



United States  
Conference of  
Catholic Bishops

Committee on  
International Justice  
and Peace

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July 8, 2025

Most Reverend Félicien Mwanama  
Bishop of Luiza  
Chairman  
Justice and Peace Commission  
National Episcopal Conference of the Congo (CENCO)  
B.P. 3258  
Commune de la Gombe  
Democratic Republic of the Congo

“Blessed are the peacemakers” (Matthew 5:9)

Dear Bishop Mwanama,

On behalf of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee on International Justice and Peace, I write to express our profound solidarity with the Bishops of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and the whole Congolese people as you continue your tireless work for lasting peace and social cohesion in your country.

We are hopeful that the peace agreement signed by the foreign ministers of the DRC and Rwanda on June 27<sup>th</sup> in Washington will serve as a tangible step towards ending the long history of violence and displacement suffered by our brothers and sisters in the East of the country. We also recognize that inclusive dialogue, accountability, and transparency remain crucial for building a peaceful and prosperous future for all citizens.

As diplomatic efforts continue, we echo [the words of Pope Francis during his Apostolic Visit in 2023](#): “Room needs to be made for diplomacy that is authentically human, for a diplomacy where peoples are concerned for other peoples, for a diplomacy centred not on control over land and resources, expansionism and increased profits, but rather on providing opportunities for people to grow and develop.”

We pray for the continued fruitfulness of the pastoral and prophetic mission carried out by CENCO along with the Church of Christ in Congo (ECC) as you promote the “Social Pact for Peace and Living Together in the DRC and the Great Lakes.”

We ask for the intercession of Blessed Floribert Bwana Chui bin Kositi, [beatified by Pope Leo XIV on June 15th](#), for peace in his native Goma and in the whole country. In imitation of this “man of peace,” may we all “battle for peace and meekness, serving the poor, practicing friendship and encounter in a fractured society.”



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Fraternally Yours in Christ,

The Most Reverend A. Elias Zaidan  
Bishop of Maronite Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon  
Chairman, Committee on International Justice and Peace

Cc: Msgr. Donatien Nsholé, Secretary General, CENCO