

## **RUD-URUNANA**

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#### **STRONG DENONCIATION OF RAKIYA OMAAR'S REPORT ON THE LEADERSHIP OF OPPOSITION GROUPS INCLUDING RUD-URUNANA**

The Rally for Unity and Democracy (RUD-Urunana) protests vigorously against the allegations and misleading information in Rakiya Omaar's report entitled: Report on the Leadership of the FDLR and RUD-Urunana (Dec. 2008). It is very important to point out that this report was commissioned by the Rwanda Demobilisation and Reintegration Commission.

For malicious purposes, Mrs Rakiya Omaar and her surrogates of African Rights have always chosen to create an amalgamation of misinformation, intoxication, and dishonest propaganda to justify the crimes committed by the Rwandan regime against refugees, its warmongering policy, and the stifling of basic human rights and democracy in Rwanda. One may remember their last report dated December 2007 after the Nairobi Communique Declaration. In that report, African Rights alleged then that the opposition to the Kigali regime comes from Northern Rwanda and only from ethnic Hutus. Yet, the enlisted persons of the opposition leaders included people from all the corners of Rwanda, but included Tutsis as well.

In the present report, after criticizing the Kisangani Process that was initiated by the DRC Government, RUD/RPR under San'Egidio mediation along with international community observers, Rakiya Omaar of African Rights went on to allege that RUD-Urunana leadership has been taking refugees as hostages and preventing them from returning to Rwanda. For people who followed these negotiations that led to the Kisangani Declaration as well as the official establishment of Kasiki settlement on July 31, 2007 know how this was a step forward although the government of Kigali and its allies strongly objected to it. It is important to note that, it was during these negotiations that Kagame's government decided to issue a list of 7000 alleged "genocidaires". Several independent and reputable organisations saw in this publication an attempt by Kigali's regime to torpedo the process. Soon after, reliable sources have indicated that the list of 7000 was withdrawn by the rwandan government and replaced by a list of less than twenty individuals. The ceremonies of Kasiki were attended by representatives of the important members of the international community as well as a delegation from Rwanda. Subsequently, UN Secretary General, in his report S/2008/433 to the Security Council, welcomed the Kisangani Process between RUD/RPR and the DRC Government and indicated that it should be encouraged.

As RUD/RPR leadership has always indicated, all rwandan refugees, wherever they are, have an inherent right to return voluntarily to their homeland. What has been asked to the rwandan government is to provide political and security guarantees in case of mass repatriation. Such guarantees are important since there are a lot of returnees that have either vanished, harassed, or imprisoned. Recent arrests of returnees including Brig. Gen. Seraphin Bizimungu alias Mahoro are indicative of how RPF treats the people who opt to return to Rwanda: as soon you are no longer of any RPF "propaganda value", you became disposable in the eyes of the Kagame's regime. After his return to Rwanda, Mr. Seraphin Bizimungu was not immediately integrated in

Rwandan Defense Forces (RDF). However, subsequently, he was asked to join a RDF team that was supporting and advising renegade Gen. Laurent Nkunda in eastern DRC military operations. Just before his arrest, Bizimungu was working closely for Gen. Kabarebe, RDF Chief of Staff. Finally, Bizimungu was forcefully brought before a gacaca court where he received a for life sentence. Such selective justice system will never be of the essence of fostering genuine reconciliation among rwandans.

We would remind to foster a genuine reconciliation, it is important that anyone, Hutu, Tutsi or Twa, who has committed despicable crimes be brought before an independent and impartial jurisdictions and not the rwandan judiciary that has been rigged by RPF operatives.

Recent UN report on the illegal exploitation of the DRC resources, Rwanda was singled out with other players. However, Rakiya Omaar failed even to mention that fact in her report. Our organisation would like to remind the international community that RUD-Urunana and RPR have never and will never be engaged in such conduct.

Rakiya Omaar and African Rights have never condemned the crimes committed by the RPF. On the contrary, since 1990, as one of the RPF staunch sympathizers and supporters since RPF inception, Rakiya Omaar has strived to finding ways to justify the destabilizing actions by the RPF/RPA and later the RPF government. If Rakiya Omaar were genuinely working for justice and advocating for human rights, instead of working for General Paul Kagame and his cronies, then she should propose fair solutions and actions to address the issues in the region instead of being a spokesperson on human rights issues of the Kigali regime.

We reaffirm that the problem in the region is not the existence of political and/or armed opposition groups. The existence of such opposition is a symptom of the current instability epicenter in the Great Lakes region which is in Rwanda. As long as the root causes of the Rwandan problem are not addressed, the Great Lakes region will remain unstable as the world has seen lately in North Kivu.

As our organisation has always pointed out, the Rwandan problem is political in nature and requires political solutions. In order to foster a reconciliatory Justice system, the only foundation of genuine Reconciliation, we urgently ask to hold, under the auspices of the International Community, an Inter-Rwandan Dialogue. We remain convinced that only this Dialogue would address the roots causes of the rwandan problems, lead to lasting peace, stability, and the establishment of new political, judiciary, and security institutions that would be the reflection of the legitimate aspirations of all the constitutive groups of the Rwandan society.

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