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UPCOMING 2010 ELECTIONS: FUTILE AND MEANINGLESS FOR THE RWANDAN PEOPLE

Once again, it is with great consternation and sorrow that our organization has learnt the assassination of one of the political opposition leaders. Based on the information at our disposal, such crime was perpetrated by operatives of the Kagame's regime. Such criminal action has for objectives to intimidate and/or silence anyone who would dare to challenge the regime establishment. It is said that the latest victim used to be well known in inner circles of the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF), since he used to be one of main contributors before departing with the ruling party.

This gruesome assassination of one of leaders of the Green Party is consecutive to the assassination of the editor of Umuwugizi, an independent newspaper, who was shot dead on his way to his residence. In addition, one may note the attempt by Kigali operatives to liquidate Kayumba Nyamwasa, one of Kagame's former companions, who recently found refuge in South Africa.

Given the climate of fear, assassination, terror, and repression prevalent in the country especially against those suspected of dissent or of opposing opinions to the regime, it is evident that the upcoming elections will neither be free nor fair. Although, the regime and its supporters will present the futile exercise as another great achievement of the regime, genuine and independent observers will note the pure farce of such consultation characterized mainly by ballot rigging, coercion, and lack of credible challengers.

Our organization would like to call upon the International Community to witness the repression perpetrated by the rwandan government and ask the former to take appropriate actions in denouncing and isolating Kagame and his cronies. Foreign donors shall abstain in funding the upcoming presidential election since it is evident it will only serve to perpetuate a dictatorial regime. In case of inaction, Rwandans will once more feel abandoned as they were in 1994. Independent observers have indicated that the current situation in Rwandan is so dire that the International Community shall not pretend that it does not know what is going on.

Our organization calls upon the rwandan government for an immediate and unconditional release of all the political prisoners as well as innocent citizens who have been languishing in prison for years. As our organization has always pointed out, the Rwandan problem is political in nature and requires political solutions. In order to build a genuine democratic society in Rwanda, 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 problem 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, we urgently ask to hold, under the auspices of the International Community, an Inter-Rwandan

Dialogue. In addition, our organization calls for the organization of a "Truth, Justice, and Reconciliation" Commission in our homeland that would help heal a traumatized society.

Our organization remains convinced that only this Dialogue would 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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