

Senator Roland Burris
387 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Burris:

Thank you for your on-going commitment to the people of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Please continue working to bring peace and prosperity to the Congo.

1) Urge the Senate to fully fund and implement Public Law 109-456: Democratic Republic of the Congo Relief, Security and Democracy Promotion Act of 2006 by

- a) withholding assistance from governments that are destabilizing the DRC (Section 105), such as Rwanda and Uganda,
- b) elevation of the Special Advisor to the Great Lakes, Howard Wolpe, to Special Envoy (as the bill recommended), and give him adequate resources and personnel,
- c) holding of a hearing on the status of PL 109-456's implementation and
- d) extension of Public Law 109-456 until at least 2015.

2) Increase aid to the Congo significantly, and direct more aid to education and to healing and empowering women and children.

3) Vote for and fund S.2982 International Violence Against Women Act (IVAWA)

4) Urge the Congress to support sustained, comprehensive diplomacy in the Great Lakes Region of Africa (that engages all parties) until 'real peace' is achieved.

5) Urge the US government to negotiate with the Rwandan government for the safe return of refugees still living in the Congo.

6) Support the arrest of FARDC (Congo army) personnel and members of militias who are accused of human rights abuses and help strengthen the Congo's judicial system in order that perpetrators of violence against non-combatants be brought to justice.

7) Support human rights training for all Congolese military and police, and urge disciplinary action for those who violate codes of conduct, especially rape.

8) Urge the U. S. government to investigate all US companies which may have fueled the Congo's conflict. Investigators should read the myriad studies conducted over the past 13 years to determine which companies have violated the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) guidelines and penalize the guilty.

9) Pass and implement S.891 Congo Conflict Minerals Act of 2009 after it is revised to strengthen auditing processes and penalties for non-compliance.

10) Pass and implement S.1700 Energy Security Through Transparency Act of 2009 which requires companies to, among other things, publish the payments they make to foreign governments for oil, gas and minerals.

11) Urge the World Bank and International Monetary Fund to require "revenue transparency" as a condition for future lending and technical assistance.

12) Extend UN Troop's presence in the Congo until real peace is secured.

Thank you for considering my requests. I would appreciate knowing about legislation that is proposed and passed in behalf of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Sincerely yours,