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UJJAL DOSANJH, LIBBY DAVIES, DR. MICHAEL BYERS LEAD SPEAKERS LIST
FOR RALLY AND VIGIL FOR THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

*Amnesty International–Supported Rally for the War-Torn Congo Takes Place
February 28 on the steps of the Vancouver Art Gallery*

VANCOUVER, BC – A coalition of prominent BC-based politicians and activists is hosting a rally to support the people in the war-torn Democratic Republic of Congo and demand an increased response from the Canadian government.

“Millions of lives have been lost in the DRC due to armed conflict between government troops, militia and rebel groups, and a number of foreign armies,” said Dr. Michael Byers, who will speak at the event. “The Canadian government has studiously looked away. This must change. It's time to provide strong support for UN efforts to bring peace and security to the DRC, including through the deployment of Canadian peacekeepers.”

Byers, who ran as the Vancouver Central NDP candidate in last fall's federal election and holds a Canada Research Chair in Global Politics and International Law at UBC, is just one of the prominent speakers who are lending their voices to this important event.

Other speakers of note include: MPs Ujjal Dosanjh, Libby Davies, Peter Julian, and Don Davies; Senator Mobina Jaffer; and Professors Peter Prontzos and Dr. Clement Abaas Apaak.

The rally takes place on the steps of the Vancouver Art Gallery on Saturday, February 28 from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m., and will end with a symbolic candlelight vigil in support of those suffering through the terrors of daily life in the Congo.

"World leaders promised that mass civilian massacres would never happen again," said Simon Child, one of the organizers of the event. "But then came Rwanda, Darfur, and now the Congo. 'Never again' turned into 'again and again' because heads of states didn't care. We must show them that Canadians do care about what's happening now in the DRC."

The rally and vigil are supported by Amnesty International and the African Canadian Accountability Coalition.

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About The Democratic Republic of Congo: The conflict currently raging in the Congo is the largest since World War II, and involves over 30,000 child soldiers. Women are also in danger, with 75% of the rapes dealt with by Medecins Sans Frontieres happening in this region. Canada decreased its aid to the Congo by \$10 million between 2006-07 and 2007-08.