



Brussels, 9/10/2018

Dear Dr. Mukwege,

It is with great happiness that we heard the news about the 2018 Nobel Peace Prize to Nadia Murad and yourself for “efforts to end the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war and armed conflict.”

On the behalf of Protection International, I wish to personally congratulate you for this outstanding achievement, which will be of inspiration to many in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and abroad. Not only does your contribution to women’s rights and the construction of peace continue to bring hope to those women you assist daily, but your uncompromised support to those who defend human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo has also been an exemplary testimony of your integrity and commitment to our common humanity.

Recalling your words about the role of human rights defenders at Protection International’s 2017 roundtable in Brussels “*We are the sentinels of human rights protection, for which we must work together hand in hand*”, we applaud the fact that this Nobel Prize recognizes the suffering of women victims of rape and sexual violence as much as the work of two human rights defenders who are selflessly striving for justice.

At times of great uncertainty, you are a champion for all the less visible, yet courageous human rights defenders in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, bringing protection issues on the national and international agendas. For Protection International, it is an honor and a pleasure to accompany your work and to join forces to protect the right to defend human rights where it matters the most.

We wish to celebrate this moment with you and the colleagues of the Panzi hospital, confident that this well-deserved award you have received will lead to greater achievements for the cause of women and for the right to defend human rights.

With kind regards,

Liliana De Marco Coenen  
Executive Director