



“They Have Sold the Country”

Reactions to the U.S. Brokered Peace Deal in the DRC

July 2025



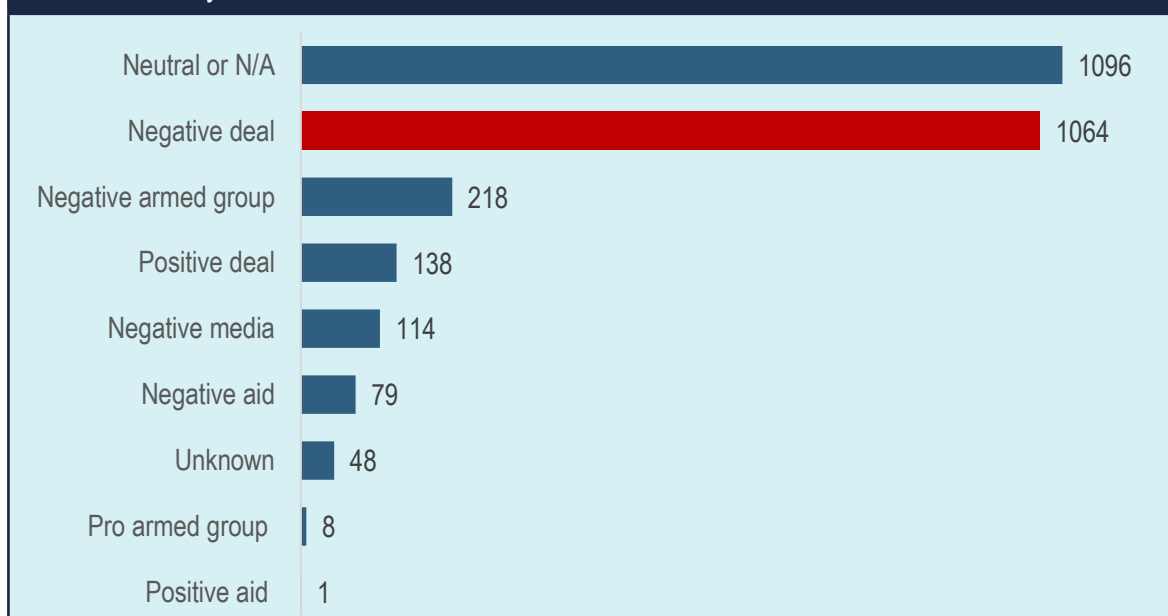
This briefing by Insecurity Insight analyses social media activity from 28 June to 03 July 2025 in the DRC, assessing observed narratives on the peace deal with Rwanda.

Summary

Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo have signed a US-brokered peace deal on June 27, the deal positions the US to benefit from strategic mineral access. Between 28 June and 03 July 2025, over 1K posts on social media in the DRC on the US-brokered peace deal were published. This brief is based on the analysis of a total of **2,766 social media comments in response to seven factual Facebook posts about the peace deal** by Congolese media outlets. The seven posts were chosen because they generated the highest level of engagement on the topic of 1,066 posts identified about the peace deal. These seven posts reached an estimated **168K social media users**.

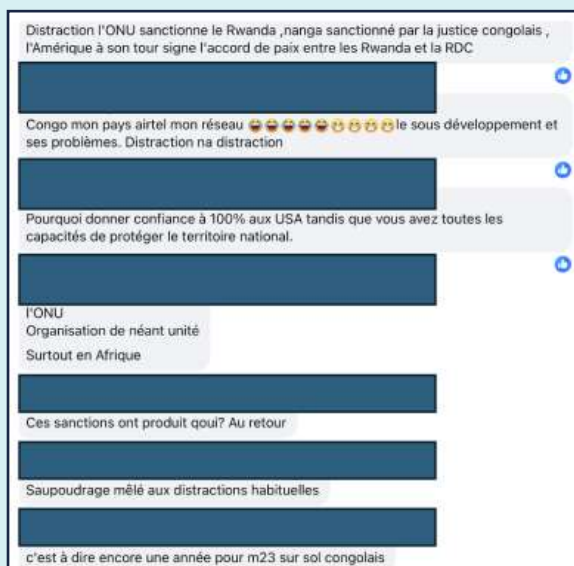
Reactions to the peace deal were highly polarised, with **criticism making up 38% of total responses**—the most common sentiment observed (after neutral or N/A comments). Many users dismissed the agreement as a foreign-imposed arrangement, warning that it prioritises mineral exploitation over meaningful solutions and fails to address the root causes of the conflict. In contrast, positive sentiment toward the deal remained very limited (138 comments), often conditional on internal reforms and justice. Among the most engaged content were comments in response to a quote attributed to Burkinabè leader Ibrahim Traoré accusing DRC leaders of surrendering sovereignty to foreign powers. Social media users reacted both in support and in rejection of his moral authority. The UN’s announcement that it would keep its sanctions drew near-unanimous scepticism, while Moïse Katumbi’s (leader of the Together for Change party in the DRC) endorsement of the peace process and call for dialogue exposed deep divides over political trust and the usefulness of national reconciliation. While many comments indicated a desire for peace, there is little faith in the mechanisms currently delivering it.

Sentiment of social media comments in the DRC under posts about the peace deal
28 June-03 July 2025



SPOTLIGHT: Media post on UN Sanctions triggers anti-UN sentiment

The UN's announcement to extend sanctions on supporters of armed groups in the DRC — in a context of praise for the 27 June peace agreement — sparked negative comments. Users dismissed the move as ineffective, symbolic, and complicit in a geopolitical game that continues to cost Congolese lives. Rather than being seen as a tool towards a solution, the decision was framed as a distraction. Many ridiculed the UN as powerless or irrelevant, and accused it of shielding or even enabling Rwanda's actions in eastern DRC. Some commenters expressed outrage that the UN congratulated the peace deal while “doing nothing” to stop continuing M23 violence. Others went further, accusing the UN and Western states of knowingly arming rebels.



What this tells us

- The UN's credibility in the DRC is damaged in the digital space. Social media users viewed the institution as detached, complicit, or irrelevant to real security outcomes.
- Social media users demand tangible results, not declarations or praise.
- Allegations that the UN enables or turns a blind eye to armed groups are widespread rather than isolated opinions.
- Many users do not engage with announcements as information but as fuel for sarcasm, or anger.
- Aid organizations perceived as aligned with MONUSCO may encounter heightened resistance, diminished access, or even threats to staff safety. Clear distinctions from more political agendas are vital on the social media space to help users develop an understanding of different mandates under the wider aid umbrella.

Key takeaways

Peace deal met with overwhelming distrust on social media

The DRC–Rwanda peace agreement signed on 27 June sparked a surge of online backlash with **1,064 comments or 38 percent of the comments** explicitly criticising the deal. The reactions reflect a lack of trust in the process and those behind it, shaped by widespread perceptions of foreign interference, elite complicity, and the exploitation of national resources.

- **Foreign mediation seen as illegitimate**

Many users rejected the U.S.’s role in brokering the agreement, framing it as another example of Africa’s inability to resolve its own crises. The fact that the peace talks took place in Washington was seen as a symbol of dependency and weakness, reinforcing views that the DRC’s sovereignty had been compromised in exchange for foreign favour.

“Engage in dialogue with those who finance the war? No way! After killing, you open your filthy mouth and talk about dialogue?” (“Dialoguer avec ceux qui financent la guerre non et non après tuer tu ouvres ta sale bouche en parlant du dialogue zoba.”)

“Selling the DRC to American traffickers?” (“Vendre la RDC aux mains de trafiquants Américains”)

- **Narratives of resource capture**

Clauses in the deal covering shared mineral revenues and infrastructure projects were not celebrated but viewed as a cover for external exploitation. Users described the agreement as a strategic trade-off between elites and foreign powers, particularly the U.S. and Rwanda, for control of the DRC’s wealth.

“What a huge distraction! They sanction Kagame, Trump gives him permission to exploit our minerals and refine them... we are the ones who are stupid for accepting these kinds of incompetent leaders who prefer to rely on UN sanctions and an imaginary American army 🤔🤔🤔 In short, a nation of fools” (“Wana ekoma distraction ! Eux sanctionnent Kagame , Trump lui donne l’autorisation d’exploiter nos minerais et les raffiner ... c’est nous qui sommes bêtes en acceptant ces genres des dirigeants incompetents qui préfèrent compter sur des sanctions onusienne et une armée américaine imaginaire 🤔🤔🤔 bref peuple ya zoba”)

“A shameful agreement, our minerals that we are going to share with others” (“Un accord de honte , nos minerais à nous qu’on va partager avec les autres”)

- **Implementation doubts amid ongoing violence**

Continued attacks in the East by M23 and other groups cast doubt on the effectiveness of the agreement. Many social media users argued that the deal failed to address the root causes of the conflict, including long-standing grievances, mass displacement, and the absence of justice or reparations for the decades of casualties. For these users, the peace accord appeared to offer political expediency without historical accountability.

“The agreement signed will have no impact on the ground. Those who oppose it will see the reality in the days to come. You can never stop the bloodthirsty with a piece of paper, at least not with a binding force.” (“L'accord signé aux n'aura un aucun impact sur le terrain. Ceux qui contre verront la réalité aux jours à venir. On ne peut jamais arrêter l'intérêt des sanguinaires par le papier, au moins par une force contraignante”)

“Rwanda has just been cleared of all charges 😞😞 Who will pay the war reparations, who will compensate the bereaved families? I am at a loss for words, so there is no point in taxing Rwandans again because of their opinions, because we are now one... unhappy Congo 😞😞” (“Le Rwanda est juste innocenté 😞😞 Qui payera la réparation de guerre, qui va indemniser les familles endeuillées? Je manque juste les mots, donc aujourd'hui inutile de taxer encore quelqu'un de Rwandais à cause de son opinion, parceque nous faisons Un maintenant... malheureux Congo 😞😞”)

- **Disillusionment with Congolese leadership**

Many comments framed the government, particularly President Félix Tshisekedi, as either complicit or powerless — trading national dignity for short-term political stability.

“A little bit of fighting has already finished Tshilombo's wisdom — oh God!” (“Mwaaa bitumbaaa muke esilisiii Tshilombo mayele boye Nzambe”)

“We have no opposition here at home; let's stop being fanatics of certain political leaders because they see how our sovereignty is being handed over to the Americans and applaud for their own interests.” (“Nous n Avons pas d oppositions ici chez nous;arrêtons d être fanatiques des certains leaders politiques car ils voient comment nôtre souveraineté est prête par les américains et applaudissent pour leurs propre intérêt”)

What this tells us

- **Public legitimacy is the core issue:** Criticism was not just about the peace deal's content, but about who negotiated it and where.
- **Peace without accountability lacks credibility:** With ongoing armed activity in the East, the deal is perceived as symbolic at best and deceptive at worst. In the public mind, peace talks mean little if they are not followed by enforcement and justice.
- **Foreign-led peace efforts are viewed with suspicion:** This case reinforces a pattern: agreements backed by powerful external actors are seen as less trustworthy, especially when paired with economic incentives involving natural resources.
- **A deep sense of national betrayal:** The comments reveal an intensifying feeling of exclusion. Many social media users see themselves as sidelined in decisions that directly affect their lives and livelihoods, especially in matters of national security and resource control.

Burkina Faso’s Traoré statement on the deal fuels sovereignty debate

A post quoting Burkina Faso’s Captain Ibrahim Traoré sparked debate after he criticised the DRC–Rwanda peace agreement for being signed in the United States and enabling foreign access to African mineral wealth.

Referring to African leaders as “crossing the oceans to cede their minerals,” Traoré’s comments triggered hundreds of reactions — many approving, but others sharply critical. It surfaced frustrations around foreign mediation, African disunity, and sovereignty.

At least 138 comments rejected Traoré’s statement, accusing him of hypocrisy given Burkina Faso’s own partnerships with Russia. Some saw him as opportunistically using the DRC crisis to boost his Pan-African image. Despite the division, an underlying suspicion of the international process and a broader sense that African agency had been sidelined in favour of elite negotiation and mineral deals was prevalent regardless of opinion on Traoré.



What this tells us

- **Foreign influence is distrusted across the board:** While Western powers were the main target of criticism, many users also questioned Burkina Faso’s own partnerships with Russia.
- **Calls for African unity are not universally accepted:** While Traoré appealed for intra-African solidarity, many commenters saw this as opportunistic or unrealistic, and did not ascribe to the ideology of the AES.
- **Distrust of diplomatic processes is deep and growing:** Regardless of views on Traoré himself, many users saw the peace deal as lacking transparency, legitimacy, and accountability

Moïse Katumbi’s endorsement of the peace deal sparks polarisation

Moïse Katumbi, an opposition figure and leader of the Ensemble pour la République party, has expressed measured support for the 27 June U.S.-brokered peace agreement between the DRC and Rwanda. He called for inclusive dialogue, justice, and governance reform to ensure the deal delivers long-term peace. However, social media comments reveal widespread confusion and polarisation around Katumbi’s position. Many conflate the peace deal with his call for dialogue, resulting in criticism from multiple sides. Many accuse Katumbi of hypocrisy, praising foreign mediation while criticising the government, while others misinterpret his stance as endorsing talks with rebels or corrupt figures. A smaller set of users praised Katumbi as a “true statesman”.

“Our dialogue is with the Congolese people, not with foreigners (Zambians, Rwandans).”
 (“Notre dialogue avec les congolais et non avec les étrangers (zambien, rwandais).”)

“Inclusive dialogue, but not with foreigners.” (“Dialogue inclusif mais pas avec les étrangers”)

“Personally, I believe that the agreements will only be significant if the war ends. However, they have a very negative impact on the DRC's economy due to the percentage of minerals signed, of which our country only receives 10%. Ultimately, I find myself crying in my room.”
 (“Personnellement, je trouve que les accords auront une importance si est seulement si la guerre s'arrête, par contre, ils ont un point très négatif sur l'économie de la RDC via le % de minerais signé où notre pays n' a que 10% et au finish je suis en train de pleurer dans ma chambre”)

What this tells us

- **Confusion around peace vs. dialogue is fuelling backlash:** Many users interpret Katumbi's support for the peace agreement as a call to negotiate with rebels or unpopular politicians. This misunderstanding of what the deal entails and whether a dialogue is or should be taking place weakens any initiative.
- **Political polarisation:** Even those who support dialogue in principle reject it when associated with controversial figures. This signals that the problem is not with peace itself, but with who is perceived to benefit from it.
- **Katumbi's centrist stance appeals to some, but leaves him open to attacks from all sides:** His dual message — cautious support for the peace deal combined with strong criticism of the government — is seen by critics as fence-sitting rather than leadership.

Comments against negotiations under posts about the Wazalendo

A monitoring [brief](#) on posts referencing the Wazalendo — completed before the peace agreement was officially announced — revealed early signs of public opposition to negotiations. While these posts generated a modest volume of comments against the peace deal, several clearly rejected the idea of dialogue or ceasefire with armed groups, instead expressing support for continued military confrontation.

“These negotiations will achieve nothing. Our Wazalendos and FARDC must fight against the enemy to liberate our illegally occupied territories. We must not continue to negotiate our sovereignty.” (Ces négociations ne vont rien apporter. Nos wazalendos et nos FARDC doivent se battre contre l'ennemi pour libérer nos territoires occupés illégalement. On ne doit plus continuer à négocier notre souveraineté.”)

“It is better to fight than to negotiate because the enemy is already on its last legs.” (“Mieux se battre que de négocier car l'ennemi est déjà à bout de souffle.”)

“Negotiating with such creatures is a waste of time. It will never end this war.” (“Négocier avec des tels animaux c'est perdre le temps. Ça ne peut jamais stopper cette guerre.”)

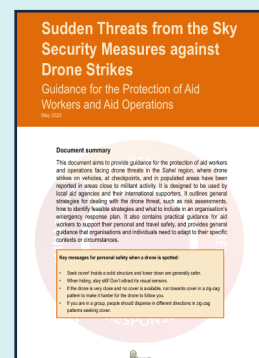
Other resources

The Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition (SHCC) identified **84 incidents of violence against or obstruction of health care in the DRC in 2024, compared to 118 in 2023 and 136 in 2022.** The total number of incidents decreased in 2024, but some regions experienced notable increases in attacks. Incidents of this kind continued to be recorded in the DRC’s northeastern region, including the Kivus and Ituri province, representing nearly two-thirds of total incidents. Reported cases doubled in Tanganyika province and often involved threats and violence towards vaccinators. Damage to health facilities, the looting of medical supplies, and health worker killings and kidnappings continued in 2024. Read the full factsheet in [English](#) and [French](#). Download the [data](#)



Armed drones are an escalating threat in humanitarian settings, with their use expected to grow. Once rare, they are now a defining feature in modern conflicts. Adapting to the growing threat of drones means rethinking security risk measures in high-risk contexts. This practical guide by Insecurity Insight brings together current best practice and is available in [English](#) and [French](#). See also:

- Personal safety: Outside when a drone is spotted: [English](#) | [French](#)
- Personal safety: Inside a building during a drone attack: [English](#) | [French](#)
- Guidance on approaching a landed drone: [English](#) | [French](#)
- Preparing travel: [English](#) | [French](#)



DRC Monitoring Brief: Spotlight on M23. This is brief (available in [English](#) and [French](#)) is part of a series examining factors impacting the aid agency access and safety in the Eastern DRC to support aid agency risk mitigation and forward-looking approaches to maintain access to food, health care, education and protection.

Using Insecurity Insight’s [incident monitoring data](#), [social media sentiment analysis](#) and armed actor activity analysis from the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data ([ACLED](#)), the series provides aid organisations with insight into patterns of violence affecting civilians and aid access.

Through examination of reported violence affecting key sectors of aid activity attributed to various conflict parties, the series provides background to better assess specific threats to aid access, food security, health care, education, and community protection in IDP and refugee camps.



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Help support our work by sharing this resource. Please copy and paste this link: <https://bit.ly/July2025DRCSMMPeaceDeal>

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This report includes analysis of publicly available social media content collected from open platforms. All data has been anonymised to remove or obscure identifying details, and no content from closed groups was used. The analysis was conducted in the public interest and in line with the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), under a legitimate interest basis. The purpose of this analysis is to support humanitarian dialogue, inform policy, protect aid workers and those they help, and contribute to public interest research.

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