



PARTY FOR DEMOCRACY IN RWANDA (PDR)-IHUMURE

Peace, Justice and Development



PRESS RELEASE ON THE OCCASION OF THE 22ND RWANDAN GENOCIDE COMMEMORATION

As the world commemorates the 22nd anniversary of the 1994 Rwandan Genocide, the Rwandan opposition party, PDR-Ihumure, would like to invite the international community to continue its efforts in helping Rwandans recover lasting peace and reconciliation. To that end, we reiterate that equitable justice is a necessary pre-condition to reconciliation. Any effort to reconcile the Rwandan population without a frank, honest, and sincere dialogue about what truly happened in 1994 will produce the same result: inter-ethnic confrontations.

Unfortunately, the current Government policy called “Ndi Umunyarwanda” (“I am a Rwandan”), launched in June 2013 is a clear example of this divisive policy imposed upon Rwandans. It is a national initiative being forcibly implemented across the country requesting from all Hutu indistinctly, and especially its youth, to ask for forgiveness for the sins committed by their parents and relatives to their fellow Tutsi during the 1994 genocide. Obviously, the same cannot be done for the millions of Hutus fallen under the hands of RPF.

The PDR-Ihumure recognizes genocide and crimes against humanity committed on the territory of Rwanda as a national tragedy. Equally important, the PDR-Ihumure believes that only fair justice for all Rwandans will promote peace, reconciliation and national unity. Therefore the memory work during this difficult times should concern all Rwandese victims, irrespective of their ethnic background.

We should remind the world that the Rwanda civil war began on October 1, 1990 when the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) invaded the country from Uganda and ostensibly ended on August 4, 1993 with the signing of the Arusha Peace Accords to create a power-sharing government. However, eight months after signing the Arusha Peace Accords, on April 6, 1994 a plane carrying the President of Rwanda and the President of Burundi was shot down and both men were killed.

This event sparked what the UN resolution 955 of November 8, 1994 called genocide and other systematic, widespread and flagrant violations of international humanitarian law during which more than 800,000 Tutsis and Hutus were killed and the PDR-Ihumure would like to express its sympathy to all the Rwandans across the ethnic divides who lost their beloved ones. The killing of innocent civilians occurred on both sides at war until the RPF seized power in Rwanda in July 1994. The RPF continued to kill innocent civilians inside the country as highlighted by the UN Gersony Report and the killing of internally displaced persons in Kibeho in 1995. Not satisfied with its forfeits inside Rwanda, in 1996, the RPF invaded the former Zaire to exterminate unarmed Hutu refugees who fled the killings inside the country by RPF (UN Mapping Report). The PDR-Ihumure believes that the recommendations of all those various reports are of paramount importance and pleads the support of the international community for their implementation as it would be a step in good direction towards justice and reconciliation.

For the PDR-Ihumure

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