

Urgent Call to End Incentives for the Violent Occupation and Pillaging of Eastern DR Congo by Rwanda and its Allies M23 and AFC

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Cut the aid to Rwanda that allows it to make massive military expenditures

We call on the following entities to take these measures:

Relevant EU Institutions

USAID or US Congress

German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

French Development Agency (AFD)

Belgian Development Agency (Enabel)

UK Aid Direct

African Development Bank

International Development Association of the World Bank

International Monetary Fund (IMF)

- Substantially reduce aid from certain countries (USA, UK, Germany, France, Belgium)
- Substantially reduce aid from EU institutions
- Substantially reduce aid from the World Bank's International Development Association and the International Monetary Fund (IMF)

Regulate the development and movement of minerals to stop incentivizing illegal trafficking from DRC to Rwanda

We call on the following entities to take these measures:

Relevant EU Institutions

Companies that purchase crude or refined minerals, or products made from them, from Rwanda

Countries with companies that purchase crude or refined minerals, or products made from them, from Rwanda

- Cancel the EU-Rwanda Memorandum of Understanding of February 2024 on sustainable raw materials value chains, in which Rwanda receives €900 million so that EU companies can obtain critical minerals, mainly from the DRC, via Rwanda
- Revise the EU Great Lakes policy to ensure that it prevents illegal and illicit trafficking of minerals from the DRC to Rwanda and ensures that the DRC makes its own decisions regarding its mineral wealth
- Block the purchase of raw or processed minerals in Rwanda, unless they have a well-documented supply chain originating from mines located in Rwanda
- Support local processing of minerals in the DRC instead of extracting raw materials

- Divert support for socially and environmentally sound mineral development (such as the EU-Rwanda Memorandum of Understanding on sustainable raw materials value chains) from Rwanda to the DRC, where the minerals are located

Impose sanctions on Rwanda and any allies participating in the occupation and pillaging of DRC

We call on the following entities to take these measures:

Relevant EU Institutions

US State Department

German Federal Foreign Office

Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (French)

Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation (Belgian)

Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) (United Kingdom)

United Nations Security Council

United Nations General Assembly

Relevant institutions of the African Union

- Countries and international institutions must impose severe sanctions on Rwanda and the M23 as long as they commit human rights violations including war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide, occupy land, and illegally and illicitly exploit natural resources in the DRC
- Impose new individual sanctions and travel bans on Rwandan leaders
- Impose an arms embargo on Rwanda

Take needed military actions to ensure a permanent ceasefire, withdrawal of occupiers and humanitarian assistance

We call on the following entities to take these measures:

Relevant institutions of the African Union

East African Community (EAC)

South African Development Community (SADC)

United Nations Security Council

Relevant EU Institutions

- Demand an immediate and unconditional ceasefire from all parties to the conflict, enforced by a third party
- Demand the immediate withdrawal of Rwandan and other uninvited troops from the territory of the DRC
- Demand that Rwanda and the M23 give up Goma, Bukavu and any other territory in the DRC that they have conquered
- Demand that Rwanda and the M23 stop advancing on new territories in the DRC or in other neighboring countries such as Burundi

- The EU must immediately withdraw its financial support for Rwanda’s military operations in Mozambique, which is probably being used in part for its invasion of the DRC
- Punish any party that does not respect the ceasefire with swift and immediate sanctions

Take all necessary legal measures to stop the illegal occupation, pillaging, violence and human rights abuses

We call on the following entities to take these measures:

Democratic Republic of the Congo
Relevant Institutions of the African Union
African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights
African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights
International Court of Justice
International Criminal Court

- File a complaint against Rwanda before the African Court on Human and Peoples’ Rights (this complaint has been filed)
- File a complaint against Rwanda before the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights
- File a complaint against Rwanda before the International Court of Justice
- File a complaint against individual Rwandan leaders and the leaders of the M23 and the AFC before the International Criminal Court
- Make a special effort to investigate, file charges and bring to justice any person or armed group who commits crimes against, or fails to protect, children, during this conflict, including but not limited to conscription into an armed group, rape or other sexual violence, intentional physical harm or psychological traumatization, removal from family members, or any other abuse of the rights of children

Support effective regional mediation

We call on the following entities to take these measures:

Relevant institutions of the European Union
USAID or US Congress
German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
French Development Agency (AFD)
Belgian Development Agency (Enabel)
UK Aid Direct
African Development Bank
Relevant institutions of the African Union

- Provide financial, logistical and political support for meaningful regional mediation between the states parties to the conflict (Rwanda and the DRC; potentially Uganda and Burundi, and even others such as South Africa and Malawi)

- Focus on short-term measures to stabilize Goma and Bukavu, and to prevent further urban fighting that would devastate the traumatized population of the cities
- Seek a caretaker arrangement for Goma, Bukavu and any other areas occupied by the M23 or its allies, rather than leaving the occupying forces in control while talks continue
- Influential external actors, including the AU, EU, UK and US, should support these efforts, while warning Rwanda against any deeper advances into DRC territory

Redirect humanitarian aid to DRC in response to the catastrophic results of this war

We call on the following entities to take these measures:

Relevant institutions of the African Union

East African Community (EAC)

South African Development Community (SADC)

United Nations Security Council

All donor countries through their departments or ministries for development and aid

International humanitarian aid NGOs

- Demand the immediate opening of Goma airport and the cessation of Rwanda's GPS signal blocking
- Demand the immediate opening of humanitarian corridors to deliver supplies and other aid to Goma, and keep roads and sea lanes open to allow food to reach markets
- Divert aid funds currently intended for Rwanda to humanitarian aid for displaced persons and destroyed infrastructure in North and South Kivu provinces
- Supply, as a matter of urgency, the two provinces (North and South Kivu), with medicine and food
- Supply hospitals that are lacking medicine
- That the wounded be taken care of, on all levels, during this period of instability and crisis.

Build civil and political stability to help end the war

We call on the following entities to take these measures:

Civil Society across the DRC

Government officials, journalists, religious leaders and other opinion leaders across the DRC

African Union and all its Member States

East African Community (EAC)

Southern African Development Community (SADC)

- Support civil society and religious organizations in the DRC in their efforts to oppose any constitutional change that could cause instability
- Urge other African powers to support constitutional change only on the basis of genuine national consensus

- Reject the alibi that the invasion of the DRC was based on the defense and/or protection of an ethnic group, which only serves to increase tensions and divisions within Congolese society

End Rwanda's commercial promotion until they withdraw their support for the occupation

We call on the following entities to take these measures:

Formula One (Liberty Media)

Arsenal, Bayern Munich and Paris St Germain football clubs and other Premier League clubs

National Basketball Association of the United States (NBA)

Musicians, artists and other performers from around the world

International Associations seeking a conference venue

Departments and Agencies of the United Nations, the World Bank, or other multilateral bodies seeking a conference venue

- End any existing “Visit Rwanda” or other sponsorship deals with Rwanda or Rwandan entities until Rwanda ends its incursions and occupation in DRC
- Reject any applications by Rwanda or Rwandan entities to host sporting events until Rwanda ends its incursions and occupation in DRC
- Cease all performances in Rwanda until Rwanda ends its incursions and occupation in DRC
- Refrain from holding conferences at venues in Rwanda until Rwanda ends its incursions and occupation in DRC

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