

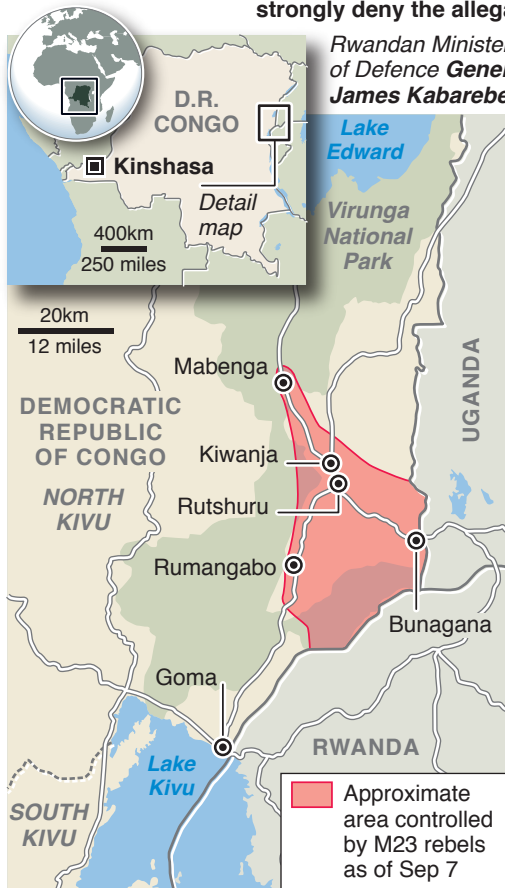
UN says Rwanda is leading Congo rebels

Rwanda's defence minister is effectively commanding a rebellion in the Democratic Republic of Congo, according to a UN report. The document says Uganda also backs the M23 rebels. Officials from both countries strongly deny the allegations

Rwandan Minister of Defence **General James Kabarebe**



Picture: Getty Images



M23 rebels – named after failed 2009 peace deal signed on March 23 – have about 1,250 soldiers. Nearly half a million people have been displaced by fighting between rebels and DRC's army since April 2012

WHAT THE REPORT SAYS

▶ M23 leaders “receive direct military orders” from Rwanda's chief of defence staff, **General Charles Kayonga**, “who in turn acts on instructions from the minister of defence”

▶ Former Congolese General **Bosco Ntaganda** leads rebellion and M23 chief **Sultani Makenga** is in charge of coordination with allied groups

▶ Rwanda has supplied rebels with heavy weapons and stepped up recruitment to M23 group

▶ Army units from Rwanda and Uganda have helped M23 expand its control of territory in D.R. Congo

▶ Uganda has allowed M23's political branch to operate from Kampala