

MONUSCO

Indian Ambassador to the Democratic Republic of Congo

Position Paper



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TOPIC A: UN ORGANIZATION
STABILIZATION MISSION IN THE DRC: RESOLVING THE HUTU-TUTSI VIOLENCE IN
EASTERN CONGO

Peace. The United Nations, since its creation 68 years ago, has been an entity to endorse and push for peace across the globe. It has been successful and the world as a whole has much to thank the UN for the peace felt universally today. Unfortunately, the epidemics of yesterday are still seen today. The Democratic Republic of Congo is no stranger to this tragic situation. A civil war of sort rages in the DRC with humanitarian and political problems left and right. Not a day passes where assistance is needed as violence escalates between the Tutsi and Hutu ethnic groups⁶. Rebellious groups such as the CNDP⁷ have gone as far as to stand up against the rightful government and strive to remove the Hutus from Eastern Congo. Although peace is steps away, the ongoing crisis must be solved and stabilization must be brought to the DRC.

Rwanda was home to an infamous period in history known as the Rwandan genocide⁸. This place has also been the home to the birth of this current ongoing crisis in the DRC. The start of the conflict dates back to a precolonial Rwandan age where the system relied upon for rule had caused a split between the ethnic roles of Hutu and Tutsi. However, due to both being reliant on the other, conflicts did not arise early on. However, similar to situations in India with the caste system, views changed between

the ethnic groups as the wealth gap increased, and negative views between the two castes arrived. Throughout history, Rwanda has been under the rule of foreign nations such as Berlin and has had the population go through stages as serfs, agricultural, and numerous other societies. The population of the Congo itself did not come into its first wide spread epidemic of war until the Rwandan genocide. Refugees from Rwanda, seeking safety from genocide traveled into neighboring areas such as Eastern Congo. The estimated 2 million refugees far surpassed the native Congo's ability to govern and pushed out forces and rebellious armies were reason for escalating and uncontrolled violence in the refugee areas. The eventual outcome was the Banyamulenge over throwing the local government of the DRC in eastern Congo and overtaking the area. Further violence escalated over this area in what was known as the Second Congo War, and with the help of local nations, the DRC worked to stabilize eastern Congo. The fighting ended as the countries signed onto the Lusaka Peace Accord. Fighting recently resumed over disagreements between Rwanda and DRC. As result, today, there are several human rights violations, economic instability, political instability, and violence occurring at a large scale.

India has been the DRC's biggest ally throughout the crisis⁵. We strongly believe that a stable DRC is only steps away, and have backed up our view by providing the most financial aid, supporting several humanitarian projects, and making up an enormous portion of the army deployed in the area. India believes that MONUSCO is the most funded mission for a reason. Like a virus, if the violence is not stopped, it will

spread and effect other parts of Africa. Along with political relations, India shares strong trade relations, established over half a century ago⁹, with the DRC. India's support has grown annually⁵. India is also open to provide and deploy more troops into the nation if necessary. India has and always will provide the proper aid to this hurting nation. India sees this issue as a domestic threat and sees the solution by strengthening the DRC. To stabilize the government, the DRC must reestablish weakening trades with its trade partners and allies such as India to provide a functioning economy for the country to grow from. India has worked to setup a soil, water, and tissue testing laboratory in the DRC. Establishments such as this tend to stimulate both economy and agriculture. Similar to the caste system in India, India sees the ethnic problem in the DRC as a lingering problem of the past that is to be corrected by providing equal opportunities to both ethnic groups. This would come in the forms of improving living conditions just as India has worked to do in the DRC, and providing more opportunities for the people to thrive economically through practices like trade.

India has envisioned a stable DRC for several years and has worked to bring this vision to reality. India sees four major areas that it feels the DRC is currently lacking, being **military-political stability, financial stability, living conditions, and human rights**. India has worked to better these ideals in the DRC by providing troops, financial support, and sponsoring millions of dollars worth of humanitarian projects⁵. India believes that these three ideals eroded away leading to the crisis due to the abrupt influx of Rwandans refugees and the war that proceeded. With the continued help of current efforts, India feels that DRC can improve and stabilize. The first step that needs to be taken to reach stabilization is suppressing the inner conflicts within the DRC. This

includes protecting against human right violations that are currently taking place. India has established Human Settlement Centers⁵ in the DRC and provides protected and state sponsored shelter. Something like this at a large scale will be effective in combatting violations of human rights. The inner conflicts and violence is leading to the displacement of several civilians and leading to trickle down effect to attributes from the economy to political stability. This can be done by investing in technology such as drones to better the information available and to make the proper decisions, such as focusing the current troops in the area to the effected parts of east of Congo where a majority of violence is taking place. As it is not only in the best interest of the United Nations, but a responsibility of the United Nations, violations of human rights such as rape and murder must also be severely punished, and those offended, protected. Simultaneously, nonviolent, yet deprived portions of the DRC must be given aid to benefit the DRC as a whole, to help bring back a functional economy and effectively stabilize the DRC. This would both help living conditions and financial conditions. As an international body, the help we provide will ultimately come down to helping the DRC help itself.

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7)"From CNDP to M23." *Human Security Gateway*. Usalama Project, n.d. Web. 6 Feb. 2013. <http://www.humansecuritygateway.com/documents/RVI_FromCNDPtoM23_TheEvolutionofanArmedMovementinECongo.pdf>.

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