



**Statement By The Special Representative of the Secretary-General
on Sexual Violence in Conflict**

Margot Wallström

On

The Arrest of Callixte Mbarushimana

New York, 11 October 2010

I welcome the arrest by French law enforcement officials of Callixte Mbarushimana for crimes against humanity and war crimes allegedly committed in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). This is a very important signal to all perpetrators in the DRC that crimes of sexual violence are not tolerated and that the international community is fully committed to bringing these individuals to justice.

Following last week's apprehension by the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUSCO) of 'Lieutenant Colonel' Mayele of the Mai Mai Cheka rebel group, we hope to finally see the beginning of the end of impunity for crimes of sexual violence in the DRC. We now need to engage all the resources at our disposal to apprehend other individuals allegedly involved in orchestrating the mass rapes which occurred in Walikale, including following the trail of 'Colonel' Serafim of the FDLR (*Forces Démocratiques pour la Libération du Rwanda*).

I want to express my appreciation to the authorities of France for their swift and active cooperation with the International Criminal Court (ICC) in enforcing the ICC's warrant of arrest and surrender in this case.

Background:

Callixte Mbarushimana, a 47-year old Rwandan citizen who is believed to be Executive Secretary of the FDLR's 'Steering Committee', is accused of crimes against humanity (murder, torture, rape and inhumane acts), as well as war crimes (attacks against the civilian population, destruction of property, murder, torture, rape, inhuman treatment and persecution). According to the ICC, Callixte Mbarushimana has personally and intentionally contributed to a common plan

of conducting attacks against the civilian population in order to create a ‘human catastrophe’ and to launch an international campaign to extort concessions of political power for the FDLR.

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