



New York City, September 19th, 2025

To: Honorable Eric Adams, Mayor of New York City, in New York City

CC:

- *Honorable Mr. Marco Rubio U.S. Secretary of State
State Department, Washington DC*
- *Mr. Massad Boulos, U.S. Senior Advisor for Africa
State Department, Washington DC*

Subject: Grave concerns about your participation to the Event organized by the D.R.C. Mission to the UN, D.R.C. on September 22 in New York City.

Honorable Mr. Eric Adams and Mrs. Pramila Patten,

We, the members of ISÔKO_USA and MAHORO PEACE ASSOCIATION U.S. based nonprofit organizations representing American citizens from D.R.Congo of Congolese Tutsi ethnic group wish to express our grave concern about your participation to the event "**Thirty Years of Armed Conflicts in the Democratic Republic of the Congo: Call for the Recognition of Forgotten or Ignored Genocides, for Truth and Justice**" planned to be held on September 22, 2025 at Jay Conference in New York City.

This event is organized by the government of D.R.C that has the full responsibility of the crimes committed against Congolese Tutsi/Banyamulenge systematically targeted by state and non-state government supported armed groups since the 1960's.

We are survivors of atrocities committed against us for who we are, having fled systemic persecution and killings, and having received no protection from the D.R.C government.

Even today, government-supported militia armed groups continue to attack our community in eastern D.R.C, killing thousands of civilians, including women and children, burning our villages, destroying our livelihoods, and shelling planes delivering basic humanitarian, essentially putting Banyamulenge villages in south Kivu under siege since 2017. The same pattern of violence afflicts the Hema community in Ituri Province, where CODECO militias and the FARDC massacre thousands each year with total impunity.

Our legal representatives, the Collectif des avocats des parties civiles, have introduced several legal complaints in D.R.C as well as in regional and international courts, including at the ICC and in the courts in Belgium, to denounce this campaign of ethnic cleansing against our community.

This event, as it is presented, uses the tools of persecution and inflammatory rhetoric against our community, that has put us at risk for decades, by reversing responsibility between victim and



perpetrator. This event aims to blame the victim as Congolese Tutsi for the ethnic cleansing it is subjected to. Thus, the D.R.C government has engineered a false genocide accusing our community of being responsible for our own persecution, or and crimes, to exonerate itself from its own responsibility.

The gravity of the situation is best reflected in a statement by the UN Special Representative to the Office on Genocide Prevention Ms. Alice W. Nderitu in November 30th, 2022 in which she established that: **“indicators and triggers contained the UN Framework of Analysis for Atrocity Crimes were present in DRC including; dissemination of hate speech and absence of independent mechanisms to address it; politicization of identity; proliferation of local militias and other armed groups across the country; widespread and systematic attacks, including sexual violence, against especially the [Congolese Tutsi] on the basis of their ethnicity and perceived allegiance with neighboring countries; and intergroup tensions.”** She added about the urgency of the situation by emphasizing that: **“The abuses currently occurring in Eastern DRC, including the targeting of civilians based on their ethnicity or perceived affiliation to the warring parties must be halted. Our collective commitment not to forget past atrocities constitutes an obligation to prevent reoccurrence”**.

We urge you to re-consider your participation to this event as your participation represents an official endorsement of the inflammatory rhetoric, the targeting campaign, and the crimes against Congolese Tutsi by the D.R.C government. This further puts our community at risk in Eastern D.R.C. at a time when the current U.S. administration in Washington DC, and other international partners, seek to appease the tensions in the region, to find a lasting solution to the D.R.C’s long-standing conflict.

As survivors from the long-lasting crimes committed against our community in D.R.Congo, we are very grateful to the US administration that welcomed us since February 2000.

For more information, enclosed is a detailed report documenting a sample of these atrocities among thousands of cases.

Sincerely,

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

Safari Munyarugendo,

President ISÔKO_USA

Douglas Gasore Kabunda,

President Mahoro Peace Association