

RUD-URUNANA

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EU, FRANCE, UK AND MONUC REPRESENTATIVES GIVEN A WARM WELCOME BY THE RWANDAN REFUGEES OF KASIKI

On December 15, 2008, their Excellencies European Union, France , United Kingdom as well as Monuc Representatives paid a visit to the new settlement of Kasiki, North-Kivu. This settlement constitutes the first step of the implementation of the road map as agreed upon in Kisangani on May 26, 2008 between the DRC government and the Rally for Unity and Democracy (RUD-Urunana) and the Rassemblement du Peuple Rwandais (RPR). The implementation of such process was officially started on July 31, 2008 in Kasiki, Lubero District in the Province of North-Kivu. We may remind that this visit is subsequent to the one conducted on August 8, 2008 by UK Ambassadors to the DRC and Rwanda.

This recent high level visit is welcomed by our organization and constitutes an opportunity to learn fist hand the conditions in which the Rwandan refugees have been living in Eastern DRC. With the on-going security situation in North Kivu (DRC), this meeting was timely and greatly appreciated by all. Although the wish to return to their homeland was once again clearly conveyed, the refugees indicated their willingness to do so once the conditions of their security and well being will be guaranteed by the International Community. It is for this reason, they indicated to the Honorable Guests the urgent necessity to organize and engage in an Inter-Rwandan Dialogue that would foster a genuine climate of reconciliation and set up new political institutions representing truly the aspirations of all Rwandans.

Our organization is pleased, welcomes such visit, and hopes that it is the second of many to come. We would like take this opportunity to state to the International Community our unshakable conviction 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, lasting peace, and development to all.

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SPOKESPERSON