

Fresh clashes deepen Congo crisis

Fighting between rebel leader Laurent Nkunda and Congolese forces is spreading along the hilly, mineral-producing border region with Rwanda, uprooting hundreds of thousands of people and threatening to escalate into a regional conflict



General Laurent Nkunda:

Says he is trying to protect fellow Tutsis against Hutu guerrillas who fled to DR Congo after Rwandan genocide in 1994

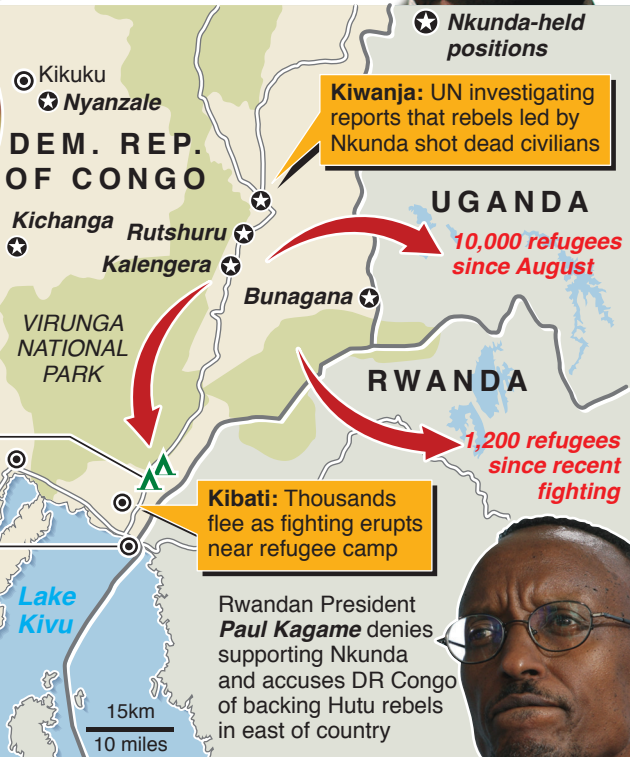
Threatens to topple Congo government unless **President Joseph Kabila** agrees to hold direct talks



Kabila:
Accuses UN peacekeepers of failing to stop rebel troops killing civilians

252,000 displaced since August

Goma: UN warns its 850 troops will fire on any armed group trying to enter city



★ **Nkunda-held positions**

Kiwanja: UN investigating reports that rebels led by Nkunda shot dead civilians

UGANDA

10,000 refugees since August

RWANDA

1,200 refugees since recent fighting

Kibati: Thousands flee as fighting erupts near refugee camp

Rwandan President **Paul Kagame** denies supporting Nkunda and accuses DR Congo of backing Hutu rebels in east of country

