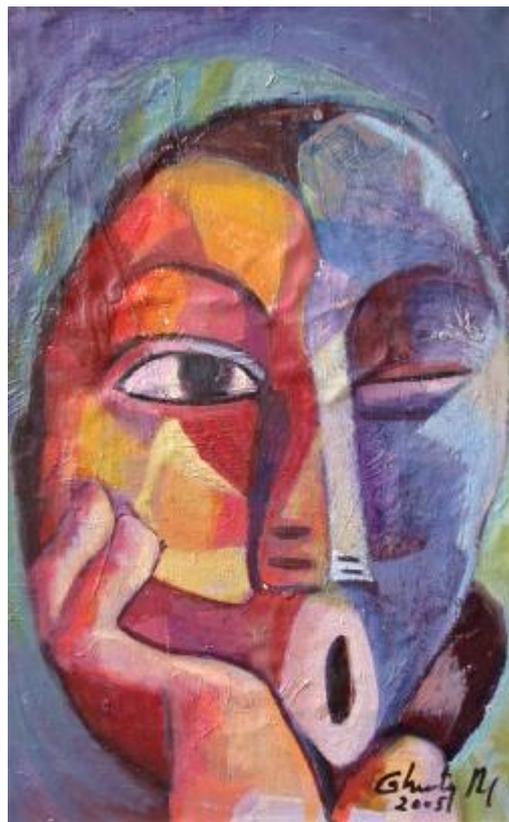




**IMISHYIKIRANO-HURIRO NYARWANDA**  
**DIALOGUE INTER RWANDAIS HAUTEMENT INCLUSIF**  
**(DIRHI)**  
**HIGHLY INCLUSIVE INTER RWANDAN DIALOGUE**  
**(HIIRD)**

Faced with possible genocide charges in DRC, Kagame’s isolated RPF regime reacts by revving up crackdown on its “terrorist enemies” in an attempt to derail the now inevitable DIRHI process



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POST BUS 2847, 6030 AC NEDERWEERT – NEDERLAND  
TEL.: 0031-630897180 E-MAIL : [dirhi2010@yahoo.fr](mailto:dirhi2010@yahoo.fr), [info@rwandadialogue.org](mailto:info@rwandadialogue.org)  
WEBSITE : [www.rwandadialogue.org](http://www.rwandadialogue.org), [www.veritasrwandaforum.org](http://www.veritasrwandaforum.org)





## **RPF regime reacts by revving up crackdown on its “terrorist enemies” in an attempt to derail the now inevitable DIRHI process**

At a time when all components of Rwandan society, namely civil society as well as armed and non-armed political organizations, including former Kagame allies especially the “Rwanda Briefing” group, have reached a consensus that “a highly inclusive inter-Rwandan dialogue is the only viable path to building a climate of trust among Rwanda’s ethnic groups, a necessary condition for genuine reconciliation, peace and sustainable development in the Great Lakes region of Africa”, General Kagame along with the remnants of the original RPF have embarked upon a policy of political expediency in an effort to derail this process, now that the UN mapping report on crimes committed in DRC between 1993 and 2003 has pinned them against the wall.

That is why the Highly Inclusive Inter-Rwandan Dialogue Initiative (DIRHI) condemns in the strongest terms the latest charges by the Rwandan government of President Paul Kagame on October 16, 2010 that Paul Rusesabagina, currently President of the Coordination Committee of the DIRHI initiative, is funding a terrorist organization working to overthrow the Rwandan government. These preposterous charges are reminiscent of similar accusations 3 years ago by Ambassador James Kimonyo that Paul Rusesabagina along with former American Ambassadors Bob Krueger and Bob Flaten were involved in arms dealing in South Africa in order to attack Rwanda.

Two days earlier on October 14, 2010, the same RPF regime arrested Ms. Victoire Ingabire, leader of FDU-Inkingi political party, in Kigali for “collaborating with a terrorist group known as Coalition of Democratic Forces (CDF)” gearing up to destabilize the Rwandan government, a culmination of a week-long siege of her residence by government police. This is notwithstanding her statement after arriving in Kigali early this year that she “did not need an army to defeat the dictatorship”. Reliable information also suggests that Mr. Vital UWUMUREMYI, the so-called main witness against her in these accusations and a former FDLR member, has been living in Rwanda since February 2009, has been working as a broker, and was in constant contact with intelligence services. It is no secret that Kagame’s dictatorship has put in place a well-oiled informer system manned by ex-FAR and ex-FDLR members, whose job is to provide “incriminating testimony” against political opponents who will then be jailed for life.

The allegations against Paul Rusesabagina and Victoire Ingabire, or against Bernard Ntaganda and Déogratias Mushayidi for that matter, are nothing but an unmistakable sign of desperation and a diversionary tactic on the part of an increasingly isolated RPF regime trying to distract the world’s attention from the recent UN “Mapping report” documenting gruesome mass massacres, including possible genocide, by President Kagame’s army against Hutu refugees in the Democratic Republic of Congo. In addition to the crimes of genocide negationism, revisionism, and the ideology of genocide, Kagame’s RPF regime appears to have found a new and potent crime with which to charge real and perceived enemies in order to discredit them and send them to jail: the crime of being a terrorist or working with a terrorist organization.

As terrorism has become the crime par excellence of the 21st century and the over-riding threat that stirs up the worst fears in everyone in the entire world, President Kagame has cunningly decided to paint his political foes as terrorists in order to hide his own crimes and justify his brutality. In a twist of irony, however, evidence on the ground shows the RPF regime is the group that should be prosecuted as one of the biggest terrorist





movements of the last two decades. Indeed, a large number of testimonies point to the criminal responsibility of the RPF army, including General Kagame himself, in the invasion of Rwanda in 1990; Paul Kagame was also involved in the assassination of President-elect Melchior Ndadaye of Burundi in October 1993, shot down the airplane of Presidents Juvenal Habyarimana of Rwanda and Cyprien Ntaryamira of Burundi on 6<sup>th</sup> April 1994, and killed former DRC President Laurent Kabila in January 2001. In the last ten years, the RPF army has caused the death of more than 5 million people in DRC alone, plundered several hundreds of millions worth of mineral resources in DRC, massacred several hundreds of thousands of Rwandans since July 1994 and jailed hundreds of thousands more, and has put in place the infamous Gacaca courts judicial system in order to wage a nationwide and international witch-hunt campaign against more than a million “genocide suspects” inside Rwanda and overseas.

The entire DIRHI political and civil society membership calls upon the international community, especially the US and UK governments as the closest backers of the RPF regime, to pressure President Kagame to release all political prisoners in Rwanda immediately and without conditions, notably Victoire Ingabire, Bernard Ntaganda of PSD-Imberakuri, Déogratias Mushayidi of PDP-Imanzi, Charles Ntakirutinka, and others.

Additionally, the international community must, very seriously and urgently, find ways to set in motion the necessary criminal prosecution of the RPF army for the crimes against humanity, the war crimes, and possibly the crime of genocide it is accused of having committed in DRC as fully documented in the recently published UN “Mapping report” as one of the ways to help open the door for badly needed democratic change in Rwanda. Member organizations of the DIRHI Initiative also strongly believe that putting in place an arms embargo against the RPF government and freezing the assets of President Paul Kagame and the ruling class are one of the surest ways of speeding the processes of democratization, peace, equitable justice and national reconciliation in Rwanda.

The DIRHI remains an unavoidable path in creating a socio-political environment conducive to a climate of trust among ethnic groups, a necessary condition for genuine reconciliation, peace and sustainable development in the Great Lakes region of Africa. To that end, it will also provide a forum of expression to all victims of the Rwandan tragedy, and it will involve the participation not only of all political actors, both armed and non-armed, but of civil society and independent observers as well. This process will ultimately usher in an era of democratic renewal for a reconciled population where the right of citizenship is a reality reflected through institutions and all sectors of life, and where people’s identity will be defined by shared political ideas rather than ethnic, clan and regional membership or other criteria.

Brussels, Belgium  
October 18, 2010

Gérard Karangwa Semushi

Executive Secretary  
DIRHI - Highly Inclusive Inter-Rwandan Dialogue Initiative

