

Rape becomes a new weapon to disgrace women in South Kivu Province

A Report from the Africa Appeal of the Traditional Anglican Church of Canada, Parishes of St. Bride & St. Columba, British Columbia

<http://www.traditionalanglican.ca/index.htm>

<http://parishofstbride.webs.com/>

On Saturday July 16th 2011, the Vancouver Sun published an excellent article, detailing the efforts of a group of seven women, all Nobel Peace Prize winners, to bring to light the terrible and cruel use of rape as a weapon of war. The article spoke to the problem which this has caused in society, and made a particular reference to Eastern Congo (Democratic Republic of Congo - DRC) and the province of Sud-Kivu.

Since that time, and the efforts of these women, the impetus to act and resolve the damage caused by this vile act has gained strength. So this article is an invitation to you to join in this movement, by a contribution to the founding of a school, 'L'Ecole de couture', where women the victims of this terrible crime can find shelter, the means to earn a living through the skills being taught, and security in an otherwise insecure world.

These women are the victims of a double crime: rendering the committal of the violence even more reprehensible. It is by the rape of the women in a village that the very fabric of that village society is rent asunder. It means that the ties of blood and family are destroyed, and the women, often left pregnant, find themselves abandoned and destitute, through no fault of their own, save that of being in the wrong place at the wrong time.

Abandoned in the villages, many will travel to the city, where the old ties are less, and your history does not follow you. For these women, the Eglise Catholique Anglicane du Congo, under Bishop Steven Ayule-Milenge, plans to establish a sewing school: l'Ecole de Couture, so that in this new and uncertain city life, they will be able to survive, earn a modest income, and take care of their children. The budget proposed by Bishop Steven for this project is \$3,500.00: but I would prefer to see the funds raised be far in excess of this target, as the need is so very great, and the labourers in the harvest are so few, and the provision of several like projects would prove of great worth at restoring as far as possible some human dignity to these our Sisters in Christ.

Here are the stories of two of these women:

It is very difficult to understand how people are living in the villages, townships and cities of Eastern Congo. I start to fear what is going on in our Province. Here following are some cases I have found in my office. Here are pictures and story of each case.



First this lady is called Wivine Bora, she is 17 years now; her mother was raped at 1996 when Rwandese refugees were staying in the province; she was pregnant and now has a baby who she has called her daughter Wivine Bora. She doesn't know her father because she was born on sexual violence and was elevated with grandfather's house. The sad period of Wivine came at age of 14 years she has lost her grandfather and was obliged to leave the village and comes to stay in her uncle's house at the city of Bukavu. The problems of water and power in some of Africa's cities had led Wivine to be raped when she was going to look for water because there are no water in the house's taps. She was pregnant when she was 15 years old. Rape is a shame act in Congolese society which leads victim to

lack hope in his life. November 25th, 2012 Wivine has her first daughter and called her Virginia. I met Wivine first time when she came with our faithful to worship Sunday in our parish on February 2013. I have heard her say that she is unable to make small business for feeding her daughter. She needs short sewing training in a workshop for six months only because it is not easy to study longtime and feed her daughter Virginia. A short training of six months in a sewing workshop costs about US\$ 200 in the town. A sewing machine costs US\$ 500 in Bukavu's city. This may help to feed her daughter because it is not possible to get a long training with the big charge of child.

Secondly, Ms. Faraja Banywesize has 16 years old; her father was killed by Tutsi rebel when she was one month old during the first war of 1996. She was brought up by her mother who was married by another person two years after the death of Faraja's father. She was raped by a businessman of 58 years who has left the town and went to the neighbour country after corrupted the Police. Faraja is waiting for a baby at August without any assistance to pay clinic requirement fees and feed the future child. She wishes to get



a short training of six months in sewing workshop as Wivine has related previous in this article. The cost of training in workshop is about \$US 200 in the town. A sewing machine costs US\$ 500 in Bukavu's city. To help these two ladies is to build their future because they do not have any hope of life. She came to my office every Wednesday for psychological counseling with other women. Your assistance is quickly needed and very importance to assist Wivine and Faraja two cases we have now in my Parish Sainte Trinité Bukavu.

Thirdly, the diocese in the near future needs to open a sewing's workshop project in the city of Bukavu if we find somebody to fund the project which seems to be very important for raped girls and women, and for poor women and girls to train them to sew for six or ten months. The project will need to buy some sewing machines and materials for training. After six months she can be able to sew alone because she will be fully trained. The last four months can be consecrated for getting small income from cloths sewed in the diocesan sewing workshop to buy own sewing machine. The total cost of project is estimated on US\$ 4,500. By presenting this request of assistance to those who are in needs the Church thinks to realize his duty to help poor people who are living in bad situation. Your assistance is much needed for starting up the different projects to help persons quoted above.

Thanks and blessing Trinity.

+The Right Reverend Steven AYULE-MILENGE
Bishop Ordinary of ACC-MDCongo

Note: Bishop Steven has written to say that on the 27th July, Faraja was safely delivered of a baby girl hospital in Bukavu: she will leave hospital to stay with her mother. And we have received funds to start the Ecole de Couture, with two sewing machines, for which we all rejoice, especially Faraja and Wivine. Can we do better?



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How to give support to this project, & the church in Congo (DRC) & Cameroon:

There are no deductions from moneys received by the Appeal: the full dollar amount is sent to either Cameroon or Congo: any overheads are paid from gifts received for this purpose.

In Canada: donations are tax deductible and can be sent to:

The Parish of St. Bride, c/o 20895 Camwood Ave., Maple Ridge, BC, V2X 2N9

Or:

The Parish of St. Columba, c/o Box 894, Sechelt, BC, V0N 3A0

Please make a note that the funds are for the Africa Appeal on the front of the cheque. Tax receipts will be issued by the parishes.

In the USA:

The ACC Mission Fund, The Anglican Catholic Church, PO Box 5223, Athens, GA 30604

In Australia:

Anglican Aid Abroad, PO Box 256, GRANGE, QLD 4051

Or:

A safe and inexpensive way of sending your gift is to make a deposit at any **WESTPAC BRANCH** to our Account at Morningside:

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If you need a receipt (for tax purposes) or acknowledgement in the newsletter, please write to tell us your name, details of the deposit and enclose a self-addressed envelope. If you intend the donation for a special project, please let us know, so we can designate it accordingly.

In the UK: Cheques should be made payable to 'Anglican Catholic Church - Diocese of the United Kingdom' and marked on the back: "Missions - Cameroon or Congo" as appropriate and sent to:

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