

RUD-URUNANA

URUNANA RW'ABAHARANIRA UBUMWE NA DEMOKARASI
RALLIEMENT POUR L'UNITE ET LA DEMOCRATIE
RALLY FOR UNITY AND DEMOCRACY

Tel: 001-201-794-6542 /

001-506-461-3919

Email: urunana@optonline.net

url: www.rud-urunana.org

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RWANDA: RUD-URUNANA STRONGLY DENOUNCES INTIMIDATION AND BLACKMAIL AS A SYSTEM OF GOVERNANCE

Recently, the Rwanda Demobilisation and Reintegration Commission (RDRC) launched in the governmental newspaper Mvaho Nshya No. 1909 of 3-9 August 2009 a Request for expressions of Interest for consultants targeting the opposition including RUD-Urunana leadership.

Based on that call for proposals, the expressed goal of such consultancy work aims at "*the fact that the leaders of the FDLR and RUD, as well as a number of their deputies and key allies, live in Europe, the US and Canada is not accidental. Rather, it reflects a policy to seek alliances and support abroad from foreign governments, regional and international organizations, the media, the church and NGO's through misinformation and deception.*"

It is shocking and appalling of seeing a so-called national institution having recourse to bogus studies to intimidate, blackmail, and silence the opposition political leadership. One would remember huge sums of money that have been allocated to African Rights to produce questionable reports that included RUD-Urunana leadership. Such report was full of inaccuracies, misrepresentations, and propaganda on the rwandan regime behalf.

A lot rwandans wonder what is the real role of the RDRC. There are a lot of reports stating that the demobilized elements of the Rwandan Defense Forces (RDF) and new Hutu returnees from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) have been enrolled by coercion either in the CNDP troops or have been asked to join RDF units that were deployed in eastern DRC. This was more evident in the Umoja Wetu and Kimia operations. However, such violation of basic demobilization principles has never been denounced by the RDRC.

At the moment several reputable organizations including Human Rights Watch (HRW) and the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI) released critical reports that have put the Kigali's regime on notice and pinpointed fundamental shortcomings of the rwandan political system, the Kigali's regime is trying to blame the opposition of its misfortune instead of addressing the fundamental problems raised by kin observers of the regime performance.

In a country where lawful dissent is prohibited and/or repressed forcefully, there is no place of democratic debate. The continuous flow of refugees flocking in neighboring countries is an blatant evidence of such brutality. The new refugees include little people who do not have anyone to advocate for them and regime dignitaries whose political usefulness has been spent. Even independent media outlets are not spared: the recent suspension of an international broadcasting radio as well as a local rwandan newspaper shall be taken in this context of intimidation and stifling dissent.

The RUD-Urunana leadership does not have anything to hide. Therefore, there is no need of hiring the so-called "experts" whose conclusions are already known. If the rwandan regime were

really interested to know what our organization proposes to tackle challenges that besiege our homeland, let the rwandan government sits around the same table in a neutral setting with the opposition and the rwandan civil society and discuss all the issues that have hampered our country. In such case, the coalition of RUD-Urunana and RPR is ready to contribute without any reservation to the success of such endeavor. Otherwise, spending huge resources while the great majority of rwandans are starving, are incapable of sending their children to school is irresponsible.

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 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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DR. AUGUSTIN DUKUZE
SPOKESPERSON