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Letter to the Editor of the Financial Times

Letters.editor@ft.com – by email

Dear Editor

Re: Congo Week October 15 to 21 2023 – Breaking the Silence

We are an independent campaigning group, working to raise awareness and action on the horrific situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), which is ongoing right now, and which is so little understood by the UK population.

Congo Week will take place from October 15 to 21. It is led by Friends of the Congo in Washington DC (friendsofthecongo.org).

This year's week of activities is entitled "Breaking the Silence" and commemorates the millions of lives lost in the Congo (DRC) conflict, while celebrating the enormous human and natural potential that exists in the country. Communities throughout the world join in partnership with Congolese each year during the third week of October to screen films, hold teach-ins and forums, organise rallies and undertake many other activities to elevate the profile of the Congo (DRC) throughout the globe.

Here in the UK, we are issuing this letter to the Financial Times, in the hope that you can draw the attention of your readers to this important Congo Week. The Justice Congo Group, being a political campaigning group, will be stepping up its activities across the UK during Congo Week, through mass letter-writing to local and national media.

Our autumn 2023 campaign for implementation of the DRC Mapping Report will be highlighted in these letters. The Mapping Report was commissioned by the United Nations in 2009, and published on October 1 2010. It details 617 alleged violent incidents occurring in the Congo DRC between March 1993 and June 2003. The Report already contains a plan of action on these appalling and gross violations of human rights and international humanitarian law. However, because some of the (confidentially named) perpetrators are still in powerful positions in the Republic of Rwanda, and elsewhere, the United Nations has shelved this Report to this day. Our campaign calls for immediate implementation of this vital Report, to give the Congolese people the peace and justice they so desperately need.

Yours sincerely,

59 members of the Justice Congo Group