

Laurenza, Melissa

From: Murry, Roger
Sent: Tuesday, February 5, 2019 9:27 AM
To: Murry, Roger
Subject: Final DRC Election Update - "The Congo is not Venezuela"

All,

Thank you for your attention to the DRC election in recent weeks. This will be my last group update on the 2018 DRC elections. I hope you found them helpful.

My biggest surprise over the past several weeks was just how transparent this process was and just how that mattered not one bit. We know the actual vote results, how the regime arrived at its deal with Felix, and, from Foreign Policy, how the U.S. went from asserting on January 10 that "the people of Congo...should determine their country's future" and committing to "hold accountable those who...impede the democratic process" to, on January 23 (full statement below), "saluting" a "democratic transfer of power." The Congolese, including the Catholic Church, did everything the international community asked them to do, up to and including lodging grievances through the appropriate legal channels, but ultimately CENI and the courts felt impunity to finalize illegitimate results. The regime got away with a clumsy and shameful fraud in full view of the Congolese and the world.

A U.S. official told me last week that "the Congo is not Venezuela." The official is wrong at the most basic level - the regimes of both countries have rejected the clear, sovereign and democratic will of their people - but correct in the only way that matters - for many reasons, the United States chose to forcefully demand respect for democracy in one country, but not the other. I hope to work with you to alter that calculus before the next Congolese political crisis occurs.

The DRC election sets many troubling precedents that I hope Congress can help to fix. The simplest and perhaps most important action picks up where Congress left off last year: the U.S. must follow through with strong and public sanctions against those that "impede[d] the democratic process," and soon. We cannot allow future Congolese electoral officials, or the three countries in the region holding elections this year, to think that no electoral fraud is too incompetent to merit consequences.

To end on an optimistic note, this weekend the regime allowed Martin Fayulu to hold his first rally since the vote, as seen here. Just as throughout the campaign, tens of thousands turned out.

Thank you again for your engagement in the DRC elections. I look forward to working with you in the weeks to come.

Best,

Roger P. Murry | Senior Policy Advisor

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STATEMENT BY ROBERT PALLADINO, DEPUTY SPOKESPERSON

January 23, 2019

U.S. Response to Constitutional Court Decision in the
Democratic Republic of the Congo

The United States welcomes the Congolese Constitutional Court's certification of Felix Tshisekedi as the next President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). We are committed to working with the new DRC government. We encourage the government to include a broad representation of Congo's political stakeholders and to address reports of electoral irregularities.

The United States salutes the people of the Democratic Republic of the Congo for their insistence on a peaceful and democratic transfer of power. We also recognize outgoing President Joseph Kabila's commitment to becoming the first President in DRC history to cede power peacefully through an electoral process.

This information is being disseminated by Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld on behalf of Moise Katumbi and Martin Fayulu. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, DC.