

PRESS RELEASE FROM JUSTICE CONGO GROUP UK – MAY 10 2023

Many killed & displaced in catastrophic floods, South Kivu, DRC

Who: Justice Congo Group is an independent campaigning group, seeking to raise awareness and action on the multiple tragedies taking place in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). At our Zoom meeting last night we heard the following details from our colleagues in eastern DRC, about 2 of the 4 most affected villages:

What, where, when: On May 4 2023, the villages of Nyamukubi and Bushushu in the region of Kalehe, eastern DRC, were hit by catastrophic floods and mudslides caused by unprecedented rainfall. In Nyamukubi, 5,255 people were swept away. 145 have been found dead, and have been buried in a mass grave between 5 and 8 May – against the wishes and custom of their families. Of 2094 homes in this village, only 244 remain.

Infrastructure has been totally destroyed – pharmacies, schools, colleges, shops, a market, a canal system for provision of water, a dam providing electricity, as well as churches and a mosque.

In Bushushu, 1159 were swept away. 259 people have been found dead, and have been buried in a mass grave between 5 and 8 May – against the wishes and custom of their families. Searches continue.

This terrible tragedy compounds the existing situation of war in this region, where the Rwanda-backed M23 militia are terrorizing the local population in pursuit of the rare earth minerals - required by mobile phones and other electronic devices in the Global North - which are then smuggled into Rwanda for sale there. It is time for those who benefit to pay attention to this suffering region.

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