

Content of email message to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and other key Canadian leaders

Dear [RECIPIENT NAME INSERTED],

I am writing to urge the Government of Canada to take concrete action immediately to help ensure a peaceful transfer of power on December 19 in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

DRC President Joseph Kabila is required by the Constitution to leave office when his second and final term ends on December 19.

In October President Kabila signed an accord with lesser opposition leaders, which he is using as grounds to remain in office until 2018. This extension of power was immediately rejected by the key opposition leaders.

Today, the Congo's highly respected Catholic Conference of Catholic Bishops (CENCO) is working to facilitate a new accord among all opposition leaders, including Etienne Tshisekedi, Moïse Katumbi, and the youth organization Lucha.

But time is very short. With only days left before the December 19 deadline, it is imperative that Canada step up and support democracy, peace and human rights in the DRC in a tangible way.

If there is no new accord with all key opposition players and if President Joseph Kabila does not step down when his ends on December 19, the Democratic Republic of the Congo will be instantly plunged into a political crisis on December 20—one which is almost certain to result in sustained widespread armed conflict throughout the country. Again.

Canada cannot determine the best course of action for an interim transition government and for new presidential elections in the DRC. That is up to the Congolese people and Congolese leaders.

Canada can, however, take action to change President Kabila's calculations so that he will peacefully step down on December 19.

Please use the means available to you to ensure that the Government of Canada immediately:

1. Imposes enhanced personal financial sanctions on President Kabila, his family, and those around him who have directly subverted the Constitution and democracy;
2. Imposes a travel ban on President Kabila, his family, and those around him who have directly subverted the Constitution and democracy;

3. Supports those in the DR Congo, including Moïse Katumbi, who support a full amnesty for Joseph Kabila upon his peaceful exit from office on December 19, and
4. Most importantly, works directly with Joseph Kabila and international organizations and institutions to find Kabila an acceptable position that he can take up in his after he leaves office on December 19. President Kabila needs options. Good options.

Democracy is still possible. It is not too late.

With respect,

[YOUR NAME AND COUNTRY WILL BE AUTOMATICALLY APPENDED]