

EVENTS OF THE PAST EXPERIENCED IN EASTERN DRC

The collective wounds of the people living in the eastern part of the DRC described as “the triangle of death” are linked specifically to their daily life experience: from governance, to the security issues, the socio-economics climate and human rights situation.

Firstly, it is necessary to point out the bad governance due to the political crisis, the institutional deadlock, as well as the ongoing economic crisis does not work in favor of the restoration of lasting peace between communities that know each other, work and live together. This has led to inter-community frustration and suspicion, often resulting in violent and bloody conflict, with medium- and long-term consequences of increasing poverty.

Then, there is the increase of urban crime, which is now part of the daily reality among the population. Apart from the security situation as a whole, which remains highly volatile and with the multiplication of active armed groups. The problem is widespread from the towns and their outskirts as well as in rural areas, where the death toll continues to rise by thousands each day, kept silent by those in power (at all decision-making levels).

It was against this backdrop of imbroglio that the bombing of peaceful citizens (war displaced people) in a camp for displaced people in the city centre took place, causing around thirty deaths.

This situation only worsened the anxiety of the population as a whole and deepened the wounds (which seemed to be somewhat healing).

The other aspect that is wounding the population is the (illegal) plundering of the country's natural resources. Unfortunately, the peaceful population continues to pay a heavy price.

The blatant violation of human rights should also be highlighted, as the scale of the violations suffered by the population is an alarming illustration, especially in the eastern part of the country. This decline is also the result of the deteriorating security situation in Kivu (North and South) and Haut Katanga. The arrival of the M-23 rebels and other militias and armed groups has only increased inter-community tensions. These communities continue to stare at one another, because the people behind these appalling acts belong to such or such communities. There is frustration, even when certain events (happy or unhappy) are commemorated. Fear is always present, and mistrust grows, already creating psychosomatic illnesses. Observation made by a psychoanalyst working in a "mental health" care organisation.

More often than not, the militias in question are created, supported and equipped by certain leaders of neighbouring countries and their collaborators in the institutions of the republic.

As for the socio-economic situation, the indicators continue to remain alarming. These are worrying trends that are having a negative impact on people's lives. There is also social unrest in many sectors of national life, following the soaring prices of basic necessities on local markets.

In view of the above, we have the impression that the people's wounds are still gaping and visible, so much so that they can find no other option than to take revenge; first against their leaders, then against all the other structures that seem to be at the root of their misery. According to the people interviewed, "revenge is the ultimate solution to bring peace and calm people's spirits".

Goma