



Parti pour la Démocratie au Rwanda-Ihumure

Paix, Justice et Développement



PRESS RELEASE OF NOVEMBER 22, 2012

THE PDR-IHUMURE CONDEMNS THE TAKING OF GOMA BY M23

FOR THE UMPTEENTH TIME, KIGALI FLAUNTS ITS CONTEMPT FOR HUMAN LIFE AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY IN GOMA

Two days ago, on November 20, 2012, the city of Goma in eastern DRC fell to the soldiers of the M23 rebel group, compounding a humanitarian catastrophe which for more than a decade has become the daily lot of thousands of Congolese refugees and internally displaced populations in that part of the country. These are the survivors of more than 6 million Congolese decimated by recurring wars of invasion, occupation and plunder of the DRC by neighboring Rwanda.

Starting last June, reports compiled and published by U.N. experts have exposed Rwanda's central role in the DRC destabilization and the ongoing humanitarian tragedy through direct training, arming and bankrolling of the M23's army of killers and plunderers. Multiple security summit meetings have been convened in recent weeks at the African Union, the U.N., the SADC, and in many capitals in order to persuade Rwanda to drop its support to the murderous rebel group in favor of a peaceful solution. The reports complement numerous other previous findings, such as the U.N. Mapping Report of October 2010, all of which condemn Rwanda's RPF army as the instrument of death, violence, and pillage in DRC.

In final analysis, the lessons to be drawn from the fall of Goma are not dissimilar to those learned from the taking of Kigali by the RPF in 1994, or from Rwanda's successive invasions of DRC in the last two decades which have generated the largest human death toll since World War II. Those lessons are that the M23, just like the RPF, is a movement led by hardened war lords who preach democracy but practice total contempt for human life and international law. In many respects, the M23 taking Goma in the presence of MONUC forces is eerily reminiscent of the Kibeho carnage in Rwanda in April-Mai 1995 when the RPF coldly machine-gunned thousands of internally displaced civilians in front of MINUAR forces. This is a repeat failure and a shame for the United Nations. The M23 in DRC today, and the RPF in Rwanda previously and currently, are groups headed by war lords driven by arrogance, complete scorn for the international community, lying, negotiating in bad faith, and of course sheer brutality. Already reports streaming out of areas under M23 control tell a story of targeted summary executions, sexual violence and disappearances of civilians, which is exactly the same modus operandi of the RPF in its multiple war adventures. This is why all parties involved in peace genuine initiatives in DRC, especially the U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon, the new chief of the African Union Ms. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, the SADC leaders, the European Union as well as the U.S. leadership, should know better than "negotiate" with the Rwandan dictator who has proven time and again that peace and human life are the last of his worries.

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The PDR-Ihumure vigorously condemns the violence being visited upon the innocent populations in eastern DRC by the Kigali regime through the M23 rebel group as a proxy. Kalachnikov and heavy artillery fire, that's the Christmas gift this group has decided to offer the people of Goma and the regions of Northern Kivu.

We call upon the international community to assist the populations in distress and to deal with the M23 rebels and their Rwandan backers as the criminals that they are, by presenting a front of concerted political and diplomatic pressure and putting in place military, economic and financial sanctions against them. The international community should now accept evidence that the endless security and humanitarian tragedy in DRC is nothing but a direct consequence of the lack of democracy in Rwanda. In real terms the equation is very simple: before the RPF there was peace and harmony in the region; ever since the arrival of the RPF, there has been nothing but burning and bloodletting. It is crystal clear that the source of the never-ending conflict in the Great Lakes Region of Africa is none other than the RPF brutal dictatorship in Kigali.

Done in Brussels,

November 22, 2012

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Deputy Executive Secretary
PDR-Ihumure