

The Hon. António Guterres
Secretary General of the United Nations
New York, NY 10017

24 May 2018

Dear Mr. Secretary General:

We the undersigned organizations are writing to you to draw Your Excellency's attention to the crisis in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). We have been following closely the events unfolding in the DRC and the actions of the UN, and we remain greatly concerned.

We know that you receive regular updates from your special representative and are aware that things in general are not going well in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). And this, for many reasons. We understand from both publicly available sources of information and from many members of civil and faith-based society that amongst other difficulties can certainly be mentioned:

- The lack of an adequate and timely move towards a true democratic political process leading to a secure form of good governance and rule of law;
- The failure to adequately secure borders and resource extraction to the detriment of the country;
- And, especially, the inordinate amount of violence and loss of life perpetrated in the country. This violence against the people of the DR Congo is truly terrifying, and exacerbated by the fact that this violence is widespread and too often at the hands of state actors (police and military). The government and its servants have the grave responsibility to not only respect, but [also](#) protect, the [rights](#) of all in the country. To make matters even worse, we understand that on occasion this violence has been taken even to traditional places of sanctuary, such as churches, mosques, etc.

Furthermore, we are aware of Security Council Resolution S/RES/2409(2018) and of the presence of UN security forces. Efforts are made, there are pluses and minuses, and we are concerned that violence is augmenting and those most suffering both in personal integrity and in loss of property are civilians.

we, members of civil society with representation in the DRC, at the United Nations in New York and other UN centers and at Washington with the Catholic task force urge you to do all that your positions grant you to demand that violence against the civilian population, even when in legitimate pursuit of a better life they peacefully assemble, protest and proclaim their points of view, be given due respect and protection by the forces of law and order. The government must be urged to defend its peoples' human rights as agreed to as an accredited member of the United Nations.

We thank you for all that you have already done and offer all the support that we as civil society actors within the UN system can bring.

Signatures follow:

Africa Faith and Justice Network (AFJN)
Brian McLaughlin, SVD
Carmelite NGO
Comboni Missionaries North America Province
Comboni Missionary Sisters
Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd
Congregation of the Mission
Dominican Leadership Conference
Fondazione Proclade Internazionale – Onlus (Claretian Missionaries)
Friends of Solidarity with South Sudan
John Mubitu
Maryknoll Fathers & Brothers
Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate
Missionary Oblates Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Office – US Province
Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur
Society of Catholic Medical Mission Missionaries
UNANIMA International
Ursuline Sisters, Congregation of Tildonk – U.S. Province
VIVAT International

CC: Mission to the UN of the Democratic Republic of Congo
CC: Holy See Mission
CC: Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights – Geneva
CC: Assistant Secretary General for Human Rights – New York

Communication with signatories can be made by writing to, and will be forwarded by:
Daniel LeBlanc
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