

**Suggested Questions for the hearing on “The Democratic Republic of the Congo: Securing Peace in the Midst of Tragedy” by the Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, and Human Rights**

1. Reacting to the UN “Report of the Mapping Exercise documenting the most serious violations of human rights and international humanitarian law committed within the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo between March 1993 and June 2003”[[1]](#footnote-1), Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Public Affairs, Philip J. Crowley, said in a press statement that: “The United States is firmly committed to helping the DRC and other nations in the region take positive steps to end the corrosive cycle of violence and impunity.”[[2]](#footnote-2) **What steps has the Department of State taken so far to follow up on the recommendations of this report?**

2. On October 1, 2010 the United Nations released a report on atrocities committed in the Democratic Republic of the Congo from 1993-2003 by foreign armies among them the armies from Rwanda, Uganda and Burundi and different rebel groups. This report contains recommendations to end impunity in the Great Lakes. **What role can the US play in ending impunity in this region and the Congo in particular?**

3. Two hundred and twenty Congolese organizations support the recommendations of the UN Mapping Report released on October 1, 2010, **how can the US be engaged in supporting the Congolese call for justice?**

4. There have been insufficient actions taken on the US Public Law 109-456, *Democratic Republic of the Congo Relief, Security, and Democracy Promotion Act of 2006[[3]](#footnote-3),* by the Obama administration, particularly the appointment of the envoy to the region. **What other elements of this law require immediate attention?**

5. In his speech in Ghana, President Obama said "Africa doesn't need strongmen, it needs strong institutions." **Is the US supporting strong men or supporting strong institutions?** If not, what actions should the US government take to support strong institutions in the Great Lakes?

 6. Since 2006, Jean-Bosco Tanganda is wanted by the International Criminal Court (ICC)[[4]](#footnote-4), but he remains a free man and ranking member of the Congolese army. **How can we talk about peace, stability and justice where there is obvious impunity?**

1. Report of the Mapping Exercise documenting the most serious violations of human rights and international humanitarian law committed within the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo between March 1993 and June 2003 < http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Countries/ZR/DRC\_MAPPING\_REPORT\_FINAL\_EN.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Philip J. Crowley, UN Mapping Report on Violations of Human Rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo < <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2010/10/148549.htm>> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. S. 2125 [109th]: Democratic Republic of the Congo Relief, Security, and Democracy Promotion Act of 2006 <http://www.govtrack.us/congress/billtext.xpd?bill=s106-2125> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. http://www.icc-cpi.int/Menus/ICC/Situations+and+Cases/Situations/Situation+ICC+0104/Related+Cases/ICC+0104+0206/ [↑](#footnote-ref-4)