



## **DECLARATION OF THE INDIGENOUS PYGMY PEOPLES ON THE MASSACRE OF THE INDIGENOUS PYGMY PEOPLES, DATED JANUARY 14, 2021, IN THE MASINI VILLAGE, BANDIBONGOSIA GROUPEMENT, WALESE VONKUTU CHIEFDOM, IRUMU TERRITORY, ITURI PROVINCE**

The Constitution of the Democratic Republic of Congo reaffirms its adherence and commitment to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, the United Nations Conventions on the Rights of the Child and on the Rights of Women, as well as international instruments relating to the protection and promotion of human rights; our Constitution also provides that "the human person is sacred. The State has the obligation to respect and protect it. *Respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms ... is binding on the public authorities and on all persons*", articles 16, paragraph <sup>1</sup> and 60.

Indigenous Pygmy peoples are the most discriminated against, marginalized, exploited, disadvantaged and excluded community in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). They are forgotten and innocent victims of the various armed conflicts and wars that our country has known for several years, despite their recognized peaceful behavior of tolerance and willingness to live with other social groups.

Indigenous Pygmy peoples are the most discriminated against, marginalized, exploited, disadvantaged and excluded community in the management of public affairs in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). As if that were not enough, in recent years they have been victims of atrocities and inhumane treatment and have been the target of repeated killings in various provinces of the country, the most recent of which occurred on January 14, 2021, at around 9:00 am, **when armed persons not otherwise identified massacred 46 indigenous pygmies and injured many of them, including children, women and the elderly**, in Ituri Province, Irumu Territory, Walese vonkutu Chiefdom, Bandibongosia Group, and Masini Village.

While we condemn this crime with the utmost energy, we recommend the following:

### **TO THE CONGOLESE STATE :**

- ⇒ To condemn these despicable and barbaric acts perpetrated against the indigenous Pygmy peoples in the different provinces of the Republic in general and those committed recently in the Province of ITURI, particularly in the village of MASINI ;
- ⇒ Establish a joint team to conduct independent investigations and to identify the root causes of this massacre of pygmies by armed persons not otherwise identified, in order to prevent the Province of ITURI from sinking again into inter-ethnic conflict;
- ⇒ To provide justice and reparation to the Pygmy families who have been wounded, while bringing the perpetrators and co-authors of this crime of genocide against the indigenous Pygmy peoples to justice;
- ⇒ Put in place security mechanisms to protect the indigenous Pygmies from other dominant groups and other human rights violations that they suffer in the management of land and protected areas throughout the Republic, particularly in the Provinces of ITURI, Tanganyika and South Kivu ;
- ⇒ To develop a national policy of peaceful cohabitation between indigenous Pygmy peoples and non-pygmy communities in order to strengthen peace and national social cohesion;
- ⇒ To adopt and promulgate, as a matter of urgency, the law for the promotion and protection of the rights of the indigenous Pygmy peoples, accompanied by measures for its implementation, as a specific legal instrument to persuade and deter the perpetrators of crimes and violations of the rights and fundamental freedom of the indigenous Pygmy peoples, and above all to facilitate their responsible and effective integration into national life.
- ⇒ That the Congolese State recognize the indigenous Pygmy peoples, victims of the pygmocide in Ituri, as national heroes of peace.

### **TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY**

- ⇒ To condemn this crime of genocide against the Pygmy indigenous peoples, to accept and/or support a joint and independent

investigation and to ensure that justice and reparation are made in favor of these heroes who protect the forests and biodiversity ;

⇒ To expand the mandate of MONUSCO on the protection of civilian populations, to accompany the Congolese State in its efforts to pacify the country, and especially in the operations to eradicate armed groups, because there is no justice without peace.

## **TO THE PYGMY INDIGENOUS PEOPLES**

⇒ To continue to believe in their destiny, in the peaceful struggle and efforts led by all, the will of the Congolese state for the promotion and protection of their rights and all actors who are committed to restoring their dignity, despite the current challenges ;

⇒ To remain united, supportive and peaceful.

In conclusion, I invite all the indigenous Pygmy peoples of all the provinces of the DRC to observe a 3-day national mourning in memory of our brothers and sisters, parents and children who were victims of the crime of genocide in Ituri on January 14, 2021.

With my deepest Aboriginal condolences to the Pygmy Aboriginal families affected by this crime.

Thank you.

**Done at Kinshasa, January 19, 2021.  
For indigenous Pygmy networks**

**Keddy BOSULU MOLA**

**Patrick SAIDI HEMEDI**

*National Coordinator of REPALEF*

*National Coordinator of DGPA*

*Ambassador KAPUPU DIWA MUTIMANWA,  
National President of Linapyco*