

## **RUD-URUNANA**

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### **PRESS RELEASE PP No. 02/FEB./08**

#### **RWANDAN PEOPLE ASK PRESIDENT G.W. BUSH TO REMIND PAUL KAGAME THE UNIVERSALITY OF AMERICAN VALUES: TRUTH, FREEDOM, AND JUSTICE FOR ALL CITIZENS**

The Rally for Unity and Democracy (RUD- Urunana) welcomes President G.W. Bush's visit to Rwanda. It is our sincere hope that this high level visit will be an opportunity for President Bush and his administration to inquire and learn first hand about the tragedy the Rwandan people have been enduring since October 1990.

The effort of G.W. Bush's administration in alleviating suffering of millions of Africans marred with disease and poverty is commendable and shall be supported by all. However in case of Rwanda, it should be recognized that Paul Kagame's regime has subjected Rwandan citizens to one of brutal regimes the region of the Great Lakes of Africa has ever known.

Addressing the press corps, it was reported that Stephen Hadley, National Security Advisor, indicated that the American aid would reward governments that subscribe to "rule democratically, fight corruption, and invest in people". Based on these principles, the current rwandan regime is far from meeting any of these requirements. Although, above the surface, the rwandan government trumpets its achievements, a great majority of rwandans live in abject poverty and endemic famine. More importantly, they have been denied their basic fundamental human rights. Hundreds of thousands of rwandan citizens have been languishing without charges in squalid prisons for more than a decade while being denied due process. The justice system is rigged with incompetent and corrupt judiciary.

The right of lawful dissent has been systematically denied to rwandans; hence, anyone who dares to criticize Paul Kagame's regime is quickly labeled as "genocidaire, negationist, and/or revisionist". More recently, the regime has come up with an ingenious scheme to silence any person perceived as a threat: what it takes is to label the individual as "harboring a genocidaire ideology". Such labels are enough to have someone killed, disappear without a trace, or thrown in prison without any recourse. There is no viable internal political opposition since any challenge to Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) and Paul Kagame's rule has been met with fierce repression. If not killed or thrown in prison, the only other options opposition leaders have consists of accepting the RPF hegemony or going into exile. The entire economy is in hands of occult operators that are linked one way or another to the RPF or to the Akazu of Kagame's cronies who control, manage, and allocate the meager country resources while pillaging resources of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

Our organization would like to remind the current US administration, that no later than February 6, 2008, Fernando Andeu, a Spanish judge, has indicted forty (40) rwandan army officers on several counts of genocide, human rights violations, and terrorism. The judge decision was based on detailed accounts of eyewitnesses and was carefully made after several years of painstaking

investigation that resulted in unearthing damning evidence that incriminated Paul Kagame, President of Rwanda, and his senior Rwandan military leadership. The indictment indicates clearly that Paul Kagame and his cronies were engaged willfully and knowingly in committing horrible crimes against Rwandans, Congolese, as well as foreign nationals.

Indicted for genocide by the Spanish judge, it is an irony that someone like General Karenzi Karake would be allowed to serve as Deputy Commander of the UN Mission in Darfur. In addition, Col. Rugumya Gacinya is serving as military attaché at the Rwandan Embassy in Washington, DC. If the US administration were to act on these accounts, it will send a clear and loud signal that America will not tolerate impunity and will bring to justice all criminals irrespective of their status.

The Spanish case recalls the indictments of Jean-Louis Bruguière, French anti-terrorist judge, whose investigation concluded on the active role played by Paul Kagame and his closest advisors in shooting down the Rwandan presidential jet on April 6, 1994. According to the French judge conclusions, such terrorist act was planned and conducted by operatives who received direct supervision and orders from Paul Kagame and his co-accused. That deliberate terrorist act resulted into the death of both Presidents of Rwanda Juvénal Habyarimana and Burundi Cyprien Ntaryamira, their aides, and the French jet crew sparking one the most horrible tragedies the world has ever known.

In the land of Thomas Jefferson who without reservation stated that "all men are created equal" and Martin Luther King Jr. whose message for equality and justice for all kindled across the nations of the world a dream of tolerance and mutual respect that will never die, the US administration should be keen in fostering human rights, good governance, and rule of law in Africa, instead of propping brutal and criminal regimes such as Paul Kagame's. In doing so, the message to the African continent in general and to the Rwandans in particular would be to reaffirm that the US stands with the oppressed, is and will continue to be a beacon of hope, freedom, and justice for all human beings.

Finally, it is important to remind the International Community that the instability in the Great Lakes region has its epicenter in Rwanda. As long as the root 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. That is why our organization strongly calls and will continue to call for an Inter-Rwandan Dialogue to be held under the auspices of the International Community. We remain convinced that only this Dialogue would lead to 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 after such process that rwandans and their neighbors will utterly engage in forging common goals that would guarantee stability, peace, and development to all.

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