

Congo**From:** Melanne Vermeer [REDACTED]**RELEASE IN PART**
B1,1.4(D),B6**To:** hdr22@clintonemail.com**Subject:** Congo

B6

I met with Dr. Mugwege whom Eve Ensler brought to DC. They had hoped to meet with you and I promised to relay their message to you. Dr. M is as close as I'll ever come to meeting a live saint. Bob Herbert wrote about him a few days ago in a gripping column. Dr. M runs a small clinic in eastern Congo that serves hundreds of women every day whom he and his small team try to sew up after they are brutally raped and tortured in what has become nothing less than sexual terrorism. Fistula results from most cases and many are so bad they can't be repaired.

As you know, this is rape as a tool of war but a purposeful war strategy to gain valuable minerals by destroying the life sustaining role that women play and thereby subduing entire communities.

Dr. M and Eve also met with Boxer, Feingold and Durbin (in separate meetings) today. Boxer is going to focus her first subcommittee hearing on violence against women in Darfur and the DRC. She would like to take a high-level Codel to Congo to meet with the women and hear about the consequences of the systematic rapes firsthand and focus greater attention on the violence. S he is also going to push for a UN-trained women's strike force to protect women and for more federal assistance for protection and treatment.

Durbin and Feingold are interested in getting legislation passed that would require certification of minerals imported from DRC, like coltan which is important for cell phones and laptops. The civilians are terrorized by the rebel groups seeking to capitalize on the mining of these minerals. If there is a relationship, the import would be banned.

Dr. M believes that you -- as perhaps the most powerful woman in the world -- can really make a difference on the behalf of the brutally violated women in DRC.

*there has to be a political solution or the violence will continue. Kabila and Kagame have to be at the center of discussions that Dr. M hopes you would lead. [REDACTED]

1.4(D)

[REDACTED] Kagame has received a lot of support from the US and Dr. M believes we have leverage that we should use [REDACTED]

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*Need greater protection for civilians. There needs to be support for new Congolese armed forces and training of women policy officers and other steps to deal with the sexual violence.

Dr. M gave me a letter that Sen. Obama sent to Condi Rice in late 2007 with a series of questions about what the State Dept was doing to deal with the systematic violence in Congo. Last year Rice presided over a Security Council hearing to gain passage for US-led SC Res 1820 condemning rape as a tool of war. Little has happened in the six months since, but a report and plan of action is due in June.

There is great expectation that you, the President and Susan Rice will bring new, desperately needed leadership to this challenge. For her part, Eve has launched a worldwide grassroots campaign against the violence being perpetrated against women in Congo.

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