

U. S. Breaking News Report

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Is "Gold" the root cause of systematic and widespread violence in DR Congo?



The rivalry between the armed groups in DR Congo has taken a new shape as women and girls are being raped and physically abused, reported UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) this Friday.

UNHCR has called it "systematic and widespread" abuse in the Tanganyika province, where a massive number of people were internally displaced this year so many times.

"Some women and girls have been abducted and used as sex slaves by armed group members," said Shabia Mantoo, the UNHCR spokesperson.

Shabia further said that according to the Kongolo and Mabulula health zone, a total of 243 rape cases had been reported (in 12 villages) in the past two weeks, where 48 of those victims were minors. The spokesperson further added that the unreported cases make it challenging to find out the actual figure. "Our staff have heard horrific testimonies of extreme violence," added Shabia.

The tormenting violence between different groups has forced thousands of people (23000) to flee northern Tanganyika's Kongolo Territory since May 2021.

The spokesperson further commented the violence erupted because of fierce competition between different rival groups to gain control of mining areas, gold mines in particular. Moreover, the physical and sexual abuse of women is a retaliatory reaction to the Government-led military operations.

The UN agency is operating in its maximum capacity to provide any possible assistance to the survivors, but the organization is facing immense difficulties because of ongoing violence.

The UNHCR has requested to upscale the security for civilian's protection (especially women). "Humanitarian and protection needs are growing, and UNHCR is seeking further financial support," told Shabia Mantoo. She further briefed journalists that the agency needs \$205 million for the operation, whereas 36 percent of the total amount has been received.

Worsening Covid Situation In Australia - Can the Hike in Fines Control the Pandemic?



Australia recorded a massive increase in Covid-19 infections, resulting in strict SOPs and fines on individuals breaking the SOPs by the Law Enforcement Agencies.

People will be charged as much as \$5,000 (\$3,700) for breaking the orders. Before that, \$1,000 was the fine limit for the violators. "We have to accept that this is the worst situation New South Wales has been in since day one. And it's also regrettably, because of that, the worst situation Australia's been in" said Premier Gladys Berejiklian.

Recently, 466 new cases were recorded, beating the previous record of 390 cases. With four deaths on Saturday, the total number of people dying in the state due to Covid-19 is now 42. As opposed to the previous plans of easing restrictions, the rising cases make it unlikely for Sydney to announce an end to its 9-week-long lockdown.

"We will get through this, but September and October are going to be very difficult" Berejiklian said. She added, "This is literally a war, and we've known we've been in a war for some time, but never to this extent." To enforce the restrictions, more law enforcement personnel are called into Sydney.

A fine of \$3,000 will be imposed on individuals who enter the rural areas without prior approval. No schools anymore, but weddings and funerals will have a "grace day" on Sunday. Paul Zahra, the representative of the Australian Retailers Association, said that the fresh restrictions would cost as much as \$1.5 Billion (\$1.11 Billion) per week to the economy.

"The fines are some of the biggest fines that I've ever seen, and we will be issuing them as of today" said Mick Fuller, the New South Wales police commissioner. "Those people that have been getting around the orders, taking family vacations to other premises - that is over."

Australia has the lowest number of cases in the developed world, with just 38,600 infected individuals and 952 deaths.

Has The U.S. Withdrawal Made The Taliban Stronger Than Ever?



After the withdrawal US forces, Taliban has occupied Kandhar and Herat.

With the U.S. troops leaving the land of Afghanistan, the forces of the Taliban have grown stronger than ever before. The biggest indicator is the occupation of two of the biggest cities of Afghanistan; Kandhar and Herat.

The reports of the occupation were confirmed by Gul Ahmad Kamin, who has been serving as a member of parliament from Kandahar. The capture of Kandhar is not only symbolically significant, but also it holds tremendous strategic importance.

Along with it, the terror in the native population is immense. As in an interview, one of the residents, without disclosing his/her identity, said about the Taliban, "They just stare at you," while "Holding their guns."

The fear inculcated in the population is alarming, as people want to leave to Kabul, but they are unable to find a way. One of the residents said that "[I'm] counting down my last days in this world. It makes me feel that God has betrayed me for being a citizen of such a country."

While the Taliban are on the rise, a huge number of people are criticizing the policies of America. The spokesperson of the State Department, Ned Price, said that "This is not abandonment. This is not an evacuation. This is not the wholesale withdrawal".

With the emerging power of the Taliban, the British have decided to deploy 600 troops for the evacuation of the British nationals; similarly, Canada has also decided to send the Special Forces. The area of the country which is under the control of the Taliban is more than two-thirds of the total area, and soon Kabul is also going to be occupied by the Taliban, as reports say.

The Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin spoke with Afghan President Ashraf Ghani on Thursday and told him the U.S. "remains committed to the security and stability of Afghanistan in the face of violence by the Taliban."

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