



Excellency General Major Paul Kagame
President of Republic of Rwanda
PO Box 15 Kigali
Rwanda.

March 8, 2010
N° 18/J/PK/310

Ref: The kidnapping of Mr. Deo Mushyayidi from Burundi to Rwanda

Your Excellency;

The Organization for Peace Justice and Development in Rwanda (OPJDR).Inc., a Human Rights Organization, based in the United States is concerned with the current degradation of political atmosphere in Rwanda as well as pressures and intimidations to the oppositions parties especially the recent kidnapping from Burundi of the well known Rwandan politician Deogratias Mushyadi on March 3, 2010.

Mr. Deogratias Mushayidi, a leader of an opposition political party “People’s Defense Pact (PDP)” was handed over to Rwanda security services by their counterparts of Burundi outside any rule and procedure of extradition between two nations. In fact there was no international arrest warrant against Mr. Mushayidi and he was not given the opportunity to challenge his deportation before a court of law. Also it is worth to recall that Mr. Deogratias Mushayidi has been granted refugee status in Belgium and therefore is protected by the 1951 Convention on refugees to which Rwanda and Burundi are signatories.

It is worth to mention that Mr. Mushayidi has been a public figure for many years inside and outside Rwanda territory. He is known for his patriotism and has always fought for a sincere dialogue between all components of Rwandan people towards solid democratic institutions in the country. A summary of his background speaks for itself. Before fleeing the country in 2000, Mushayidi was executive secretary of the center for the promotion of free expression and tolerance in the Great Lakes region (CPLTGL), chairman of the Rwandan journalists’ association, and editor-in-chief of the paper Imboni. The crash erupted after Mushayidi wrote a serie of articles on the escape of Mr. Sebarenzi Joseph, the former speaker of the national assembly, who was forced to resign after he challenged the RPF’s line on the genocide. Shortly after the articles appeared, Mushayidi was dismissed from his post as chairman of the Rwandan journalists’ association and the paper Imboni was banned in February 2000. Subsequently, Mushayidi fled the country for his security and shortly after, he was accused by the Rwandan authorities of misappropriation of funds.

According to the Prosecutor General, Martin Ngoga, Mushayidi is accused of being in connivance with renegade Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) military officers Lt General Kayumba Nyamwasa and Colonel Patrick Karegeya, for the recent grenade attacks in Kigali city and around the country. OPJDR learned from different sources including New Times that Mr. Deogratias Mushayidi is currently being held at Remera and Lt colonel Emmanuel Ndahiro was assigned by yourself for torturing and questioning Mr.

Mushayidi in order to make him name by his mouth others people residing in foreign countries considered as enemies of the country to be listed on Rwanda's terrorists list so the government could then deliver international arrest warranty on them. OPJDR fears Mushayidi's safety as his lawyers have been prevented to visit him, and calls for your authority to release Mr. Mushayidi and let opposition political parties liberally operate in their country.

Excellency President, in our letter N° 14/V/PK/210 dated February 8, 2010 with reference "Rwanda's Political Climate" OPJDR expressed the needs for democracy and peace for Rwandans emphasizing that hunting down and silencing opposition leaders is not the right way for the government to solve current Rwanda's political crisis. Still OPJDR suggests that only a frank dialogue would be the only promising way uniting all Rwandans factions including Tutsi, Hutus and Twa. Therefore, OPJDR believes that in order to promote a lasting peace in Rwanda, your government should stop such man hunting, and immediately release Mr. Deogratias Mushayidi of PDP, Mr. Ntawangundi Joseph of United Democratic Forces (FDU-Inkingi), and many other political figures and human rights activists currently incarcerated in Rwanda prisons.

OPJDR is convinced that with this political climate degradation in Rwanda, if nothing meaningful is done now, it could lead, in many respects, to an uncontrollable violence similar to the 1994's Rwandan genocide or worse. It is in that regard that we call upon your authority to do everything possible to ensure full respect for the rule of law and human rights, establish a free, credible, and transparent electoral process through advocating the expression of peaceful criticism and dissent.

Sincerely,

Pascal Kalinganire
Coordinator General

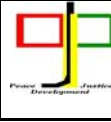


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