

Dr. Denis Mukwege

Dr. Denis Mukwege is a world-renowned gynecological surgeon who is the founder and medical director of Panzi Hospital in Bukavu, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). He founded Panzi Hospital in 1999 as a clinic for gynecological and obstetric care, and expected to be working on issues of maternal health. Since that time, however, Dr. Mukwege and his staff have helped to care for thousands of survivors of sexual violence. Dr. Mukwege has been fearless in his efforts to increase protections for women and to advocate that those responsible for sexual violence be brought to justice, including the Congolese government and militia groups laying siege to eastern DRC.

Panzi Hospital

The hospital is located in Panzi commune about 8km from the center of Bukavu in South Kivu Province, eastern DR.C. It is the only hospital in the Ibanda Health Zone, but accepts patients from throughout the region. Since its inception, Dr. Mukwege and his colleagues have treated approximately 40,000 women and girls victimized in brutal sexual attacks, often at the hands of soldiers and armed rebels. The hospital not only addresses the immediate medical needs of survivors of sexual violence, but also provides legal and psycho-social services.

The hospital now comprises four departments, including obstetrics and gynecology, pediatrics, surgery, and internal medicine. In 2012, the hospital implemented a cervical cancer-screening project, the first of its kind in eastern DRC. Patients who cannot afford care are treated without charge.

Advocacy

Dr. Mukwege is a tireless advocate for the rights of women in DRC, and he regularly travels abroad raising awareness of the situation in eastern DRC. In September 2012, Dr. Mukwege addressed the United Nations General Assembly in New York. He spoke publicly of the need to prosecute the crime of mass rape and rape as a tool of war and terror. In October 2012, he narrowly escaped an assassination attempt at his home in Bukavu, which resulted in the death of his bodyguard. Dr. Mukwege and his family were forced to flee the country briefly. In January 2013, he returned to the DRC to continue his work.

Dr. Mukwege currently lives and works at Panzi Hospital. In addition to his responsibilities of managing and administering the hospital and overseeing projects at the Panzi Foundation, Dr. Mukwege continues to see patients and perform surgery two days a week.

Awards and Accolades

Dr. Mukwege has been thrice nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize and has been the recipient of numerous awards in recognition of his work at Panzi Hospital, including:

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| 2007 – Republic of France Special Human Rights Prize | 2011 – King Baudouin International Development Prize |
| 2008 – UN Human Rights Prize | 2011 – Clinton Global Citizen Award |
| 2009 – Olof Palme Prize | 2013 – The Train Foundation Civil Courage Prize |
| 2009 – African of the Year | 2013 – Human Rights First Human Rights Award |
| 2010 – Honorary doctorate in medicine at Umea University in Sweden | 2013 – Chirac Foundation Award for conflict prevention |
| | 2013 – Right Livelihood Award |
| | 2014 – Doctor Honoris Causa from University of Leuven |
| | 2014 – H. Clinton Award for Advancing Women in Peace and Security |
| | 2014 – Manitoba Order of the Buffalo Hunt |
| | 2014 – Inamori Ethics Prize form Case Reserve University |
| | 2014 - Prix de la Solidarité – CUH St Pierre/médecins du Monde |
- 2010 – University of Michigan Raoul Wallenberg Medal
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