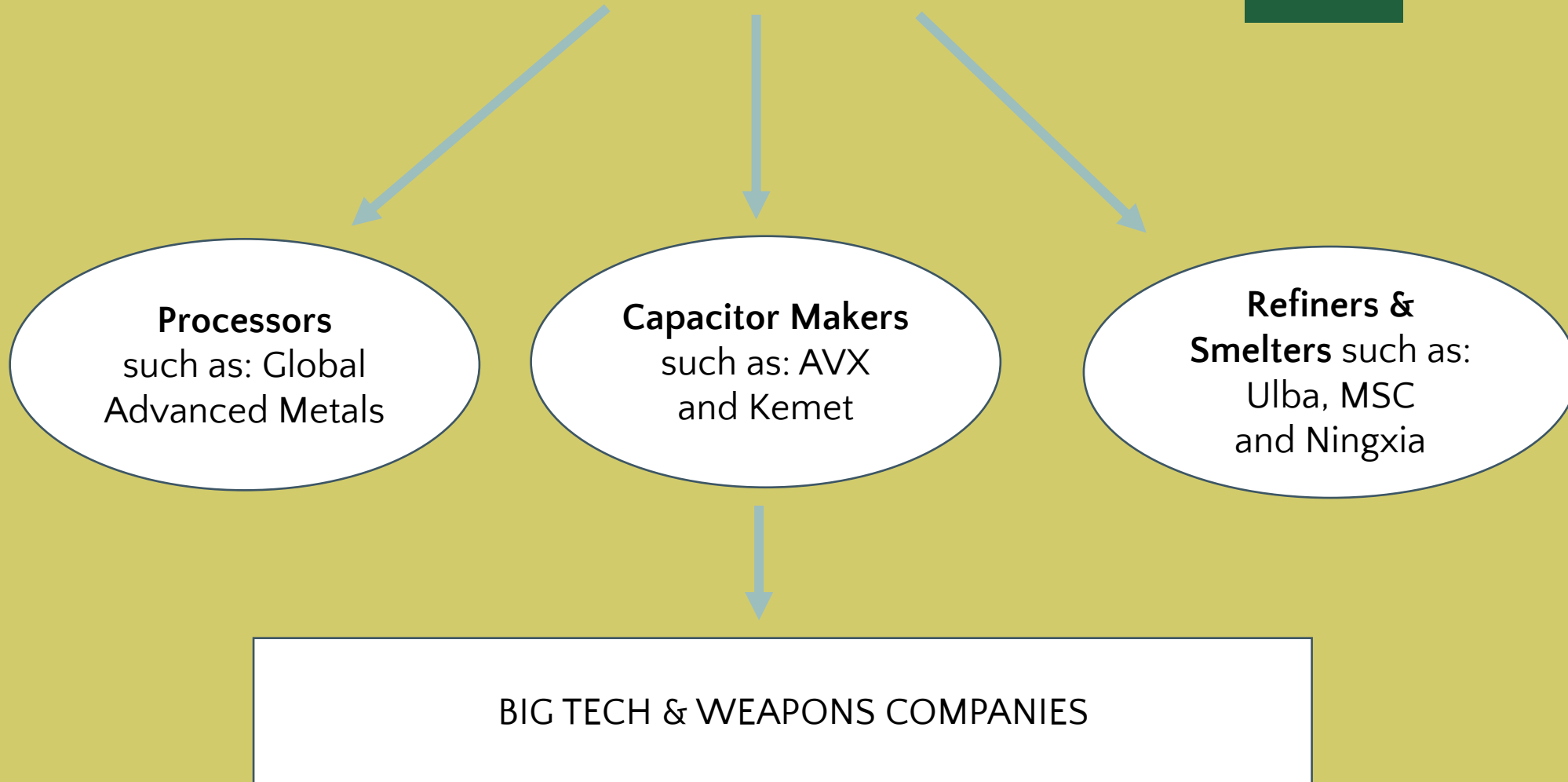
Number of Refugees and Asylum Seekers by Country of Origin



** Central African Republic
*** Other countries include Somalia, Republic of Congo, Angola, Sudan, Sierra Leone, Eritrea, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Cameroon, Liberia, Lebanon, Palestine, etc.

RWANDA'S LAUNDERING OF MINERALS INTO THE GLOBAL SUPPLY CHAIN

Laundered Minerals Sold by Rwanda



TANTALUM MINES IN RUBAYA IN EASTERN DRC



TANTALUM

Congo has the cheapest & highest-grade tantalum in the world.

Tantalum powers the wireless, digital and tech economy.

Extraction is low-tech & exploitative for miners yet secures trillions of dollars in consumer & industrial hardware.



CURRENT & EMERGING INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS IN CENTRAL AFRICA

