Rwanda’s Ambassador to the United Nations, Ernest Rwamucyo, on Wednesday, February 19, 2025, spoke at the UN Security Council about the growing concerns in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). He made it clear that Rwanda would continue to focus on strengthening its security.

“We have no choice but to protect our country,” Ambassador Rwamucyo said.

He expressed concern over foreign troops near Rwanda’s borders. These include Burundian soldiers and European mercenaries, who are seen as threats to Rwanda’s safety.

Ambassador Rwamucyo also raised concerns about DRC’s president, Félix Tshisekedi, seeking help from other African countries. He called for all foreign troops in DRC to leave, saying they are making things worse for Rwanda.

He pointed out that while African leaders have made plans for peace in eastern DRC, its government has ignored them. On February 8, 2025, leaders from East African and Southern African countries met in Tanzania and agreed on several actions, like stopping the fighting and helping civilians. But the DRC government has not followed through.

Ambassador Rwamucyo also criticized President Tshisekedi for skipping an important African Union summit in February. Instead of meeting with African leaders to find solutions, he went to a security conference in Munich, Germany, where he continued to seek sanctions against Rwanda.

The ambassador also spoke about armed local militias in DRC, like Wazalendo, which have been attacking civilians. He said that giving weapons to these groups has only caused more violence.

Despite these challenges, Ambassador Rwamucyo assured the UN that Rwanda would continue to accept refugees fleeing the violence. However, he noted that many refugees are being targeted by militias supported by the DRC government.

He also touched on the economic struggles in DRC, saying that Rwanda should not be blamed for the financial problems caused by corruption in DRC. Rwanda supports ethical and legal business practices, unlike the illegal activities that have fueled the conflict.

Ambassador Rwamucyo urged the UN to support the peace efforts of African

leaders. He believes their decisions offer the best hope for lasting peace in eastern DRC. The situation remains tense, Rwanda is committed to protecting its people and supporting peace in the region.