



PRESS COMMUNICATION FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - 31 October 2022

Memorandum of Diaspora Congolese women denouncing international crimes committed in the D.R.Congo and the wars that are dehumanising local populations

Recalling the UN Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 1889/1889 on Women Peace and Security, we strongly denounce as well as vigorously condemned the on-going international crimes, instability and dehumanisation caused by proxy armed conflicts waging in the D.R.Congo.

The crimes committed in the D.R.Congo, particularly in the East of the country, since 1997, breach Article 6, 7, 8 of the Rome Statute defined as crimes of genocide, crimes against humanity, on sexual violence, on the persecution and forced displacement; and war crimes. There are several misrepresentations and misleading information regarding the crisis in the D.R.Congo, which has never recovered since United Nations Security Council Resolution 929 “Operation Turquoise” imposed on the innocent Congo populations, in the aftermath of the 1994 Rwandan Genocide of Tutsi and Hutu who killed each other instead of respecting the 1993 Arusha Peace Agreement.

Since 1999, a UN Peacekeeping Mission (MONUC /MONUSCO) has been in the DR Congo. This is one of the largest and most costly UN Security Council peacekeeping missions, in the world, with an annual budget of around \$1 billion (€1 billion). An estimated 120 armed groups are reported to be active in eastern Congo and funded by Multinational Corporations, illegally trading in natural resources in breach of OECD guidelines and in total international impunity.

Following the recent and clear statement, astonishingly made in September 2022, by the UN Secretary-General António Guterres who said “that the UN is not able to beat an armed group called the M23, as this group is a modern army with heavy equipment that is more advanced than the equipment of the current UN peace keeping mission in the DRC –MONUSCO”; many grassroots Congolese people understand why the UN peacekeeping missions- particularly the MONUSCO has been ineffective in the D.R.Congo. If the UN cannot eradicate or neutralize local armed groups to stop their actions, this plainly indicates that the UN Security Council has clearly failed its Chapter 7 responsibility to protect Congolese civilians since 1999, has the UN has thoroughly demonstrated that it has no powers to enforce and maintain peace necessary for lives in the east of the DR Congo.

After 23 years, the UN Peacekeeping mission (MONUC/MONUSCO) has become a security hazard to Congolese civilians. The 5 UN Security Council permanent members are benefiting from incomes /taxes generated by Multinational Corporations based in the USA- EU-UK, China and Russia, from the illegal trade in natural resources through imposed the militarisation and dehumanisation of the D.R.Congo. If there is No War, there will be no illegal access to natural resources, No Jobs for UN agencies, No Income generated for UN SC permanent Members.

Sadly, on the 29th October 2022, similarly to what had previously happened in 2008, the Eastern DR Congo small town of Kiwanja, the most important in the Rutshuru territory, fell into the hands of the vicious armed group M23 similar to the CNDP - ADF, mostly made of foreign attackers, backed by Rwanda and Uganda; both countries are supported by the USA -UK-EU Military Industrial Complex and NATO. Traumatized by decade of multiple violence and deaths, from armed conflicts, Congolese civilian populations have been completely forgotten and abandoned by those who have the international as well as national responsibility and sworn to protect them.



The legitimisation of armed violence has become the only accessible route to power in the Great Lakes Region of Africa. Sadly the key regional institutions such as the African Union, the SADC, the EAC and the CEEAC are powerless in addressing oppressive and illegal regimes in Rwanda and Uganda as well as D.R.Congo, where Multinationals Corporations and armed groups are striving to benefit from wars, exploitation and crimes, including sexual violence!

We denounce the USA, EU and UK's double standard rallies to promote so called democracy worldwide while supporting oppressive regimes in African nations such as the illegal/illegitimate regimes D.R.Congo, Uganda and Rwanda to control resources of the Great Lakes Region of Africa.

We call for all armed groups commanders to be held to account for the Violence and Killings. We demand the accountability of the five permanent members of U.N Security Council for the 1994 UN SC Operation Turquoise²¹ and to demonstrate a political will to end the armed conflicts in the Great Lakes Region of Africa, by organising effective Inter-Rwandan and Inter-Ugandan dialogues necessary for peace, security, good governance, economic development and stability in the region.

We call for an end to the legitimisation of armed violence as the only accessible route to power in the Great Lakes Region of Africa. We call for increased international efforts to promote regimes that will build strong institutions to end impunity for perpetrators of violence against civilians including rape of women in the D.R.Congo.

We call for effective international sanctions to force that Multinational Companies buying minerals or other natural resources, illegally or legally, imported from the D.R.Congo should carry out due diligence to set international standards to ensure they aren't supporting armed groups and oppressive regimes through their purchases.

It is time for moral reason and human dignity to prevail over financial profits and injustice to enable restoration of peace, human rights, human development and sustainable environment in the D.R.Congo.

In peace and Solidarity,

Diaspora Congolese Women immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers from Belgium, Canada, France, South Africa, United Kingdom and United States of America.

Our existence begins to end the day we become silent about things that matter for humanity. As long as injustice will continue to constitute the "international agenda and policies", resistance will continue to be the duties of Congolese populations in the DR Congo and the diaspora.

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