



Mouvement des Femmes et Filles pour la Paix et la Sécurité

PRESS RELEASE

Denouncing the Horror Video that “Calls for Rape”

The Women and Girls Movement for Peace and Security (MFFPS) in Burundi is deeply concerned by the words used in slogans chanted at a recent meeting of the ruling party, the CNDD-FDD’s youth militia – the Imbonerakure – calling for rape and forced impregnation of opposition women and girls: “*Let us Impregnate our opponents so that they give birth to Imbonerakure*”¹. It is shocking to see how **rape is made into a song** used by Imbonerakure parading as military men in an official gathering attended by high ranking party officials.

For the first time, the CNDD FDD, in its communiqué of April 5th 2017 takes ownership of the slogans. MFFPS rejects the attempt of the ruling party to minimize the impact: this was not two or three isolated men who were caught offline. It is an organized youth movement of the ruling party, conveying a clear message calling for rape and violence. The world must acknowledge that these acts are reminiscent of the youth militia in Rwanda – the Interahamwe – whose mobilization culminated into the Rwandan genocide in 1994.

Such chants are proof of state sponsored sexual violence used continuously to intimidate, terrorize and rape women and girls in Burundi since April 2015. This comes in a pattern of perverse sexual and gender based violence towards women who are suspected to not support the ruling party. This is a tool for political domination through women's bodies used to “give birth to Imbonerakure”.

MFFPS strongly condemns these exactions against the population and women in particular which have been widely reported by international organizations such as the Worldwide Movement for Human Rights (FIDH),² Human Rights Watch (HRW),³ Amnesty International⁴ as well as the United Nations. MFFPS further denounces the rape, gang rape and mutilation of bodies used as a weapon of war.

¹ The slogans chanted by the Imbonerakure were confirmed in a statement by the National Secretary in charge of Information & Communication of the CNDD-FDD, Nancy-Ninette Mutoni, blaming them on external forces. The images were taken during an event where young Imbonerakure were officially gathered in Ntega commune, in Kirundo province.

²<https://www.fidh.org/en/region/Africa/burundi/repression-and-genocidal-dynamics-in-burundi>

³<https://www.hrw.org/news/2016/07/27/burundi-gang-rapes-ruling-party-youth>

⁴ [AFR 16/4737/2016](https://www.refworld.org/docid/5d473720.html)

We strongly denounce the hate speeches that aim to dehumanize a category of the population with terms such as “Abakeba,”⁵ “Ibipinga,”⁶ “Mujeri”⁷ ... thus propagating the idea that some people are less human than others.

MFFPS draws the attention of the International Community on the threat posed by hate propaganda in a country like Burundi, already made fragile by a history of massive violations of human rights of a political and ethnic nature. The slogans chanted by the Imbonerakure irreversibly erode our human dignity and destroy our national reservoir of values of tolerance, Ubuntu and Ubushingantahe.

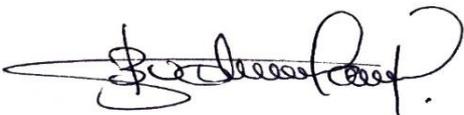
In the end, it is worth noting that this was not an isolated case, but an integral part of a violent rhetoric of a political and ethnic nature pushed forth by the current government, which has continued to spread since April 2015, with the aim to revive ethnic tensions, silence opposition and remain in power.

Thus, hate speeches inciting violence, introducing ethnic quotas in recruitment procedures, the requirement of an ethnic card in each household, are among others, part of additional warning signals of a demagogic and multidimensional divisionist propaganda, which can only lead to mass atrocities.

In view of all the above, the MFFPS, once more, calls upon the international community and in particular the UN Security Council to act swiftly and use its peace keeping and security mandate to protect the Burundi civilian populations terrorized and violated by the same state that is meant to protect them and ensure their welfare. This use of violence to silence opposition and the women and girls in particular, must be seen for what it is: a crime against humanity to be punished by International Law.

The WORSE is yet to come, and tomorrow will be too late.

For MFFPS



Marie Louise Baricako

President

8th April 2017

⁵ Enemies in Kirundi, derogatory term used to refer to the opposition by the ruling party

⁶ Traitors in Kirundi, term derogatory term used to refer the opposition by the ruling party

⁷ Erring dog in Kirundi, derogatory term used to refer to the opposition by the ruling party