

MONTH FOR PEACE 2018
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO
UPDATE JULY 2020

To celebrate the Dominican Month for Peace in 2018, the DR Congo was chosen because, for decades it has been the scene of devastating wars with massacres and human rights violations perpetrated by government forces and numerous armed groups that, together with many foreign powers and companies, are scrambling to extract the country's rich natural resources. And it was agreed that the Civic Education Program of the University of Uélé should be supported. On this precise subject, here is what Bro Bruno Cadoré, Master of the Order, wrote in his letter to the whole Dominican family: *"At the University of Uélé, a Dominican initiative in Isiro, in the province of Haut-Uélé, a "Civic Education Programme (PEDUC)" has been set up. The university and this project are largely run by members of the Dominican family. The project aims to help the inhabitants of the Uélé region to know, promote and defend their fundamental rights and freedoms, long ignored and flouted after decades of dictatorship followed by abusive "wars of liberation" in the country. We are invited to make financial contributions in order to support and strengthen this project, which is so vital for better civic and electoral education of the Congolese people".*

1. CONTRIBUTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE DOMINICAN FAMILY

In total **22,620.76 US\$** was donated to the project by members of the Dominican Family from all parts of the world.

2. USE OF FUNDS RECEIVED

Following discussion with the leaders of PEDUC, it was agreed that, with the money received, we could set up a proper Peace Education Centre, with three dimensions:

- Renovate an unfinished building on the University site, a building formerly used as a chaplaincy;
- Equip it with furniture and computer equipment (computers, scanners, printers, video projector, etc.).
- Develop a proper peace library (purchase of books, subscription to some magazines, etc.).

There will be an inscription on the wall with the following words: **BUILT WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE DOMINICAN MONTH FOR PEACE 2018.**

2.1. Renovation/construction of the building

Following the local bidding process, a service contract for the construction of the PEDUC civic education programme office was concluded between Uélé University and Gurungba Village Company as prime contractor.

TOTAL COST: 13,397.40 US\$

Below are images of this refurbished building



2.2. Office and training room equipment

After the construction of the office, the second step was to equip the office and the training room. Of course, it was first necessary to purchase the chairs, the office tables and the video projectors. In addition, we have installed a room divider for the large room, which is a metal divider.

TOTAL COST: 8,010.00 US\$



2.3. Peace Library

This part of the project could only be carried out in part, since the first two parts consumed the money received, but we hope to find other partners to achieve our objectives. However, there are over 150 books on peace.

TOTAL COST: 762.84 US\$

In summary

<i>N°</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Total Cost in \$</i>
01	Building renovation/construction	13 397,40
02	Office and training room equipment	8 010,00
03	Peace Library	762,84
	TOTAL	22 170,24

Recently arrived and available funds: 22,620.76 US\$ - 22,170.24 US\$ = 450.52 US\$.

CONCLUSION

The celebration of the Month for Peace 2018 was able to put DR Congo in the spotlight. And at the level of the PEDUC, we are convinced that if, in the aftermath of the highly contested elections of December 2018, the DR Congo did not sink into violence as predicted by some observers of Congolese politics, it is thanks, among other things, to the prayer chain of the Dominican family throughout the world. We will never be able to thank all the brothers and sisters who have carried our country in their prayers; others have decided to respond favourably to the call for solidarity launched by the Master of the Order. The University of Uélé takes this opportunity to thank the Promoters of Justice and Peace and the Master for having chosen the DR Congo, and especially our modest civic education centre. Thanks to the donations received, the PEDUC has a real visibility within our university and its influence has meant that for the past two years it has been part of a national consortium of 11 organizations promoting human rights in our country.

THANK YOU TO ALL.

Isiro, June 30, 2020

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