

Press release

Criminal Operation by the Presidential Guard: The United Nations' Silence Deepens Congo's Tragedy

Brazzaville, October 28, 2025 – CAD Congo-Brazzaville

A Reign of Fear, Cloaked in Silence

For over a month now, Brazzaville has lived under the shadow of an operation as ruthless as it is cynical. Conducted by the **General Directorate of Presidential Security (DGSP)** under the guise of a "war on crime," this campaign has unleashed a wave of **extrajudicial killings, forced disappearances, arbitrary arrests, torture, and home demolitions**. Entire families—punished for the mere suspicion that one of their members might be a delinquent—have been left grieving, homeless, or psychologically shattered.

The **Centre d'Actions pour le Développement (CAD)**, which has painstakingly documented these abuses, denounces not only the cruelty of the operation but also the appalling **silence that surrounds it**—a silence that begins with the Congolese government and extends all the way to the United Nations.

Law Replaced by Force

In a recent public statement, **General Serge Oboa**, head of the DGSP, vowed to apply "the law of force," even against the parents of suspected offenders. This is a chilling declaration from a man entrusted with protecting the head of state—and, by extension, the Republic's citizens. His words echo the President's own instructions authorizing the DGSP to carry out these operations, suggesting not rogue violence but a **state policy of terror**.

Such acts are in blatant contradiction with the Congolese Constitution and the country's international commitments. Yet no judicial oversight has been exercised, and no parliamentary inquiry has been launched. The victims' families remain invisible, unassisted, and unacknowledged.

The Complicity of Silence

What makes these crimes even more unbearable is the **international indifference** that greets them. Neither the **United Nations** nor the **African Union**, nor the **Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights**, nor the

African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights has issued a single public statement or taken meaningful action.

This **deafening silence**, whether born of diplomatic caution or geopolitical fatigue, has the effect of **legitimizing impunity**. It tells perpetrators that they may act without consequence and tells victims that they are alone. In Congo-Brazzaville today, it is not only the sound of gunfire that terrifies—it is the absence of outrage.

The Moral Vacuum

In contexts elsewhere, similar atrocities have prompted urgent sessions, resolutions, and field missions. Why not here? The discrepancy exposes a **double standard** that corrodes the very foundations of the international human rights system.

What message does it send when the public executions of Congolese citizens provoke not even a whisper from the institutions charged with defending human dignity? The **benevolent indifference** of global partners toward the atrocities unfolding in Congo-Brazzaville risks becoming the new normal—one where massacres in broad daylight no longer shock, and families' cries for help fade into bureaucratic indifference.

A Call for Action

The **Centre d'Actions pour le Développement (CAD)** calls upon the United Nations to break this silence and act in accordance with its moral and legal obligations by:

1. **Publicly condemning** the summary executions, forced disappearances, and mass evictions of civilians;
2. **Dispatching an independent investigative mission** to document the crimes committed under this so-called anti-crime operation;
3. **Pressuring Congolese authorities** to uphold constitutional guarantees and international conventions, and to launch a **credible judicial inquiry**;
4. **Providing humanitarian and psychosocial-assistance** to families devastated by killings and demolitions.

The world cannot look away forever. Every act of silence becomes a form of complicity; every day without accountability, a betrayal of justice. In Brazzaville, where fear walks the streets, the people wait—not for mercy, but for the world to finally **find its voice**.