

# STATEMENT BY WOMEN'S RIGHTS & HUMAN RIGHTS NGOs OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO ON THE PROSECUTIONS BY THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT

"Obtaining further charges in the open case against Mr Thomas LUBANGA"

We, participants in the seminar/workshop on capacity building for human rights organizations, members of the *Coalition Congolaise pour la Justice Transitionnelle* and of women's organizations of Essaim, addressing the fight against impunity in the Democratic Republic of The Congo, from the provinces of South Kivu, North Kivu, Maniema, Eastern Kasai, Western Kasai, Katanga, Ecuador, of the Eastern Province and of the city of Kinshasa, seminar held in Beni in the province of North Kiva from September 14 to 16 2006, in the assembly room of the *Centre d'Accueil Protestant* with the support of Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice, celebrate the formal accusation on August 28, 2006, of Mr Thomas Lubanga, leader of the *Union des Patriotes Congolais* (UPC), one of the operational militias in Ituri, in the North-East of the Democratic Republic of Congo, by the International Criminal Court.

However, we deeply regret that the only charge knowingly brought pertains to the enlistment and conscription of child soldiers.

Without minimizing this charge, as human rights organisations we stress that the UPC has committed several other crimes falling under the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court, and for which the details have been submitted to the Office of the Prosecutor by national and international NGOs. In particular we draw attention to the widespread commission of rape and other forms of sexual violence by the UPC and the responsibility of the ICC to address impunity for gender based crimes.

Between September 28, 2006, the date of the confirmation hearing, and the opening of the audience before the Trial Chamber, the Prosecutor should conduct further investigations to add additional charges in light of the reality of the crimes committed in the field.

The workshop participants are surprised by the limited charges brought and feel that, if no improvements are made, these charges risk offending the victims and strengthen the growing feeling of mistrust in the work of the International Criminal Court in the DRC and in the work of the Prosecutor especially.

Dated at Beni, on September 16, 2006

N°	Organisation /Association	Province
01	ASADHO / Katanga /C.C.J.T.	Katanga
02	OCDH / Equateur / C.C.J.T.	Equateur
03	Réseau de Kisangani	Province orientale
04	FESA / Uvira	Sud Kivu
05	CFDE / Goma	Nord Kivu
06	GADHOP/Butembo	Nord Kivu
07	ASPD / Goma	Nord Kivu
08	SAFDE / Butembo	Nord Kivu
09	CERDF / ESSAIM / Kisangani	Province orientale
10	RADHOSKI / CPDH / Bukavu	Sud Kivu
11	MALI / Kindu / CCJT	Maniema
12	ADIF / Maniema	Maniema
13	ONE / Mbuji Mayi / CCJT	Kasaï oriental
14	ACIDH / Katanga / CCJT	Katanga
15	LOFEPAKO / Nord Kivu	Nord Kivu
16	Justice Plus / Ituri / CCJT	Province orientale
17	OCDH / Kinshasa / CCJT	Ville de Kinshasa
18	Ligue des Electeurs / Kinshasa / CCJT	Ville de Kinshasa
19	LIZADEEL / Kananga / CCJT	Kasaï occidental
20	Justice et Libération / Kisangani CCJT	Province orientale
21	ESSAIM / CCJT	Nord Kivu
22	Groupe LOTUS / Kisangani / CCJT	Province orientale
23	CEFEC / Beni	Nord Kivu
24	SOFEPADI / Ituri	Province orientale
25	ICJP / Bukavu / CCJT	Sud Kivu