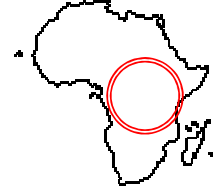




**PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP
GREAT LAKES REGION of AFRICA**

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**Parliamentary visit of Senator Eve Baziaba Masudi
9th – 11th June 2009**

Summary of action points

- The Congolese government, the international community and civil society should act to ensure a better coordinated approach to tackling sexual and gender based violence in the DRC
- The Congolese government should take immediate steps to improve the implementation of existing laws against sexual and gender based violence in the DRC and to better communicate and implement this legislation throughout the Congolese legal system
- The Congolese government should urgently act to reform the key institutions of the security and justice sectors. The British government should provide financial and technical support to implement this process in coordination with other donors.
- Reform of the army must be a greater priority for the Congolese government and the international community, which should provide the greater training and financial support to bring about this reform
- The Congolese government should take effective steps to prevent integration of the authors of sexual violence into the FARDC
- The Congolese government with the UK and other donors should take practical steps to ensure a strong and supported participation of women in the upcoming local elections
- DDRRR must remain a central focus for the Congolese government and the international community, as must continued repatriation of rebel groups
- The international community and the Congolese government should ensure their efforts address not just treatment of consequences but also the causes of sexual violence in the DRC

Meetings

Labour Women's Network (LWN)

Chair **Judy Mallaber MP**

Brief outline of Lord Mance's recent report on sexual violence in the DRC and on the DRC Friendship group and its response to Lord Mance's recommendations

Senator Eve Baziaba Masudi

Non-political outline of current situation on SGBV in the DRC and description of some of the human rights violations committed against women. Description of the platform for women *Plateforme 1325-1820* that has been created across parties by women Congolese Parliamentarians and discussion on how more women can become involved in politics in the DRC. Also emphasis on the importance of looking at the causes, rather than exclusively the consequences, of sexual gender based violence (SGBV).

Suggestions from Senator Bazaiba for actions that should be taken by Congolese government:

- to act immediately to begin the actual application of the DRC's existing laws on SGBV
- to strongly resist the integration into the national army of known authors of sexual violence
- to support the effective participation of women in the upcoming local and future national elections

and further suggestions from Senator Baziaba for action by UK government;

- to support the Congolese government and ensure that perpetrators of sexual violence against women are not integrated into the Congolese army
- to encourage the Congolese government to examine the causes and not solely the consequences of violence committed against women

Conservative Women's Organisation (CWO)

Chair **Eve Burt**

Welcome to the Senator by Eve Burt

Senator Eve Baziaba Masudi

A second non-political address on the subject of human rights abuses suffered by women in the DRC, with emphasis on primarily addressing the causes, and not the consequences, of these. Description of the platform for women *Plateforme 1325-1820* that has been created across parties by women Congolese Parliamentarians. Further outline of why women should be incorporated more closely in the policy making process and highlighting key reasons why their voices should be brought to the policy making table.

Suggestions from Senator Bazaiba for actions that should be taken by Congolese government:

- to maintain dialogue with neighbouring states in order to promote democratic practice both within these states and across the region, therefore allowing rebels currently seeking refuge in Congo to return to their country and experience democratic re-integration

and further suggestions from Senator Baziaba for action by UK government;

- to use its status as a permanent member of the UNSC and push for a UNSC resolution that would ensure that rebels are evacuated from Congo using a humanitarian corridor
- to support the opening up and maintenance of political space in the DRC and its neighbouring countries

and suggestions for action by Conservative Women's Organisation;

- to continue to build relationships with Congolese women parliamentarians and to provide support to their political and civil work in Congo

Parliamentary Roundtable

Chair **Eric Joyce MP**

Minutes of this meeting attached separately

Discussion with Lord Avebury, Lord Chidgey and Baroness Northover, Liberal Democrat Party

Senator Eve Baziaba Masudi

Outline of SGBV in the DRC and description of women in politics, particularly the cross-party platform for women, named *Plateforme 1325-1820*, led by women Congolese Parliamentarians. Difficulties encountered due to lack of political space in the DRC, including a description of events leading to Jean Pierre Bemba's imprisonment in The Hague.

Summary of actions suggested participants for members of the House of Lords present:

- Lord Avebury: to ask a question in the House of Lords on political and social asylum seekers forced to return to the DRC
- Lord Avebury: to explore MONUC's alleged exploitation of mineral resources in the DRC
- Lord Chidgey: to raise a question in the House of Lords on SGBV topics raised during the discussion
- APPG to provide a briefing to Lord Avebury on action points for HMG on SGBV in the DRC

V Day Breakfast

Senator Eve Baziaba Masudi

Description of the human rights abuses faced by women because of sexual gender based violence in the DRC. Heavy emphasis placed on examining the causes and not only the consequences of SGBV in the DRC. Detailed to the group the nature and substance of V Days work to date, both globally and in the DRC, and gave thanks to V Day for their continued support and commitment, requesting that this continue through to the Congo Now public awareness-raising campaign planned for 2010.

Westminster Foundation for Democracy

David Thirlby, WFD

Description of Westminster Foundation for Democracy's work holistically, and its present work with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) at provincial level in the DRC.

Senator Eve Baziaba Masudi

Problems of political space in the DRC – democracy should not stop at parliament and politicians should be able to talk openly outside of parliamentary space. Congolese media is currently monopolised and controlled. Description of the arrest of Jean Pierre Bemba and the recent forced removal of Kamhere.

BBC Swahili Service

Interview by BBC Swahili and French services – available on line, copies to be sent to Senator Baziaba by email.

Journalists - Peter Musembe, Razvan Scortea, Flora Nducha and Vera Kwakofi

Conservative Party Human Rights Commission

Chair Fiona Hodgson

Welcome to Senator Baziaba, with brief outline on Sexual Violence as a Weapon of War, CPHRC report from November 2008.

Senator Eve Baziaba Masudi

Outline of SGBV in the DRC and description of women in politics, particularly the cross-party platform for women, named *Plateforme 1325-1820*, led by women Congolese Parliamentarians. Difficulties encountered due to lack of political space in the DRC, including a description of events leading to Jean Pierre Bemba's imprisonment in The Hague.

Suggestions from Senator Baziaba for actions that should be taken by members of the CPHRC:

- to push the British government to support Congolese women's entry into politics, particularly at a local level

- to ask the British government to continue to support the Congolese government in its application of laws pertaining to sexual violence in DRC

Schedule

Meeting schedule and brief outline of discussion and action points covered

Date	Time	Event	Attendees	Location
9th June	13	Labour Women's Network	Chair: Judy Mallaber Baroness Gayle Baroness Howells Baroness Massey Fiona McTaggart MP Ann Clwyd MP IPU IPU Caroline Adams	Committee Room 19
10th June	11	Conservative Women's Organisation	Chair: Eve Burt Niki Molnar	Room B 1 Parliament Street
	13	Parliamentary Roundtable	Chair: Eric Joyce MP Paul Rowen MP Stephen Crabb MP Judy Mallaber MP Bishop Micheal Scott-Joynt Nici Darendorf UN Stephen Carter APPG Ann Aicroth FCO Nick Bates DFID Martha J Baker WILPF Avery Hancock IRC	Committee Room 20
	14			
	15			
	17	Discussion with Liberal Democrat Lords	Lord Avebury Lord Chidgey Baroness Northover	Pugin Room
	18	Civil Society Meeting	See Marie Claire Faray	Marie Claire
	19			
11th June	8	V Day	See Tamsin Larby for list of attendees	CPA room
	9			
	11	Westminster Foundation for Democracy	David Thirlby	Coffee with David Thirlby - on the work the WFD are doing in the DRC etc
	14	Conservative Party Human Rights Comission	Fiona Hodgson Nicola Blackwell	Meeting Room Q PCH
	16	Diaspora	See Marie Claire Faray	Stephen - Wilson Room
17				