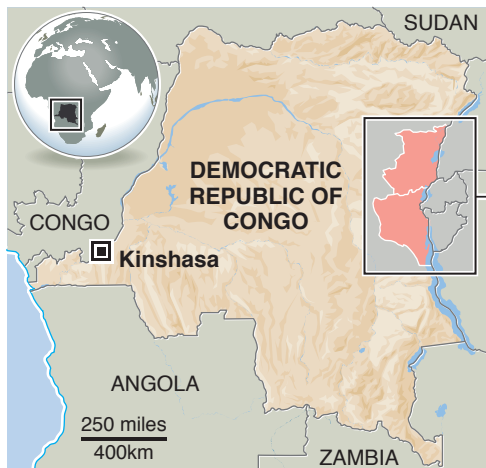


UN reports over 500 rapes in eastern Congo

The United Nations says that over 500 systematic rapes have been committed by armed combatants in eastern Congo since late July – more than double the number previously reported – and accepts partial responsibility for not protecting citizens

1 242 rapes first reported in and around *Luvungi*



2 267 more rapes discovered in *Uvira* area and other regions of North and South Kivu

► **United Nations Organisation Stabilisation Mission in DRC (MONUSCO)** is world's largest peace mission, costing over \$1bn per year

► Mission, formerly **MONUC**, set up in 1999 to monitor **Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement**

► 20,000 troops from 50 countries cover area half as big as Western Europe

► 1,500 troops recently withdrawn due to pressure from Congolese president **Joseph Kabila**, who wants to see all UN forces out by 2011

► MONUC mired in controversy in 2009 for backing state security forces accused of killing hundreds of civilians

