



Association des Congolaises Canadiennes – ACC
Congolese Canadian Women Association – CCWA



To the Right Honourable Stephen Harper, Prime Minister of Canada

Object: Concerns over violence surrounding the November 28, 2011 Elections in DR Congo

We, Canadians of Congolese origins, held an extraordinary meeting on November 12, 2011 to discuss the issues surrounding the upcoming elections in DR Congo. These issues were brought to our attention after speaking to friends and family and many other people on ground back in Congo. We have gathered that our young and still fragile democracy is being threatened and many human rights are being violated by the current administration as the country is approaching her first ever real democratic elections.

In fact, all opposing presidential candidates encounter great obstacles to effectively and freely run their electoral campaign such as:

- Distributing their pamphlets and posting their signs
- Access to public and private media
- Intimidation and kidnapping
- Arbitrary arrests and imprisonments of their supporters
- Electoral cards are distributed to children as young as eight (8) years old.

Our concern is that with all these issues, the upcoming election is prone to disastrous aftermath because people feel cheated, oppressed and suppressed. We do not want more people to die, more children and women to be raped, we want peace.

We are asking the government of Canada to stand by the people of DR Congo in this important time of their history. We are asking our government to monitor these elections to ensure that it is conducted with all fairness, democratically and peacefully. Many Canadian mining corporations greatly benefit from DR Congo mineral resources, which make Canada a privileged partner. We are asking for Canada to stand for democracy and human rights in DR Congo.

We hope that this letter will call for a close attention on your part. We thank you in advance Hon. Stephen Harper for your prompt consideration to this matter.

Sincerely and respectfully,

Monica Akpataku

President

Cc: Honourable Jim Karygiannis, P.C, M.P

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