



Mémorial des
massacres de la
RD Congo



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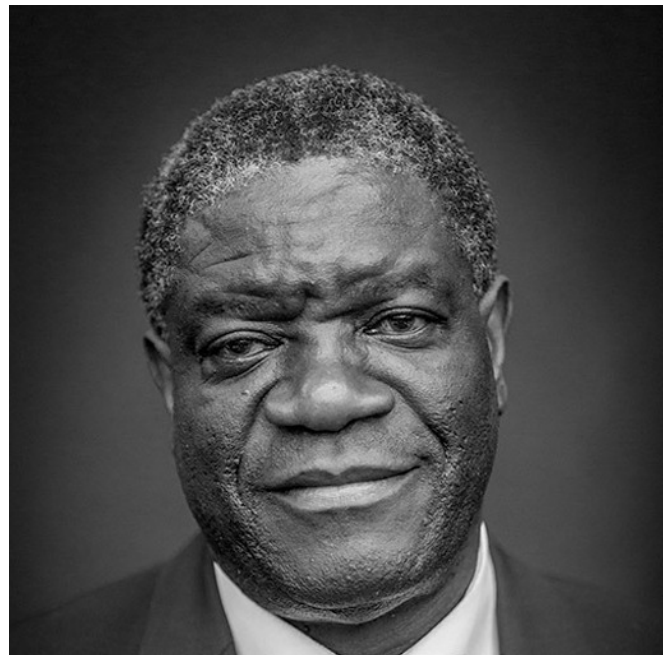
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I decided to give my support

My country has been bereaved, for nearly three decades to the present day, by multiple armed conflicts with their countless victims of massacres, summary executions, rapes, looting, etc. And despite the incredible scale of this disaster, there is a heavy, deafening silence. No satisfactory research to establish the truth about these multifaceted violence, no judicial prosecution to punish the alleged perpetrators of the crimes committed, no reparation for the victims of these abuses, no real institutional reform, security services, justice, ensuring that these atrocities will not be repeated in the future. And so the risk of forgetting these violence, of trivializing it, of becoming familiar with it, which can only facilitate their renewal, sometimes by the same perpetrators.

Fortunately, voices are rising more and more to break this silence around these war crimes, these crimes against humanity, this possible genocide. The voices of relatives of the victims who, more and more often in recent



Dr. Denis Mukwege, Nobel Peace Prize
winner.

times, are gathering, courageously, at the scene of the crimes, to commemorate the sad anniversary of the death, the disappearance, their father, mother, brother, sister, friend, etc. during the massacres of Makobola, Kasika, Kisangani and so many others. As I said in Oslo, during my acceptance speech of the Nobel Peace Prize, *"a report is rotting in the drawer of a desk in New York. It was drafted following a professional and rigorous investigation into war crimes and human rights violations in Congo. This investigation explicitly names victims, places, dates but evades the perpetrators. This Mapping Project Report, prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, describes no less than 617 war crimes and crimes against humanity and possibly even crimes of genocide. What is the world waiting for it to be taken into account?"* »

So I decided to support the courageous initiative of a group of young Congolese, in love with peace and justice, who wanted to join their voices with those who do not want to forget, who want to remember, to know the truth, to obtain justice and reparation, who say **"Never again!"** They asked themselves the question: how can we, individually and collectively, revive the memory of our brothers, sisters, relatives, friends, neighbours, disappeared, who died because of armed conflict. They decided to build a memorial. Not a monument made of cement and bricks and a plaque bearing the names of the victims of one of the massacres, although I believe that this act of remembrance is still indispensable and

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essential wherever the crimes were committed. With the enthusiasm of their youth, they wanted to build a virtual memorial (digital or digital) in the form of a website and a calendar that reminds us, almost daily, of the "incidents", according to the terminology used by the Mapping Report, i.e. massacres, summary executions, rapes, looting, recruitment of child soldiers, etc. Thanks to this memorial almost every day of the 365 that counts our calendar, will appear on the screen of computers, laptops or smartphones, and, if you like, in your inbox, the paragraphs or paragraphs of the Mapping Report describing the incident or incidents that experienced that date, in one of the years from 1993 to 2003, period covered by this report.

But remembering is not enough. These crimes cannot go unpunished!

I am convinced, like the young initiators of this memorial, that the appropriate response to this painful legacy of violence and crime is the implementation of transitional justice mechanisms, namely, criminal prosecutions, truth-finding, reparations for victims and institutional reforms to prevent such crimes from happening again in the DRC. Let us have the courage to take a critical and impartial look at the events that have been taking place for too long in the Great Lakes region. To quote my Oslo Appeal: *"Let us have the courage to reveal the names of the perpetrators of crimes against humanity to prevent them from continuing to mourn this region. Let us have the courage to acknowledge our past mistakes. Let us have the courage to tell the truth and to*

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This timetable for the crimes committed is therefore also an "agenda" that helps us to remember the things we have to do: to act so that the mechanisms of "transitional justice" and prosecution are finally implemented in the DRC, truth-seeking, reparation and institutional reform, act to ensure that the perpetrators of the crimes committed are held accountable and, in pursuit of this objective, act to lift the embargo on the basis of data from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, currently kept confidential, identifying the alleged perpetrators of the 617 violent incidents documented in the "Mapping Project Report. I repeat again: ***"Let the law be said. This would allow the Congolese people to finally mourn their dead, mourn, forgive their tormentors, overcome their suffering and project themselves serenely into the future."*** I decided to support this virtual memorial so that these countless victims are not forgotten, to put a name, a face, a story, a testimony about each of the victims. This memorial is a call to individual and collective consciousness, a painful but compelling process of remembrance and memory, a sacred duty for humanity, for The African and above all for all Congolese

