



Tuesday, 03 February 2026

SITREP

ISCAP ATTACKS IN LUBERO TERRITORY, NORTH KIVU

Casualties: 25 civilians killed (provisional), several injured

Perpetrators: Islamic State of Central Africa's Province (ISCAP)

Location: Musenge and Mavwe Mavwe villages, Baswagha Chiefdom, Lubero Territory, North Kivu Province, DRC

Dates: 19–25 January 2026

Overview

Between **19 and 25 January 2026**, armed fighters of the **ISCAP** conducted a series of **deadly firearm attacks against civilian populations** in Lubero Territory, North Kivu Province. The assaults targeted the villages of **Mavwe Mavwe** and **Musenge**, resulting in around 25 civilian casualties, widespread destruction of homes and essential infrastructure, and the displacement of hundreds of residents.

Description of Events

The first attack occurred during the **night of 19–20 January 2026** in **Mavwe Mavwe village**, where ISCAP terrorists killed **five civilians** and burned several houses. Survivors had to flee the area immediately following the violence.

A second and more severe attack was reported on the **night of Saturday, 25 January 2026**, in **Musenge village**, located within the same chiefdom, at least **25 civilians killed, 63 houses burnt, two motorcycles were destroyed, and one civilian was seriously injured**. The terrorists also set fire to a **health centre** and a **Catholic church**, further aggravating the humanitarian impact.

Humanitarian Consequences

As a result, **hundreds of civilians were forcibly displaced** from **Musenge** and **Mavwe Mavwe**. On **Monday, 26 January 2026**, displaced populations were seen moving along main roads toward areas perceived as safer, including **Masoya village**, **Mwenye town**, and the city of **Butembo**, approximately 30 kilometres away. Despite the presence of security forces in the wider region, residents reported abandoning their homes due to **fear of further attacks**.

Security Context and Local Perspectives

According to **Prince Kasyano**¹, Operation Sujah² have been largely concentrated in the southern part of Lubero Territory since June 2025. This operational focus has reportedly left parts of the Baswagha chiefdom, including the so-called “**triangle of death**”³, under limited security coverage, allowing ISCAP to maintain a stronghold and launch repeated attacks against civilians. Local youth leaders have called on provincial authorities and security services to take **urgent measures to reinforce civilian protection** in the affected areas.

Official Confirmation

The attacks were confirmed by **Colonel Kiwewa Mitela Alain**, Military Administrator of Lubero Territory. Stating that, in Musenge began during the night of **24-25 January 2026**, resulting in the burning of almost the entire village. He further confirmed the destruction of a health facility and a Catholic church. Reported that **two FARDC soldiers were found burned beyond recognition**. A sizeable part of the local population has since fled toward **Butembo**. The death toll remains **provisional**, pending comprehensive verification by **joint Congolese and Ugandan security teams** deployed in the area.

Legal and Security Assessment

From an international humanitarian law perspective, the deliberate targeting of civilians and the destruction of homes, health facilities, and religious infrastructure may constitute **serious violations of international humanitarian law** and could amount to **war crimes**, subject to further investigation and verification. From a security standpoint, the attacks prove the ISCAP’s continued **operational capability, territorial access, and freedom of movement** in Lubero Territory, highlighting persistent gaps in security coverage and an elevated risk of further violence against civilian populations.

¹ President of the Mwenye Youth Council

² joint FARDC-UPDF military operations

³ Death triangle is ISCAP strong hold located in the northern Beni territory around Maikengu, Mabete and Tuele Kyanganda territories.