

## Letters

# Protecting civilians from abuse in Congo

[The Guardian](#), Wednesday 29 July 2009

The plight of Kasugho is serious ([Congo: Perilous peace](#), 20 July), although civilian protection has improved with the deployment of Nepalese peacekeepers there on 19 July. They were dispatched ahead of operations planned by the national army against rebel FDLR forces, located some 12km to the south-west. [Monuc](#) provides training in conduct and discipline for any Congo army units that we work with, to counter behaviour of the kind you describe. The Nepalese troops now in Kasugho will mentor the army located there. I am hopeful also that sentences handed down recently by national military tribunals against human rights violators in eastern Congo will register with any would-be offenders.

Our mandate is to support the national Congolese army where we can, not to replace it. Indeed that would be impossible. Although 95% of our 17,000 troops are deployed in eastern Congo, they are stretched across arduous terrain three times the size of France. Even in the best of weather, access to Kasugho takes four hours over very rough roads. So to ensure lasting security for the people of Kasugho, and many other villages like it, the answer lies in the reform and strengthening of the national security services.

**Alan Doss**

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