



PARTY FOR DEMOCRACY IN RWANDA (PDR)-IHUMURE



Peace, Justice and Development

**Speech of His Excellence Mr. Paul Rusesabagina,
President of the Party for Democracy in Rwanda (PDR-Ihumure) on the
occasion of the Rwanda Democracy Day (January 28, 2016).**

Washington, DC, USA.

Dear members of the Executive Committee of the PDR-Ihumure,

Distinguished members of the PDR-Ihumure,

Dear Compatriots,

Distinguished Guests,

Allow me to extend to you all, my warmest greetings and deepest thanks for coming to join us in today's event marking our struggle to liberate Rwanda from the current RPF dictatorship. January 28th is an important date in the history of Rwanda. It is on that day that, Rwandans, altogether as one people, stood up and proclaimed their determination to be ruled through a democratic system, thus putting an end to more than 400 years of brutal feudalism and colonialism systems. Today, we pay tribute to all the heroes and heroines who sacrificed in many different ways so that Rwanda could see the light of democracy.

Your presence today at this meeting is a vibrant testimony of your faithful commitment to our struggle for republican and democratic values that are ours. Please accept our deep gratitude for that.

For our party, PDR-Ihumure, today's meeting constitutes a turning point in Rwanda political struggle. Many of you have known me as a freedom fighter for so many years. My role as a humanitarian exposed many oddness and malicious practices of a regime that inflicted too much pain among the people of Rwanda and that of the whole Great Lakes Region. I am therefore moved by that achievement as well as the current social



and political situations in my country, Rwanda, to take further steps in the fight against a dictatorship. Today, I publically declare that I have decided to combine humanitarian with political action to liberate the Rwandan people from the RPF dictatorship.

This decision came as a result of a popular demand by many compatriots, members of the international community as well as the members of the PDR-IHUMURE political party. I have accepted the nomination as the President of this organization.

When the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) seized power in 1994, they promised to Rwandans a free and democratic country. However, after the 1994 genocide and its conquest of power in violation of the peace agreement in Arusha, it did not take too long for Rwandans to realize that the RPF party was in fact not interested in democratic principles, and certainly not by social justice and peace.

Ethnic massacres of innocent internally displaced persons (IDPs) at Kibeho in the presence of UN forces and Rwandan refugees in former Zaire, as well as disappearances and assassinations that continue to this day, are tangible proof that the RPF actually lied Rwandan people as a whole. All facts and available data show that the RPF government thrives on chaos, corruption, impunity, injustice and the systematic exploitation of ethnicity.

Today we are led by a strong conviction, unwavering faith and a firm commitment that we are able to succeed, make a difference. We want to start a new era, bring some new energy in the governance of our country, Rwanda. We want to consolidate peace and bring economic growth in every corner of the country. We want to end a state of terror as a mode of government. We want Rwandan people, and all Rwandan refugees to finally go back home and fully participate to the reconstruction of their motherland.

More specifically, our commitment before you today can be summarized under four important points:

First. We will promote good democratic governance at all levels of power, supported by a strong civil society and an independent press. We will thrive for the establishment in Rwanda of a genuine rule of law that respects the principles of



Legality, Rule of Law and Equality of all before the law.

Second. We will direct our most energy towards the reconciliation of Rwandan people from all ethnic groups and geographical origins. We will resolve once for all the “Rwandan refugees” phenomenon. The PDR-IHUMURE recognizes Rwandese refugees as a recurring historical and political evil resulting from past and current poor leadership. We will do everything in our power to eradicate the "Rwandan Refugee" phenomenon by addressing the root causes of the problem that are the brutality of power, persecution, bigotry and injustice.

Third. We will support all economic and socio-political initiatives with the various bilateral countries and multilateral organizations interested in our development. We will promote stronger integration with regional economies, a vital source for the growth of our country. We will rely on strong partnership forged with different partners from bilateral, multilateral and individual investors interested in the development of the country and the Great Lakes Region of Africa.

Fourth. We will conduct an external policy based on the principles of good neighborliness and that advocate for regional integration. We will continue to fully participate in peacekeeping efforts around Africa and anywhere in the World. We will participate in regional stability efforts both as an actor and beneficiary.

We will not achieve these objectives alone. That’s why we are looking at the international community to take its responsibility and take concrete and immediate actions in the following areas:

- End the era of impunity enjoyed so far by the RPF and Rwanda officials who have committed acts of genocides and war crimes.
- Cease all bilateral and multilateral direct aid to the Government of Rwanda.
- Decree a total embargo on arms to the Rwandan government as they are often turned against the people when they are not used to support rebel groups to destabilize neighboring countries.
- Stop all political and diplomatic support to the RPF regime.



- Freeze all assets of the Rwandan personalities who illegally enriched themselves by stealing from Government coffers while the population is suffering and by plundering the neighboring state of Democratic Republic of Congo.

We will also need the support from our dear compatriots, from inside and outside, in the following areas:

- We want you to stand up and mobilize massively to mark your disagreement with the RPF regime;
- The army and the security services should cease to be a tool in the pay of a clique of criminals, and should rather serve to secure the interest of every Rwandan;
- Young people should reject any manipulation based on ethnic or regionalist criteria;
- Opposition political parties from inside and outside, should combine their efforts for the establishment of a true democratic regime in our country;
- The civil society organizations should mobilize to demand greater respect for human rights, including inalienable right to life, to education, to health care, to property, to equal opportunities for all.

Today, I stand here to inspire hope among Rwandans, wherever they are in the world, and whichever conditions they are in:

- To those who are inside the country, I share the sentiment of frustration, fear and constant humiliation.
- To those who are innocently languishing in overcrowded prisons, I share the sentiment of pain, but I am encouraging you not to despair as the PDR-IHUMURE is knocking on your doors to bring relief.
- To those Rwandans who are forced to live outside our homeland, I share the sentiment of nostalgia of our beautiful nation.



It is our belief that, once we, the PDR-Ihumure, the international community and the Rwandan society in general, combine our efforts, we will certainly win our struggle against the RPF dictatorship in Rwanda.

The PDR-IHUMURE is ready to lead the Rwandan people to their destination; that of making Rwanda, a place for all Rwandans in harmony and united in their diversity.

Our objective is to open the political space to opposition parties that embrace peaceful, democratic dialogue and transition. This includes ensuring freedom of expression, press freedoms, the ability of citizens to criticize the government and ruling party, and the ability of all to campaign freely for the candidates and causes they believe in.

Intimidation and harassment of human rights organizations and journalists is unacceptable, and we will make sure that security services ensure the rights of all citizens within the boundaries of the law and justice system.

We will make sure that neither party nor individual will seek to change the constitution to extend their terms in office for personal or political gain.

We will put in place strong and transparent democratic institutions that will lay the foundation for long-term stability and economic growth.

Let peace, justice and reconciliation reign among Rwandans.

Thank you very much for your participation in this event, and thank you for your attention.

Paul Rusesabagina.