

**Protestant Church
Church of Christ in Congo
One, Holy, Universal and Apostolic
National Presidency**

**ADVOCACY OF THE CHURCH OF CHRIST IN CONGO
IN FAVOR OF DR DENIS MUKWEGE**

Press Statement for Immediate Release

The Church of Christ in Congo (ECC) learns from several different and concordant sources of the persistence of threats against Dr. Denis MUKWEGE, Pastor, Professor, and Director of the Panzi Hospital, President of the Panzi Foundation, Nobel Prize of Peace 2018 and defender of Human Rights.

This situation is today a source of immense concern and it alerts us to a very great emergency. Because the aggravation of threatening remarks, intimidation, and blackmail of assassination reminds us of the attempted murder of which Dr. Denis MUKWEGE was the subject in the not distant past.

The Church of Christ in Congo gives thanks to God for the gifts, the skills, and the exceptional dedication which make the influence of his worthy son Dr. Denis MUKWEGE in Africa and in the world. This is evidenced by the attribution of the aforementioned Nobel Prize.

Member of the ECC / 8th Community of Pentecostal Churches in Central Africa (CEPAC) and servant of the Gospel of Christ in his local Church, Dr. Denis MUKWEGE received in March 2020 two distinctions from his Church: that of Doctor Honoris Causa from the Protestant University in Congo (UPC) as well as the Diploma of Excellence and Merit because of his commitment to the restoration of human dignity through the fight against sexual violence based on gender and advocacy for human rights.

Faced with this threat,

The Church of Christ in the Congo while welcoming the initiative of the President of the Republic, Head of State of the DRC, His Excellency Félix Antoine TSHISEKEDI Tshilombo, who requests the opening of an investigation and takes

the commitment to ensuring the security of the Nobel Prize, she asks the civil and military authorities of South Kivu, all political leaders and bodies responsible for security in this country to guarantee the physical integrity of Dr. Denis MUKWEGE, to ensure his personal honor, to facilitate his work and commitment to the most vulnerable: women victims of violence of all kinds in Kivu and throughout the country.

The Church of Christ in the Congo calls on the authorities of MONUSCO and asks for the strengthening of the device that has been put in place to guarantee the protection of Dr. Denis MUKWEGE and his family.

By this same declaration, the Church of Christ in Congo, as a member of the World Council of Churches (WCC), asks the latter to immediately seize the United Nations as well as the other various institutions responsible for the promotion and maintaining peace and safeguarding human and peoples' rights, because the threats weighing on the Nobel Prize stem from militarist harassment and ambitions of destabilization which target our nation and its territorial integrity.

Through this process, the Church of Christ in the Congo joins forces with all the Churches and all religious groups, because the God of justice and peace entrusts us with this service of sentinels and prophets towards our country, Africa and the world.

Finally, the Church of Christ in the Congo, which values the sacredness of life, calls for the involvement of each and everyone to block the road to this inhuman project.

Kinshasa, August 22, 2020

Rev. Dr André BOKUNDOA-bo-Likabe

National President of the Church of Christ in the Congo

Nota Bene: This is the English translation of the original statement by the Department of Communication and Medias of ECC