



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **UN Special Envoy Djinnit condemns the trend of massacres in Beni area and calls for decisive action towards neutralizing all negative forces in the DRC**

**Nairobi, 24 November 2014** - The Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region, Saïd Djiniit, is deeply concerned by the growing trend of incidents and massacres in Beni, in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, which have claimed the lives of more than a hundred of civilians, mostly women and children, over the past few weeks. He strongly condemns these massacres and extends his condolences to the families of the victims. Special Envoy Djinnit warns that “those behind these massacres should be brought before justice and held accountable”. In this regard, he encourages the DRC Government to continue its efforts to arrest and prosecute those responsible.

He further calls on armed groups active in eastern DRC to disband permanently and warned those supporting them of possible sanctions, in line with pertinent UN Security Council resolutions, particularly 2136 (2014) and 2147 (2014) adopted earlier this year. Expressing his full support to MONUSCO, the Special Envoy encourages the Force, in cooperation with the FARDC, to step up efforts to address the upsurge of violence against civilians.

Special Envoy Djinnit notes that the worsening situation in Beni area and beyond calls for decisive action towards neutralizing all negative forces in the DRC, as per the decisions of the regional leaders and the UN Security Council. The persistence of negative forces, he stresses, “contributes to perpetuate mistrust at a time when the Great Lakes countries are expected to move away from their differences and tragedies of past towards building common peaceful and prosperous future, as called for by the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the DRC and the region”.

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