



"WE ARE NOT ALONE. AFRICA, ASIA AND FREE AND LIBERATED PEOPLE FROM EVERY CORNER OF THE WORLD WILL ALWAYS BE FOUND AT THE SIDE OF THE CONGOLESE."

PATRICE EMERY LUMUMBA

July 31, 2009

The Honorable Hillary R. Clinton
Secretary of State
2201 C Street N.W.
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Clinton,

We would like to thank you for traveling and showing your commitment to ending the conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Your support is invaluable and your dedication to regions of the world that are disenfranchised is a necessary catalyst to end the suffering of the people in Congo.

Understanding that there is no military solution to the resource war in the Congo, we urge you, Secretary Clinton, to offer United States leadership in calling for a comprehensive political process that includes Rwanda, Uganda, Congo and rebel forces currently inside the Congo.

We applaud your focus on the horrors of the conflict in the Congo by addressing sexual and gender based violence, however, such violence against women is a direct result of the resource war. The United States can play a key role in bringing an end to the conflict through aggressive diplomacy and sustained engagement and can join Sweden, Canada and Netherlands in being constructively engaged in an effort to usher lasting peace and stability in the region.

In accordance with the Carter Center and United Nations recommendations, we urge you to call on U.S. corporations to abide by OECD guidelines in dealing with the Congo and not be party to the fueling of the conflict or odious contracts that disadvantage the people of the Congo.

It is vital that United States policy support civic and grassroots efforts and institutions in the Congo in their attempt to democratize the Congolese political space and provide support for the men, women and children afflicted by the war.

Sincerely,

Carrie Crawford
Chair, Friends of Congo