

## Past Due: Remove the FDLR from Eastern Congo

In 1994, at Rwanda's moment of greatest need, the world turned its back. The Rwandan genocide and the subsequent flight of the *genocidaires* into the Democratic Republic of the Congo spawned eastern Congo's complex crisis—one that has led to the deaths of 5.4 million Congolese and threatens the future of millions more. The world has had fourteen years to take action against the perpetrators of the genocide and those who now terrorize eastern Congo in their name, but the international response remains sorely inadequate. Absent an international action plan to finally remove this scourge, eastern Congo will continue to suffer.

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### KEY FACTS

- The Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda, or **FDLR**, are Rwandan Hutu rebels based in eastern Congo, where they exploit natural resources for profit. The FDLR, some already guilty of genocide in Rwanda, regularly commit grave crimes against humanity, including rape and sexual violence.
- **MONUC** is the United Nations peacekeeping force in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. MONUC has a mandate to protect civilians from crimes against humanity.

- **Laurent Nkunda** is the leader of the National Congress for the Defense of People, or **CNDP**. The CNDP is a Congolese Tutsi rebel group that purports to protect civilians from the FDLR but is itself guilty of atrocities against civilians.

### ENOUGH'S 3 P'S FOR RIDDING EASTERN CONGO OF THE FDLR

The United States, European Union, and United Nations must work with the Congolese and Rwandan governments to implement a "carrots-and-sticks" approach to deal with the FDLR.

**Peace:** The carrots include increased support for a process known as **DDRRR**—demobilization, disarmament, repatriation, resettlement, and reintegration—that would return the FDLR to Rwanda. In addition, the international community must put sustained high-level diplomatic pressure on the Congolese government to sever its ties with the FDLR and on the Rwandan government to demonstrate that the individual FDLR combatants not wanted for genocide can safely return to Rwanda.

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**Protection:** MONUC must increase its presence in FDLR-controlled areas and expand FDLR defector "corridors"—where defectors and their dependents are safe and can start the demilitarization process. MONUC peacekeepers must also begin to deny the FDLR and other armed groups access to the minerals and other natural resources that fund their movements and expand



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its special forces capabilities for possible offensive operations, in coordination with the Congolese army, against the FDLR.

***Punishment:*** The international community must develop more serious sticks. The world has a responsibility to disrupt the command and control of FDLR leadership over combatants on the ground. First, the U.N. Security Council should expand the list of individuals for targeted sanctions—the freezing of

financial assets, limiting lines of communication, and imposing travel bans—and U.N. member states must aggressively enforce those sanctions. Second, those countries where FDLR political leadership live and work—specifically the United States, France, Germany, and Belgium—must investigate those individuals to determine how their political activities affect their resident status. To help end impunity on the ground, the International Criminal Court, or ICC, should focus its investigation on the Kivus.