President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama:

I want to thank you for your continuing efforts to secure peace and humanitarian relief in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.  Public Law 109-456 (the Democratic Republic of the Congo Relief, Security, and Democracy Promotion Act) which you introduced into the Congress provides for concrete steps toward ending the war and sexual violence that are devastating the country and its people. I urge your administration to fully and immediately implement this important law.

Title 1, Sec. 105 authorizes the withholding of funding from any governments that are supporting destabilizing activities undertaken in the DRC.   It is critically important that the governments of neighboring countries be held accountable for their support of  groups that are destabilizing the DRC, especially in the eastern region. I urge your administration to withhold funding if these destabilizing activities do not end.

Although a peace accord was reached in the DRC in 2003 and the first democratic elections in over 40 years took place in 2006, the conflict continues to cause a complete shut-down of vast regions of the country, leaving civilians to fend for themselves against brutal attacks, torture, looting, rape and murder, as well as deprivation of the most basic conditions necessary for life. The International Rescue Committee's latest mortality estimate is  that 39,000 are still dying monthly.  Nearly half of these deaths are children under the age of five dying of preventable diseases and malnutrition.

The resolution of the conflict in the Congo will require a prolonged commitment of humanitarian funding and security by the international community and especially the sustained and diplomatic support of the United States. Please continue and intensify your efforts to end this conflict through implementation of the Democratic Republic of the Congo Relief, Security, and Democracy Promotion Act. Thank you for your attention to this urgent situation.

Sincerely,