



Mission de l'Organisation des Nations Unies
pour la Stabilisation en République
démocratique du Congo

United Nations Organisation Stabilization
Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo

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Public Information Division
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Press Release

Martin Kobler, Head of MONUSCO, and Jose Maria Aranaz, Director of the United Nations Joint Human Rights Office, welcome the Congolese Government's commitment to fighting torture and impunity.

Kinshasa, 26 June 2015 – « *I commend the efforts made by the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in its fight against torture, and I reaffirm MONUSCO's commitment to support the Congolese judicial authorities in their activities aimed at ending impunity for perpetrators of such crimes,* » stated Martin Kobler on the occasion of the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture celebrated on 26 June 2015.

Since 9 July 2011, torture is a crime in Congolese domestic law carrying severe penalties. In its four-year existence, this legislation has resulted in prison sentences imposed on a number of State agents and members of armed groups for torture as war crime or crime against humanity on the basis of the Military Penal Code and the Rome Statute.

« *We recall that the implementation of the zero tolerance policy associated with the systematic opening of thorough investigations, as well as the effective prosecution of each alleged perpetrator of torture or cruel and inhuman treatment, can play a deterrent role for any potential perpetrator and thus contribute to the eradication of these extremely grave acts,* » stressed Jose Maria Aranaz, UNJHRO Director.

Note to the editors

The International Day in Support of Victims of Torture is celebrated on 26 June 2015, and as the fourth anniversary of the law criminalizing torture draws near, MONUSCO welcomes the progress made in the DRC in the fight against this scourge. The Mission encourages the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, the NGOs dealing with issues of human rights protection, and the National Human Rights Commission to continue, in collaboration with the UNJHRO, their awareness-raising activities for the defense and security forces, the judicial authorities and civil society on the practice of torture and its consequences, as well as on the content of the law criminalizing torture, and to ensure the law's effective implementation.



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The UNJHRO notes with satisfaction the convictions of General Jerome Kakwavu for torture as war crime in November 2014, and Lt. Colonel Engangela *alias* “Colonel 106” for torture as crime against humanity in December 2014. These convictions marked the culmination of several years of efforts by Congolese military justice (seven years for the case of Colonel 106), which all along benefited from the support of MONUSCO – including the UNJHRO- and other national and international partners engaged in the fight against impunity. The UNJHRO supported the process from the investigation, reporting and advocacy phases through the criminal investigation and trial phases.



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