

UNITED NATIONS
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Democratic Republic of
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30 September 2011

To Whom It May Concern,


In the course of my work as a DDR/RR officer for MONUSCO, I have come to know and appreciate the work of The Voice Project who has begun to assist our efforts in sensitizing the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA).

DDR/RR MONUSCO is mandated by the UN Security Council to solicit the voluntary surrender and repatriation of members of foreign armed groups in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). To do so, our office works with local radio stations to broadcast messages that encourage members of these armed groups to surrender and return home.

The LRA entered the DRC in September 2005 and since September 2008 has begun a campaign of violence against Congolese citizens as well as their neighbors in Southern Sudan and the Central African Republic. Due to the regional nature of the threat, DDR/RR has worked to develop a regional sensitization strategy using local radio stations in Dungu, Faradje, Yambio, Obo and Kampala. Current debriefs of LRA defectors frequently report that they listen to the radio and that the messages sent positively impacted their decision to return home.

The Voice Project is working to improve the quality of our radio programming by assisting local radio stations and networking musicians in the region to work together to send a common message to the LRA. This not only assists our work in soliciting the defection of individual members but also strengthens and supports the various affected communities who are attempting to respond to the threat and its traumatic effects.

I, and my section, will continue to support the efforts of the Voice Project in their efforts and we hope they will receive the support they need to perform this initiative.

Sincerely,

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