

DECLARATION OF THE AUTHORISED POLITICAL PARTIES AND THE GOVERNMENT AGAINST THE WARMAKERS AND IN FAVOUR OF PEACE AND SECURITY

On July 6 1994, on the initiative of the interim President of the Republic, the legal representatives of the authorised Political Parties met, to agree a timetable for the actions needed to implement the Presidency.

The Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Special Representative of the O.U.A. Secretary-General, and representatives of Civil Society Associations, attended the meeting as observers.

Before opening the agenda, the participants expressed their deep concern for the security of the country.

In this respect, the authorised representatives of the Political Parties are very concerned by the widespread insecurity across the country, indicated by the increasing level of disorder observed in several provinces and communes. This serious threat to peace and security is caused by a number of factors, including:

- 1) The distribution of alarmingly high levels of weapons of destruction amongst the civilian population. Illegally obtained weapons are now present in almost every province.
- 2) In several localities and in every district of the municipality of Burundi, armed bands of criminals are terrorising and attacking the security forces and members of the public.
- 3) Messages of hatred and interethnic violence are being disseminated amongst the population in newspaper articles and leaflets, by word of mouth and in political declarations.

The opening of a pirate radio station which broadcasts inflammatory programmes across the country is the most recent example, and could, potentially, do the same damage as the notorious “Radio des Mille Collines” of Rwanda.

- 4) The constant turmoil present in some schools, where the pupils are frequent victims of ethnic killings.
 - The Political Parties observe that unfortunately some politicians and members of the government are supporting this effort to destroy the Nation, with political declarations and behaviour which are compromising peace and security.
 - The Political Parties unanimously agree to support every initiative in the struggle for peace and security in the country. They are united in rejecting all those who seek by their behaviour, declarations and activities, to plunge the country into a state of war.
 - Hence, the Political Parties are worried by and question the prolonged absences of the State Minister of the Interior and of Public Security, M. Leonard NYANGOMA and of the

Deputy General Administrator for Migration and Documentation, M. Festus NTANYUNGU, beyond the time agreed for their official missions.

In addition, the Political Parties acknowledge and encourage the initiatives already undertaken by the National Assembly to put an end to the verbal and written incitements to violence, by certain members of this institution such as Mr Christian SENDEGAYA and Mr Nephtali NDIKUMANA.

The Political Parties particularly regret the poor performance of the Documentation and Migration Service, which is accused of employing agents who are assisting in this destabilisation; they also condemn all those who profit from and abuse their public positions of State service, in acts of revenge or criminality from which they derive a certain status.

Finally, the Political Parties condemn all those who use public and private media, such as the "Crossroads of Ideas, the Temoin-Nyabusorongo", to disseminate information, reports and analyses which undermine the peace, security and confidence desired by every Burundian. They invite the Government and its special services to discourage inflammatory and violent propaganda published by some newspapers, often at the behest of senior politicians.

In light of all these concerns, the Political Parties call urgently upon all State organs and institutions, and particularly those referred to here, as well as political party leaders and politicians, to ensure that their organisations desist from any use of violence, in addressing the problems affecting the country.

The Political Parties invite all those who are tempted directly or indirectly by this course of action, to join the path to peace and national unanimity, which constitutes the only means to overcome the serious crisis which Burundi currently faces.

Confronted by these subversive plots which are a dangerous threat to the life of the Nation and of entire populations, the authorised Political Parties:

- Vigorously condemn the dissemination of arms among the population, and those who perpetrate this;
- Greatly appreciate the decision taken by the Interim President of the Republic and by the Government to proceed rapidly to a systematic disarmament of the population;
- Invite the population to hand over all firearms and other weapons in their possession to the Administration;
- Demand that the Administration bans the possession of all weapons of destruction;
- Ask that the security forces with immediate effect use all possible means to flush out armed criminal gangs and to identify those civilians in legal or illegal possession of firearms and other weapons, in order to remove them from civilian ownership, with due regard to human rights;

- Formally prohibit politicians and government officials, at all levels, from hindering this policy and its implementation in any way, whether by word or deed;
- Demand that anyone engaged in disturbing the peace and security of the country be arrested and judged under the law;
- Request the government, without delay, to take all necessary steps to disband the pirate radio station "RUTOMORANGINGQ", and urge the population to neither listen to nor follow its advice;
- Undertake to work for peace and security, and to forego any activity or means of creating unrest in the country;
- Reaffirm their determination to defend national sovereignty, in particular by rejecting any foreign political or military interference in national affairs;
- Rise up against and seriously fight those who have in the past or plan to destabilise or overthrow any democratically and legally established institutions;
- For the ongoing negotiations, the Political Parties call upon anyone and any institution desirous of peace and tranquillity in Burundi to discourage any action which prevents an agreed and legal outcome for the supreme institutions of the Republic;
- Recommend that the issue of the status of the Burundian diaspora be studied in relations to its interests and requirements.

The Political Parties recommend that the Government, in order to improve confidence in and remove the impunity of national judicial institutions, obtains technical, material and moral support from the international community in dealing with the enquiries and legal dossiers relating to the socio-political crisis in Burundi since October 1993.

To the people of Burundi, the participants in this meeting send a message of peace: that they should reject any manipulation or any exhortations to hatred, exclusion or violence.

At this time, when the country is preparing to develop new institutions, the Political Parties undertake to create an atmosphere of serenity and confidence in the current negotiations.

Bujumbura, July 6, 1994

FOR THE AUTHORISED POLITICAL PARTIES

Signatures

Pour les Partis Politiques Agréés:

1. Charles MUKASI, Président du Parti UPRONA
2. Mathias HITIMANA, Président du Parti PRP
3. Schadrack NIYONKURU, Président du Parti PP
4. Cyrille SIGEJEJE, Président a.i. du Parti RADDES
5. Sylvestre NTIBANTUNGANYA, Président du Parti Frodebu
6. Ernest KABUSHEMEYE, Président du Parti RPB

7. Ignace BANKAMWABO, Président du ANADDE
8. Gaetan NIKOBAMYE, Président du Parti PL
9. Vincent NDIKUMASABO, Président du PSD
10. Nicéphore NDIMURUKUNDO, Président du Parti PIT
11. Alphonse RUGAMBARARA, Président du Parti INKINZO
12. Terence NSANZE, Président du Parti ABASA

Pour le Gouvernement:

Le Premier Ministre: Anatole KANYENKIKO

Le Président a.i. de la République: Sylvestre NTIBANTUNGANYA