

A call for action on the plight of Congolese citizens, to mark United Nations Day October 24 2022

The United Nations urgently needs to act on Robert Garreton's Mapping Report of 2009. The Mapping team's 550-page report contains descriptions of 617 alleged violent incidents occurring in the DRC between March 1993 and June 2003. This Report already contains a plan of action on these appalling and gross violations of human rights and/or international humanitarian law.

It should be noted that other serious crimes continue to be committed in the country since 2009. The one million people (mostly Bantu) who have died in the Great Lakes region deserve more than just what a Spanish Court may offer, when Fernando Andreu Merelles launched an investigation against 69 individuals responsible for crimes committed in Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) between 1990 and 2002. The judge in this case considered that the 40 persons mentioned had committed acts of genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and terrorism on the orders of the President of Rwanda, Paul Kagame. The judge acted under the universal jurisdiction of international justice, and Spain remains the only country to apply universal jurisdiction in its most absolute form.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo has been called “the worst place in the world to be a woman”, with mass rape and systematic sexual violence becoming an increasingly prevalent weapon of warfare. Statistics aggregate the incidence of mass rape, that human rights organizations have compiled, most alarmingly - a November 2006 Newsweek report estimated that 250,000 women were raped in the conflicts in the Democratic Republic of the Congo from 1996-1997 and 1998 -2003 (Kirchner, 2007). **The international community should set up an international criminal tribunal to address this ongoing crisis, which clearly falls within the realm of international law.**

The United Nations should also publish its recent (leaked) report on the killings and destabilisation taking place right now, as a

result of Rwanda's support of their proxy the M23 militia, and other militia in North and South Kivu, Ituri, Maniema, Tanganyika provinces and the rest of DR Congo.

The East African Community (EAC) economic bloc agreed in June to send troops to help eradicate violence in the region. Members of the bloc - Rwanda, Uganda, Burundi, South Sudan and their regimes - have been a source of aggression and instability in the Great Lakes region for many years (See Garreton's Mapping Report Commission). In the Democratic Republic of Congo, these countries' endless interventions have left close to six million dead since 1998, by some estimates.

In 2022, DR Congo is experiencing an alarming uptick of armed group violence, including increased attacks on civilians and camps for the displaced. Yet these same countries in the EAC that are alleged to have committed war crimes (detailed in Garreton's Mapping Report) are part of the so-called East Africa Community's assembled troops, agreed in summer 2022 to combat armed groups in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo.

The agreed contract between the President of DR Congo and his East African Community partners is considered void, and does not reflect the will of the Congolese people. Ignoring these contexts will lead to the promotion of coercive solutions without the existence of any means of response by those affected.

Burundi was the first country to offer and send troops earlier this year in the east of DR Congo, before agreements were even concluded. It has been reported that this force has burned schools and killed many civilians in their era of intervention.

Tertsakian,<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/8/22/burundi-sends-troops-to-drc-for-regional-peacekeeping-force> asserts that "Burundi is a direct party to the conflict, so cannot be viewed as a neutral actor," adding that Burundian security forces have a long record of human rights abuses.

It is also important to note that the first round of Kenya-mediated talks - on behalf of the East African Community - were with the so called Congolese armed groups (Ngomino, Twingwaneho, Android), which are in fact Rwanda-created militias.

Back in April, leaders in Nairobi initially undertook steps to accomplish their business strategy in DR Congo. The EAC is a regional economic bloc. Their adventure in the region is to continue plundering the Congolese natural resources, and create instability. This is an essential element of the current EAC troop allocation plan - the illegal occupation of land, and the placing of people in their own image in a country that is not theirs.

The security issues in the east and the rest of DR Congo cannot be resolved by the authors of historic crimes, such as Rwanda, Uganda. **We are urgently appealing to the UN for immediate action, to stop the EAC joint force with its mission plan in DRC.**

In addition to this, there is a warning danger ahead. The Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF)'s investment arm says it will commit US\$200 million to rehabilitate the Maloukou industrial zone of the separate Republic of Congo (known as Congo Brazzaville), some 37 miles from that country's capital Brazzaville. This was commissioned in 2018 by President Paul Kagame's right hand man, CVL's executive chairman Jack Kayonga. The establishment of Rwanda's economic and military activity in Congo Brazzaville now dominates such sectors as road construction, building materials, security, retail coffee, real estate, food processing and aviation services. Congo Brazzaville being so close to DR Congo's capital Kinshasa, makes clear this is likely another Rwandese plan for criminal action against DR Congo. Congo Brazzaville should not allow Rwanda to establish such activities on its territory as this may result in a further act of destabilisation of DR Congo (sometimes known as Congo Kinshasa).

It should be noted that Rwandese nationals have illegally occupied the majority of the top positions in DR Congo's military and government

from 1997 to the present day. Hence, the Congolese Authority has failed to investigate the implication of Rwanda in the persistent violence and conflict in Bandundu, plateau de Batéké, Kwamuntu (Mayi-Ndombe) and in the capital Kinshasa.

We are asking the UN to investigate this recent violent action.

The UN has a collective obligation to prevent and ensure non recurrence of genocide and mass killing. I suggest the UN should refer to its own charter on the definition of aggression, paragraph F “Definition of Aggression, United Nations General Assembly Resolution 3314 (XXIX).” - a state perpetrating against a third state...

In conclusion, we support the effort and will of the United Nations to initiate justice and peace against rape, massacre and crime taking place in North and South Kivu, Ituri, Maniema, Lualaba Provinces, and elsewhere in the DR Congo. This rape, massacre and crime affects the populations of both Congolese in the east of DRC, and Rwandese in Rwanda - anyone opposing the will of Paul Kagame.

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