

## **U.N. Advises Congo Leaders on Vote Preparations**

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**By REUTERS**

Security Council members met with the country's political leaders in the capital, Kinshasa, and told them to tone down their election rhetoric and avoid inflaming ethnic tensions as the country heads toward historic elections next month. Congo is to hold presidential and parliamentary elections — its first democratic polls in more than 40 years — on July 30, but the campaign is already tense, with much of it focused on ethnicity. There are 33 presidential candidates, including the incumbent, [Joseph Kabila](#), and nearly 10,000 parliamentary candidates. Mr. Kabila told the Council delegation that there would be a meeting this week among political parties to calm the situation, envoys at the meeting said.

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