



Rwandan Platform for Dialogue Truth and Justice

Press Release

KwaZulu Natal, 07 December 2011



SAVE EARTH SAVE THE PEOPLE OF RWANDA AGAINST PRESIDENT KAGAME'S CRUELTY

Following the UN invitation of the Rwandan President Major General Paul Kagame as one of the revered speakers during the session of the International Conference on Climate Change (COP17), we, the Rwandan exiles living in South Africa call on the delegates and the International Community to listen to the silent cry of millions of Rwandans languishing under the tyranny of President Paul Kagame.

RDTJ

Non-Profit Organization registration number 087-133
89 St Frusquin Street, Marlvery, Johannesburg, 2094, South Africa
Cell: +27 (0)82 727 3756; +27 (0)72 544 6622 - Email: emtabazi64@gmail.com; kclauddeb@yahoo.fr

RDTJ KwaZulu Natal Branch

P.O Box 10129, Marine Parade, 5056, Durban – South Africa
Cell: +27 (0)82 544 0304, +27 (0)72 544 6622 - Email: rstany@yahoo.com; muhnelson@yahoo.co.uk

RDTJ Western Cape Branch

Po Box: 2122, Cape Town, 8000, South Africa
Tel: +27 (0)21 69154 - Cell: +27 (0)72 617 7104; +27 (0)83 963 7345 - Email: callixtekav@gmail.com; salimbav@yahoo.com

“The dead cannot cry out for justice; it is a duty of the living to do so for them.” Lois McMaster Bujold, *Diplomatic Immunity*, 2002.

Rwanda was a peaceful and stable country. But since 1990, when the RPF (Rwandan Patriotic Front) composed by mainly by Tutsi ethnic rebels from neighboring Uganda led by Paul Kagame, invaded Rwanda on October 01, 1990; Rwanda has been marred and experienced all kinds of violence, atrocities, brutality and cruelty perpetrated against its own people until today. The media resorted to the comfortable stereotype of ‘ethnic’ or ‘tribal’ warfare but the violence was and remains purely political.

Despite the artificial peace and unreal economic progress observed by visitors of Rwanda today, *“Rwanda is once again at dangerous cross roads. President Kagame’s repressive rule fuels ethnic polarization, social upheaval and almost inevitable conflict. Failing profound political change, Rwanda is set on a course that could lead to devastating consequences, inside Rwanda itself and the Great Lakes region generally. Peaceful and democratic change in Rwanda requires sustained investment in protecting fundamental freedoms, promoting the values of respect of human rights and the rule of law, establishing democratic and accountable institutions, and working for healing of individuals and communities as the cornerstone for healing individuals and communities as a cornerstone for a shared future of durable peace, security and prosperity in a diverse but united nation”* (Rudasingwa, 2011).

Today, we find Rwandan Human Rights activists, independent journalists, opposition leaders and all others critics against Kagame, dead, in jail or in exile.

Those who were killed or disappeared include ex-Minister *Seth Sendashonga*, Major *Theoneste Lizinde*, Mr. *Augustin Bagirimfura*, Col. *Cyiza*, Capt. *Frank Tega*, CEO of BACAR *Pasteur Musabe*, Prof. *Jwani Mwaikusa*, Council of State president *Vincent Nsanzabaganwa*, Journalist *Emmanuel Munyemanzi*, Presidential Advisor *Assiel Kabera*, Press Secretary of PS Imberakubiri

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Aimable Sibomana Rusanganwa, Journalist *Jean Leonard Rugambage*, Vice-chairman of the Democratic Green Party *Andre Kagwa Rwisekera*; Journalist *Charles Ingabire*, and many others.

Those who went in exile include ex- Minister *Jean Marie Ngagijimana*, Speaker of the House *Joseph Sebarenzi*, ex-Prime Minister *Pierre Celestin Rwigema*, Gen. BEM *Habyalimana*, Mr. *Valens Kajeguhakwa*, Col. *Ndengeyinka*, Lt. *Ruzibiza*, Lt. *Ruyenzi*, Capt. *Rwakampala*, Major *Furuma*; MDR President *Faustin Twagiramungu*, Col. *Patrick Karegeya*, Lt. Gen. *Kayumba Nyamwasa*, former Secretary General of RPF Dr. *Theogene Rudasingwa*, former vice president of the Supreme Court *Gerald Gahima*, Journalist *Charles Kabonera*, Journalist *Didas Gasana*, and many others.

Those who are thrown in prison includes *Deo Mushayidi* (Chair of PDP-Imanzi), Mme *Ingabire Umuhoza* (Chair of FDU-Inkingi), Advocate *Bernard Ntagandam* (Founder and Chair of PS – Imberakubiri), Journalists *Agnes Uwimna* and *Saidat Mukarubibi*, *Joseph Ntawanguwundi* (FDU-Inkingi); Minister *Charles Ntakirutinka* (PDR – Ubuyanja). The list is not exhaustive.

On 23 November 2011, Ambassador *Susan E. Rice*, U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations, in her recent visit in Rwanda, acknowledged these blatant human rights violations when she remarked that “...*the political culture in Rwanda remains comparatively closed. Press restrictions persist. Civil society activists, journalists, and political opponents of the government often fear organizing peacefully and speaking out. Some have been harassed. Some have been intimidated by late-night callers. Some have simply disappeared.*” She called for political openness and democracy so that we, Rwandans, can chart about our future.

Due to these unspeakable human rights abuse, President Kagame is charged with most serious crimes of terrorism by the French Tribunal de Grande Instance, crimes of murder by Spanish Court, the Audiencia Nacional and the crimes against humanity and genocide against Hutu refugees and Congolese people in DRC by the UN Mapping Report 2010 on DRC. We take this

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opportunity to call upon the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to have mercy and with-hold his bid to have all Rwandan exiles handed over to their oppressors led by President Kagame, through the imminent implementation of the cessation clause, because we are also part of the environment that needs to be preserved.

Inviting a man like Kagame and shaking hands with him is an insult to millions of victims of his “covered up crimes” and a disregard to the importance of a gathering such as UN COP17. As the wind of political change sweeps notorious African dictators, those who supported them or covered up their crimes will soon suffer the disgrace of having been their accomplices when truth is exposed in courts of law. Bad leadership has to be fought by all in order to save the earth and find adequate solutions to dangerous impacts of climate change.

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