

RUD-URUNANA

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STRONG DENONCIATION OF AFRICAN RIGHTS REPORT ENTITLED: A WELCOME EXPRESSION OF INTENT (DECEMBER 2007)

The Rally for Unity and Democracy (RUD-Urunana) protests vigorously against the allegations contained in African Rights memorandum titled: A WELCOME EXPRESSION OF INTENT, The Nairobi Communique and Ex-FAR Interahamwe (December 2007).

For malicious purposes, Mrs Rakiya Omaar and African Rights chose to create an amalgamation of misinformation, intoxication, and blatant lies 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. By this report, African Rights has failed its stated mission of "Working for Justice" and pushed forward its real agenda of "Working for General Kagame".

In the report, African Rights alleges that the opposition to the Kigali regime comes from Northern Rwanda and only from ethnic Hutus. Yet, the list of persons contained in its report shows very well that the opposition leaders not only are from all the corners of Rwanda, but include Tutsis as well.

In the report, African Rights alleges that RUD-Urunana includes genocidaires, but yet insists on the fact that one of its components is made of Tutsis officers and troops former members of the Rwandan Patriotic Army (RPA). In fact, African Rights points to the existence of the armed opposition group RPR-Inkeragutabara composed mainly of Tutsi, who fell out with the ruling Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF). How can African Rights explain that Tutsis chose to associate and be members of groups that want to exterminate them?

African Rights is particularly virulent against RUD-Urunana leaders, especially Dr. Jean Marie Vianney Higirow and Dr. Felicien Kanyamibwa and made preposterous statements about other RUD-Urunana leaders. It is well known that neither Dr. Jean Marie Vianney Higirow nor Dr. Felicien Kanyamibwa were ever ex-FAR or Interahamwe. Dr. Felicien Kanyamibwa who has lived in USA for close to two decades, got only involved in politics as a founding member of the FDLR and became Executive Secretary. Dr. Jean Marie Vianney Higirow joined the FDLR and was elected 1er Vice-President after he turned down an RPF offer to become Minister of Information in one of RPF governments. Dr. Augustin Dukuze, RUD-Urunana spokesperson, has lived in Canada for more than two decades and was never a lawyer and could not possibly be a lawyer for Electrogaz. Also, Mme Goretti Abayizigira, the Vice-President of RUD-Urunana, never lived in Canada.

We recall to the International Community that, due to profound divergences, certain members departed officially and publicly with the FDLR in September 2004. These individuals were subsequently formally expelled from the FDLR. Among those individuals are Dr. Jean Marie Vianney Higirow, Mme Goretti Abayizigira, Dr. Felicien Kanyamibwa and Dr. Augustin Dukuze.

One cannot thus be expelled from an organization and remain its member at the same time. RUD-Urunana is an independent organization and the Armée Nationale-Imboneza whose mission is to protect all Rwandans and Rwandan refugees in distress does not have any ties whatsoever with the FOCA of the FDLR.

When the RUD-Urunana was created, the founding members clearly and unequivocally limited its military operations inside Rwanda, except in rare occasions in which Rwandan refugees would be threatened by Rwandan Government forces or any other rogue forces as they did in 1996-97. Hence, the overall commander of the AN-Imboneza, General Major Johnson Burasa, and the Chief of Military Operations, Brigadier General Pacifique Zigabe, are based in Rwanda. Although AN-Imboneza and RPR-Inkeragutabara conduct joint military training and operations, they have separate military structures with a different political leadership.

The association between Brigadier General Pacifique Zigabe and Major Faustin Ntilikina is a malicious attempt to show that RUD-URunana is not based in Rwanda. General Paul Kagame, General Kabarebe, General Laurent Nkunda, and Rakiya Omaar of African Rights know very well that the attacks inside Rwanda by AN-Imboneza on the forces crossing from Rwanda to the DRC to support the rogue General Nkunda were led by Brigadier General Pacifique Zigabe. In these attacks, AN-Imboneza seized a lot of weapons, ammunitions, and communication gears, including high frequency radios. On the other side, Major Ntilikina has been a refugee in Europe since 1998 and as such and like any other refugee, cannot be in AN-Imboneza's military structure.

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 African Rights were genuinely working for justice and advocating for human rights, instead of working for General Paul Kagame and his cronies, then it 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 Rwandan problem is not resolved the Great Lakes region will remain unstable. As we have 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 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.

December 15, 2007

Dr. Augustin Dukuze
Spokesperson