

## INITIATIVE CHRETIENNE POUR LA PAIX, LA RECONCILIATION ET LE DEVELLOPPEMENT/PROGRAMME PAIX ET RECONCILIATION

## ICPRD/PPR

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## CALL FOR ACTION BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY ON THE REPRESSION OF VIOLENCE, KILLINGS AND MASSACRES OF THE POPULATION IN BENI, IN NORTH-KIVU IN DRC

Faced with the exactions, human rights abuses, massacres and killings suffered by the populations of the Beni sector, the ICPRD/PPR is launching a cry of distress to denounce the drastically deteriorating security and humanitarian conditions in the Beni sector of North Kivu in the DRC.

The ICPRD/PPR criticizes the war that is raging, the insecurity that prevails, the populations that have become vulnerable and the targets of massacres, and the frequent rape of women. They are victims of rape and violence, consumed by trauma and suicidal thoughts because of the suffering.

For more than a decade, people have been killed like flies and no one cares.

The ICPRD/PPR deplores the international community's inaction on the violence, killings, massacres and human rights violations by the ADF (Allied Democratic Forces) and M23 elements, as well as the lack of security for the population and their property, guaranteed by the Congolese constitution.

Despite the sanctions imposed on the belligerents in Beni territory, it should be noted that the death toll from massacres over a 9-day period in June 2024 is 550 civilians killed in the territories of Beni and Lubero, in the villages of Cantine, Mabalako, Masala, Masau, Mununze, Kabweke, Manlese, Bapakombe-pendekali, Mantumbi, Kadukudu, Kamango and Beu-Manyama in incursions that took place between June 03 and June 12. In the same register, more than twenty vehicles were taken away and houses burnt down by rebels.

It should be noted that the Baswagha-Madiwe groupement alone recorded 173 deaths, while the Bapakombe groupement recorded 42 during these attacks attributed to ADF (Allied Democratic Forces) rebels. On the same occasion, it was reported that more than 30 patients vanished from the Mabalako general hospital as a result of these attacks.

The ICPRD/PPR denounces these massacres as the cause of the massive displacement of many families to other towns, and of the paralysis of economic activities in the areas attacked by the rebels. To date, more than 80% of the population of the Cantine group has been wiped out as a result of massacres in neighboring villages, where the death toll is very high.

In view of the above, the ICPRD/PPR Organization denounces these human rights violations and urgently calls for the involvement of the international community through:

- The reminder to the Congolese government to assume its responsibilities in accordance with its constitution to guarantee the security of the population and the protection of their property;
- The setting up of an international commission to assess the damage caused by the incursions and massacres of the ADF and M23 and to establish who is responsible;
- The repression of violence, killings and massacres of populations by rebels and other local and foreign armed groups and FARDC engaged in human rights violations;
- The urgent launch of humanitarian assistance campaigns to help these displaced communities:
- The provision of appropriate care for raped women, victims of gender-based violence and traumatized persons;
- The prosecution and repression of rebel groups identified as perpetrators of atrocities against the Beni population;
- Identify the multiple human rights violations recorded in Beni and initiate a campaign to set up a criminal court to deal with the Beni massacres;
- Setting up support or psychosocial assistance mechanisms for victims of massacres committed by the ADF (Allied Democratic Forces) and the M23 in Beni territory;
- Immediate repression of this violence and ensuring that the displaced return to their respective villages.

Bukavu, 21/06/2024

Universal Ambassador of Peace

Mgr BULAMBO LEMBELEMBE Josué

Executive Secretary of ICPRD

Rafto Price 2008