

PRESS RELEASE: AFJN Calls on US Congress to Take Action against Rwanda's Violation of the Territorial Integrity of the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Washington, DC - On **January 31, 2025**, the Africa Faith and Justice Network (AFJN) sent an "Urgent Call for US Action* Against Rwanda's Violation of DRC's Territorial Integrity" to the United States (US) Secretary of State, and members of Congress. The letter appeals for immediate U.S. intervention to alleviate the escalating humanitarian crisis in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), sparked by worsening hostilities between the DRC armed forces and the Rwandan army allied to the M23 armed group. This crisis has intensified following M23's takeover of Goma and expansion into South Kivu, prompting AFJN to warn of a looming "grave and humanitarian crisis" if the U.S. does not act.

Dr. Steven Nabieu Rogers, Executive Director of the Africa Faith and Justice Network (AFJN), says "AFJN urges the Trump Administration and members of Congress to consider strong measures to help halt the offensive by M23 that is raping women and killing civilians."

On January 18, M23 rebels, backed by Rwandan forces, launched a military operation to expand its territory, violating a ceasefire agreement between Rwanda and the DRC Furthermore, DRC officials reported that at least 165 women were raped by male inmates during a prison break in Goma's Muzenze prison on January 27, amidst the M23's assault on the town.

The Africa Faith and Justice Network (AFJN) is a community of advocates for responsible United States (US) relations with Africa, with the following mission:

"Inspired by the Gospel and informed by Catholic Social Teaching, the Africa Faith and Justice Network seeks to educate and advocate for just Africa-US relations that empower Africans to be agents of their own destiny, thriving in a just and equitable society"

The SHCJ American Province has been a member of AFJN since shortly after its beginning in 1983.



Washington, DC — Over the last six years, USAID invested around \$3 billion in humanitarian assistance for people affected by natural disasters and conflict in the DRC.

Abuja, Nigeria — Nigerian officials have launched a committee to develop a transition and sustainability plan for USAID-funded health programs following U.S. President Donald Trump's 90-day halt of most foreign aid. The multi-ministerial committee aims to secure new financial support for critical health programs.

Blessed are the Peacemakers

M23 declares ceasefire in DRC as regional leaders try to forge peace February 4, 2025

