



Anna Burke MP

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MEDIA RELEASE

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Security in the Democratic Republic of Congo

Federal Chisholm MP Anna Burke has presented a Private Members Motion to Parliament highlighting the devastating humanitarian situation taking place in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

Over 5.4 million people have died as a result of war and its aftermath in the DRC, with 45,000 perishing every month, while more than one million people have been displaced.

“This is a country in need of our protection; we cannot leave it off the radar,” Ms Burke said.

“The mismanagement and illicit trade of the Congo’s vast natural resources are financing multiple armed groups that target the local population.

“These groups commit atrocities against Congolese civilians, with rape and other forms of violence used to intimidate and control communities.

“Continual vigilance is required to ensure that individuals and entities buying minerals from the DRC establish whether they are controlled or taxed by illegal armed groups,” she said.

With the first round of presidential and parliamentary elections due in November this year, Ms Burke said the international community must continue to support humanitarian efforts in the DRC.

“There are already reports of oppression of human rights activists, including illegal arrests and the death of a prominent activist in highly suspicious circumstances,” she said.

“We need to keep an eye on these atrocities.”

Ms Burke acknowledged the Office of Justice and Peace in the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne for working with her and Melbourne’s Congolese community to bring attention to the situation in the DRC.

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