

# Title: Prospects for Peace in the Democratic Republic of the Congo: Lessons from the M23 Rebellion

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**BACKGROUND:** Low level conflicts have been a major problem in the Democratic Republic of Congo for decades, resulting in the death and displacement of thousands of people in the region.

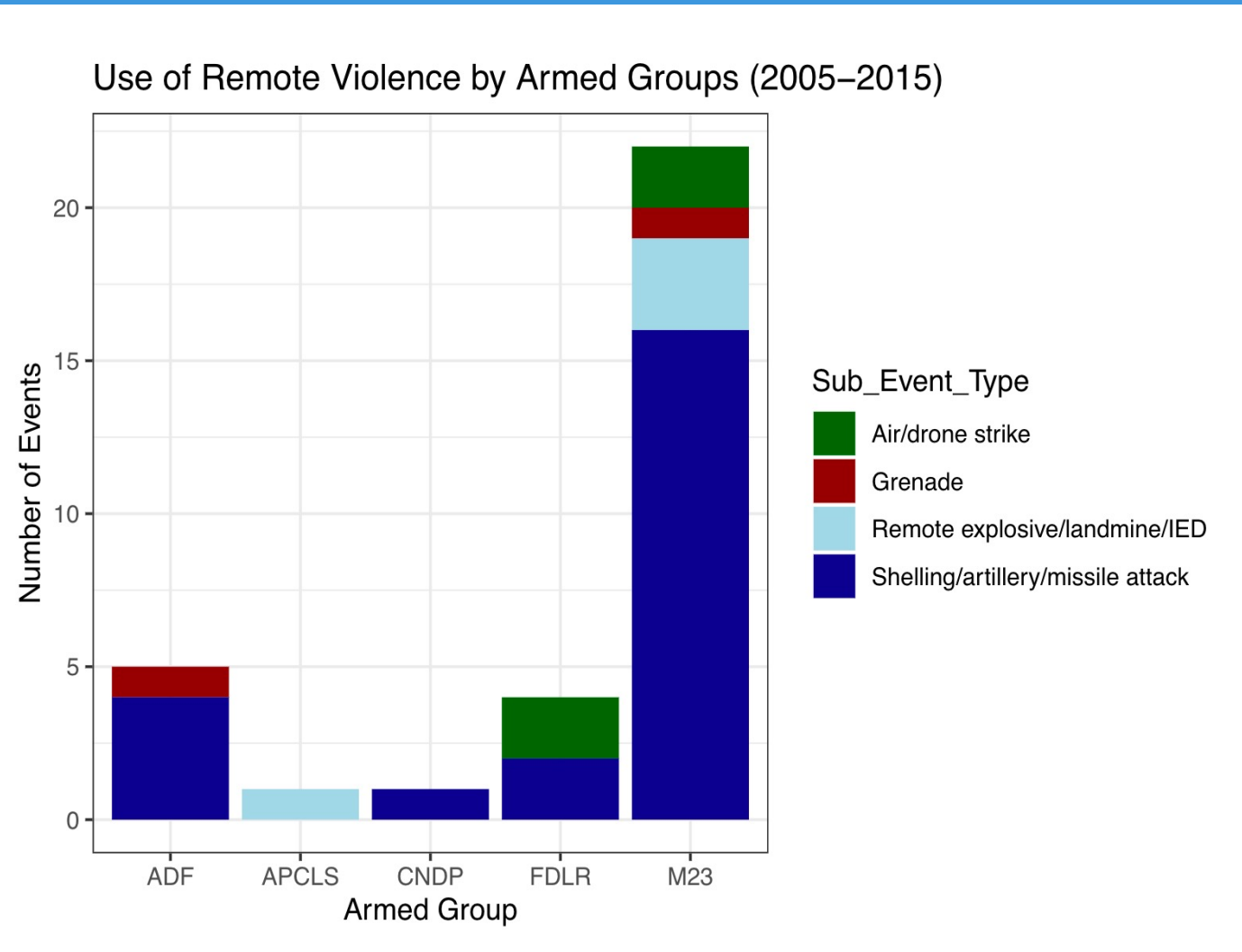
Much academic research suggests that conflict is inevitable in the region due to numerous factors (weak state, low development, rough terrain, natural resources), however, the defeat of the M23 rebellion presents a notable exception.

## METHODS

- 12 different armed groups in the DRC were selected to compare to the M23 over a 10-year time period (2005-2015)
- Data provided by ACLED was used to identify the number of violent events that each group was involved in
- Groups were then compared with regards to their use of remote violence and violence against civilians

## RESULTS

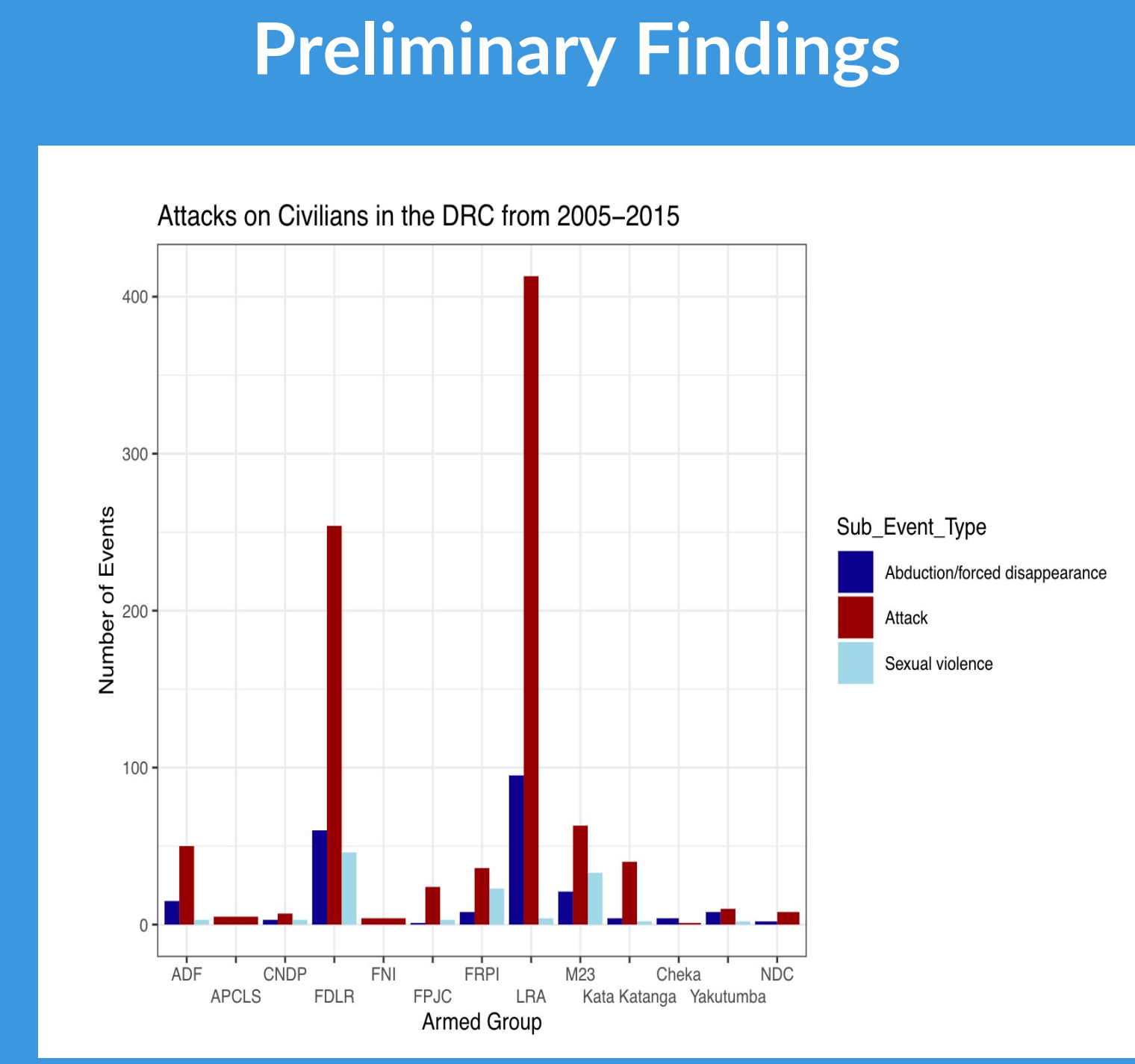
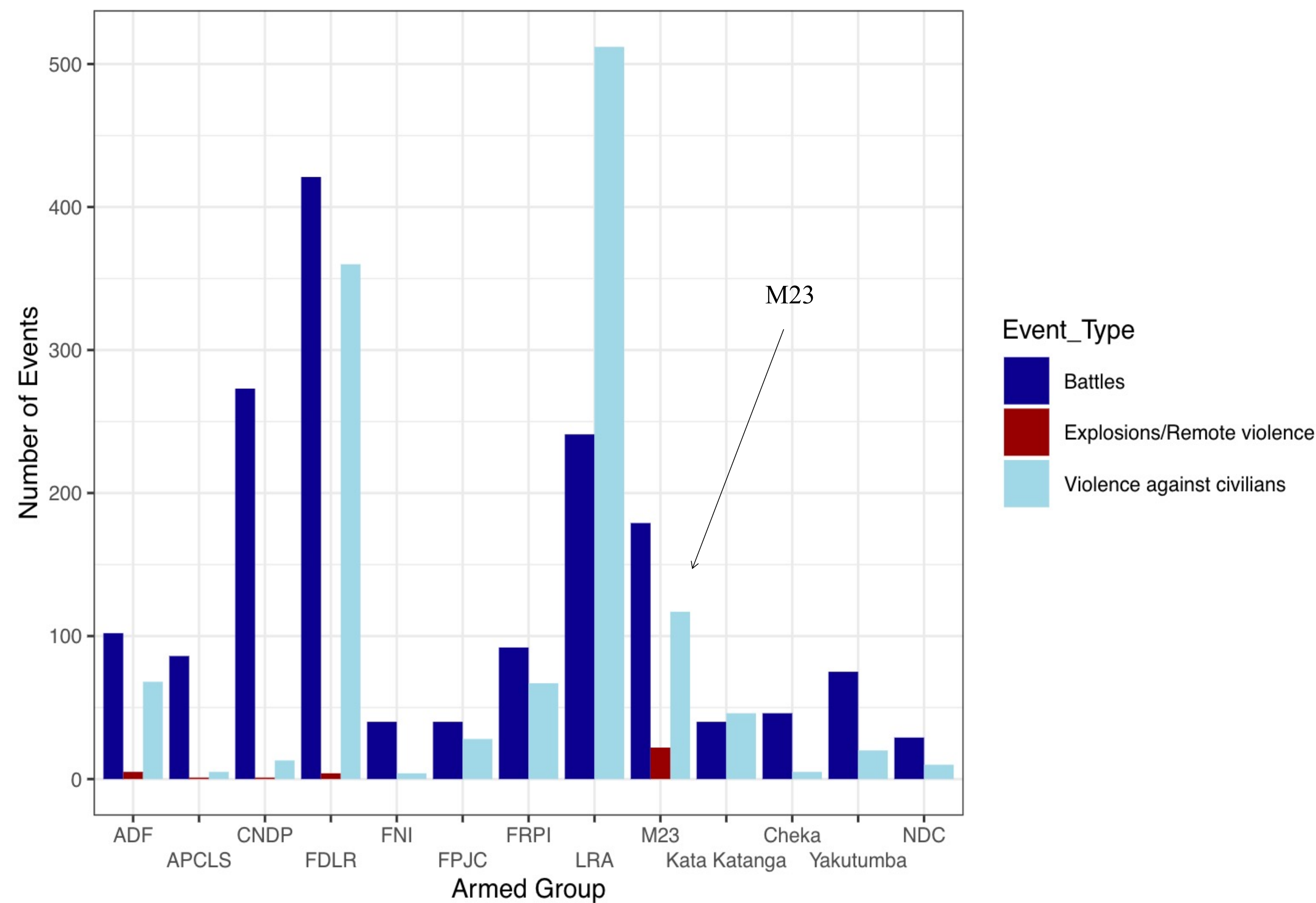
- The M23 differed the greatest with regards to remote violence



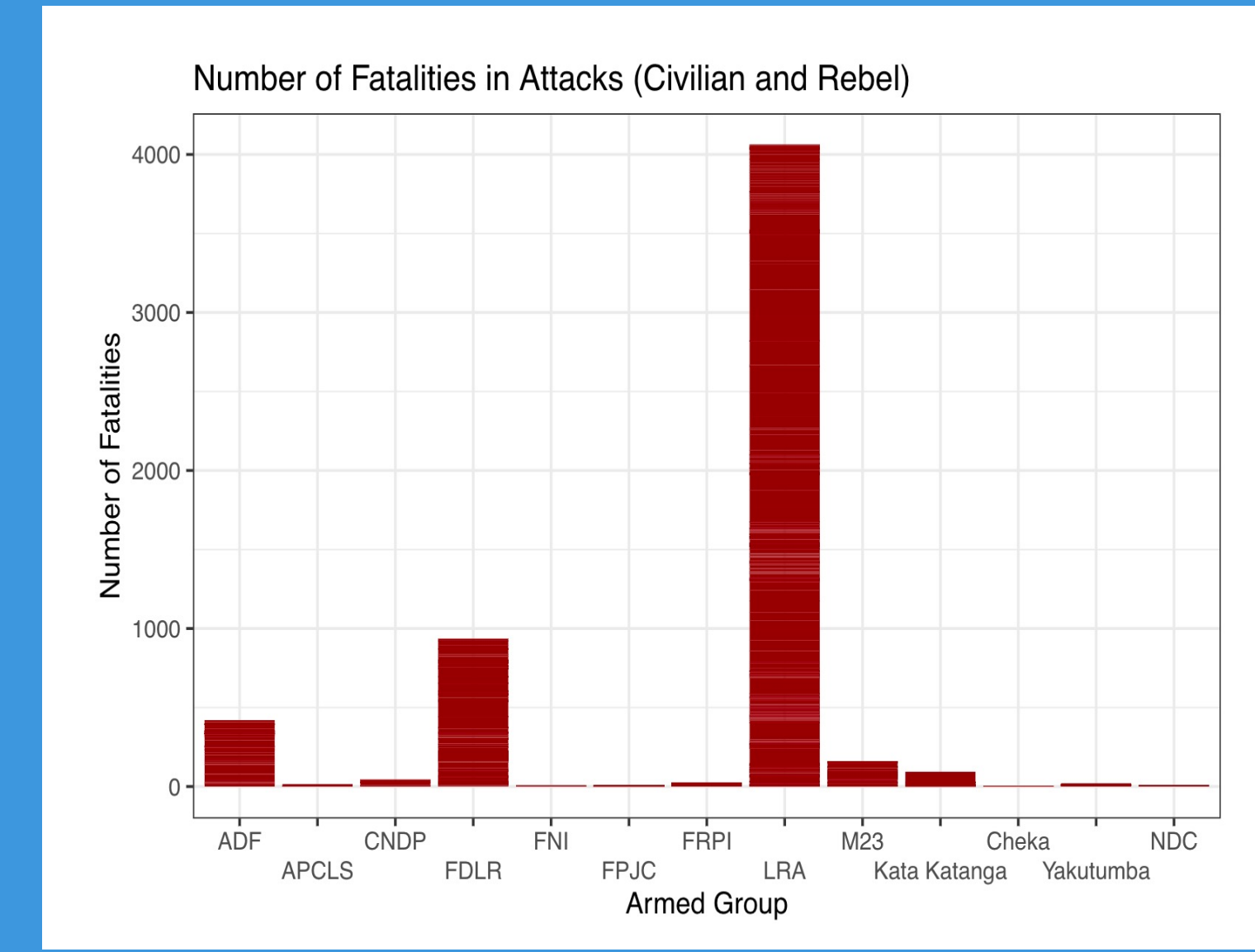
# WHY DO GOVERNMENTS DEFEAT SOME REBEL GROUPS BUT NOT OTHERS?

## THE GOVERNMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO ACHIEVED A RARE VICTORY AGAINST THE “MARCH 23 MOVEMENT” (M23), DESPITE THE GROUP’S STRENGTH.

Overview of Armed Actors in the DRC from 2005–2015



- ### DISCUSSION
- M23 attacked civilians less and caused fewer fatalities than other groups
  - However, the M23 was more likely to use forms of remote violence
  - This suggests that the response to an armed group is impacted more by the type of violence that the group uses, and not by the amount of harm inflicted on civilians



All Data Provided by The Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED):  
<https://acleddata.com/#/dashboard>

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