

## **‘Army of Jesus’ suspects on trial for rape**

Eighteen suspected militiamen, including a DRC provincial lawmaker, went on trial on Friday on charges of ‘crimes against humanity and taking part in an insurrectional movement’. Their lawyer Charles Cicura confirmed that **they are appearing before a military court in Bukavu**. A report on the [News24](#) site notes that the suspects are accused of being members of the Djeshi ya Yesu militia (the Army of Jesus), which was led by Batumike. Batumike is accused of ‘recruiting a witch doctor who advised the militiamen to rape very young girls and thereby gain supernatural protection.’ Cicura said at least two of the rape victims died.