**Proposed activities for the Commemoration of the Genocide against Hutus Refugees and Congolese in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)**

Since 1996 up to now Uganda and Rwanda have continued sending their armies in the Democratic Republic which has been characterized by genocide of more than 12 million of Congolese while the number of refugees massacred remain unknown, the various sites of the massacres against Hutu refugees remain unknown, the reason why they were massacred remain also unknown. Yet in DRC efforts have been made either at the community levels, local levels and national levels to build monuments in various sites where people were massacred from, and commemorations are organized each year in those sites.

The United Nations Mapping report clearly points out serious crimes committed by Rwandan Army against Hutus Refugee Camps in DRC just because they are Hutus, and this is the basis for organizing the very first memorial aiming at advocating for justice for all Hutus Refugees and Congolese victims.

This year on August 2nd, 2023 the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo organized the first Commemoration of the genocide in DRC which is called **GenoCost**, however again this event left out refugees especially Rwandan Hutu Refugees who have been massacred in DRC, apart from in North Kivu where activities included also refugees. However nothing is done on the side of Hutus refugees who have been massacred also.

It is in that line to promote also the visibility of Hutus refugees and ensure that the genocide against these refugees is also recognized that we intend to organize the very first Memorial of the Genocide against Hutus refugees in the Democratic Republic of Congo staring October 1st, 2023 up to October 30th, 2023.

**Objectives**

To advocate for the recognition of Hutus refugees massacred in DRC, identify the sites of the massacres and build memorial monuments in those sites at all levels, community, local and national levels,

To advocate for the inclusion of Hutus refugees in the National Memorial events at national level in DRC,

To advocate for the recognition of October 12th of each year as the National Day for the commemoration of the genocide against Hutus refugees in DRC,

To reflect on the current situation of Hutus refugees in DRC and draw a lesson on what to improve,

To advocate for justice and reparation and to call for the end of this human brutality,

**Organizers**

This year 2023 being the very first, organizers include COJESKI, Rwandan Bridge Builders, All for Rwanda and Rwanda for all, ….

**Place**

This year the very first memorial will take place in Goma, the Democratic Republic of Congo and will be covered in the whole country.

**Stakeholders**

The stakeholders will include Hutus refugees, local people from refugee host communities, local leaders, community leaders, government officials, actors of the Civil Society, the Media, Humanitarian Organizations, Development Partners, Human Rights Organizations, UN Agencies among others,

Date of the memorial is Thursday October 12th, 2023 in Goma, however we shall have a whole week of activities in line with the memorial,

**Activities**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| No | **Activities**  | **Objectives**  | **Date** | **Target Audience**  | **Person Responsible**  |
| 1. | Mobilizing partners  | To bring on board other actors  | 21/08- 03/09/2-023 | Refugees leaders, refugee groups, human rights organizations, UN Agencies and the Media  | COJESKI and Partners,  |
| 2. | Putting in place refugee groups  | To organize various events during the memorial  | 04/09-17/09- 2023 | Refugees and Host Community Groups  | COJESKI  |
| 3. | Engaging the Authorities  | To seek for the approval of our activities by the Mayor of Goma | 18/09 | To write to the Mayor of Goma | COJESKI  |
| 4. | Public engagement  | To create awareness about the situation of refugees  | 23/09-01/10 | Community Information sessions and Community meetings  | COJESKI AND PARTNERS  |
| 5. | Memorial Mass to launch the whole month of Commemoration  | To start the solemn commemoration  | 01/10 | The Public, Refugees and leaders at all levels  | Cojeski and Partners  |
| 6. | Public Caravan around Goma | To create awareness and invite the public  | 09/10 | In various places in Goma | Cojeski and Partners |
| 7. | The climax of the Commemoration  | To make the climax of the genocide against refugees | 27/10-2023 | The public, the Civil Society, the Government authorities, local leaders, Various organizations, UN Institutions  | Cojeski and Partners |

**Current activities**

**The mobilization of funds**: We shall embark of the mobilization of funds that will facilitate all our activities and for that a fundraising cause will be created in the website of GlobalGiving for online donations.

**The site of the Genocide against refugees in North Kivu**

During a meeting held on Sunday September 20th, 2023 which brought together 10 Hutus refugee community leaders, the roundabout CCLK junction was suggested as the public place where the first monument should be erected in Goma with the word “**Monument for the Genocide against Hutus Refugees in DRC**”

Field visit: On Friday September 1st, 2023 we shall visit this place and another place in Bulengo- Goma which is well-known as where thousands of refugees were buried. On October 16th, 2023 we shall officially visit sites around Goma where Hutus refugees were massacred from and collect testimonies. On October 23rd, 2023 we shall have a gathering with the survivors and the relatives of the victims.

**Memorial Mass**

A memorial Mass will be held in Buhimba on Tuesday October 1st, 2023 in order to launch the whole month of commemoration and the main Celebrant is proposed to be the Bishop of Goma or his representative. Meetings will start soon to identify refugee Catholics and organize in a Choir in order to join the other Two Choirs which will animate the Mass, refugees will be also organized in various groups in order to cover the whole Mass activity,

**Caravan**

On the eve of the Commemoration that means on October 24th, 2023 a Caravan of Vehicles, Motorcycles, and refugees together with the host Communities will circulate in the whole Goma from 1pm to 5pm mobilizing people about this memorial. On the following day in the evening a big fire will light in Bulengo where people will pass the whole evening, testimonies will be made, and explanation of the massacre of refugees done, plus a moment of silence to reflect on this situation.

On October 27th, 2023 the climax of the commemoration, activities will start exactly with a procession from CCLK roundabout up to ISC Goma where all activities will take place from. The procession on roadside will start at 8am up to 10am.

This year Genocide against Hutus refugees and Congolese in DRC will end at 1pm with word from the organizers and the reminder for next year’s commemoration.

Thanks

**COJESKI/DRC, Coordination of North Kivu**