

Genocide: Millions Dead in Congo

by Lawrence K. Freeman

Genocide: *The deliberate and systematic extermination of a national or racial group*

A just-released report by the International Rescue Committee (IRC) documents that the worst case of ongoing genocide anywhere on the planet is occurring in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (D.R. Congo). Only the Nazi-implemented holocaust against the Jewish people was more horrific, although the number of deaths in the D.R. Congo may turn out to be greater. The IRC's report, "Mortality in the Democratic Republic of Congo: Results from a Nationwide Survey," painfully documents 3.8 million *preventable* deaths in excess of normal mortality, over the six-year period 1998-2004. That is most likely an *underestimate*, according to Dr. Rick Brennan, who presented the survey in Washington, D.C. on Dec. 10.

Yet, our elected leaders, and most people, continue to support those very policies, and individuals responsible for this enormous loss of life.

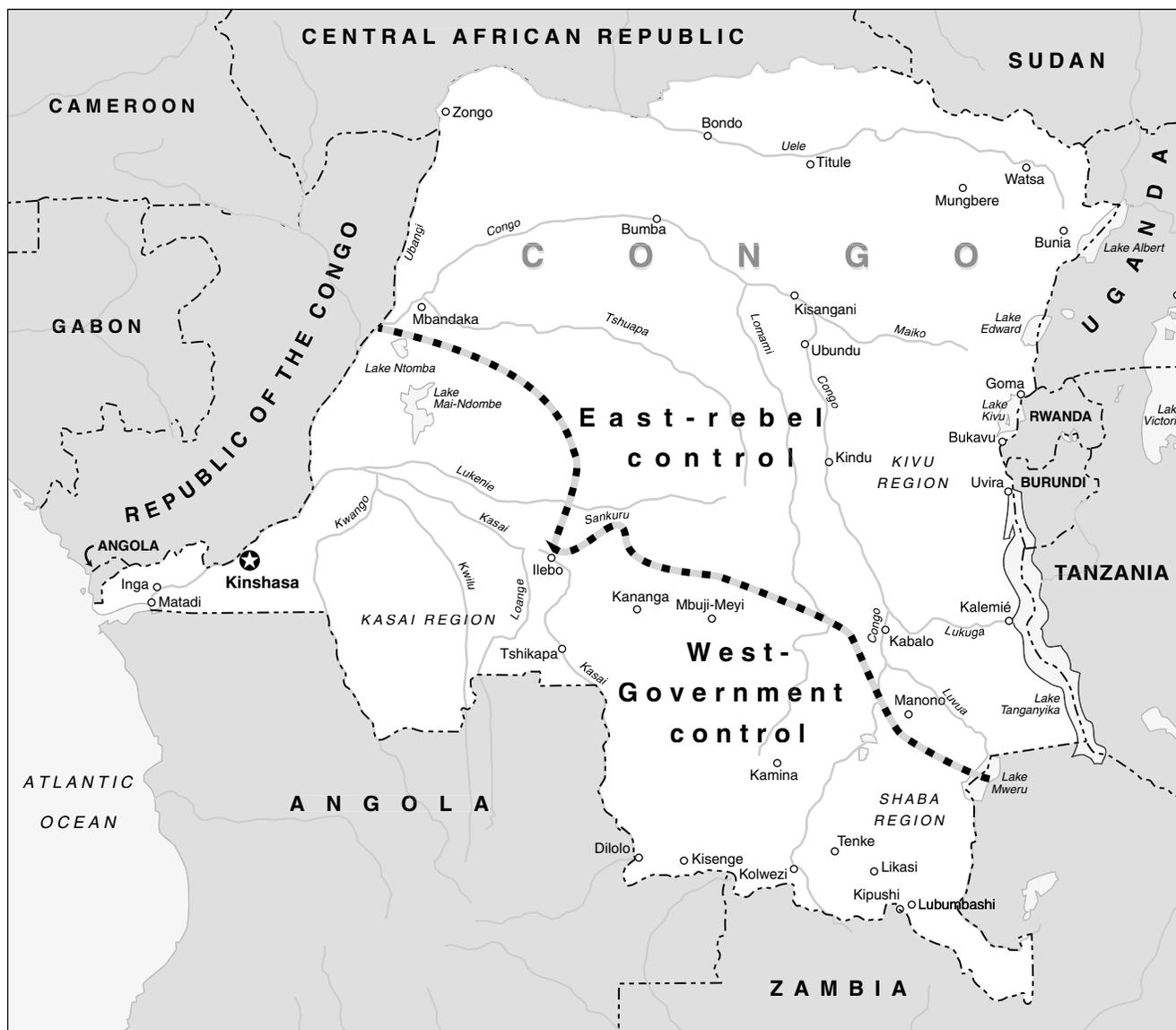
The IRC report states: "For the fourth time since 2000, data from representative mortality surveys have demonstrated that the conflict in D.R. Congo dwarfs other emergencies in both its scale and humanitarian impact. No other recent conflict has claimed as many lives as D.R. Congo, and mortality rates remain elevated at an alarming level. . . . The survey's findings provide compelling evidence that improving security and increasing access to simple, cost-effective health interventions such as clean water, immunizations, and basic medical care would dramatically reduce preventable deaths."

Preventable Mortality—or Conscious Genocide?

If we look at West D.R. Congo, where the fighting is not as intense, the number one cause of death, *fever*, accounts for 31.5% of all adult deaths, and 39.7% of deaths of children under five. The third leading cause of deaths for adults is *diarrhea*, at 11.7%, but for young children it is the second leading cause of death at 14.6%. Number four is *respiratory*-related illness, at 9% and 9.4%, respectively. *Malnutrition* is fifth, accounting for 6.6% of adult deaths, and 8.1% of deaths for children under five.

These four causes of death account for 58.7% of deaths for the adult population in the designated western portion of the country; these deaths would *all be preventable* with access

FIGURE 1
Political Division of the Democratic Republic of the Congo



to adequate food and health care. Only 0.1% of the deaths comes directly from violence. For children under five, those four categories of preventable causes of death account for 71.8% of the deaths, with no percentage of deaths attributed to violence.

Thus, while the report makes clear that the six-year war is the main factor for the elevated crude mortality rates among adults and young children, existing conditions, including the lack of clean water, adequate housing, minimal health care, and food production, already constituted severe risk conditions prior to the outbreak of war in 1998. The so-called normal crude mortality rates of 1.2 to 1.5 for the D.R. Congo, and all of sub-Saharan Africa, already speak volumes about

the existence of a long-term policy of genocide towards this region of the world. The decades-long policies of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank, which followed almost a century of colonial, imperialist looting policies, has had its intended effect.

The authors of the IRC report, knowingly or not, are calling attention to the “success” of the infamous, anti-human “Kissinger Report”—National Security Study Memorandum 200—authored by Henry Kissinger exactly 30 years ago. Anyone who has read this report is horrified at the explicit policy to reduce the population of the poorer nations in the world, almost precisely as prescribed by the evil Bertrand Russell earlier in the last century. It was also the

explicit policy of the British Empire, and later that of the Commonwealth, as articulated by imperialist Cecil Rhodes at the turn of the 19th Century, when he spoke of the need to get the natives off the land, to exploit or preserve the natural resources. As NSSM 200 states, the resources are needed for the Western cartels, and therefore should not be wasted on developing nations. Thus, the need for massive depopulation, enforced under-development, and the use of food as a weapon.

31,000 Die Each Month

Between January 2003 and April 2004, the IRC conducted the largest survey ever, visiting 19,500 households divided between the so-called eastern and western portions of the D.R. Congo. Every province in the country was visited, representing 58 million people—90% of the total population of 63.7 million. This was the fourth survey conducted in the D.R. Congo since 1998, when the war between the Laurent Kabila government and the invading armies from Rwanda and Uganda began, after the overthrow of President Mobutu Sese Seko. The first three mortality surveys documented 3.3 million excess deaths between 1998-2002.

The main findings of the report, conducted by teams of physicians and epidemiologists who visited and surveyed the residents, are summarized as follows:

- *More than 1,000 people die every day*, in excess of normal mortality, which equals 500,000 excess deaths in all, over the 16 months of the survey. Even more alarming, 45.4% of these deaths were children under five years old, although children represent only 18.7% of the total population.

- *The vast majority of these excess deaths, 98%, were those of civilians killed by disease and malnutrition.* Only a very small percentage, 2% (10,000), of the total deaths were the result of armed conflict. Almost a half-million civilians died from horrendous economic conditions, and most especially the lack of health care for treatable medical conditions.

- Insecurity resulting from the violence dramatically affected the death rate, by limiting access to aid. In the militarily invaded east, the mortality rate from disease and hunger was the highest.

The Crude Mortality Rate

Much of the analysis of the IRC report, and others preceding it, starts from the acceptance of a baseline crude mortality rate or CMR, which is the number of deaths per 1,000 people per month. It is from this figure that excess deaths are determined. The CMR for sub-Saharan Africa is 1.5. That means it is considered *normal* for 1.5 human beings per 1,000 members of the population, to die each month. The mere acceptance of this figure for the hundreds of millions of Africans living in this region, already indicates how degenerate our culture has become.

What the recent IRC report tells us, is that 1,000 people *above the CMR* die in the D.R. Congo every day. The national

CMR has ranged from 2.0 to 2.4 in the years 2002-04. *Children under five years old have a 350% greater risk of dying than adults.* If one uses a lower, pre-1998 CMR of 1.2, as the UN suggests, instead of the CMR of 1.5 used in this study, then 4.4 million unnecessary deaths took place over the six-year period 1998-2004. This is equivalent to eliminating the entire population of many states and cities in the United States. It is five times the number killed in what is now called the Rwandan holocaust, which left upwards of 800,000 dead in 1994.

The IRC report correlates the level of fighting with increased mortality for the civilian population, indicating that in the five eastern provinces where warfare has been most intense, and protracted, the CMR reaches 2.7, some 80% above the norm. Again, most agonizing, in the heavy war zones, the mortality rate for children under five is 90% above the normal rate.

A Policy of Destabilization and Genocide

The support for the governments of President Paul Kagame of Rwanda, and President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda, to send their armies and surrogates, since 1998, to pillage, loot, and steal with impunity in D.R. Congo's rich reservoir of natural resources, has contributed to driving D.R. Congo into conditions of a Dark Age. The very existence of between 70% and 80% of the D.R. Congo population is threatened. There have been sightings for weeks of Kagame's army once again infiltrating back into eastern D.R. Congo.

As of Dec. 15, there have been reports of fighting by the UN's MUNOC troops and the Congolese Army, against Rwandan troops in the North Kivu capital of Bukavu. This new invasion by Rwanda into the eastern D.R. Congo, threatens to blow up the most fragile of peace agreements. Should full-scale war break out again, mortality figures will rise even further.

The world instead is focussed on Darfur, Sudan, claiming genocide by the government, when the conditions in the D.R. Congo are orders of magnitude worse. It is actually the same policy for all of sub-Saharan Africa. In Sudan, the goal is to overthrow the government or to undermine the country from within, providing the means to control the waters of the Nile, which run north to Egypt, as well as to use Sudan to destabilize all of eastern Africa. In the D.R. Congo, the policy is to use Rwanda and Uganda to physically destroy the nation's ability to exist.

Dr. Brennan asserts that "The international response to the humanitarian crisis in the Congo has been grossly inadequate in proportion to the need." Only \$3.23 in aid per person has been made available, a fraction of what has been provided in other desperate situations, such as Darfur, or Iraq. Until leaders and concerned citizens grasp the fundamental, detestable point, as stated in Kissinger's NSSM 200, that genocide is the operational, intentional policy at work, we will not be able muster the courage to stop it.