Tensions in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) are high after the M23 rebel group accused the government and its allies of launching drone attacks against civilians in Masisi and Rutshuru territories over the weekend.

M23 spokesperson Lawrence Kanyuka claimed the coalition, which reportedly includes SADC troops from South Africa, Malawi, and Tanzania, targeted villages in Mweso, Mpati, Karuba, and Kibumba districts this week and on Monday morning.

“M23 continues to protect the people and fight against the united forces,” Kanyuka declared. “We continue to protest because of the international community that continues to watch the killings of the people by Kinshasa regime.” He added

Meanwhile, the deployment of SADC troops adds a new dimension to the conflict. SADC officials confirmed Secretary Elias Magosi’s visit to the region on Sunday, stating his purpose was to “enjoy and monitor the situation.”

The presence of SADC troops comes amid accusations against the Congolese army of collaborating with armed groups such as the FDLR (Forces Démocratiques de Libération du Rwanda) and the Burundian army.

UN experts have documented evidence of these alliances, further complicating the conflict and raising concerns about potential human rights abuses.

With escalating violence and complex alliances, the situation in eastern DRC remains volatile.

The international community continues to urge all parties to prioritize civilian safety and seek a peaceful resolution through dialogue.