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1. AVOIDING ACCUSATIONS

Dear Combatant,

Everyone accuses you of raping, looting and killing innocent people; you are even accused of being involved in blocking roads. Bear in mind that those who suffer the consequences of your actions are human beings just like you.

In spite of all that, there is always a way out that allows you to avoid these accusations that are being levied against you by the population. The best option left for you is to join the DDRRR process of MONUSCO, which will assist you return to your country (if you are a Ugandan) or reintegrate you into your village (if you are a Congolese).

For your information, according to religious leaders in Uganda, the Jihad is not justified in any way whatsoever, because there are no Ugandans who are being persecuted for their religious affiliation and belief.

2. BENEFITS OF DDR/RR PROCESS

- If you decide to leave your armed group, you can go to the nearest MONUSCO camp. There, you will be warmly welcomed by the DDRRR team. You will be protected and well taken care of: you will be accommodated, fed and you will receive whatever is necessary for your basic needs during your brief stay in the DDRRR camp.

- Know that the Ugandan government has forgiven all combatants who decide to abandon their armed struggle and return to their country. This measure will grant you clemency for all the crimes that you may have committed as a rebel. In fact the benefit of this amnesty is that, you will receive a reintegration package that will allow you to start anew your life with dignity. But you should know that this forgiveness will not last forever; you should therefore seize this opportunity to restore

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your human rights and dignity as a citizen by surrendering to MONUSCO.



3. AN ADVICE TO THE COMMANDER

Dear Commander, Recruiting and using children in any armed group is a serious crime against humanity. These children will never be useful neither to themselves nor to society as long as they continue to serve in an armed group. Put yourself in the shoes of their parents who constantly think of them with no glimmer of hope of ever seeing them again. The DDRRR challenges you to listen to the words of wisdom by abandoning those armed activities and also releasing these children.

Give them a chance to rebuild their lives and prepare their future. The DDRRR is ready to welcome and guide them at any time. You are already aware that the mandate of the Intervention Brigade of MONUSCO is to neutralize all armed groups in the Democratic Republic of Congo that refuse to disarm voluntarily. Take the first step by complying with the voluntary disarmament scheme

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before you come under the fire of the Intervention Brigade.

4. A MESSAGE TO THE YOUTHS

We know that most of you were conscripted, but we also know that some of you voluntarily joined the rebels. Young people know that this war will continue to destroy your life and your future, it will prevent you from going to school, getting a degree and a job, and from being useful to your parents and to your family.

Know that you are among the future leaders of your country, and whatever you do today will affect you tomorrow. You still have the opportunity to escape from the rebel movement and join the current DDR/RR process which will guarantee your security and your future reintegration into society.



5. THE ROLE OF COMMUNITY LEADERS

As leaders, you have a great responsibility; you know that peace and security are fundamental prerequisites for any development. They lay the ground for the construction of basic infrastructure such as roads, offices, schools, hospitals, etc. Therefore, the active presence of both national and foreign armed groups constitutes a major hindrance to the development of the region.

Your involvement in the process of restoring regional peace, security and stability is highly solicited. So do not allow people to accuse you of being an accomplice of armed groups. In other words, do not give any assistance to armed groups; on the contrary, use your influence to encourage combatants to disarm.

6. MESSAGE TO WOMEN

Being a woman in the jungle of the DR Congo is a very precarious mode of existence. It is characterized by chronic insecurity and vulnerability. You can lose all your meager possessions at any time; you can be raped and even lose your life. You can make no plan either for yourself or for your children. You eat badly, you do not sleep well, you drink dirty water drawn from polluted rivers, and you are totally deprived of any proper sanitation, and you have no health insurance coverage.

You still have a window of opportunity to live in dignity and ensure a better future for yourself and for your children – considering all the miseries that you have been living through; it is advisable to sensitize your husband to give up the armed struggle and channel that energy towards fighting for the well-being of your family.



Please hand-over your weapon to MONUSCO or to FARDC



Weapons destruction ceremony May 9, 2013

CONTACT NUMBERS OF MONUSCO DDR/RR

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