

UNCLASSIFIED

RELEASED IN FULL

AS2



California State University, Sacramento

SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95819-2694

DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES

James Baker
Secretary of State
State Department
2201 C Street
Washington, D.C. 20520

August 24, 1990

Dear Mr. Secretary,

I recently sent you a copy of a letter that I wrote to Mr. HABYARIMANA, the President of Rwanda, requesting him to let go home two and half million Tutsi refugees that he has kept in exile for the last 31 years and to stop his discriminatory policies against the Tutsi inside the country who are denied jobs and education for the strict application of the government policy of "ethnic harmony": Meaning that Tutsi should not be allowed to go to school or have jobs in order to not anger the Hutu majority! I think you have also received a copy of a letter that the American Friendship Committee (AFCR) wrote to him also asking him to exercise his responsibilities of President to treat all Rwandan citizens equally and to let the refugees in diaspora come back to their homeland. This Committee also wrote to you personally asking you to give sanctuary to 5 Rwandan refugees living in Burundi that the Rwandan government had had expelled because they attended the 1st International Conference on Rwandan refugees that took place in Washington, D.C. in August 1988.

I have been informed by the State Department that Mr. HABYARIMANA will be coming on a "private visit" in the United States towards the end of September. Mr. Secretary, I am asking you to please not allow this individual to enter this great country which is the champion of human rights. The former UN General Secretary, Kurt WALDHEIM, the actual President of Austria, has been refused a visa to come to this country because of his role during the nazi period. I applaud this decision by this government. I am hoping also that double standards should not be applied and that this decision should apply to any individual who has committed crimes against humanity. There is nobody who can match the atrocities of Mr. HABYARIMANA. The following are his criminal actions:

1. From 1962-1973, Mr. HABYARIMANA was Defense Minister of the barbaric PARMEHUTU Government (Party for Hutu only) which slaughtered more than 600,000 innocent Tutsi: a genocide that the Vatican, Jean-Paul Sartre, the French existentialist philosopher and Nobel prize laureate and the famous British philosopher and mathematician, Lord Bertrand Russell, also Nobel Prize laureate for Literature that they called the most horrifying crime against humanity of this century, second only to the holocaust of Jews by Nazi Germany. Mr. HABYARIMANA could have stopped this senseless massacre since he was commander of the army which executed these heinous killings of innocent children, women, old men, etc, burned houses, killed cattle and destroyed property.

2. In 1973, when Mr. HABYARIMANA took power in a military coup, he killed all the dignitaries of the PARMEHUTU government including his former boss, Mr. KAYIBANDA also a HITLER-like individual. This is revealed in the book of Mr. Shyirambere BARAHINYURA: 1973-1988: Général-Major Juvénal HABYARIMANA, 15 ANS DE TYRANNIE ET DE TARTUFFERIE.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: HARRY R. MELONE
DATE/CASE ID: 29 JAN 2002 199500391

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

3. In 1982, when Tutsi Rwandan refugees were crossing the border to Rwanda, their former homeland looking for sanctuary, escaping the massacres of Milton OBOTE in Uganda, Mr. HABYARIMANA's army started shooting them. These refugees became like a soccer ball, being bounced back and forth, having nowhere else to run to, they were killed by the Rwandan army when they tried to cross the border and shot if they tried to go back to Uganda. Thousands had to commit suicide in the process. When fighting took place in Burundi in August 1988, however, caused by Paripehutu, all the Burundi HUTU refugees were greeted very warmly, and strangely this time the usual arguments of the small size of the country, its poverty and overcrowdedness didn't come into play. Which clearly indicates General HABYARIMANA's hatred of TUTSI.
4. The majority of TUTSI don't get jobs and most of them are illiterate because there has to be applied the policies of "ethnic harmony". Mr. HABYARIMANA claims that TUTSI are only 9% of the population (eventhough in reality there are more than 30%) and that therefore they have to be 9% in schools and job employments in order to make the majority happy! Unfortunately these Tutsi don't even attain 4% in both jobs and education. In many sectors there is 0% representation. This is clearly "intellectual genocide" as many commentators and writers have called it.
5. Mr. HABYARIMANA has instituted pass laws. Since there is no way HUTU and TUTSI can be distinguished physically, linguistically, geographically, culturally,... each Rwandan has to carry a pass which shows to which ethnic group and region he or she comes from in order to be considered for employment or to be admitted to school. Rwanda is one of the rarest countries in Africa where there is only one single ethnic group: Banyarwanda. Indeed it is one of the few countries where people speak the same language, share the same culture, have the same religion. To say that the country has three distinct ethnic groups or tribes doesn't make sense linguistically, anthropologically from whatever perspective you might look at it. This individual only wants to divide the country and create hatred among Rwandan nationals. Since these pass laws favor the HUTU and discriminate against the Tutsi,, any Tutsi who changes his social group to HUTU is sentenced to life imprisonment.
6. Mr. HABYARIMANA has categorically refused the return of 2,5 million refugees to come back to their homeland, because "the country is too small, too crowded and too poor". He wants them to be considered "economical refugees" instead of "political refugees". The refugees are aware of their country's problems and want to come back and help their fellow citizens who remained in the country to rebuild their nation. They have a right to decide by themselves where they want to live. There is no worse crime than separating families, depriving people from seeing their relatives and having a land where they belong.

There are so many crimes that this man has committed and continues to commit. The ones given above are enough to show that he doesn't deserve to be received by officials of our government or get any aid from this great country unless he apologizes for his past crimes and promises to stop his inhumane policies. Right now thousands of people in the southern part of the country are starving; children, women and men die every day of hunger. The northern part where he comes from has food surplus, but he has refused to help. This doesn't prevent him and his relatives from amassing fortune, however, stealing government funds or taking people's property. Very recently the most prominent and successful Tutsi businessness, Valens KAJEGUHAKWA, a man who has very much contributed to the economy of the country, who has helped needy people, gave scholarships to students and created thousands of jobs for people, escaped three assassination attempts by his high military officers: Colonel RWAGAFIRITA, Colonel SERUBUGA and Major MUGEMANA. When he took his case to court, he was the one to be found guilty because he accused high officers of the government. He was sentenced to four years imprisonment, and now his business has been ruined by arbitrary excessive taxes. Journalists who write about the refugee problem or the discrimination against TUTSI are murdered, put in jail or have their journals closed. The latest examples are the killing of Father Silvio SINDAMBIWE, former Editor of KINYAMATEKA, a catholic weekly and the imprisonment of Vincent RWABUKWISI, Editor of KANGUKA, who was accused of talking to refugees on his recent visit to the US and writing about their plight and discrimination against Tutsi inside the country

Mr Secretary, I thank you very much for your understanding, your help and your compassion. Whatever you might do about this case would be very much appreciated. If you need further

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

information, I would be more than happy to send it to you.

Respectfully yours,



Alexandre Kimenyi
Professor of Linguistics & Ethnic Studies

- cc. Senate Foreign Relations Committee
- Congressional Black Caucus
- Congressman Matsui
- Congressman Fazio
- Randall Robinson, Director Transafrica
- Masabo, Coordinator International Committee on Rwandan Refugees
- American Friendship Committee for Rwandan Refugees
- Roger Winter, Director US Committee for Refugees

UNCLASSIFIED