



World Evangelical Alliance

Human Rights Council – 27th session

Item 6 – Adoption of UPR report for the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Speaker: Albert Hengelaar

Thursday 18 September 2014

The World Evangelical Alliance (WEA) in its report highlighted the practice of war rape. We noted that the government expressed a constructive approach in the UPR. We also realize the substantial security challenges. This however never justifies the number of 40,000 rape cases, as advanced by the country itself. If words would be followed by deeds the judicial reform would be speeded up. This not only helps to deal with war rape but promote Rule of Law in the first place. The country has welcomed “the international community to maintain its mobilization for peace in the country”. This distracts from the responsibility of the government itself.

In this context we would remind the Council of the other main topic of our report, corruption. This vital subject received alarmingly little attention during the UPR. The country is laden with a mineral wealth extravaganza. Our report documents that the top of the government is complacently robbing the population. While the government very rightly states that war has never brought peace, we would like to remind them that corruption never brings it either. Here there is a golden opportunity to promote Human Rights. There will be no sustainable Rule of Law if inequality in the nation is not dealt with. Government is serving the people, not yourself.

A final word about the third subject of our report: a balanced representation of the people in government. The present government helped itself in 2011 by scrapping an election run-off, hence curbing the coalition process. This is in jeopardy with all the appreciated intentions to be responsible, as voiced by the Minister of Human Rights and Justice during the UPR. The government should be serious about elections, as a way to check its performance in office.