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ORAL STATEMENT

ITEM 10: Enhanced interactive dialogue on the reports of the team of international experts on the situation in Kasai and the report of the High Commissioner on technical assistance and capacity-building in the field of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

DRC: Renewal of Team of Experts, key to strengthening justice and accountability in the Democratic Republic of Congo

UN Human Rights Council
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Madam President,

Amnesty International welcomes the report of the High Commissioner. We also welcome the report of the International Team of Experts on the situation in the Kasai which highlights continued serious violations in the region. In light of the Team's conclusions, Amnesty International is concerned by the lack of efforts by the DRC government to implement its key recommendations to address impunity for serious human rights violations and abuses, including crimes under international law, committed by its armed forces and armed groups in the Kasai region.

While noting a significant decrease of attacks and direct acts of violence between government forces and armed groups in the region, we remain concerned that armed groups, including the Kamuina Nsapu and Bana Mura, continue to perpetrate attacks against the region's population.

Amnesty International believes that without effective implementation of the Team of Experts' recommendations on justice and accountability, there is a sustained risk of further outbreaks of violence in the Kasai.

In the east of the country, attacks against civilians have increased even after President Tshisekedi took office in January 2019. Inter-ethnic violence has escalated in the Ituri province, resulting in killings, injuries, and abductions of hundreds, as well as ambushes, despite the signing of a peace agreement between the government and the Patriotic Resistance Force of Ituri (FRPI). According to the UN Joint Human Rights Office, between January and June 2020, 72% of violations and abuses occurred in the province of North Kivu. The office also notes a sharp increase of violence in the Hauts Plateaux of the province of South Kivu, while the DRC security forces remain the principal perpetrators of violations, including extrajudicial killings, sexual violence, torture or other ill-treatment, against civilians in the province of Maniema and Tanganyika.

Amnesty International urges the Council to renew the mandate of the International Team of Experts on the situation in the Kasai and request the Office of the High Commissioner to provide technical assistance to support judicial authorities in their investigations into allegations of human rights violations and abuses in order to promote accountability.

We encourage the DRC Government to continue to work with the Team of Experts. We also urge the Council to expand the geographic scope of the Team of Expert's mandate in a bid to promote accountability throughout the country.

Thank you, Madam President.