



RWANDAN NATIONAL FORUM

*RNF is a non – profit organization committed to promoting
Peace, Good governance and Development in Rwanda*

Kansas City, August 31, 2004

Subject: RNF Communiqué related to the arrest of Valens Kajeguhakwa.

Dear Rwandans and Friends of freedom,

The Rwandan National Forum (RNF) a non-profit organization based in the USA has learned about the recent arrest of Mr. Valens Kajeguhakwa, a well known Rwandan businessman turned political opponent and living in exile in the USA. According to media reports and people familiar with the case, the Rwandan government has accused Mr. Kajeguhakwa of theft, abuse of confidence and corruption. Allegations stemming from suspicions that he stole between \$7 million and \$10 million from banks and other private institutions in the aftermath of the 1994 genocide.

Although at the present time all the details are not known about the case, but RNF believes that the charges against Kajeguhakwa are politically motivated. It is yet another attempt by the Kigali regime to discredit and silence another member of the opposition. RNF is convinced that Kajeguhakwa like many other political prisoners, such as former President Pastor Bizimungu and former cabinet member Charles Ntakirutinka cannot receive a fair trial in the Rwandan courts. Extraditing him to Rwanda would be a mistake and an injustice; because as we recently declared it the justice system has been dismantled to allow the appointment of judges at the merci of Kagame. They do not judge; they just do what Kagame tell them to do.

It is rather ironic that the same Rwandan prosecutor who announced last week the request for extradition of Kajeguhakwa also announced that Rwanda is ready to sign accords with the International Tribunal (ICTR) regarding the transfers of some of the prisoners in the UN custody at Arusha.

RNF believes that sending Kajeguhakwa or any other political prisoners especially those in Arusha to Rwanda is inappropriate and wrong. How can one justify sending any individual who witnessed RPF atrocities to RPF? The Rwandan people and institutions have been hijacked by a band of former rebels guilty of human rights violations of the worst kind. These

criminals have no respect for life, liberty, and democratic institutions. They have no moral standing to judge anyone.

For the last ten years, the Rwandan people have been anxiously waiting for the kind of impartial justice they expected from the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) based in Arusha, Tanzania. But as the saying goes, Justice delayed, justice denied.

As far as most Rwandans are concerned, the ICTR justice has been slow, unfair and one sided to say the least. Not only has the ICTR not arrested members of RPF guilty of crimes against humanity as mandated, but it is now evident that these criminals will not be brought to justice in due time. In fact, the United Nations Security Council has asked the ICTR to wind up all trials by the year 2008 and the appeals process by 2010. To add insult to injury, the ICTR recently announced plans to transfer some of the pending cases to Rwanda. The same justice system that has been denounced by many Rwandan and the international observers including the 2004 Amnesty International Report:

“Abuses in the criminal justice system

Public confidence in the criminal justice system continued to erode. The police frequently detained suspects unlawfully for long periods without trial. Court decisions were not always respected by Public Prosecutors’ Offices, and defendants acquitted by the courts sometimes remained in prison. One third of all arrests and preventive detentions were estimated to be in violation of the Code of Criminal Procedure. Many officials in the criminal justice system did not have the necessary legal training or experience”.

Instead of sending Kajeguhakwa to Rwanda, where he will be found guilty without judgment, but as charged by a Kangaroo court, he should be given a chance to tell his story and explain to the Rwandan people what he knows about the events that led to the Rwandan tragedy.

Sincerely,

For the Rwandan National Forum (RNF) Executive Committee

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Attached: A Statement written by Kajeguhakwa's Family Attorney