FOCDP PRESS RELEASE: NEW BREAK-IN AT THE FOCDP HEADQUARTERS

The Congolese Foundation for the Promotion of Human Rights and Peace (FOCDP), once again deplores the violation of its premises in Kisangani, Democratic Republic of Congo. The unidentified violators operated in a surprisingly discreet manner on the night of Sunday, 25 March to Monday, 26 March 2012 with professionalism. During their operation, the brigands, after forcing the doors of different rooms, conducted a systematic search of lockers, carrying with them only copies of three publications, a copy of the legal personality of the organization, a Bible and some pictures.

This is the second criminal act done within the same month, which raises concerns about the diligence of the investigation of the criminal police and the prosecution into the case after the first violation.

The FOCDP also denounced the context of insecurity in which FOCDP Executive President and Coordinator of the DRC National Coalition for the International Criminal Court, Mr. André KITO Masimango, is working.

Indeed, the night of 16 March to 17 March, at around 1am, André KITO received death threats over the phone from a withheld number. The caller was speaking to him in Swahili: "Bwana, kama unafikiri ndugu yetu atakufa! Kabla ago Kurudi utaoza yake na watakusaabu", which can be translated as: "Sir, you think that our brother is dying! Before returning, you will rot and people will forget you."

On the day of 17 March at 11 am, Mr. Kito received a phone message number 243 995 181 430 which read as follows: "Mr. Kito, we know where you sleep and we see you at this time in this office. We remind you that Moreno is gone and we are with Fatou."

Note that these are serious threats which occurred after the intervention of André Kito on Radio Okapi and Congolese national television to give the main content of the judgment rendered by Trial Chamber I of the International Criminal Court in the Thomas Lubanga Dyilo trial.

The FOCDP demands that public authorities secure FODCP premises, its property and its Executive President in accordance with what is prescribed in Articles 16 and 34 of the Constitution of the Democratic Republic of Congo. It is also asking the judicial authorities to expedite investigations so that perpetrators are held accountable under the law.

[Informal Translation]