

Diocese of Isangi in DR Congo: Worrying cases of mob justice and incidents as a result of boats



Houses destroyed following clashes to dispense justice on his or her own behalf

Kinshasa, August 29, 2018 - (caritasdev.cd): The diocese of Isangi, located in the eastern part of the DR. Congo, is not recently spared by cases of mob justice and accidents caused by boats. An agent of Caritas of this diocese, Mr. Charles LIPASO, has just sent to caritasdev.cd information on this subject in particular correspondence. On August 15, 2018 in Yahisuli, for example, the family members of a dead young man in retaliation burned more than 78 houses, reports caritasdev.cd

On Saturday, August 18, 2018, around 8 pm, an accident occurred on the Congo River, at the village Yatuto, downstream from Isangi, about 8 km from the city of Isangi. A whaler named "Gift of God", commonly referred to as "Pepa Pepa" from Lileko's market for Isangi, gave way to its planks after hitting a tree trunk under water. There were several losses in human life and all the goods were washed away. So far, 21 bodies have been recovered and several others have been reported missing. The whaler would have taken on board over 250 people and a large batch of goods (agricultural, fishing and hunting products). About what happened on August 15, 2018 in Yahisuli where a young man died and whose family members set fire to more than 78 houses, they went to a witch doctor - who mentioned three names of people from the neighboring clan presumed to be the perpetrators of the young man's death. Family members took away animals and other valuables from the village. The attacked clan members now live in hiding, having taken refuge in the forest.



In May 2017, there were disputes between two villages demanding a center where examinations of the national test of end of primary studies (TENAFEP) should take place. This resulted in fights with machetes, arrows and the use of firearms. These clashes ended in more than 28 houses burned and cases of serious injuries. This information comes from the Administration of the Territory, the General Reference Hospital of Yahisuli, the quasi-Catholic parish of Yahisuli and the specialized services of the State. In late April 2018, following the death of the President of the

Provincial Assembly of Tshopo, Joel BAFANDO, his family members of the village Wenge Haut attributed this death to a young man from Yahisuli, LOTOKO MAESTRO. The latter is a merchant of his state and director of a primary school. Members of the family of the Honorable Joel BAFANDO have burned more than 40 houses in Yahisuli, shops with goods. They took away animals and other valuables belonging to the inhabitants of the village. This in the end provoked a tidy battle between the villages of Yahisuli and Wenge Haut, a conflict that lasted until those days, according to the Administration of the Territory, the Caritas-Development Isangi, the Observatory of the Women of the Territory of Isangi, the General Reference Hospital of Yahisuli, the Catholic parish of Wenge, the quasi-Catholic parish of Yahisuli and specialized services of the State as well as the Congolese National Police.

Moreover, more than a month ago, a whaling boat from Lokutu City in the Basoko territory bound for Kisangani, called "Lokutu City" capsized. This caused men deaths and huge losses of property.

Among those who have raised their voices to this situation is the Caritas Isangi, which has asked the authorities, national, provincial, territorial and local, and especially the owners of various boats to be aware of the shock suffered by the population. Instead of targeting only their interest to the detriment of these. Authorities have been ordered to ban makeshift boats and night trips. Organizations, NGOs and people of good will were invited to think about using good boats where travelers are given life jackets. The impunity of the shipowners is to be discouraged by restoring the sovereign power. The Ministry of Transport and communication channels, meanwhile, must consider the training of shipowners and navigators, in order to avoid recurring cases of accidents and drowning. Assistance and relief to the victims of drowning in Isangi on Saturday, August 18, 2018 and leaving poor families and orphans were solicited.

Faced with the upsurge of popular justice as a way of finding solutions to local conflicts arising in the village, a Caritas Isangi plea aimed at restoring the authority of the State, raising awareness of the population in the culture of peace, the reconciliation of conflict-affected families and villages, and material, financial and legal assistance by organizations, NGOs and other humanitarian workers for the benefit of victims living outside their respective communities as a result of fire and reprisals .

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