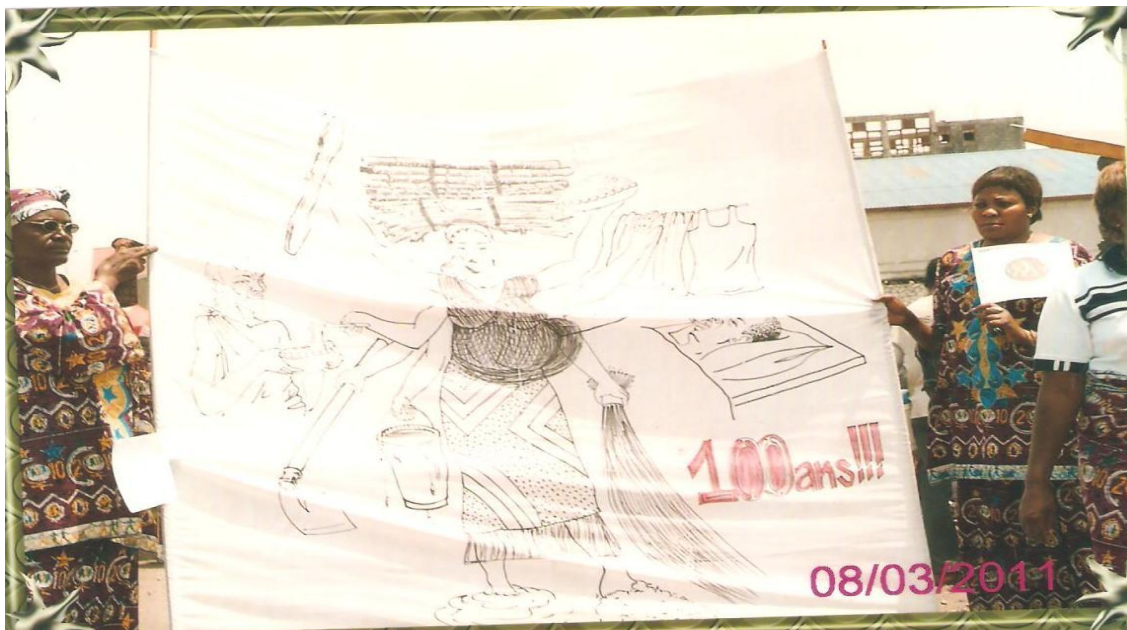


REPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY March 8, 2011.

INTRODUCTION

In the fight against violence of his rights, women were granted a day during which they will speak formally and solemnly at the international level: it is dated 08th March each year.



08 March 2011 in Goma.

The International Women's Day was celebrated on March 8, 2011 in Goma in a warm atmosphere.

On this occasion, all women's organizations were at the rendezvous and participated massively in a peaceful march from the roundabout of banks to the podium of the National Office of Coffee (ONC in short) drop point the market where all the provincial authorities were present.

The themes for March 8, 2011 are as follow at the international level **"access and participation of women and girls to education, has the training, science and technology, including the promotion of equality Access to full employment and decent work "as the national theme was" *Equal access of men and women, boys and***



girls to education, equal access to the same opportunities for a joint Congo.

And particularly at the provincial level were selected the theme **"Women let us win the election by our participation, the key to peace and the eradication of violence against women for sustainable development."**



PARTICIPATION OF CONGO MEN'S NETWORK IN THE DEMONSTRATION





As for the Forum of People Promoting Gender Equality, we have materialized one of our strategies, namely **"Working with women's organizations to organize / support a rally and / or a march against violence."**

With that, a delegation of Congo Men's Network (five men) participated with pride in the work of this great day in the peaceful march by marching alongside the women of the **World March of Women** which is our partner.



The crowd at the event had mixed views on seeing the presence of men in the ranks of women on the occasion of International Women's Day. One could expect the following comments to address male members of Congo's network Men who walked side by side with women:

- "Those men had scores of women, they are victims of violence too? "
- "These men who walk alongside women are suspects and accomplices."
- "Why have not you worn loincloths and women? "

Are about men who were spirited spectators to see the event.



- "You are opportunists, you take the opportunity to share with us what little we have," according to some women



However, most Congolese have not yet realized that Congo Men's Network's mission is to promote positive masculinity, it is a group of men committed to gender equality and that part of the solution is engaging men as partners in preventing violence against women.





Many words have been spoken of circumstance by various personalities around the theme chosen this year.

The ceremonies were closed by building a symbolic bridge to the great barrier between Goma (DRC) and Gisenyi (RWANDA) by the provincial government of North Kivu, on the one hand and the Mayor of Gisenyi, on the other in the presence of women these two neighboring cities on the initiative of the Women for Women International. This bridge was called "***the bridge of peace***" must also be noted that 50 women from Rwanda have crossed the border from demonstrating with their sisters in Congo and vice versa.

To conclude, the day of 08 March 2011 has been the active participation of men in the community that was not the case of international days of the woman earlier. The key challenge remains the achievement of objectives and complying with different themes.

Congo Men's Network is confident that with the participation of men in gender equality will overcome gender-based violence.

The Congo men's Network Team

