

# PLEA FOR THE OPENING OF THE BORDERS AND THE FREE MOVEMENT OF PERSONS. THE CASE OF THE DIASPORA FROM THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO.

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## **Introduction**

On the global scale, migration is almost as old as the world itself. At a time when the current borders, which I like to call “artificial borders” didn't exist, people could leave any place in the world to settle anywhere else, according to their needs, be it for grazing, agriculture or simply for their survival. The human being has always naturally been a traveler.

The barbaric invasions, explorations, the Arab conquest, the Occupation of the New World, as well as the triangular trade, were considered as “defendable, acceptable, legitimate, etc.”, because they served the interests of other people. But when it comes to African migration, the West seems more radical, digs its heels in and takes a large number of drastic measures.

Today, Europe would like to reduce African migration by political, legal and administrative means, whereas the Eastern European borders were first opened to encourage the Eastern European people to migrate, so that they can live and work in the West. In the southern Mediterranean countries, people were talking about strengthening and negative consequences for human life, while in the East of the European continent, this was seen as an expansion.

Any action led in order to prevent migration is contrary to nature and is therefore doomed to fail. Because when people go against nature, there is nothing left. The French dictionary *Larousse* defines nomadism as a "lifestyle which is characterized by the movement of human groups in order to satisfy their needs." And that's precisely what the current generation of African migrants is doing. They also have this “nomadic instinct”. This is how the human race has spread worldwide from Africa, which is considered as the cradle of humanity.

According to a Congolese saying, “When a house burns, its inhabitants take refuge with their neighbors”. It is from this point of view that the current African migrants in general, and particularly the Congolese migrants, leave their burning houses to take refuge with their

European “neighbors”. The economy of the 54 African countries only accounts for 2% of the total world trade. It is a small and insignificant part, and it does not allow people to live decently. That’s why they think migration could be a palliative.

This article will try to explain the advantages of migration from the Democratic Republic of Congo to the West, and will be based on objective and verifiable indicators and reliable data. An analysis will compare the transfer of funds from the African migrants to their homelands and the accumulated support from the West, at a time when it is gradually decreasing. Finally, this article will try to make an appeal for the opening of the borders, in order to allow the African population to move freely and settle down here in the West. This is because it is statistically proven that the African migrants who gained access to the European labor market are currently working to compensate the deficit of the Official Development Assistance and of the European Foreign Investment.

### **Insight of the Democratic Republic of the Congo**

“The Democratic Republic of the Congo is an equatorial country, a subcontinent in the heart of the central/western part of Sub-Saharan Africa. It is surrounded by Angola, Congo Republic, the Central African Republic, South Sudan, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Tanzania and Zambia. Its territory also overlaps Ecuador, with a third to the north and two thirds to the south, with the Congo River that dominates the area. With 2.345.409 square kilometers, the country is bigger than the whole Western Europe. The Democratic Republic of the Congo is the second biggest country in Africa, after Algeria. It has 77.433.744 inhabitants (July 2014)<sup>1</sup>. In terms of inhabitants, the DR of Congo is the second biggest country in the world populated by black people, after Nigeria, which has 178.516.904 inhabitants (July 2014). Brazil, with 70 million Brazilians who have African origins, is the third biggest country.

Population is unevenly spread across the country’s territorial areas. It is mostly concentrated on plateau areas, savannas, along rivers and near the lakes. Mountains in the East and the mining areas are the most populated territories, as well as Kwilu and Kasai areas, and the capital, Kinshasa. Because of its size, the country is thinly populated, with an average of 63,6 people per square kilometer.

In the DRC, many caves that contains minerals have never been explored. With this amazing quantity of minerals such as copper, cobalt, diamonds, coltan and gold, the DRC is probably

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<sup>1</sup> <http://populationsdumonde.com/fiches-pays/republique-democratique-du-congo>

the most important and unexplored source of minerals in the whole world. Stocks of minerals are so huge in these caves, but they are quite unknown, because there have been no real exploration work yet.

Congo's mineral wealth is the pillar of the country's economy, but mining operations were carried out at the expense of commercial agriculture. Congo's mineral areas are located near its eastern borders (the eastern province, Maniema, North and South Kivu), and near its southern borders, in Katanga's province."<sup>2</sup>

### **The shepherd leads the cows to the field, but does not drink their milk.**

According to a Bashi<sup>3</sup> saying: "the shepherd leads the cows to the field, but does not drink their milk". Why doesn't he drink the milk? Simply because he is not the owner of the cows. That is what is happening in Congo. Congolese people are among the population in the world who have nothing, whereas their soil and underground overflow with everything. Congo's ground and underground have everything people need, but people have nothing. There is nothing more frustrating to see a population which lives with less than 2 dollars per day, when it actually owns all the Earth's wealth. There is nothing more terrifying to live with people who are way too poor, but who live in a way too rich country. We should question ourselves about this contrast. Both internal and external actors should think about this contrast. However, the huge quantity of resources is exploited in vertiginous amounts. This illustrates what the Bashi people say about the shepherd's task, which is to lead the cows to the field so that they can graze, but at the end, it is the owner of the cows who takes thousands of liters of milk, and only gives to his shepherd a few drops, which worth about 2 dollars per day. Congo's current government talks about a double-digit growth, about the stabilization of macroeconomics, etc. All this propaganda is meaningless, since Congolese people are inside the red zone, which means that they have to live with 2 dollars per day. It would be truer to say, that this double-digit growth the current government is talking about, only concerns the political class.

Indeed, we have to remember that 60% of the national finances goes to the Congolese political class, represented by the government, the Parliament, the Senate and the Presidency. So, it is their economic growth, and not people's growth. A political class which is fed just

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<sup>2</sup> Julien K.M. Murhula : Master's thesis, page 72 : « China's economic and political dynamism in Africa: A threat for the Western imperialism, international governance and a new era for the return of bipolarity in the international system.

<sup>3</sup> Bashi: singular "Shi", plural "Bashi". Bashis are the biggest ethnic group of the South-Kivu province in the RDC. They speak "mashi", which is spoken by about 2 million people.

like the cows of Masisi<sup>4</sup>, from which they take the milk. And therefore, these country’s four institutions have a higher GDP and GNP than in Luxemburg or Switzerland. Again, all this propaganda is meaningless, as long as the social conditions of the Congolese people do not get better. It is worth asking the following questions: “who has reduced the Congolese people to shepherds?” and “who is drinking the milk that Congolese people should drink instead?” The answers are clear.

At first, it is the country’s leaders who gave this role of “keeper of the wealth” to the population, without letting them benefit from this wealth. Congo’s successive governments never thought about introducing a distribution policy to redistribute the country’s wealth. No one of them, except L.D. Kaliba’s government, has never wanted to establish a welfare policy which places Congolese people at the center of all the political, governmental, social and economic actions.

Indeed, this lack of political vision about people has unfortunate consequences for the population. When people are tired of taking care of the cows from which they don’t drink the milk, they try to look for some milk somewhere else. And that’s where the exodus of 7 million Congolese, namely 10% of the current population, comes from. Congolese massively leave their country to see if they will have the opportunity to have some milk elsewhere and therefore put an end to their role of “supernumerary” in their own country. Immigration is the only reasonable, effective and objective outcome, both in the short and long term. The presence of 7 million of Congolese migrants is not only due to the armed conflicts led in the East of the country, which began 20 years ago, but also to massive departures, which are the result of the exclusion by the political class from the national manger (feed plan). The more the number of Congolese who enjoy their country’s amazing wealth stays low, the more the rest of the world will have to pay the price – which is nothing else than the massive exodus of Congolese migrants.

2014 trends of mining production in the DRC<sup>5</sup>.

Production

	Units	January	February	March	Total	2014e	2013 r	2014 pr
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<sup>4</sup> Masisi : is a rural zone of the North-Kivu province in the RDC, which is known for its very fertile soil and its pasture areas with cattle and even ovines. Masisi is one of the most fertile soils, not only in Congo but in the whole world. Belgian settlers also called Masisi “Africa’s Switzerland”.

<sup>5</sup> Mining production in the RDC in 2014. Federation of Enterprises of Congo’s report (FEC), Chamber of mines. Mining industries of the RDC, first quarter, 2014.

								2013
Copper	ton	76.402	76.024	78.151	230.577	922.308	914.631	0,8%
Cobalt	ton	5.042	4.207	4.674	13.923	55.540	58.792	-5,5%
Gold	kg	1.646	1.726	1.346	4.718	18.872	6.149	206,9%
Diamond	1000cts	1906	1.862	1.737	5.505	22.020	17.799	23,7%
Zinc	ton	1.318	1.253	1.370	3.941	15.764	11.819	33,4%
Cassiterite	ton	742	742	913	796	2.451	9.804	29,6%
Coltan	ton	66	67	66	199	796	697	14,2%
Wolframite	ton	nd	nd	nd	-	-	-	-

### Exportations

	Units	January	February	March	Total	2014e	2013	2014 pr 2013
Copper	Ton	85.524	73.591	73.976	233.091	924.364	883.657	4,6%
Cobalt	Ton	5.394	4.382	4.763	14.539	58.156	58.843	-1,2%
Gold	Kg	1.728	1.808	1.768	5.304	21.220	6.149	245,1%
Diamond	1000 cts	1906	1862	1737	5.505	22.020	15.614	41,0%
Zinc	Ton	1.239	931	1.279	3.449	13.796	12.566	9,8%
Cassiterite	Ton	Nd	Nd	Nd	-	-	-	-
Coltan	Ton	Nd	Nd	Nd	-	-	-	-
Wolframite	Ton	Nd	Nd	nd	-	-	-	-

The table of mining production in the DRC from the first quarter 2014 reinforces the Bashis' saying. For the first time in the country's history, cupriferous mining production reached more than one million ton, exceeding Zambia, which has had the continent's record for decades. Unfortunately, despite this increase, Congolese people do not see any difference in their plates.

### **Signals confirm the shepherd's trivialized saying**

In the DRC, 18 million people out of 77 million are illiterate. These figures come from the Congolese UNESCO's special representative. These 18 million illiterate people represent 23% of the whole Congolese population. These figures would be even higher if we knew the total number of young school-age Congolese. The 23% represents the whole population in general. How could we say that people enjoy the country's manna, if 18 million of them are illiterate?

“These figures were revealed in Kinshasa on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2014, on the International Literacy Day. According to the Congolese UNESCO’s special representative, only 1% of the education budget goes to non-formal education. On Twitter, the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General reckons that literacy should be placed at the center of development and growth in the DRC.”<sup>6</sup>

How could people believe in the current authorities’ sacrosanct slogan, according to which the country is walking on eggs with a double-digits economic growth rate, while “7,3 million children and young Congolese – aged from 5 and 17 – are out-of-school children”<sup>7</sup>? As demonstrated by the World Bank report, the money sent by the Congolese migrants contributed to children’s education.

Despite the increase in mining industry that contributes billions dollars to the Congolese public treasury, 88% of the population in the DRC is still extremely poor. “The five countries with the highest rates of poverty are the DRC (where 88% of the population falls below poverty line), Liberia (84%), Burundi and Madagascar (with both 81%), and Zambia (75%). These five countries gather 760 million poor people out of the 1,2 billion people worldwide.”<sup>8</sup>

In the last UNDP Human Development Index’s report, the DRC is at the 178<sup>th</sup> place out of 181 on the list of countries which took part in the study.

The one who reinforces these ideas is none other than a native Congolese worthy son, Mr. Noël Tshiany Muadiamyita, a high-level international civil servant at the World Bank. No need to present Mr. Noël Tshiany Muadiamyita. He is in charge of looking for global solutions for a good governance in the DRC, his native country. He wrote several books. Moreover, he is devoting an in-depth reflection to the emergence of a new voluntarist and visionary leadership that could help Congo to step back from the brink. In this context, he has been accepted within the European External Action Service, a kind of Foreign and European Affairs Ministry. With a quote from the former South-African president Thabo Mbeki, Mr. Noël Tshiany denounces that 85% of the revenues from the mining resources are not used to bail out the state treasury.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> <http://radiookapi.net/actualite/2014/09/09/la-rdc-compte-18-millions-danalphabetes/>

<sup>7</sup> <http://radiookapi.net/actualite/2015/03/10/rdc-73-millions-denfants-ages-de-5-17-ans-ne-frequentent-pas-lecole/>

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.banquemondiale.org/fr/news/press-release/2014/04/10/ending-poverty-requires-more-than-growth-says-wbg>

<sup>9</sup> [http://www.tshangu.com/Noel-Tshiani-recu-a-la-Commission-Europeenne\\_a1383.html](http://www.tshangu.com/Noel-Tshiani-recu-a-la-Commission-Europeenne_a1383.html)

Congolese people, whose task is to keep an eye on their riches and who lost their own statues, still stay poor. Today, Congolese in particular and the whole Africa in general should benefit from the abundant resources of the continent. If we don't want the amount of Congolese and African migrants – respectively estimated at 7 million and 30 million – to decrease, it is time to develop a global partnership for development of the DRC and Africa.

### **Legacy of the financial and economic crisis**

2008 crisis began in the USA. It was triggered by the difficulties the low income American households faced to repay the credits they obtained to buy their house. These credits were reserved for borrowers who did not offer sufficient guarantees to benefit from preferential interest rates (prime rate), but who could only benefit from less preferential rates (subprime). The American indebted households could benefit from extremely low interest rates, applied by the US central bank from 2001, after the financial crisis on “internet” values. This crisis, which began in the USA, reached other countries and became a world financial crisis that resulted in the slowdown in economic activity.

The legacy of the global financial crisis sums up as a lack of cash to help Africa. More voluntarists, African migrants who are spread around the western countries, have started to fill the gaps left by the drop of the western European aid. From this point of view, why should people criminalize migration?

### **Brief history of the Public Development Aid**

The Public Development Aid was established by the former metropolises in order to reduce poverty in the world and to bring help during the decolonization period. Moreover, it was set up in the context of the Cold War, mostly to maintain its influence in the former colonies. At the end of the Cold War, the Public Development Aid decreased, even though it never stopped increasing from 1945 to 1990. From this moment, it was no longer a geostrategic issue, both for the socialist and capitalist bloc. From 1992, the amount of private capital flows was higher than the public ones, but these flows were mainly going to emerging countries, and, for a large number of them, as short-term capital. Nevertheless, in Africa, which is represented by 54 countries, only South Africa has the status of emerging country.

Developing countries, mainly the African countries that received a large part of their resources from the Public Development Aid, saw these resources decrease. This decrease left some consequences. But the Western European countries, strongly hit by the crisis, did not

have any other choice than to cut back on their assistance. Because of the recessions that hit the Western European economies and the austerity policies in a try to contain the crisis, Africa was directly affected by the consequences.

“Development aid flows were stable in 2014. The Public Development Aid makes up more than two thirds of external finance for least-developed countries. But aid to the poorest countries continued to fall, according to official data collected by the OECD<sup>10</sup> Development Assistance Committee (DAC). The Public Development Aid (PDA) from DAC members totaled USD 135.2 billion in 2013. Bilateral aid to the least-developed countries fell by 16% in real terms to USD 25 billion, according to provisional data.”<sup>11</sup>

### **Congolese diaspora**

The term “diaspora” comes from the Greek and means “dispersal”. Diaspora is the dispersal of a population through the world. Diaspora implies a separation from the mother country, but also the existence of a sense of belonging to it. The RDC is one of the countries in Africa and even in the world where the amount of people who left the country is the highest. Congolese diaspora, with about 7 million people around the world, is one of the most important diaspora in Africa’s modern history. “The accurate figures of Congolese population abroad are unknown. According to the UNDP Human Development Report 2009, the amount of migrants coming from the DRC in the OECD has been estimated at 100,700 people, and according to IOM, there are between 3 and 6 million Congolese people abroad – the latter are non-official data”<sup>12</sup>. These IOM<sup>13</sup> reports show how much it is difficult to estimate the exact number of Congolese people who left their country. “Diaspora is estimated at about 2 million people in Western Europe (first and second generations), and at 7 million people in the world, namely 11% of the population of the DRC.”<sup>14</sup>

### **The West’s backs against the wall**

The DRC is classified in the post-conflict countries category, after repetitive wars which lasted almost 20 years. Therefore, it should receive massive help from capital holders and global policymakers for its recovery. But the assistance received from foreign countries is

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<sup>10</sup> Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

<sup>11</sup> <http://www.oecd.org/dac/stats/development-aid-stable-in-2014-but-flows-to-poorest-countries-still-falling.htm>

<sup>12</sup> OIM, Migrations en RDC: Profil National, op. cit., p. 17

<sup>13</sup> International Organization for Migration

<sup>14</sup> Alternatives-Info, Afrique sur Internet, Diaspora congolaise, consulté le 28 novembre 2011.

insignificant compared to the DRC's needs and mostly compared to the funds transferred by the Congolese living abroad.

In the 90's and in the early 2000's, global growth, driven by China and the other emergent countries, was close to the economic growth rate of 10%. Foreign direct investment flows granted to Africa, combined with the Public Development Aid, were being felt in the Southern countries, where the economic growth was strong, which led to deep social changes. With the crisis in the West, the most beautiful woman in the world could only give what she had – the Western European countries' help started to dry up. The West is currently facing a crisis that has become quasi-permanent for almost a decade. Since the subprimes crisis, the West has not succeeded in overcoming the situation. Foreign direct investments and Western bilateral and multilateral assistance have been cut as never before. Fortunately, in the DRC in particular and in whole Africa in general, the funds transferred by the Congolese immigrants filled the gaps left by the cut of the Western assistance, as we will see in the following paragraph. As one may say, if you lose something somewhere, you can get it back somewhere else.

### **The manna comes from the diaspora, so why should we close the borders?**

In the current context of globalization and financial crisis, it is not justified to tighten the immigration policy. It is not reasonable to turn the West into a fortified castle, when the International Migration Organization and the cash transfer agencies data showed that funds transferred by African immigrants in their native country considerably exceeded the Public Development Aid. “According to the World Bank, almost 120 million Africans received 60 billion dollars sent by 30 million African immigrants, which is more than the amount sent by the Public Development Aid (56 billion dollars in 2014), and more than the foreign direct investments (50 billion dollars in 2014)”<sup>15</sup>.

Without encouraging the Western countries to reconsider their immigration policies, a question is worth asking: “Where would these 60 billion dollars transferred by African immigrants to their families come from, if Africans were not allowed to come to the West?” Where would these 120 million people find money to live with, if their relatives would not work in the West?

Even if these cash flows transferred by the African migrants are destined to the ones who live in their native country, they are very important. First, because they exceed the amount given

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<sup>15</sup> <https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/la-diaspora-congolaise-un-investisseur-qui-signore-kadima-nzuji>

by the Public Development Aid, and then, because they ensure the survival of millions of people.

### **Does any strong links still exist between the DRC and its diaspora?**

Diaspora Congolese still have strong links with their native country. Cultural, linguistics, familial, traditional links, etc. But when analyzing in detail, if we had to sum up the link that exists between the DRC and its diaspora in the modern world, everyone would unanimously answer: “transfer”. Transfer is observed in many situations: funds transfer, goods transfer, household appliances transfer, clothes transfer, etc. Transfer also concerns knowledge and know-how.

### **The influence of Congolese diaspora on the country’s economy is and will remain a bargain**

In the DRC, diaspora’s contribution to economy is and will remain a bargain. The DRC’s economy has been dominated by and focused on mining at the cost of other sectors. Public revenues from minerals amount to billions of dollars. Another factor, and not the least, came under consideration. This factor is the diaspora, which provided money to the country. Between 20 and 30 years ago, no political nor economic analyst could say Congolese who were living abroad were or were not one of the major source of income in the country. The force of History is at the origin of this manna. Jean-Michel Severino and Olivier Ray wrote in their book *“Le temps de l’Afrique”*: « Neither Napoleon nor Koutouzov had anything to do with French triumphant arrival in Moscow or with their humiliating withdrawal in Russia: the force of European History was reflecting human genius and people’s will»<sup>16</sup>.

« Their remittances are the major source of national cash. This amount is higher than the Public Development Aid. The UN’s magazine, “Africa Renewal”, explores the issue and helps us to understand its strategic importance. Last year, Congolese beat their own records. More than 9 billion 300 million dollars were transferred to Congo in 2011.”<sup>17</sup>

Diaspora’s benefits are clearly evident. We can go further and say that if this diaspora’s manna had never existed, many families today would have starved to death or would have died because of sicknesses. Hundreds of thousands of young Africans would not have gone to school or completed studies. According to the World Bank, money sent by Congolese living abroad contributes to 60% of the infrastructures. Four Congolese children out of ten are sent to school; thanks to Congolese diaspora.

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<sup>16</sup> Jean Michel Severino et Olivier Ray: “Le temps de l’Afrique”, page 309.

<sup>17</sup> <http://afrique.kongotimes.info/rdc/diaspora/5186-congo-milliards-usd-envoyes-congolais-diaspora-2011.html>

Most of the transfers does not enter into account, as well as most of the amounts of money sent by Congolese emigrants, and thus does not enter into account in the statistics of the African Development Bank (ADB) and in those of the World Bank.

Indeed, it is also possible to send funds by other means. Money can be sent by friends who go on holiday in the country, or funds can also be sent via illegal agencies which proliferate in Congolese communities. “In a capital-poor country such as the RDC, we cannot ignore this source of incomes, but in our countries, it does not get the attention it deserves. Money transfers companies as Western Union and Money Gram, Ria, which considered it was a good opportunity, positioned themselves on the market and offer adequate services for Congolese needs, with a relatively high cost, between 12 and 20%. Today, there are more than 4000 offices and partners of Western Union and Money Gram across Congo.”<sup>18</sup>

### **Illegal Malian migrants from France built a school**

On 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2013, inside the UNESCO’s walls, the world attended the launch of the Organisation for Universal Citizenship (OUC). More than 400 people were there to attend the launch of this new international organization. The OUC aims are to promote and contribute to the global freedom of movement and settlement of persons. People who organized the conference wanted to invite different personalities, but also the little people, as for example illegal immigrants in France.

On stage, different speakers took the floor. One of them was Mr. Anzoumane Sissiko, spokesman of illegal immigrants in France. His words gave goosebumps to other participants, when he said that a small group of the migrants of his region in Mali managed to build a school<sup>19</sup>.

If illegal migrants managed to build a school, it means that those who are legally settled down could do the same too. Thus, migration is positive.

### **The RDC 2015 budget**

“On 11<sup>th</sup> December 2014, The Senate adopted the Finance Act 2015. The budget is currently estimated at about 9,2 billion dollars, an increase of about 80 million dollars compared to the budget voted by the National Assembly. 79% of the revenues of this budget come from internal resources and 21% come from external ones. The 21% missing to the RDC’s budget

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<sup>18</sup> <http://afrique.kongotimes.info/rdc/diaspora/5186-congo-milliards-usd-envoyes-congolais-diaspora-2011.html>

<sup>19</sup> Actes du 23 Mai 2013, déclaration pour une citoyenneté universelle, page 62.

are naturally provided by bilateral and multilateral aid. This budget and international assistance would be extremely insignificant if diaspora would not have existed and if diaspora would not have compensated them. On the year when Congolese migrants transferred about 9 billion dollars, the Congolese state's budget was at about 7,5 billion dollars. 3,5 billion out of these 7,5 billion came from the RDC's assistance and external investments.

## **Conclusion**

For a Congolese who lives in his country, as well as for one who lives abroad, the fact that people would like to stop immigration sounds like a crime against humanity. It is appropriate to note that, as defined by the article 7 of the Rome Statute: "a crime against humanity is a deliberate and ignominious violation of the fundamental rights of an individual, inspired by political, philosophical, racial or religious motives."<sup>20</sup>

Crimes against humanity are imprescriptible, this means that there is no limit of time after which a legal, civil or legal action is not admissible. An imprescriptible right for migrants is to be allowed to come, to have access to and to settle in an area of free movement of workers. So immigration should be imprescriptible too, just as crimes against humanity. Over the past century, people have died because of what I call "human madness". Human madness led to the First World War, and then to the Second World War. It also led to the Rwandan genocide, to Jewish Holocaust and to the "first African World War" on the RDC territory. Nevertheless, we would like that this human madness never reaches migration, because if it does, it would be even more deadly and would claim even more collateral victims that all the victims of this barbarism mentioned above. Thanks to the African immigration, 30 million people produce more wealth in their host countries and help 120 million people in their home countries by providing them an amount of money that is estimated at 60 billion dollars.

It is important to note that the Public Development Aid is estimated at 56 billion dollars for the 54 African countries. But the funds transferred by the Congolese diaspora in 2011 – which amount to 9 billion 300 million dollars – represent 62% of the Public Development Aid that the West gives to Africa.

As Professor Jean Ziegler often says in his book "Destruction massive- Géographie de la faim », the right to food is the first right of humans. However, if we prevent the migrants from crossing the borders, it would be deliberately preventing them from sending money to their

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<sup>20</sup> Sélection de documents fondamentaux relatifs à la Cour Pénale Internationale (Statut de Rome de la Cour Pénale Internationale), page 10

families, and thus making them starve. The former Special Rapporteur for the right to food of the United Nations Human Rights Council from 2000 to 2008 backs up this claim by saying: “The human right to food, as it appears in the article 11 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights<sup>21</sup>, is defined as follows: the right to adequate food is a human right, inherent in all people, to have regular, permanent and unrestricted access, either directly or by means of financial purchases, to quantitatively and qualitatively adequate and sufficient food corresponding to the cultural traditions of people to which the consumer belongs, and which ensures a physical and mental, individual and collective fulfilling and dignified life free of fear. Amongst all human rights, the right to food is probably the one, which is the most often violated on Earth. Keep the population in poverty, is organized crime.”<sup>22</sup>

The amount of the funds transferred by Congolese living abroad are 100 times higher than the funds given by the Public Development Aid or by the Foreign Direct Investment in the RDC. In 2011, the funds sent by the Congolese living abroad reached more than 9 billion 300 million dollars – which represents 45% of the GDP of the country and 950% of the Public Development Aid. Families who benefited from these funds received on average 2000€ per year. These amounts of money allow these families to have higher incomes than the national average.”<sup>23</sup>

Animals practice transhumance. This means they move in groups from regions to others, according to the regions’ growth periods, which varies according to seasons or according to different climates. Animals also move during poor periods. How could rich countries’ decision makers explain that humans have to settle down, while animals, who cannot think, practice transhumance in order to survive?

As demonstrated in the introduction, migration is as old as the world and human beings have traveled from a region to another through centuries. So, stopping immigration would not only be a criminal and suicide act, but it would also be a great illusion.

This illusion is summed up in a small Saint Augustine story who did not understand the mystery of Trinity: “it is said that one day, Saint Augustine, bishop of Hippo in North Africa, was walking on the beach, and was deeply thinking: he was trying to understand the mystery of the Holy Trinity. Suddenly, he saw a young child, very busy, coming and going from the shore to the sea: he had dug a hole in the sand, was collecting some water with a shell and was

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<sup>21</sup> Jean Ziegler: ”Destruction massive-Géographie de la faim, page 23

<sup>22</sup> Adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nationsle 16 décembre 1966, repeated by Jean Ziegler in his book « Destruction massive- Géographie de la faim », page 23.

<sup>23</sup> <http://afrique.kongotimes.info/rdc/diaspora/5186-congo-milliards-usd-envoyes-congolais-diaspora-2011.html>

pouring the contents of the shell into the hole. Perplexed by what he was seeing, Augustine questioned the child:

- What are you doing here?
- I want to pour the entire sea into the hole.
- My dear boy, it is impossible! says Augustine. The sea is so big, and your hole is so small!
- It is true, says the child. But I could put the entire sea into this hole before you manage to understand the Mystery of the Blessed Trinity.

After these words, the child disappeared. Augustine realized that the child was in fact an angel who transformed himself into a child in order to make him understand that there are mysteries, namely “Divine Truths”, that limited human minds will never be able to understand.”<sup>24</sup>

Congolese migrants in particular and Africans in general should benefit from this fundamental human right. They should have the opportunity to come and go, to work in wealthy countries as long as their funds transfers would be sufficient, until these funds would be higher than the Public Development Aid, the bilateral and multilateral assistance and higher than the Foreign Direct Investments coming from the North.

Migration is in line with current economic theories. It is thus Keynesian because it responds to production and consumption law. It should not be criminalized as the decision-makers in rich countries did. It should rather be humanized.

The author of these few lines reinforces what Saint Augustine says, and ask you: “What is your aim by stopping migration?” Stopping migrations would be equivalent to the idea of this child who wanted to pour the entire sea into the hole. The limited human minds will never understand the migration phenomenon.

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<sup>24</sup> Saint Augustine: Saint Augustine was born on the 13th November 354 in Thagaste (today called Souk Ahras, on the borders of Algeria and Tunisia). Famous Doctor of the Church, he was one of the four Fathers of the Roman Catholic Church together with St. Ambroise, St. Jerome and St. Gregory the 1<sup>st</sup>.