

Good afternoon –

I have a couple of things to share.

First is a video of the Facebook Live interview Gov. Katumbi did prior to his speech to the Atlantic Council on Thursday morning. In the video, Gov. Katumbi speaks, in French, directly to the people of the DRC about his plans to return to the DRC and the need for elections. It has already been viewed more than 110,000 times.

Next, according to multiple reports, there was a massacre in the Democratic Republic of Congo's Kasai Province. The slaughter – which appears to be DRC Army soldiers killing unarmed civilians – was captured in this graphic seven-minute video. Analysts believe the atrocity occurred within the past 10 days.

According to the New York Times:

The video opens with a squad of soldiers walking down a sandy, sunlit road toward a group of people who are chanting.

Then the soldiers – who appear to be uniformed members of the national army of the Democratic Republic of Congo, accompanied by a heavy military truck – raise their weapons.

They start firing.

One by one, the figures in the road drop. Oddly, several of the people do not make any attempt to run from the advancing soldiers.

The soldiers then saunter up to the wounded, blasting them in the head with assault rifles from a few feet away. Many of the victims look young; several are women.

None carry guns.

And great uncertainty hangs over the teeming, beleaguered capital, Kinshasa, as Congo's president, Joseph Kabila, seems to retreat deeper into the corner he has put himself in, with no plan to leave.

Just this week, the government announced that it did not have the money to hold an election in 2017, after the ruling party agreed a few weeks ago to do just that. Under Congo's Constitution, Mr. Kabila should not even be in office now. His second and final term was over in December. He is deeply unpopular, increasingly isolated and suspected of stealing hundreds of millions of dollars through fraudulent mining deals.

And Reuters further reported:

Earlier this week, a U.N. spokeswoman said the apparently high death toll over the last two weeks suggested "excessive and disproportionate use of force by the soldiers".

Militia violence in Congo, a tinder box of conflicts over land, ethnicity and minerals, has been worsened by President Joseph Kabila's failure to step down when his mandate expired in December, and analysts say it risks spinning out of control.

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Democratic Republic of Congo Update - VIDEO: Army Soldiers Massacre Citizens

On Thursday an ethnic Nande "Mai Mai" militia in the eastern Congolese village of Kyaghala killed at least 19 mostly ethnic Hutu civilians, a local activist group monitoring the area said on Saturday, the latest bout of ethnic violence that has killed scores of people since late last year.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,
Craig

NOTE: *These materials are distributed by DCI Group AZ, L.L.C. for Akin Gump Straus Hauer and Feld LLP on behalf of Moise Katumbi, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, DC.*

Reply Reply All Forward

Democratic Republic of Congo: Gov. Moise Katumbi Expresses Intention to Return to DRC

Craig Stevens

Friday, February 17, 2017 11:25 AM

Good afternoon –

Gov. Moise Katumbi was in Washington, DC, earlier this week to talk with U.S. State Department officials, Congressional leaders, and give remarks at The Atlantic Council expressing his intention to return to the Democratic Republic of Congo in an effort to press Pres. Kabila to stick to the CENCO agreement so that the DRC can have its first peaceful, democratic transition of power in the country's history.

"I look forward to returning to my country and working toward our first democratic transition and the establishment of enduring democracy, prosperity and peace in the Democratic Republic of Congo," Gov. Katumbi said.

In his remarks (available [here in English](#) and [here en francais](#)), Gov. Katumbi praised the life of President Tshisekedi:

Again and again, the Congolese people have bravely declared their determination to have fair and free elections, consistent with our country's Constitution. Too many people have lost their lives so that democracy will live.

A few weeks ago, we lost a big brother in this honorable struggle. Etienne Tshisekedi put his heart and soul into the fight for democracy and the rule of law. We mourn his passing and extend our condolences to his family. However, to truly honor his memory, we must continue the unfinished work to which he dedicated his life.

Discussed the anticipated ruling from CENCO on his conviction:

Under the 2016 Agreement, in the coming week, representatives from CENCO will render a judgement about my conviction in the Congo on fraud charges and the accompanying sentence of three years in prison.

I fully expect I will be exonerated. The charges were bogus. The evidence was fabricated. The conviction was a miscarriage of justice - the pollution of our court system by politics.

If CENCO affirms my innocence - as I am confident it will - then I will be a free man – a man eager to work with all Congolese people of good will to ensure the 2016 Agreement is implemented and elections take place at the end of the year.

In the unlikely case that CENCO affirms the conviction then I will accept that decision and relinquish my freedom. The agreement must be honored.

Either way I am returning. With the date approaching for CENCO to render its decision, now is the time for my return – a day I have long looked forward to.

And called on President Kabila to honor the CENCO ruling and the 2016 Agreement: