

Vivere Update October 2017

Dear Members and Friends,

An unknown Hero

This is something we do not usually do, but please take a couple of minutes to watch the short clip which tells the story, in brief, of Nicolas Winton, a truly brave but discreet unknown hero from the Second World War. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZliBTP0spEA>

Sud Kivu, DR Congo

During a trip last month to visit all of our partner organisations in the region, a member of our committee took part in the 27th Mobile Military Court, which was organised in Lusenda Refugee Camp. Four cases were heard and judged : the rape of a 12 year old child, murder and membership of an insurrectional movement , armed robbery, and illegal armed imprisonment and criminal association. Heavy sentences were passed down to the fifteen detainees who were found guilty.



Not a week goes by without our correspondents and local partners sending us urgent communiqués, telling us of yet another atrocity carried out by armed civilians, soldiers, militia, or rebels. In fact, we received notification this morning, the 25 October, from the MFPDSA (*meaning?*) citing the crimes perpetrated between the 30 September and 18 October near the villages of Kasaka, Sebele, and Nemba, in Fizi territory, which is one of the areas where *Vivere* has been working for thirteen years.

Arbitrary arrests	22
Rapes	5
Assassinations	3

Moldavia- Assistance for vulnerable elderly people who have been abandoned and left to fend for themselves during the harsh winter.

Our partner organisation, Compasiune, is working in the village of Costeti, to help several dozen old people, who are isolated, without family, have no income and have no other way to survive the winter. It is essential to make sure they have hot meals and wood for heating, if they are not to succumb to the rigours of this time of year. *Vivere* needs to raise the amount of CHF 2 316 to ensure that this project can continue. Please contribute whatever you can. Thank you in advance!



The Abolition of Slavery

On the 19 October 2017, we received this important appeal from our partner association, IRA, sent from the Malian NGO 'Temedt', who attended fringe meetings of two international conferences in Bamako, entitled 'G5 and violent extremism', and 'Slavery in West Africa':

Bamako Appeal on the continuing practice of slavery in the Sahel states

As part of our fight against slavery, and as organisers of civil society in Mali, Mauritania, and Niger, we have just attended the 'International symposium on human rights in West Africa', held from the 16 - 18 October 2017 at Badalabougou University Campus- in the new University of law and political science in Bamako.

At this moment when the whole world has its eyes turned towards the Sahel region of Africa - because of the violent extremism which is seriously endangering world safety, we want to draw the attention of the governments, civil actors and politicians of the Sahel, the Economic Community of West African States (CEDEAO), the African Union (UA), the European Union (EU), the United Nations (UN) and the individual State members of the Security Council of the United Nations, to the need to spread awareness and to take urgent action on a regional and international level against slavery in the Sahel.

The Sahel can be singled out as one of the regions in the world where slavery still exists in civil society, dressed up as a false representation of the muslim faith, enslaving millions of human beings and using ideology to push them into extreme acts of violence.

We appeal to :

- Mauritania for the immediate and unconditional release of the anti-slavery activists, Moussa Bilal Biram and Abdallah Matalla Saleck and to lift the ban on the 'Initiative for the Revival of the Abolitionist' movement (IRA) in Mauritania.
- the Malian government to adopt a law similar to that of Niger and Mauritania, criminalising slavery
- The government of Niger to accelerate the process whereby the law passed in 2003 to criminalise slavery, is effectively put into practice.

We also demand that the root causes of insecurity and violent extremism are confronted and that a G5/Sahel action plan for the fight against slavery is set -up and instigated so that we can work towards peace and security in the Sahel

Signatories: for Mali
Temedt, INFA-plus,
IKEWANE

for Mauritania
IRA

for Niger
TIMIDRA

Thank you for your attention.
Vivere committee