

## Policy Forum on Transitional Justice and Dealing with the Past in North Kivu, DRC

On 14 November 2018, Impunity Watch, in partnership with Pole Institute, organised a Policy Forum with provincial authorities and political actors from North Kivu Province in Goma, Democratic Republic of Congo.



The objectives of the Forum were to present the findings from Impunity Watch's research into transitional justice (JT) in the DRC, including the recommendations developed by the local population. The Forum also provided space to discuss the role that political actors can play in the establishment, the promotion and the implementation of mechanisms and initiatives for dealing with the past

The provincial government was represented by a delegate from the Ministry of Justice and a delegate from the Ministry of the Interior, with the Judiciary \ represented by a delegate of the Attorney General at the Goma Court of Appeal. A structure bringing together the notables of the different communities of North Kivu (*Baraza La Wazée*, in Swahili, "The court of the wise"), was represented by its 1st vice-president. The president of a political party also participated. But, it was the Provincial Assembly of North Kivu that was most highly represented, with a delegation led by the Honourable President of the Provincial Assembly himself.

Among the participants at the Forum were a number of candidates in the upcoming legislative elections scheduled for 23 December 2018.

During the discussions, the authorities and political actors recognised the difficulties of putting TJ measures in place, especially for truth-telling about past crimes, because some of the alleged perpetrators currently occupy positions of power at the national level. However, during the ongoing election period and beyond, the participants agreed to work to sensitise the population through civil society to claim their rights. They also pledged to advocate for the introduction of TJ education into academic curricula at universities across the country to enable students and future leaders to learn about how to address legacies of violence. The political actors present at the Forum furthermore committed to work on trauma-healing among victims.

The report *Initiatives locales et attentes des populations* (June 2018) is available [in French](#).

The report, *Justice transitionnelle en République Démocratique du Congo: Avancées, Obstacles... et Opportunités ?* (March 2017) is available [in French](#).



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