

**REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI
PALIPEHUTU
JUSTICE-PEACE-DEVELOPMENT
UBUGABO BURIHABWA
C/O NTAWOGENZA AUGUSTIN
FAX NO. 0031206854324
NETHERLANDS**

10.7.2000

**HIS EXCELLENCY
PRESIDENT NELSON MANDELA
THE BURUNDI PEACE TALKS FACILITATOR
JOHANNESBURG
SOUTH AFRICA**

RE : **REPLY TO YOUR LETTER OF 27TH JUNE 2000**

I acknowledge receipt of your letter as shown above, and I would like to take this opportunity of thanking you for the decision you have taken to reconcile us Burundians and bring all those concerned with the Burundi issue at the negotiating table.

As I told you before, let me make it known to you once again that F.N.L (Forces Nationales de Liberation) is the military wing of PALIPEHUTU and it cannot participate in any negotiations without PALIPEHUTU's approval. I am PALIPEHUTU President and chief of staff of F.N.L. Thus, let me make it clear to you that although you have been inviting me as F.N.L leader, I didn't neglect your invitations. From now onwards, I am going to participate only as PALIPEHUTU President and not otherwise. Any other authority claiming to be in-charge of PALIPEHUTU should likewise be in a position to give orders to F.N.L. fighters at the battlefield.

Excellency,

In your letter you informed me about your recent visit to Burundi where you met with Mr. Buyoya, his military officers, addressed a joint session of the cabinet, the National Assembly, Judiciary, diplomats, former President Ntibantunganya, former Prime Minister Nduwayo, Mr. Mukusi and other eminent Burundi citizens. All of these people except diplomats are Buyoya's men and cannot therefore go against his will.

You also met with political and non political prisoners. At this stage you were shocked by the primitive and filthy conditions they are living in. Furthermore, you witnessed the inhuman conditions of people in the NAZI-TYPE regroupment camps that Buyoya set up. During our talks in Johannesburg your stand was such that Buyoya should walk out of the office, which is one of our conditions.

To my great surprise, after meeting with him and witnessing all the brutal treatment of his regime against innocent Hutus and Twas, you changed your mind abruptly,

now you are hailing him as a man showing more commitment to lasting peace and stability in very practical ways.

Excellency,

I have been much shocked by the statement in your letter that unless I stop armed operations on the day the peace agreement is signed i.e. 19th and 20th 2000, I will be left behind. I think menace is not the right way to make us sign a cease-fire. Just as I told you, a cease-fire should depend primarily on the stage reached by negotiations at which we have been fully involved. Paradoxically, we have been isolated since the beginning of the talks. This proved that you don't pay attention to what the party informs you.

At a joint meeting by the Party Central Committee and F.N.L officers, participants criticised the way the peace talks are being conducted that they are a fait accompli designed to deny us a right to have a say in our country's affairs and put the Burundi people's interests in jeopardy, (reference is made to the party's letter of 19th April, 2000 to you which you have not replied to).

How should I be forced to sign an agreement, which has been worked out in my absence and without being invited?

The former facilitator the late Mwl. Julius K. Nyerere was totally betrayed by the participants he adopted a wrong way. That is why the negotiations are endless. To our dismay, you seem to be taking the same course.

The reconciliation process, in a country like Burundi, where people have been living in brutal and inhuman conditions for four centuries is not an easy task, one has to be tolerant.

In this regard, PALIPEHUTU invites you to visit its liberated zones and meet with both our combatants and members in general, as you did to the Burundi government.

We also wish that you should visit Burundian camps and settlements outside Burundi and thus be in a better position to conduct the talks in a more objective manner.

Excellency,

PALIPEHUTU took a bitter decision to take arms against the brutal minority regime because all the peaceful means had been exhausted. It still believes that peace talks are one way of solving the Burundi crisis provided that these talks are a fair play giving priority to the fighting parties. What the people of Burundi want is justice, peace and development and this cannot be achieved without the army being dismantled.

Finally, to the best of my knowledge, you are one of the persons who suffered greatly for the well-being of your people. As I have noticed, the Arusha talks are full of intrigues, which have to be removed in order to bring about lasting peace for all. Otherwise, more innocent blood will be shed.

Wishing you all the best.

Commandant KARUMBA HASSAN
President of PALIPEHUTU and Chief of Staff of F.N.L

CC:

- President of the United Republic of Tanzania
His Excellency, Benjamin Mkapa
- President of Nigeria
His Excellency Olusegun Obasanjo
- President of Zimbabwe
His Excellency, Robert Mugabe
- President of Namibia
His Excellency Sam Mjoma
- President of South Africa
His Excellency Thabo Mbeki
- President of Angola
His Excellency Jos Eduardo Dos Santos
- President of the United States of America
His Excellency Bill Clinton
- President of France
His Excellency Jacques Chirac
- President of the European Union
- The Secretary General of the United Nations
- The Secretary General of the Organisation of African Unity