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**PRESS RELEASE PP /RUD-RPR/No. 02/APR/07****RUD-RPR POLITICAL PRISONERS BEFORE A RWANDAN MILITARY COURT**

The Rally for Unity and Democracy (RUD-URUNANA) and the Rassemblement du Peuple Rwandais (RPR) have learned that their members, recently repatriated against their will from Uganda, appeared before a Rwandan military court at Kanombe this April 17, 2007.

Since all these individuals who were forcefully removed had fled Rwanda to avoid persecution, torture and/or imminent death, the RUD-URUNANA and RPR consider them as political prisoners and/or of conscience. Thus, our organizations take the International Community for witness and request that human rights organizations operating in Rwanda and in the world to assist them as well as their families, as they do for any other person in distress.

Knowing that the Rwandan judiciary is neither independent nor fair when it comes to deal with what Kagame's regime perceives as political opponent cases, it will be impossible to our companions to receive a fair trial in these proceedings. While their lawyers filed a petition for their immediate release, the accused described before the court the ill treatments they have been subjected to. Hence, we call upon the International Community as well as human rights organizations to pressure Kagame's regime in order to free them.

We would like to point out that the Rwandan problem is a political problem that requires political solutions. In order to banish once for all the causes leading rwandans to seek asylum and protection in other countries, we ask urgently 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 and the establishment of new political and security institutions that will embody the legitimate aspirations of all the Rwandan citizens without any recurrent discrimination.

On April 17, 2007

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