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RUD-URUNANA WELCOMES THE UN INVESTIGATION INTO THE MASS KILLINGS OF HUTU REFUGEES IN DRC

Our organization has just learned that the UN has set up a 16-strong men team to investigate the mass killings of the Hutu refugees that took place in 1996-1997 in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

It is important to recall that early reports of reputable human rights organizations and UN investigators had previously indicated that extensive violations of international law were committed by the Rwandan Patriotic Army (RPA) troops that supported the then AFDL of Laurent Kabila including war crimes, crimes against humanity, and acts of genocide against Hutu refugees through out the Democratic Republic of Congo territory. The Hutus were systematically and methodically hunted down, singled out, and killed by the rwandan troops and their proxies.

As time went by, information has come out that several high-ranking officers of Paul Kagame's regime were actively involved in committing such abominable crimes. Although, the previous UN work was hampered by political considerations, there still are a lot of eyewitnesses that could shed a light to this dark period of the recent region history.

The RUD-Urunana hails this UN decision as one step forward in addressing one of the worst and forgotten tragedies that have marred the Great Lakes region during the last century. We hope that this investigation will lead to identifying the perpetrators of such horrendous crimes and bringing them to justice. As long this investigation will be fully independent, our organization will ensure full cooperation and support and will be willing to provide any information at its disposal.

We would like 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 asks to hold under the auspices of the International Community an Inter-Rwandan Dialogue. 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 and peace to all.

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