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RECENT PAUL KAGAME'S REMARKS CONSTITUTE AN OUTRAGE TO RWANDAN PEOPLE

Our organization would like to denounce and condemn in strongest terms possible recent public remarks made by Paul Kagame, President of Rwanda, relative to Rwandan refugees and his fellow citizens. What President Kagame has just stated is not only irresponsible, it is immoral. In any democratic society, such statements would be indicative of his inability to be fit for any political office; therefore, he should immediately and unconditionally step down.

In his recent speeches, Paul Kagame has admitted to have ordered the killing of Rwandan refugees in Eastern DRC during the manhunt that was perpetrated by the Rwandan Patriotic Army (RPA) in 1996-97 and in subsequent military campaigns. He went on to compare Rwandan refugees to human waste; based on such insertion one may conclude that they do deserve nothing more than being eliminated. As a reminder, these crimes that were perpetrated against refugees and Congolese people have been qualified by independent observers and in UN reports as acts of genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity.

It is shocking and appalling of seeing a so-called national leader especially someone occupying the highest position of the land treating his fellow citizens of human waste. Such characterization that may be compared to what was prevalent in other jurisdictions and leadership in the early days of the last century does not and shall not have any place in any modern society. Few days back, he had compared other presidential candidates who have vied to challenge him in the upcoming bogus election to political hooligans. These uncontrolled Kagame's outbursts are symptomatic and/or indicative of a dysfunctional system that is about to disintegrate due to its own internal contradictions.

Meanwhile, Kagame has ordered the suspension of the free media outlets because the latter had the courage to report and question his regime deeds while informing truthfully the Rwandan people and the international community. In a country where lawful dissent is criminalized, prohibited, and/or repressed forcefully, there is no place of democratic debate. This has been one of the significant traits of the Rwandan regime since its inception. The continuous flow of refugees including former RPF officials who have been flocking in neighboring countries is a blatant evidence of such brutality.

Once again, the Kigali's regime has shown that it is neither interested in organizing free and fair elections nor in finding genuine solutions to underlying problems of our homeland. Kagame's interests solely reside in perpetuating the RPF hegemony as it has transpired in his recent public addresses. After all these years of unparalleled tragedy and bad governance, the Rwandan people deserve better.

As our organization has always pointed out, the Rwandan problem is political in nature and requires political solutions. To find lasting solutions to the overall problem of the Rwandan refugees in the region, it is important that the root causes of the political instability be addressed. It is our firm conviction that as long as the underlying causes of the rwandan political problems

would not genuinely be addressed, the populations of the region will neither enjoy lasting peace nor sustainable development and prosperity.

In order to foster a reconciliatory Justice system, the only foundation of genuine Reconciliation, the coalition RUD-Urunana and RPR will continue to call for the organization, under the auspices of the International Community, of an Inter-Rwandan Dialogue. In addition, such process would set up a "Truth, Justice, and Reconciliation" Commission that would help heal a traumatized society.

We remain convinced that only this Dialogue would lead to lasting peace, stability, and the establishment of new political, judiciary, and security institutions that would meet the legitimate aspirations of all the constitutive groups of the Rwandan society.

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