

Chinese and Lebanese dead in Congo crime wave

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A Chinese man and two Lebanese nationals were shot dead in a crime wave in southeastern Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The Chinese man was shot dead in broad daylight in the town of Likasi late Friday, witnesses told AFP.

In the city of Lubumbashi, near the border with Zambia, a Lebanese man was shot dead in his home by unknown assailants.

The mayor of Lubumbashi, Marie-Gregoire Tambila, told AFP that 11 people had been killed in the last few days.

The 10 other victims were Congolese, local sources said.

"We don't know the motivations of Congolese people who kill foreigners," Tambila said. "But it all seems to be random."

"This high crime rate follows the massive arrival in Lubumbashi of miners following the closure of mining operations in the east of the country."

Police launched operations Friday in the city's most dangerous areas.

"We are overwhelmed," Colonel Jacques Ilunga said. "For an urban area of four million, we barely have 10,000 police officers."

Source : Sapa-AFP /sb