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### **PRESS RELEASE PP No. 03/JUL/10**

#### **RWANDAN REFUGEES IN THE GREAT LAKES REGION: TIME FOR A COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH**

Our organization has learnt of the on-going forceful expulsion of Rwandan refugees who had been living in camps in Uganda. We would like to call upon the government of Uganda to abide by its international obligations relative to refugees and asylum seekers. As stated in a recent study conducted by International Refugee Rights Initiative (IRRI), there is credible and overwhelming evidence justifying the reasons why Rwandans have continuously elected to leave everything and flee the rampant injustice, repression and persecution that President Kagame's regime has subjected to his own people.

Given the brutal repression that has become the main characteristic of the Kagame's regime, it is our firm conviction that forceful repatriation will in no way end the continuous flow of the refugees stemming from Rwanda into the neighboring countries in general and in Uganda in particular. Therefore, a comprehensive approach to finding a lasting solution to the presence of hundreds of thousands of rwandan refugees in the region is required. That is why our organization has constantly privileged peaceful solutions. However, such solutions require that the UN Secretary General and the UN Security Council engage the Rwandan Government in order to create conditions for the peaceful repatriation of refugees and to open a dialogue with its opposition.

Hence, our organization recommends that the UN Secretary General should appoint without delay a Special Representative for Rwandan refugees in the Great Lakes Region of Africa, as this constitutes the best way towards a timely and durable resolution of the impasse. Meanwhile, the UNHCR must fulfill its professional and moral responsibilities towards the Rwandan refugees and asylum seekers.

As our organization has always pointed out, the Rwandan problem is political in nature and requires political solutions. To find a lasting solution 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 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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