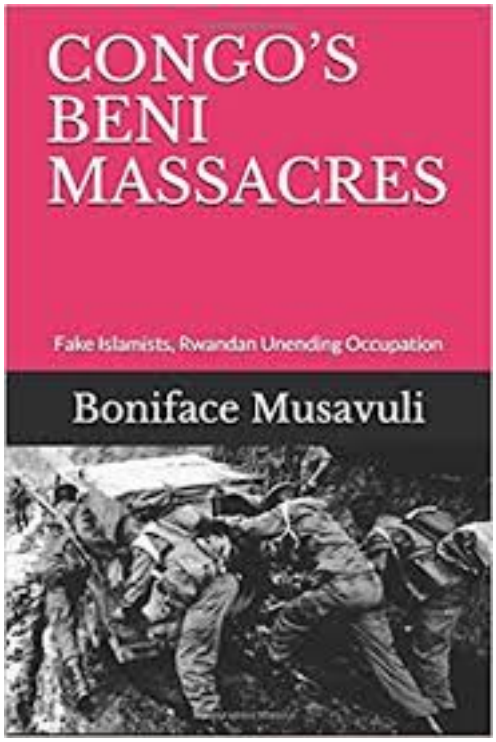




Since the month of November 2019, the massacres in North Kivu have intensified. No one is asking what strategic motives are behind this resurgence. These butchers, who have often been active in the eastern region of this area, that is to say, the eastern flank of the city of Beni watered by the Semuliki River, are now carrying out operations on the western flank of the city as far away as the peaceful populations of the Ituri Forest, in towns bordering North Kivu Province. In the eyes of some analysts, this intensification is a strategic move by the killers from east to west and reveals the enforcement of an order to carry out, as soon as possible, a plan motivated by some extravagant expansionist desires. The thesis of a balkanisation is the one most often proposed in Christian quarters, especially Catholic ones. People holding certain political positions, depending on the divergent interests and ideologies that underlie them,

speak of the possibility of occupation or secession, especially when one considers that these massacres frequently occur in places situated several hundred yards away from government military or Monusco camps.



In recent months the number of deaths can be counted in the hundreds. In November, there were more than 130 victims. Since November till now the number has exceeded 700 victims. The inhabitants of the towns of Mangina and Mantumbi in the Territory of Beni, and those of Biakato and Alima, among others, in the Ituri Forest region, have been forced to flee to the cities of Beni and Butembo, which are now experiencing relative calm. Considering the atrocity of the massacres and their extent, no sector of the population has been untouched by this disaster. The young and the old, students of grammar schools, high schools, and universities, teachers and professors, businessmen and politicians, all of them have had to flee since the latest massacres of Mangina and Makiki.





