Read Ahead: Al Jazeera Interview w/ Maryam Nemazee

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Time: 18:00 GMT
Format: WhatsApp | Maryam will call you

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Background

Maryam Nemazee is a British journalist who anchors a range of Al Jazeera English programs. Most notably, she is a presenter on the flagship-program Newshour, on which this interview will air. She is a highly professional, ethical journalist - and while impartial, she has a record of spotlighting the importance of democracy, respect for human rights and speaking truth to power when it is wielded in unethical ways.

Anticipated Topics

1. 9-year anniversary of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework agreement – lack of progress made to date and the steps that need to be taken to ensure stability, peace and justice
2. The myth that DRC is progressing and reforming – international perceptions vs. lived reality of a majority of Congolese citizens
3. The critical need for free and fair elections in 2023 and the necessary reforms – both political and institutional – that must take place to ensure a democratic process
4. Why a stable, prosperous DRC is crucial for a region in disarray

Primary Messaging

- Today marks the 9-year anniversary of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework agreement for the DRC and the region. In theory, the agreement was designed to address the root causes of the conflict in eastern DRC, but the agreement was flawed from the start.
- The last nine years have seen continued killings of Congolese in South Kivu, North Kivu and Ituri, lacking political will and overall stagnation.
- As far as DR Congo is concerned, relatively nothing has been accomplished to translate the agreement’s grand promises into concrete action.
• Instead of reforming the security sector, our government under Mr. Tshisekedi has weaponized it against people who are advocating for justice, democracy, and peace.

• Civilian deaths are on the rise in eastern DRC, most notably since the onset of the May 6 'state of siege.' In fact, over 2,400 Congolese citizens have been killed in the ensuing violence. This figure represents more than a 70% increase in civilian deaths compared to the same time period the year prior.

• Instead of reforming our democratic institutions, Mr. Tshisekedi has undermined them – for example, this past year, Mr. Tshisekedi subverted the process for appointing members of the Independent National Electoral Commission (CENI). He installed handpicked nominees despite outcry from leaders from the Catholic and Protestant churches and the Congolese people.

• Corruption in DRC has skyrocketed. According to the latest Corruption Perceptions Index, published annually by Transparency International, DRC ranks 169/180 countries worldwide.

• The current government is not a government of reconciliation, nor of tolerance or democratization – especially after the stolen election of 2018 – despite what the lobbyists and public relations professionals on the government’s payroll claim.

• There is hope:
  o There is a strong and growing democratic consciousness in the DRC
    Despite having our democracy deferred, our people remain strong and they remain united