

Rebecca Neville

From: Craig Stevens
Sent: Monday, February 26, 2018 10:04 AM
Subject: DRC: Supporters of Free Elections Killed and Arrested Yesterday

Good morning –

Below is an update on the growing unrest in the Democratic Republic of Congo as citizens continue to march in support of free and fair democratic national elections. Despite his term legally ending in December 2016, Joseph Kabila has maintained the office of president – often by force – and continues to refuse citizens’ desires for an election. This weekend a march in support of elections turned deadly as Kabila forces killed at least two protesters, while injuring and arresting dozens more.

Thanks,
Craig

- **Reports out of the Democratic Republic of Congo overnight say that at least two people were killed, at least 47 were injured, and more than 100 were arrested – including members of the clergy – when marching in support of democratic elections yesterday.** This comes on the heels of another deadly march in support of new elections and against the sitting president in December when security forces killed “about a dozen” citizens.
- **The United States and other countries continue to apply pressure to DRC leaders as sanctions lists have grown (See: UN Security Council report, U.S. Dept. of the Treasury, Human Rights Watch report, and Bloomberg report on Dan Gertler sanctioning), and public support for elections swells.**

From the U.S.’s perspective, since Amb. Nikki Haley began her tenure as the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, few subjects have taken more time than the ongoing situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Amb. Haley has remained a strong voice in support of free, fair, and democratic elections in the DRC, recently calling for the use of paper ballots, instead of electronic voting in the upcoming election:

“These elections must be held by paper ballots so there is no question by the people about the results. The U.S. has no appetite to support an electronic vote.”
Haley told the meeting, which was organized by the United States.

In October 2017, Amb. Haley made a three-day trip to the DRC at the conclusion of which she said:

"The US will not support anything in 2019. The international community will not support anything in 2019," said Haley, "Every day we don't have elections in this country someone dies."

- **Last week in Brussels, Belgium, exiled DRC opposition leader Moise Katumbi attempted to get a passport so that he could travel outside of Belgium and ultimately return home. He was unsuccessful.** Hubert Leclercq at La Libre Afrique has the story, which I've summarized below:

Former Katanga Province Governor Katumbi was, according to the report, made to sit in the waiting room while embassy officials attempted to figure out what to do. Ultimately, Mr. Katumbi was not granted a passport because "Kinshasa" had to be involved. Kinshasa is the capital of the DRC and is, probably, code for need to engage the ruling party, specifically President Kabila.

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.*