



PREVENTION ET GESTION DES RISQUES NATURELS EN RDC
PROJET UNOPS-VOLCANO
UNOPS/00071790-00075727

The visit at Three Towers site (Kibumba) has been done to check about the rumors, circulated on local radio and internet, about possible mass graves found in the area of Kibumba.

We have been accompanied by the Indian Battalion and locally by FARDC soldiers belonging to the "Garde Républicaine", that had alerted authorities about the presence of humans remains.

Three sites have been visited. All evidences are in small and dark caves. Because of the very little light and the difficulties to enter into them, it has been possible to take pictures of only one site (the second one), fortunately the most interesting.

Several remains of bodies have been found, in the pic 1 and 2, it is possible to count up to 5 skulls and different bones. Similarly, in the first and third site only one single skull was found. The bones look old (few years) or very old (tenths of years). Into the caves there was not specific odors. The bones do not present flesh or other organic remains on them, and they seems to have been there for some time.

It is also clear that have been moved and touched from their original position. Otherwise it would be difficult to explain this sort of "display" of the 5 (five) skulls one after another.

One possible explanation is that these remains belong to bodies of Hutu refugees of the 1994/1996 period. The site where these remains have been found, is just in front of the old area where the Kibumba refugee camp was located, with a population of almost, at its pick, 250,000 people. At that time, after death, several hundred bodies, were hidden into caves wrapped with tissues. This practice was needed because the site is completely composed by a layer of recent lava, surfacing all over the area, and when present, by a very thin layer of soil.

What it is clear, is that these poor remains do not belong to any individual recently (days or months) died.

Obviously to have a conclusive idea of the real "age" of these bones it would be needed a ¹⁴C analysis. The analysis can be performed in several laboratories around the world.

Dario Taddeo

UNOPS-Project Manager
Goma -DRC