



## **No to a 3<sup>rd</sup> Congo War: The European Union must increase pressure on Rwanda!**

Special representative in Kinshasa in order to announce their intention to cross the border in order to track down the rebels On 24 November, Rwandan officials approached the British and American embassies in Kigali and the UN of the FDLR, whose incursions regularly pose a threat to Rwandan national security.

The hasty consultations, which took place the weekend of 27 and 28 November in the margins of the summit of Francophone countries in Ougadougou, have not calmed the situation, nor have vehement warnings from several Western powers and from MONUC. The Government of President Kabila has stated its intention to mobilise some 10,000 troops to protect the border, and to consider any incursion by the Rwandan army as a declaration of war.

EurAC, the European network of non-governmental organisations, actively supporting co-operation and solidarity with Central Africa,

- **Expresses astonishment and concern** at the threats made by Rwanda and the apparent insincerity of this country's authorities only 4 days after the International Conference on Peace, Security, Democracy and Development in the Great Lakes Region, which ended with the signature of the Dar es Salaam Declaration. For EurAC, the greatest achievement of this conference was the expression of a shared desire to prevent and peacefully manage conflict in the region and, with due respect for the aspirations of the populations of those countries and for international conventions and charters, to build sustainable peace and security. Furthermore, these threats come less than a month after the signature of a tri-partite agreement between Rwanda, Uganda and DR Congo on questions of security, and more specifically the neutralisation of armed groups in the region ;
- **Asks the European Union and its member States to respond positively to the request made by Koffi Annan** to make available to MONUC troops that are well-trained, well-equipped and able to communicate with the local population ;
- **Recommends that these same States ensure that MONUC**, now operating with sufficient human and logistical means, act with the necessary determination to prevent any further hostilities in the DRC-Rwanda border zone, investigate troop movements, disarm the militia and rebel groups, and, finally guarantee the physical security of populations in the East of DR Congo, who have been living in a climate of terror and

insecurity for the last 6 years. We should not forget that the victims of this insecurity are first and foremost the Congolese people, in particular Congolese women ;

- **Urges the Congolese authorities** to move as quickly as possible to restructure and unify their security forces and to establish state authority over the national territory in order to prevent latent conflicts between military regions and lawless areas becoming sanctuaries for similar armed groups;
- **Demands that the international community**, in particular those partners of the Rwandan Government, takes a firm stance in response to this belligerence. EurAC invites the international community to provide more active financial and logistical support to the reform of the Congolese national army ;
- **Asks the European Union** and Member States, principal donors to the Government of Rwanda, to ensure that the latter respect Security Council resolutions and agreements signed with DR Congo and other countries in the region, integrating, where necessary, this aspect in the monitoring and evaluation of their aid policies to the Government of Rwanda. Should Rwanda act on its threats, the European Union must consider appropriate sanctions (suspension of aid, refusal to grant visas to Rwandan personalities...).

*EurAC is a network of 40 Development and Humanitarian organisations from 11 European countries (Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Holland, Italy, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom) active in Central Africa. These organisations support local partners in a variety of areas including peace education, food security, women's rights, agriculture, youth movements, human rights and health. These organisations have joined together to lobby the European Union and Member States on questions of Foreign Policy and Development Cooperation vis-à-vis Central Africa, to share information and raise awareness of the Great Lakes Region and to co-ordinate initiatives that members are taking separately and together.*

With the publication of this communiqué, we also launch a call for signatures to all organisations who share our preoccupations and who wish to support these recommendations.

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