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APRIL 6, 1994 RWANDAN COMMISSION OF INQUIRY: ONCE AGAIN, THE TRUTH, ANOTHER VICTIM TO BE

On October 10, 2007, the rwandan government set up a national commission that will supposedly carry out an investigation into the shooting down of the presidential jet on April 6, 1994. Meanwhile, several independent observers have pointed out how this terrorist act sparked the despicable crimes committed in Rwanda and in neighboring countries till the present days.

Although such national inquiry may have been welcomed years ago, it is important to remind the rwandan people and the International Community that President Paul Kagame himself has repeated at several occasions that he did neither give a "damn" to such investigation nor care about the assassination of President Juvenal Habyarimana.

Since the criminal act of April 6, 1994 took place in a zone under UNAMIR control and went on to threaten national and regional security, such inquiry should be conducted by an independent commission set up by the UN Security Council as has been the case for the assassination of former Prime Minister of Lebanon, Mr. Rafiki Hariri.

Numerous independent investigations have uncovered active involvement of some of the current RPF officials including President Kagame himself in plotting, organizing, and carrying out such a terrorist act. Even ICTR investigators found evidence pointing to RPF gunmen as being the ones who pulled the trigger and downed the presidential Falcon. Subsequently, while Carla Del Ponte was resolved to investigate RPF officers who perpetrated crimes that violated international law and that were clearly covered by the ICTR mandate, she was suddenly relieved of her duties as ICTR prosecutor by the UN Security Council. However, recently the french anti-terrorist Judge, Jean-Louis Bruguière, indicted President Kagame close aides while asking the UN to refer Kagame's case to the ICTR.

To the UN and the International Community, our organization has one and simple question: what would happen if a jet carrying two western leaders coming back from a peace conference were shot down by rogue individuals and/or states? We think, and rightly so, that everything would be done to find anyone involved in such plot and bring them to justice. Therefore, similar standard shall apply to the rwandan case.

Our organization does not expect anything meaningful to come out a commission under the thumb of the Kigali's regime, Paul Kagame, and his cronies in particular. The rwandan people deserve to know the Truth and the whole Truth of what happened at around 8:20 pm when the Falcon was preparing to land at Kigali international airport so that the perpetrators are brought before an independent and impartial judicial institution. What the rwandan people need is a truthful account of the events surrounding such terrorist act and the prosecution of all the instigators: nothing more nothing less. Rwandans are no longer interested in the so-called

investigation designed ultimately to exonerate RPF operatives including Paul Kagame from the crimes they deliberately perpetrated.

Before setting up a sham commission of inquiry, we urge the Kigali's regime to hand over to independent jurisdictions or the ICTR all RPF operatives indicted by the Judge Bruguière including Paul Kagame for carrying out the terrorist act that has created havoc in the entire region for more than a decade. The instability that resulted from such a crime has engulfed the entire Great Lakes region and does not seem to have an end in sight. Any lasting peace will be elusive as long as this central problem would not be addressed and dealt with.

The RUD-Urunana would like to remind the International Community that the Rwandan problem is political in nature and its solution must be political. That is why our organization strongly asks 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 and security institutions that would be the reflection of the legitimate aspirations of all the constitutive groups of the Rwandan society. It is only such political institutions that would have the moral authority and the mandate to establish a genuine independent commission that would investigate the shooting down of the presidential jet that led to one of abhorrent tragedies the humanity has ever known.

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