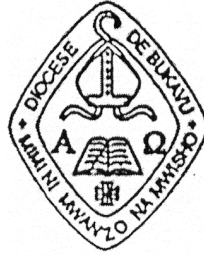


**PROVINCE DE L'ÉGLISE ANGLICANE DU CONGO  
DIOCÈSE DE BUKAVU**

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**HUMANITARIAN URGENT ASSISTANCE TO DISPLACED  
PEOPLE FROM RUTSHURU, MASISI, AND GOMA AREAS**

Even with the political and social instability in D.R.Congo, especially in North Kivu and South Kivu provinces, I have done a pastoral visit in Goma from 24<sup>th</sup> –30<sup>th</sup> October 2008. The objectives of this visit were to comfort the people in Anglican Church of Goma and Rutshuru, preaching them the peaceful Gospel and to celebrate confirmation of new Christians and ordination of Priests. Due to permanent war and insecurity caused by the fighting of the troops of General Nkunda against the loyal army FARDC, the candidates of ordination did not reach Goma from Rutshuru and Masisi; only the confirmation was celebrated on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2008 in St. Paul parish of Goma.

From Monday 27<sup>th</sup> to Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup>, we were attending a seminar of Evangelism organised by the Department of Evangelism of Province of the Anglican Church of Congo at Goma town.

While we were attending the seminar, the situation became worse; the fighting continued from Rumangabo towards Kiwandja (Business Center of Rutshuru) and towards Kibumba in progression to Goma town.

From 28<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> October 2008, some areas: Kibumba, Rumangabo, Rugari, Kiwandja, Ntamugenga -- are controlled by rebel troops even with the presence of the MONUC groups.

The conflict of CNDP of General NKUNDA against the FARDC has caused massive displacement of people; they have abandoned their properties (houses, clothes, utensils, food, business) going away looking for safety areas.

Currently, about 2 millions of people (men, women, children) are living outside, in schools, in Churches and in some hospitable families. They don't have water, food, materials, clothes, utensils and latrines. These people living in hardship are exposed to hunger, illness and death of some fathers, mothers and children.

However, the situation of Goma town on 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> October 2008, there were some rumours that FARDC have given up, failed to fight and Goma town to be controlled by CNDP troupes. Because of fear, many people have gone out of the town towards South Kivu areas, especially at Minova and Bukavu.

There are damages in our diocese of Bukavu, Masisi and Rutshuru archdeaconries; some churches are destroyed by bombs. The Church members are displaced at Kanyabayonga, Minova, Bukavu and others are in refuge in Uganda.

Facing this calamity, Congolese government is requesting to NGOs, Churches, foreign countries and people of good will to assist the victims.

Therefore, the diocese of Bukavu is requesting an urgent spiritual, material and financial support from our partners and friends that will enable us to assist the people, so that they may provide their basic needs.

For 12 years, the D.R. Congo has been victim of wars and atrocities, the results are 6 millions of people dead, many case of rape against women and girls and nowadays 2 millions of displaced from Masisi, Ruthuru and Goma.

Some should wonder, when will the unrighteous conflicts end in country D.R. Congo?

So, we request your prayer for the peace may reign in our communities in particular and in the D.R. Congo in general.

Bukavu, 31<sup>th</sup> October 2008

For the Diocese of Bukavu,

Rt Revd BAHATI BALI-BUSANE Sylvestre  
Bishop of Bukavu diocese.