



Network of African National Human Rights Institutions Réseau des Institutions Nationales Africaines des Droits de l'Homme

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Statement by NANHRI on the Escalating Crisis in Eastern DRC: Condemning Violence and Calling for Urgent Action

The Network of African National Human Rights Institutions (NANHRI) strongly condemns the escalating violence in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) following the fighting to take over the city of Goma by the M23 rebel group. This alarming development has led to significant human suffering, with reports of mass displacement, casualties, and attacks on civilians. The disregard for human rights and human decency in this conflict is deeply concerning and urgent action is necessary to prevent further atrocities.

We stand in full solidarity with the people of Goma and the millions affected by the ongoing crisis. The loss of life, disruption of communities and their livelihoods, and forced displacement of civilians violate fundamental human rights and must not be allowed to continue. NANHRI reaffirms that peace and stability can only be achieved through respect for human rights, the rule of law, and diplomatic engagements—not through violence.

In light of the grave human rights violations reported, NANHRI **calls upon the African Union Peace and Security Council** to move with speed to bring the warring factions to an urgent arbitration dialogue, and institute measures aimed at ending civilian suffering, provision of humanitarian assistance for displaced families and restoring lasting peace. **In addition, NANHRI urges the National Human Rights Commission of the DRC (CNDH-RDC) to immediately investigate the situation and document all human rights abuses**, in order to ensure those responsible for the violations are held accountable. We also urge all actors involved in the conflict to uphold their commitments to justice and human dignity.

NANHRI further calls upon:

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1. **All parties to immediately cease hostilities** and commit to meaningful dialogue that prioritizes the protection of civilians and respect for human rights.
2. **The Congolese government and regional stakeholders to take decisive action** in ensuring security, peace, and the rule of law.
3. **The African Union, United Nations, and East African Community to intensify diplomatic efforts** toward a sustainable and peaceful resolution to the conflict.
4. **An independent and impartial investigation into human rights violations** ensuring justice for victims.
5. **Increased humanitarian assistance** for displaced populations, ensuring their right to safety, shelter, and medical aid.

This crisis is a test of our collective commitment to human rights, peace, and human dignity. NANHRI stands ready to support all efforts aimed at restoring stability, protecting civilians, and ensuring justice for victims of this conflict.

We urge all actors to act swiftly and decisively to end the suffering of innocent civilians and uphold the principles of justice, accountability, and human decency.

Done at Nairobi, February 7th, 2025



Gilbert Sebihogo,

Executive Director, NANHRI





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