



**Commission of the Churches on
International Affairs (CCIA)**

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To the:

Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions;

Special Rapporteur on the situation of Human Rights Defenders;

Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health

Urgent Appeal - Dr Mukwege, Democratic Republic of the Congo

According to information received from our church partners in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Dr Denis Mukwege, Physician Director of Panzi Hospital in Bukavu, President of the Panzi Foundation, and Nobel Peace Prize winner 2018, has received persistent death threats in recent weeks. These threats have included threatening remarks about assassination and acts of intimidation.

An attempt on the life of Dr Mukwege was made in 2012, and resulted in him leaving the country for several months.

We welcome the efforts being made by MONUSCO to ensure his protection despite the constraints faced by that Mission, but remain concerned for the safety and wellbeing of Dr Mukwege.

We urge you to call upon the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo to ensure the protection of the life of Dr Mukwege and to investigate the threats that have been made against him.

Peter Prove,
Director,
Commission of the Churches on International Affairs,
World Council of Churches

Geneva, 27 August 2020