




Democratic
Republic of Congo
**NO REPRIEVE
FOR THE CONGO**
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THE MUSICAL GROUP COMPOSED OF PARAPLEGICS,
STAFF BENDA BILILI, PERFORMS IN A DISTRICT OF KINSHASA.

ON 19 DECEMBER 2016, JOSEPH KABILA, PRESIDENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO, REACHED THE END OF HIS TWO PRESIDENTIAL MANDATES, THE MAXIMUM TERM A PRESIDENT IS ALLOWED TO SERVE ACCORDING TO THE COUNTRY'S CONSTITUTION. KABILA'S CONSEQUENT REFUSAL TO RESIGN, HOWEVER, TRIGGERED NUMEROUS PROTESTS ACROSS THE ENTIRE COUNTRY. AFTER TWO YEARS OF CENSORSHIP, MILITARIZATION AND VIOLENT CLASHES (IN THE CENTRAL KASAI REGION THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE LOST THEIR LIVES IN JUST A FEW MONTHS), THE CONGOLESE PEOPLE WERE FINALLY ABLE TO VOTE ON 30 DECEMBER 2018, ELECTING FÉLIX TSHISEKEDI, SON OF THE LATE ÉTIENNE TSHISEKEDI, A LONG-TIME OPPONENT OF KABILA.

ALTHOUGH THE COUNTRY HAD A NEW PRESIDENT, HOWEVER, VARIOUS CRISIS SITUATIONS REMAINED UNCHANGED AND IN SOME CASES WORSENERD. ONE SUCH CASE IS THAT OF NORD KIVU, WHICH FOR MANY YEARS HAD BEEN CONSUMED BY A CONFLICT THAT CAUSED 100 THOUSAND PEOPLE TO FLEE IN THE MONTH OF APRIL ALONE. EBOLA TOO HAS RETURNED TO TAKE MORE VICTIMS: SINCE AUGUST 2018 MORE THAN 1000 PEOPLE HAVE DIED AND THIS FIGURE RELATES ONLY TO THE OFFICIALLY REGISTERED DEATHS. THIS SILENT HEALTH EMERGENCY HAS FOUND FERTILE TERRAIN IN THE NUMEROUS SITUATIONS OF INSTABILITY WITHIN THE COUNTRY; INSTABILITY CAUSED PRIMARILY BY THE PRESENCE BENEATH THE GROUND IN CONGOLESE TERRITORY OF ENORMOUS QUANTITIES OF RAW MATERIALS: THE DRC, IN FACT, IS A TREASURE TROVE OF GOLD, COLTAN, DIAMONDS, CASSITERITE (TIN ORE), SILVER, COPPER AND COBALT. IN SPITE OF THIS WEALTH OF RESOURCES, THE NATIONAL ECONOMY IS ON ITS KNEES AND THE NUMBER OF INTERNALLY DISPLACED PEOPLE FLEEING CONFLICT ZONES IS EVER INCREASING. MANY END UP IN THE SLUMS OF KINSHASA, A MEGALOPOLIS OF ALMOST 12 MILLION PEOPLE, OTHERS HAVE MANAGED TO REACH REFUGEE CAMPS IN NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES.

MEANWHILE THE GREAT CONGO RIVER CONTINUES TO FLOW MAJESTICALLY AND ELEPHANT-LIKE, CONNECTING REMOTE VILLAGES IN THE FOREST WHOSE INHABITANTS SUBSIST ON FISHING AND WHO, NOT INFREQUENTLY, DIE OF MEASLES, CHOLERA, MALARIA AND MALNUTRITION. NEVERTHELESS, THE INDOMITABLE SPIRIT OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO CAN STILL BE FOUND IN ITS POPULATION THAT STRIVES FOR A BETTER FUTURE, CREATING INSPIRING INITIATIVES SUCH AS THE BAND MADE UP OF DISABLED MUSICIANS OR THE GROUPS OF ENGINEERS WHO DESIGN ROBOTS TO REGULATE THE TRAFFIC IN THE STREETS OF THE CAPITAL.

TEXT BY VALENTINA G. MILANI



THE MUGUNGA 2 REFUGEE CAMP NEAR GOMA IN THE NORTHERN KIVU REGION.



A POLICEMAN ARMED WITH A TEAR-GAS GUN PATROLS THE STREETS OF KINSHASA.



ROAD WORKS PERFORMED
BY CHILDREN IN KINSHASA.

MINERS AT WORK IN PROHIBITIVE CONDITIONS
IN THE MUKWENGE-MAROC GOLD MINE IN THE
MOUNTAINS OF THE SOUTHERN KIVU REGION.



LORRIES DRIVE ONTO THE FERRYBOAT THAT
CROSSES THE CONGO RIVER IN KISANGANI.



DR DENIS MUKWEGE, FOUNDER OF THE PANZI HOSPITAL NEAR BUKAVU IN THE SOUTHERN KIVU REGION, WHERE HE HELPS GIRLS AND WOMEN WHO ARE VICTIMS OF RAPE. HE HAS BEEN THE VICTIM OF VARIOUS ATTACKS AND WAS AWARDED THE LEGION OF HONOUR FOR HIS INVOLVEMENT IN CIVIL SOCIETY.





WASHING UP IN THE LATRINES OF THE
BUKAVU PRISON IN THE SOUTHERN KIVU REGION.

A PRO-KABILA POSTER
IN THE SMALL TOWN OF KINDU.



KINDU A SA VOIRIE MODERNISEE, SYMBOLE
DU PROGRES SOCIOECONOMIQUE
OEUVRE DU RAIS



50
D'INDEPENDANCE
DE LA RPC

Forfait
Koza
à l'usage

SM
illimité



BUREAU
DE
L'IPPAM

THÉRÈSE KIRONGOZI, DIRECTOR OF THE COMPANY WOMEN'S TECHNOLOGY AND CREATOR OF THE ROBOTS THAT DIRECT TRAFFIC IN THE STREETS OF KINSHASA. THE ONE BEHIND HER IS THE FIRST TO HAVE A FEMININE APPEARANCE.



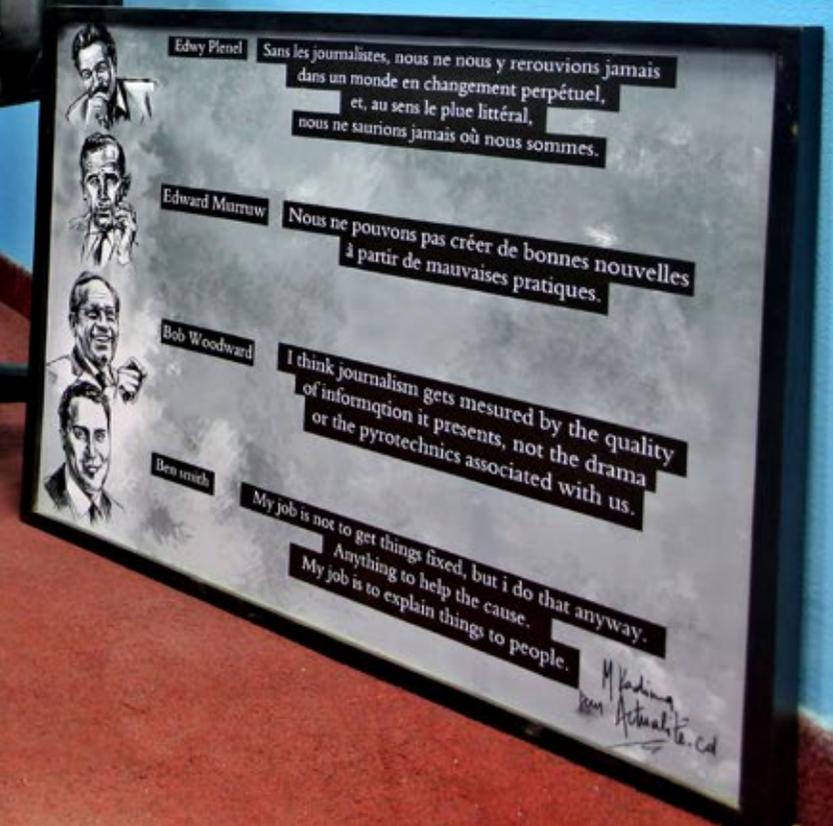


A BOAT SAILING ON THE CONGO RIVER
IN THE EQUATORIAL REGION OF TSHOPO.

A SELLER IN BUKAVU ON
THE HILLS OVERLOOKING KIVU.



PATIENT LIGODI, A YOUNG JOURNALIST AND DIRECTOR OF THE WEBSITE ACTUALITÉ CONGO WHICH DEALS WITH POLITICAL TOPICS. HE AND HIS COLLABORATORS HAVE OFTEN BEEN THREATENED AND INCARCERATED FOR THIS REASON.





DUGOUTS ON THE CONGO RIVER IN LOWA
IN THE EQUATORIAL REGION OF THE TSHOPO.



A CATHOLIC MARRIAGE IN THE DISTRICT OF NYAMUGO, ONE OF THE POOREST IN BUKAVU IN THE SOUTHERN KIVU REGION.





YOUTH FROM THE WEALTHY KINSHASA IN THE POOL OF THE CITÉ DU FLEUVE, A RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBOURHOOD UNDER CONSTRUCTION ON AN ARTIFICIAL ISLAND ON THE CONGO RIVER IN KINSHASA, SURROUNDED BY SLUMS.

MINERS AT WORK IN PROHIBITIVE CONDITIONS IN THE MUKWENGE-MAROC GOLD MINE IN THE MOUNTAINS OF THE SOUTHERN KIVU REGION.





A BOY IN THE BUKAVU PRISON BEARS SIGNS OF BURNS HE WAS INFLICTED WITH FOR AN ATTEMPTED THEFT. ONLY THE INTERVENTION OF THE GUARDS SAVED HIM FROM THE STAKE.



ORE REFINERY AT THE HEADQUARTERS OF
A CASSITERITE AND COLTAN TRADER IN
BUKAVU IN THE SOUTHERN KIVU REGION.



A PLAYGROUND IN KINSHASA.

A SAPEUR - A CONGOLESE WHO DRESSES IN A PARTICULARLY SHOWY AND ELEGANT FASHION - AT THE CONCERT OF THE MUSICAL STAR WERRASON IN KINSHASA.





AN INHABITANT OF LOWA IN THE EQUATORIAL
REGION OF TSHOPO GOES TO THE WELL TO GET WATER.

A YOUNG 'POSSESSED' BOY IS EXORCISED
BY A CATHOLIC MISSIONARY IN BUKAVU.



ONE OF KINSHASA'S SLUMS ON THE BANKS OF THE RIVER. IN THE BACKGROUND, THE BUILDINGS OF THE NEW RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT CITÉ DU FLEUVE CAN BE SEEN.





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