



SUPPORT THE CONGOLESE STRUGGLE FOR JUSTICE

For the very first time, human rights organizations from all parts of the Democratic Republic of the Congo have come together to campaign for justice. Your support can help ensure that their voice is heard across the country and at the international level.

Horrific human rights abuses committed by government troops and armed groups have gone unpunished for decades. Although most of the country is now relatively peaceful, there are still areas of fighting in the east and north-east. Here crimes – including killings and mass rapes – continue to be committed with total impunity.

As a new government is being elected, a window of opportunity has opened. The Justice Now campaign is calling for the new government to make reform of the justice

system a priority and to ensure that the interests of victims lie at the heart of the reforms. The campaign is supported by around 100 Congolese NGOs, which together have a presence in every province.

These human rights defenders face daunting challenges, given the chronic incapacity of the national justice system to deal with crimes under international law. Their aim, and ours, is to persuade both the Congolese government and the international community to build a system that brings victims justice, truth and reparations.

Amnesty International is asking its members and supporters to urge the new President to prioritize justice reform, and, just as important, to send a message of solidarity to the Congolese activists struggling for justice.



WHAT WE CAN DO TOGETHER

In collaboration with the Campaign for Justice, we hope to convince the new government to commit itself to the fight against impunity and to justice reform. We hope to encourage donors to give more attention to neglected areas of the justice system such as victim and witness protection. We hope to see the government providing reparation for the suffering endured by victims.

The Justice Now campaign was launched on 18 November 2011 in Kinshasa and six other provincial capitals, during the national election campaign. Members pressed candidates to make commitments and pledges for justice, and are now following up to see whether those pledges hold good. To influence opinion at the grassroots level, radio, theatre and music will be used from July 2012 to raise awareness of issues such as protection of victims and witnesses, and reparations.

As well as organizing solidarity and support for the Justice Now campaign, Amnesty International is petitioning the President and targeting UN and European Union institutions, which are the main international actors on the ground in terms of justice reform, in New York, Geneva and Brussels.



Right: The Roundtable organized by the NGO ACIDH in Maniema province to launch the national campaign "Justice Now".

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Please send a postcard showing the city, town or village where you live, with a message of support in your own language.

You could also add some words in French, Swahili (spoken in the east and Katanga) and Lingala (spoken in the west).

Avec vous, je soutiens la Justice au Congo!

(French – With you, I support justice in the Congo!)

Haki Mbele!

(Swahili – Forward to justice!)

Justice na Liboso!

(Lingala – Forward to justice!)

Please address your postcard to one of the human rights defenders listed on the back of this leaflet. Because there is no postal system in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, you should send the postcards to us, and we will make sure they reach their destination.

Amnesty International
International Secretariat
DRC Solidarity Action
AFR Programme
Peter Benenson House
1 Easton Street
London WC1X 0DW
United Kingdom

You could also visit www.amnesty.org/50 and sign our online petition to the President.

YOUR POSTCARD COULD LOOK LIKE THIS:

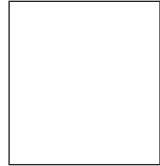
Chers partenaires du... [add a province]

Courage et bravo pour cette excellente initiative que vous menez pour la justice au Congo. Je suis de tout coeur avec vous pour que l'impunité qui prévaut en RDC puisse enfin cesser et pour que les millions de victimes laissées pour compte puissent enfin participer à la recherche de solutions et recevoir réparation pour les crimes dont elles ont souffert.

Je suis conscient(e) des difficultés matérielles et sécuritaires auxquelles font face les activistes congolais. Gardez courage et restez prudents,

Haki Mbele! Justice na Liboso !

ADD PERSONAL MESSAGE IN YOUR LANGUAGE



**Amnesty International
International Secretariat
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London WC1X 0DW
United Kingdom**



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Action contre l'Impunité des Droits Humains (ACIDH)

Action against Impunity for Human Rights (ACIDH) was created in 2004 in Lubumbashi by lawyers working together to end impunity for human rights violations in five provinces. They press for the reform of judicial institutions and for legislative progress and conduct monitoring, advocacy and training activities.

KINSHASA



Nicole Odia, Director of Kinshasa Office

KATANGA



Emmanuel Umpula, Executive Director

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NORTH KIVU

Centre de Recherche sur l'Environnement, la Démocratie et les Droits de l'Homme (CREDDHO)

The Research Centre on Environment, Democracy and Human Rights was established in Goma, North Kivu, in 1998, and works to hold elected government officials accountable for their promises to end corruption and end human rights violations. It monitors human rights violations throughout the province of North Kivu.



Gautier Muhindo, Acting Director

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SOUTH KIVU

Coalition Congolaise pour la Justice Transitionnelle (CCJT)

The Congolese Coalition for Transitional Justice is a nationwide network of 15 NGOs working together on advocacy work to promote international justice. The leader of the network is Raphael Wakenge, founder of the Bukavu-based organization Initiative Congolaise pour la Justice et la Paix.



Raphael Wakenge, National Coordinator

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PROVINCE ORIENTALE

Groupe Lotus

Groupe Lotus was created in 1991 in Kisangani by a group of students and conducts human rights monitoring, advocacy and training activities in several provinces. Areas of action include access to justice, fight against impunity, women's rights and protection of human rights defenders. Groupe Lotus is a member of the International Federation of Human Rights.



Junior Safari Runiga, Executive Secretary

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