

FOTC PERSPECTIVE POINTS

on the challenges facing Congo



1. The war in Congo is a resource war and not an ethnic one.
2. Congo's challenges are both internal and external.
3. Congo is caught in a geostrategic battle that is being played out on the backs of the people.
4. Since its modern founding in 1885, the affairs of the Congo have not been determined by the people of the Congo. Our movement aims to make sure that the affairs of the Congo are determined by the people of the Congo.
5. **There are TWO types of rapes taking place in the Congo:**
the raping of the women and the raping of the land and the two are inextricably linked
6. The best way to stop the brutal rapes is to stop the conflict.
7. **Two types of tragedies:**
the first is the obvious, the mass deaths and brutal rapes but the second is the unrealized potential of the people and their land.

CONGO is literally and figuratively the heart of Africa. It is the fulcrum on which the African continent swings. **Barack Obama** says *"If Africa is to achieve its promise, resolving the problem in the Congo will be critical."* Former South African president **Thabo Mbeki** notes *"There cannot be a new Africa without a new Congo."*

8. Congo has enormous potential (rainforest, fresh water reserves, agriculture, hydro-power, minerals, and most importantly, its diverse and resilient people).
9. The global movement in support of the Congo is as important today as the free south Africa/Anti-Apartheid movement was yesterday.
10. The focus of Friends of Congo is to shine a light on the situation in the Congo and provide support to people on the ground fighting day and night for justice, human dignity and control of their country. Ultimately it will be the Congolese who strike the final blow for justice, however, they will need friends outside the Congo at their side to combat the forces working against the interests of the people.
11. **FIVE FORCES are at work against the interest of the Congolese people:**
Foreign governments, foreign corporations, Multilateral institutions (World Bank & IMF for example), neighboring countries, and local elites.
12. The global movement in support of the Congo is as important today as the free south Africa/Anti-Apartheid movement was yesterday.
13. Long lasting peace and stability will come about through political means and not military.
14. Greater and more aggressive diplomatic intervention is needed to resolve the conflict and not military intervention .
15. The Congo issue/challenge is not solely a Congolese or an African issue but a world issue.