

ADR - Isangano - RDA

Alliance Démocratique Rwandaise

Rwanda Democratic Alliance

The Honorable Colin J. Powel
US State Secretary
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520

Brussels, 30 January 2004.

Re : The impunity of alleged terrorists and criminals against humanity within the Rwandan ruling machinery must stop.

The Rwandan Democratic Alliance, RDA Isangano, has welcomed your distinguished paper, a reflect of the US administration vision, entitled, “ A Strategy of Partnerships” published by "Foreign Affairs” issue of January/February 2004. Our political movement unconditionally encourages the war on terrorism. We share the deep pain of victims and survivals of terrorist attacks still targeting many nations. September 11th, 2001 marks a turning point in the history of the war on terrorism. The whole humanity continues to mourn the victims of the horrible terrorist attacks that killed, that day, thousands of people in the United States. We fully support your stand to keep the war on terrorism the United States' number one foreign policy priority. It's a must to neutralize terrorists and their accomplices.

It's very clear indeed to us that the determination of the United States to uproot for good the international terrorism and the like will bring peace, prosperity and will allow nations and people to trade in peace and to enjoy the fruits of their efforts and creativity.

We understand that your engagement to empower democratic institutions will favor the necessary conditions for prosperous economies and people's welfare . We believe this can be achieved only when the majority of people spontaneously support their leaders while good governance, accountability, pluralism are the leitmotiv of national policies. In this respect, and according to the core principles and values underlying this strategy of partnerships, we would like to bring to your close attention the case of our country, Rwanda. Since October 1990, this country was plunged in a bloody civil war that, in April 1994 culminated in a bloodshed genocide of Tutsi and crimes against humanity targeting Hutu populations. The memory of Rwandans will never forget the genocide of Rwandan refugees that occurred between 1996 and 1997 in the Democratic Republic of the Congo as well. The Rwandan disaster that has claimed millions of lives was ignited by an air terrorist attack against the Rwandan Presidential jet and the unilateral violation of the cease-fire reached after intensive peace talks between the belligerents in 1993, in Arusha (Tanzania). Since then, more than ever before, Rwanda is still one of the worst dictatorship.

The genocide, massive crimes against humanity, the collapse of the peace agreement and of the democratic process happened in the aftermath of two main criminal acts : the downing of the presidential aircraft that killed both the Presidents of Rwanda and Burundi along their

respective delegations ; the outbreak of the civil war. The United States should help to investigate and prosecute the responsables of those horrible crimes.

The RDA Isangano thanks the government of the United States for the pressure on all concerned parties, including the Rwandan government, for the creation of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) in order to prosecute and bring to book the responsables of the genocide and war crimes committed in Rwanda between January and December 1994. The impartiality of the ICTR is still a serious challenge. We appreciate its action against the leaders of the former regime for their responsibility in the genocide and war crimes. However, 10 years after its creation, none of the criminals from the former rebellion in power in Kigali has been arrested. The investigation on the terrorist attack that sparked the tragedy remains a taboo.

Since Mr. Pierre-Richard Prosper, the US Ambassador at large for war crimes, has initiated a campaign to halt the ICTR investigations against the suspects of war crimes and crimes against humanity committed by the members of the RPF rebellion, and to handle the issue to the Rwandan government, many Rwandans have been disappointed by that setback in the US policies. Relevant sources claim that the freshly appointed ICTR Prosecutor, under a heavy pressure of your Government, has stopped all investigations targeting elements of the RPF rebellion. Reliable information has proven that the Rwandan current regime shelters many criminals. When criminals are given free hand to rule a country, peace and prosperity are impossible. It's the worst dictatorship. Whereas, in his evidence given to the ICTR during his last appearance before the tribunal as a witness, General Romeo Dallaire, the commander of UN troops who were in Rwanda leading up to and during the 1994 genocide, stated that the RPF rebellion was never concerned about the well being of the whole Rwandan population but was powered by a well planned Tutsi domination rule.

In case the allegations of partisanship of your Government are confirmed, covering up RPF crimes, denying free and fair justice to Rwandans, how can we believe the values and partnerships you would like to share with the world are based on dignity and equal rights? With such a double standard on terrorism, on what other hallmarks values, the American nation will mobilize again the international moral coalition ? How will be the world if « hooligans »' governments and warmongers, I.e. the current regime in Kigali, are given free hand ? The Rwandan government cannot continue massive violations of fundamental human rights in case the impunity of its leaders is waived and the unconditional support of the United States frozen. In a short run, this appears to us as a form of consecration of chaos and anarchy.

Honorable Secretary of State, the history is full of good examples of great moments when the heroism and sacrifices of the American leaders and people were at stake. Justice, freedom and democracy hallmarks have required high sacrifices and thousands of lives were lost in the struggle. It's natural for the Rwandan people to decide when and how such sacrifices are necessary in order to safeguard the rights of individuals and subdue the current oppression, injustice and dictatorship.

It's time for your government to stop the alleged support and to use all relevant means to make sure that all the suspects of terrorism, war crimes and crimes against humanity currently under the protection of the Rwandan regime are handed over the ICTR.

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The Rwandan Democratic Alliance, RDA Isangano, is indeed looking forward any positive sign from that end. This will allow the people of Rwanda to achieve a turning point towards true reconciliation, justice, democracy, peace and long lasting stability within the country and the African Great lakes region.

Best regards.

Dr. Jean-Baptiste MBERABAHIZI
Chairman
Rwandan Democratic Alliance, RDA Isangano.