

CONGO CRISIS IN PERSPECTIVE: Artists, Activists, Researchers Speak Out.

The civil, regional and global war in the Eastern Congo has been going on since 1996. During this period, more than 5.5 million people have been killed—more casualties than in any conflict since WWII. An estimated 1000 people die every day as a result of the conflict and associated issues like malnutrition and disease. Countless numbers of women and girls have been brutally and systematically raped and tortured. Yet, one has to search the media for any coverage at all. Reuters refers to the war in Congo as “the forgotten crisis.”

The Department of African American Studies, The Public Square of the Illinois Humanities Council and the United African Organization and the United Nations Association—USA Greater Chicago Chapter present a roundtable discussion on the **Congo Crisis in Perspective, Wednesday, October 14, 6 – 8 pm at Grace Place Episcopal Church, 637 Dearborn Street in the Chicago Loop.**

Panelists:



Maurice Carney is co-founder and Executive Director of Friends of the Congo. He is human rights activist who has fought with Congolese for over a decade to bring about positive change in the heart of Africa. He has worked as a research analyst at the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies. He served as the Africa working group coordinator for Reverend Jesse Jackson as Special Envoy to Africa.



Emilie Ngo-Nguidjol Songolo is a feminist and human rights activist and the founder of AfriCaide, an organization working to provide health care to remote rural areas in the Great Lakes region of Africa and to combat Sexual and Gender Based Violence in the Eastern Congo. She is currently compiling a compendium of research on sexual violence in Africa.



Daniel Volman is the founder and Executive Director of the African Security Research Project based in Washington, D.C. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the Association of Concerned African Scholars and author of numerous articles and book chapters on African security, African militarization and the link between conflicts and minerals in Africa.

Moderators:



Lynette Jackson is an Associate Professor of African History and Gender and Women’s Studies at the University of Illinois at Chicago. She is an activist and scholar working on issues of sexual and gender based violence in Africa, particularly in conflict zones, and the to struggles combat them. She is a Board Member of The Public Square of the Illinois Humanities Council and a member of the Chicago Committee of Human Rights Watch. Dr. Jackson is the author of *Surfacing Up: Psychiatry and Social Order in Colonial Zimbabwe*, Cornell University Press, 2005.

Prexy Nesbitt is a Lecturer in African History at Columbia College, Chicago. He is a long-time African activist with extensive national and international experience. He formerly served on the staff of the American Committee on Africa and the board of The Africa Fund. He founded the Coalition for Illinois’ Divestment from South Africa. His writings include *Apartheid in Our Living Rooms* (1986).

For more information, contact the Department of African American Studies at UIC at (312) 996-2952.