



# Dominican Sisters International Confederation

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March 21, 2025

Dear Sisters,

We have received word that our Sisters in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) have been attacked by a group of local rebels. This occurred the evening of March 18-19. The Sisters – nine Professed and four Postulants – are members of the “Congregación Santo Domingo”, Spain. Gratefully, they were not physically harmed; but their residence was completely ransacked, and all their money was taken. I have contacted the Prioress, Sr. Cristina Antolin, who is on canonical visitation to the Sisters in DRC, to assure her of our prayers and our desire to help in whatever way she feels would be best. As soon as I hear from Sr. Cristina, I will let you know.

Here is the message Cristina sent to her Congregation:

*Dear Sisters,*

*I am writing to you from the Kinshasa community to share with you what happened to us last night (March 18-19).*

*The country is in pretty bad shape, although we're not making news outside the country. Last night at 2 a.m., a group of bandits, known here as "Kuluna," entered our house. They're the Terror of Kinshasa; even the police fear them. Starting at 2 a.m., they began forcing open the metal gate outside the property. About 20 of them came with machetes, large stones, iron bars, giant hammers... They managed to enter the property. Even though we shouted loudly, no one came out of their houses because everyone is afraid.*

*Since they forced the doors of the house and couldn't open them, since they were made of iron, they started breaking down the wall of the house, made a large hole, and entered through one of the sister's rooms. They ransacked the entire house, room by room, destroying quite a bit: doors, mattresses, closets... everything on the floor. They took all the phones; we only kept this one (Alice's), computers... and ALL the money we had in the house (banks don't work here... they're very far from home, and the sisters keep everything here in cash. The treasurer was preparing the salary payments for the school teachers, so the amount was large...).*

*They've taken ALL the money. This community has been left with nothing, but God has blessed us. We all went to one side of the house and locked ourselves in. Thank God, no sister was hurt, because they came with great brutality. They ripped a young sister's nightgown, saying they were going to rape her. Thank God, they didn't do anything to her. We're all safe and sound, thank God.*

*We just began the canonical visit yesterday. We were very happy. There are nine sisters and four postulants in the house. We thank God for protecting our lives and physical integrity. We are still reeling from the shock, as it was so severe. Please pray for this community and this country. The situation is very difficult and hard.*

**International Coordinator:** Sr. Margaret Mayce, OP

**Administrative Assistant:** Ms. Sandra Toussaint

**Secretary for Communication:** Mrs. Elizabeth Perugachi

*The last part of the night and today (Wednesday) we felt very supported by our sisters, also by the local Church and by the police who, when they found out what had happened (although the Kuluna had left), came to accompany us and continue to have a presence in our house. Since this morning (Wednesday), we've been accompanied by the people, the parish, neighbors, teachers from Mother Teresa School, congregations, Church authorities, the sisters' families... It's been exciting. They've brought us food... We are truly loved, and throughout the day we've received many gestures of solidarity and great company. They haven't left us alone. Even now, some bricklayers are still closing up the gaps in the wall where the Kuluna came in last night, so we can sleep safely. The Cardinal of Kinshasa has even written a press release (attached) deploring this attack and encouraging us. Please continue to accompany us with your prayers.*

In prayerful solidarity with the “Congregación Santo Domingo” and their Sisters in Kinshasa,

Your sister,



Margaret Mayce, OP

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