



**Washington, D.C. April 16, 2026**

**To: The Honorable Chris Smith Chairman**, Subcommittee on Africa House Foreign Affairs  
Committee Washington, D.C. 20515

**Subject: Request for public hearing about the Ongoing killing targeting Tutsi and Banyamulenge in Eastern D.R.Congo.**

Dear Chairman Smith,

We, U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents of Congolese origin, organized under Mahoro Peace Associations and ISOKO\_USA, both 501c3 advocating for the human right violations, many of our members resettled from refugee camps in East Africa between 2000 and 2024, write to urgently raise grave concerns regarding escalating violence and human rights abuses affecting our families in the Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

Our communities, particularly Tutsi in North Kivu and Banyamulenge in South Kivu Provinces, are being systematically targeted through killings, arbitrary arrests, and prolonged detention without trial. Local reports and family witnesses indicate that actors linked to state institutions, including members of the ruling party, extremist militia called “Wazalendo” and FDLR (Forces Démocratiques pour la libération du Rwanda, former genocidaire militia) have contributed to this pattern of persecution with no actions from the current government.

The humanitarian and security crisis in the High and Middle Plateaus of South Kivu, especially in Minembwe, has reached alarming levels. Documented reports describe siege tactics, restricted humanitarian access, internet and telephone blockades to cut off mobile money systems, a deliberate deprivation of civilians.

Over the past eight years, escalating aerial attacks, including drone strikes, have destroyed approximately 450 villages, killed more than 1,000 civilians, displaced thousands, and devastated livelihoods through the loss of an estimated 750,000 livestock.

Multiple armed actors, including FARDC, Burundian forces (FNDB), and armed groups such as FDLR (Forces Démocratiques pour la libération du Rwanda, former genocidaires against Tutsi) and Congolese extremist militia renamed “Wazalendo” are reportedly involved in operations targeting



individuals perceived to be Tutsi or Banyamulenge. Currently civilians face extreme violence, while humanitarian access to affected areas has remained severely restricted since 2019.

As Americans, we are deeply grateful for the refuge and opportunity provided by the United States. In that spirit, we respectfully urge immediate U.S. engagement to prevent further loss of life and to support conditions necessary for credible peace efforts.

**We respectfully request the following actions:**

1. **Congressional Hearings** That the relevant subcommittees of the House and Senate convene hearings on the crisis in eastern DRC, including testimony from victims, subject-matter experts, and U.S. officials.
2. **Immediate Humanitarian Access and De-escalation** That the United States support urgent humanitarian access, including the demilitarization of key areas such as Uvira to enable aid delivery to Minembwe, and condition U.S. security assistance on adherence to international humanitarian law.
3. **A Monitored Ceasefire** That the United States encourage and support a monitored ceasefire involving all parties to the conflict—including AFC/M23, FARDC/Wazalendo, FDLR, and FNDB—backed by U.S. diplomatic engagement and multilateral oversight mechanisms.
4. **Release of Arbitrarily Detained Civilians** That the United States urge the release of civilians held without trial in facilities such as Makala Central Prison and Ndolo Prison, and support enhanced monitoring of political detentions by MONUSCO and other human rights organizations.
5. **Targeted Sanctions and Accountability Measures** That the United States employ existing authorities, including those under the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act, to impose targeted sanctions on individuals and entities responsible for gross human rights violations.
6. **Reporting Requirements** That Congress direct the U.S. Department of State to provide regular, public reports on human rights abuses, civilian protection, and humanitarian access in eastern DRC.
7. **Support for Peace Efforts** That the United States appoint or strengthen a Special Envoy for the Great Lakes region and expand support for African-led and international mediation initiatives.

We are also concerned by public narratives that minimize or deny these abuses. We respectfully urge that policymakers hear directly from victims and survivors to ensure an accurate understanding of the situation.



We appreciate your leadership on human rights and stand ready to provide documentation and testimony. We respectfully request your urgent attention to this matter.

**Respectfully,**

**On Behalf of the Congolese Tutsi/Banyamulenge diaspora in the USA**

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**CC:**

- Senator Jim Risch Chairman, U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee: 423 Dirksen Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510
- Representative Brian Mast Chairman, House Committee on Foreign Affairs: 2170 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515
- Representative Sara Jacobs
- Representative Ronny Jackson
- Representative Sheila C. McCormick
- Senator Chris Van Hollen
- The Honorable Marco Rubio U.S. Secretary of State U.S. Department of State Washington, D.C.
- Mr. Massad Boulos U.S. Senior Advisor for Africa U.S. Department of State Washington, D.C.