

Message addressed to Burundi Nation

Republique du Burundi Conseil National pour la Defense de Democratie

By His Excellency Leonard Nyangoma
President of CNDD and FRODEBU Parliamentarian
on the coup d'etat of July 25th 1996 in Burundi

Burundi, Barundikazi, I greet you.

1. As you have learnt on your radios, the mono-ethnic army and rebellious against democracy has just put one of its soldiers major Pierre BUYOYA at the head of the State in replacement of Mr. Sylvestre NTIBANTUNGANYA. You have learnt that even the only Institution that we recognized as legal in the circumstances - the Parliament - has been suspended and that political parties also have met with the same fate.

2. As far as we are concerned, we are not in the least surprised that those who had put in place the Convention Government overthrow it today, since that government carried the virus of its own destruction from the beginning as we had declared at the time of its formation. In reality, it was a partitocratic system put in place on the Burundi people's back with Pierre BUYOYA as one of its godfathers by the side of his putschist army and Ahmed Ould Abdallah, former representative of the United Nations General Secretary in Burundi. We rejoice that the putschists of 21st October 1993 have at last signed their initial coup d'Etat and that they have now thrown off the mask. It is those same soldiers who have imposed Mr. Sylvestre NTIBANTUNGANYA at the head of the State under the cover of that Government Convention of 10th September 1994. We affirm that the new BUYOYA regime and that of the Government Convention are both regimes born of a coup d'Etat, therefore are anti-constitutional and we condemn them categorically.

3. You all know that this major Pierre BUYOYA is the same man who had lost the presidential elections of June 1st 1993 when you have elected to the Highest Office the president of FRODEBU party, His Excellency Melchior NDADAYE. You will remember that, hardly four months later, those same putschist soldiers have assassinated President NDADAYE and his closest Colleagues and have overthrown his Government while they massacred the population since October 21st 1993 until today. What happened since that fateful date is well known to you and we do not see any use to come back to it. But we are making a point of reminding you that the soldiers who have just put major BUYOYA in power are the very ones who have overthrown the legitimate Government of President NDADAYE to which we also belonged, and all this after those same putschists had sowed chaos and death in the whole country.

My dear compatriots,

4. In these hard times, we wish to address to you this message of comfort, advice and warning. Be calm and serene, and please do not commit crime against your compatriot or your neighbour. Under no single pretext, do not spill the blood of your fellowman. Hundreds of thousands

Burundians have been killed because of those unconscious soldiers, do not add the drama to the drama. Do not let you trapped by those putschist criminals who wish one thing only : to kill each other so that they can get the opportunity to massacre their usual targets that you are. I publicly warn you that whoever dares kill his neighbour should know that he is committing this crime on his behalf and he has not been mandated by the CNDD or FRODEBU, and that himself will be answerable for this crime in the days to come. Do not worry too much about this putschist regime because its days are numbered. In your name, we have committed ourselves to combat any anti-democratic regime and we give you the assurance that we shall succeed. The victory is certain in the nearest future.

5. As we have constantly told you before, once again we remind you today that we have taken up arms to combat those putschist soldiers and only them, in order to protect the population and their rights by restoring the democratic regime that you had chosen and that all of you desire. We do not attack civilian populations even if putschists' propagandists do not miss any opportunity to hold us responsible for crimes provoked by themselves.

We appeal to all of you, HUTU, TUTSI and TWA to support the resistance movement CNDD which is fighting in your sole interest. All together we shall defeat totally those dictatorial military regimes and shall soon attain the second liberation. We ask all those who were still cherishing illusions to yield to the facts and side with us.

6. We urge the International Community, the UNO, the OAU, the European Union and the countries of the Great Lakes Region to condemn the putschist regime of major Pierre BUYOYA and not to repeat any more the mistake made at the time of the Government Convention in recognizing a government not born of electons by direct universal suffrage, whereas the Burundi People are demanding a legitimate government for nearly three years.

Once more, we ask you to scrupulously abide by the recommendations and offer that we have just given to you. God protect you.

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Parliamentarian

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