

## RESEAU EUROPEEN CONGO (REC)

### CONCERTATION CHRETIENNE POUR L'AFRIQUE CENTRALE / GREAT LAKES ADVOCACY NETWORK (CCAC/GLAN)

#### Press statement

#### **MONUC in the DRC: strengthen its mandate, denounce the warmongers**

#### **Proposals from European NGOs on the basis of a field survey**

Brussels, June 24th 2003 – At a time when the multinational force is being deployed in Bunia, when violence is being perpetrated in the whole of the eastern Congo and when the Security Council is discussing the renewal of MONUC's (United Nations Organisation Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo) mandate, the two European networks of development NGOs (REC and CCAC/Glan) have undertaken a field survey among their partners in the region\* as to the way in which MONUC is perceived by the local people. On the basis of their results , they have formulated a series of recommendations, which can be summarised as follows:

1- MONUC should better and more robustly execute the essential tasks entrusted to it under the present mandate: on the one hand, to observe and publicly and rapidly denounce cease-fire violations, foreign and Congolese troop movements and support in arms and troops to belligerents and, on the other, to execute the DDRRR demobilisation and rapatriation programme;

2- MONUC should be given a new mandate under Chap. 7 of the UN Charter (possibility of recourse to force) without geographical limitation as is presently the case with Operation Artemis in Bunia, in order to protect populations and undertake the DDRRR programme;

*\* Among the comments received: "You see MONUC vehicules around the town all the time but you don't see any real results. You get the impression that they spend a great deal of the time settling themselves in and running themselves. Then, because it is a large and diversified machine, they need people to monitor the whole machine..." explains one partner. Another describes how the MONUC people "go out to the field, but only after the fighting, to note and observe the damage and looting". A third explains that "the main tasks of MONUC are not correctly executed. MONUC makes no effort to secure/protect local populations"*

3- MONUC should be given all necessary means and personnel, and especially the indispensable political support to fulfil its mission; this political support should result in greatly increased methods of exerting pressure and in implementing sanctions such as the refusal of visas or freezing of assets) and in the conditioning of non-specific budgetary aid.

"Only this combination of measures will be able to contribute to the so much expected pacification in the DRC, at a time when the town of Lubero has been taken by the RCD and when the agreements concerning the establishment of inclusive

transition institutions should be put into place”, explain Jules Devos and Janne d’Othée.

**ANNEX: document “MONUC in DRC: strengthen its mandate,denounce the warmongers. Proposals by European NGOs on the basis of a field survey ”.**

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