



## Congo Memory Institute

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### PRESS RELEASE

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### **United Nations Security Council resolution 2348: a paradigm shift for civilian protection in the DRC and a turning point for the future of MONUSCO**

Congo Memory Institute welcomes the adoption of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2348 (2017) as a milestone development for the protection of civilians as well as the peaceful and democratic transfer of power in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

Recent debates at the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) on the DRC have demonstrated the International Community's increased commitment on the situation prevailing in the DRC since December 2016 as a result of the failure by the government of the DRC to organise democratic elections in order to transfer power to an elected president of the Republic and to national as well as local representatives. The prevailing political stalemate - a result of unjustifiable delays in the implementation of the political agreement of December 31, 2016 (known as the Saint Sylvestre Agreement, facilitated by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops in the DRC - CENCO) - and the deterioration of the security situation in North Kivu, Kongo Central and Kasai Central are the epitomization of the destabilization the DRC is facing, with the risks of reaching irreversible proportions.

Congo Memory Institute considers that the renewal of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the DRC (MONUSCO) mandate, with an emphasis on two strategic priorities - notably the protection of civilians and the support to the implementation of the 31 December 2016 agreement - is a new orientation taking into consideration the intersection between the ongoing insecurity and the necessity to protect civilian from human rights violations. This orientation needs to be explored to the fullest in its implementation by MONUSCO to reflect the resolve of UNSC members, throughout the United Kingdom's presidency in March and the commitment of the United States' UNSC presidency in April 2017.

Congo Memory Institute calls on MONUSCO to swiftly implement its mandate pertaining to the Saint Sylvestre Agreement, notably by ensuring that the institutions created by the Saint Sylvestre Agreement are appointed with due consideration to the deadline of 31 December 2017. In the light of reports alleging human rights violations of civilians, including the violation of civil and political rights, MONUSCO should develop a program aimed to protect civilians and political actors.

Congo Memory Institute further calls on MONUSCO to swiftly and strategically deploy its troops - including essential elements of the Intervention Brigade - in the Kasai regions where abhorrent reports of violations of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law have abounded and present the risks to spread beyond the Kasai regions.



Congo Memory Institute also welcomes the UNSC's decision to begin a strategic review of the implementation of MONUSCO's mandate since its creation in November 1999. Congo Memory Institute considers that the time is right to start assessing the efficiency of MONUSCO through its various mandates from its inception to date, through the lenses of achieved results and perception by the Congolese population.

In September 2010, Congo Memory Institute issued a comprehensive report titled "50 years of United Nations Peacekeeping Assistance in the DRC" (see <http://www.memorycongo.org/downloads/CMI-REPORT-092010.pdf>) which endeavored to examine 50 years of peacemaking operations in the DRC from resolution 143 (1960) to resolution 1925 (2010). It is therefore Congo Memory Institute's satisfaction that resolution 2348 (2017) launches an official strategic review.

Congo Memory Institute will provide its contribution to MONUSCO's strategic review; it believes that UNSC and MONUSCO will open a consultative process on the implementation of resolution 2348 to ensure that short term and long term mandates of the mission are adjusted to the expectations of the Congolese people.

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