

March 20: In memory of F. Machozi and the DRC's people.

The martyrs are people who carry out the mission of the Church, people who supported the Church in the past and continue supporting it nowadays. There are more martyrs today than in the first centuries. The means of communication don't talk about it. But many Christians in the world blessed because they are persecuted, insulted, imprisoned. Many of them are in prison only to carry their cross or to confess Jesus Christ. This is the glory of the Church and our help and our humiliation as well: For us who have enough means to live everything seems easy. and when we lack just something little we lament a lot. But let us think of our brothers and sisters who suffer martyrdom more that in the first centuries.

We celebrate today the memory of a martyred people's son; a son of tears as we can translate his name: Father Vincent Machozi. With him, we think of millions of innocent victims of the people of Northern Kivu in D.R.C. Machozi dedicated his life to awaken people's conscience, especially through his website: [Benilubero.com](http://Benilubero.com), about the massacres which his people experiences on a daily basis. Dead, our brother continue accompanying his people on a journey which doesn't end on the Cross but which is an authentic Easter of life and hope.

A church without martyrs is a church without jess. That is why Francis invite us to pray continually for our martyrs who suffer a lot. Let us pray for God's people who bear the cross of martyrdom. Christians' blood constitute the precious seed for life. Pope Francis says that, with their martyrdom, their testimony and their suffering as well as their death sow the Christians in the future and in Churches.

More than 5.5 million of dead in the Northern Kivu region between the boundaries of the D.R.C, Uganda and Rwanda in the last 20 years. At least 70 various armed groups terrorize the population in the region in order to control and still the natural resources of the D.R.C.

There are still some communities which live Christian solidarity accompanied by their pastors and by a number of religious who don't leave the region despite the chaotic situation.

God of mercy. Hear our cry. Accompany which suffer in the Northern kivu region, console toose who have lost their loved ones. Increase solidarity, help and change the hearts of all political leaders so that they may work for the good of their people.