



RAISING GLOBAL CONSCIOUSNESS ABOUT THE CHALLENGE OF THE CONGO AND SUPPORTING CONGOLESE INSTITUTIONS AS THEY STRIVE TO BRING ABOUT PEACEFUL AND LASTING CHANGE.

MAPPING EXERCISE REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Since the early 1990s, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Great Lakes Region of Africa have witnessed some of the gravest crimes committed against humanity. Congolese people have called on the world community and people of conscience to join them in bringing an end to the impunity and the suffering. The UN Mapping Exercise Report is a key instrument at the disposal of the international community to help secure justice for the Congolese people and bring about peace, stability and human dignity. The United States Congress and the United States Government can play a key role by doing the following:

1. Hold hearings on the UN Mapping Exercise Report;
2. Call on the State Department to alert its Ambassador to the United Nations to make the report a priority and address its recommendations;
3. Investigate whether or not the Leahy Amendment is being violated in the Great Lakes Region. The Leahy Amendment, first introduced by Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-VT) as an amendment to the 1997 Foreign Operations Appropriations Act, prohibits U.S. security assistance to foreign military or security units “against whom exist credible allegations of gross violations of human rights;”
4. Cease military support of Congo’s neighbors implicated in the report of having committed mass atrocities, crimes against humanity, war crimes and possibly genocide. Public Law 109-456 Section 105 authorizes the Secretary of State to withhold aid from Congo’s neighbors who have been destabilizing the country. The Obama Administration should fully implement PL 109-456.
5. Support efforts to establish an international tribunal as requested by over 200 Congolese organizations.

Recommendations by 220 Congolese NGOs:

1. Establish new general policies of justice that would build on the creation of several complementary mechanisms, judicial and non-judicial;
2. Establish accountability measures in public institutions that would result in the removal from its management people such as General John Bosco Tanganda and General Numbi accused of serious violations or attacks against human rights defenders so they could face prosecution;
3. Institute appropriate mechanisms to ensure justice and shed light on crimes and massive violations of human rights denounced in the report, including:
 - (i) The creation of special courts or special chambers within the Congolese courts;
 - (ii) The creation of a new Truth and Reconciliation Commission,
 - (iii) The establishment of compensation programs for victims, and
 - (iv) The true and thorough reforms of the entire security sector (army, police and Justice).
4. A regional reconciliation mechanism of the peoples of the Great Lakes region, which will accelerate the free movement of people in the region, facilitate cross-border trade, strengthen judicial cooperation, and demilitarize public services at the borders;
5. Support a regional accountability and reconciliation mechanism to address issues of impunity and lack of justice.