



PRESS RELEASE

SADC EXECUTIVE SECRETARY CONDEMNS ATTACK ON TANZANIA PEACEKEEPERS AND FARDC SOLDIERS KILLED IN ATTACK ON MONUSCO COMPANY OPERATING BASE AT SEMULIKI, EASTERN DRC ON 7 DECEMBER 2017

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) has received with great sorrow the information about the killing of 15 soldiers belonging to the SADC-deployed Force Intervention Brigade (FIB), serving under the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the DRC (MONUSCO), which occurred at Semuliki, eastern DRC, on 7 December 2017, in which five soldiers belonging to the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of Congo (FARDC) are also reported killed. SADC condemns in the strongest terms possible the perpetration of this heinous attack and wishes to express the hope that the perpetrators of this heinous attack will be quickly brought to book, thereby ensuring that justice is served.

On behalf of SADC, the Executive Secretary, Dr. Stergomena Lawrence Tax, expresses SADC's profound condolences to Government and peoples of the United Republic of Tanzania and the DRC, through H.E. Dr. John Pombe Joseph Magufuli, President of the United Republic of Tanzania and H.E. Joseph Kabila Kabange, President of the DRC, for the loss of the gallant peacekeepers and soldiers of the FARDC, respectively; to the Chiefs of Defence Forces of the concerned Armed Forces and the families of the deceased heroes.

We wish to express our utmost hope that the still missing soldiers will soon be found and that the 53 wounded Tanzanian soldiers will speedily attain full recovery.

Done at Gaborone, Botswana, 9 December 2017