



PLATFORM AMAHORO PC – FDU INKINGI – PDP IMANZI – PS IMBERAKURI – RWANDA NATIONAL CONGRESS (RNC)

Washington, November 13, 2018

His Excellency Paul Kagame

President of the Republic of Rwanda

Kigali

Reference: Follow up of Our letter dated July 20th, 2018.

Mr. President,

The Platform (P5) composed of Social Party (PS – Imberakuri), People’s Defense Pact (PDP – Imanzi), United Democratic Forces (FDU – Inkingi), Amahoro – Peoples’ Congress and Rwanda National Congress (RNC) is pleased to once again convey to you our warmest wishes as the president of the Republic of Rwanda.

We are writing to follow up on our letter dated July 20th, 2018 (see attachment) in which we appealed to your Excellency to initiate and facilitate a national dialogue between your government and its recognized opposition. We were and still are convinced that the urgency is now for this much waited and needed process to take place:

- As observed by many human rights groups including but not limited to Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch (...), there remain longstanding yet silent tensions between ordinary Rwandans. Inclusive political participation is as elusive as ever, and claims of the political opposition are consistently crushed rather than addressed, which has led Rwandans to learn how to live in a “no-war-no-peace” state for the last twenty-four years. The national dialogue remains a widely accepted mechanism for peacebuilding and conflict resolution, including

latent conflicts like ours in Rwanda. We firmly believe this to be the only viable framework for creating space for political participation for all Rwandans.

- We are cognizant that many Rwandans inside and outside Rwanda are eager to sit around a table and have frank, open and inclusive discussions on the future of their country. They hail from political organizations like ours but also from the civil society and civic organizations across the globe. We take the liberty to presume all these formations stand and strive for political change and may offer solutions and alternatives to the current path Rwanda embarked on for the past twenty-four years.
- Over the past three months since our letter, we have not seen a single overture to dialogue on the part of the government of Rwanda, nor has there been any suggestion that such an overture is in the planning.
- Instead, we saw yet another political figure in Rwanda (Boniface Twagirimana, Vice-President of FDU-Inkingi) disappears in still yet to be elucidated circumstances. Your government moved to release a few political prisoners, namely Victoire Ingabire Umuhoza, Kizito Mihigo, Diane Shima Rwigara and her mother Adeline Rwigara. While the move was welcomed by many, most observers are fully aware that those political figures remain *de facto* prisoners as they are limited in their spatial movements and their freedom of speech. The so-called pardon is in the name only as the trumped up charges and the politically motivated convictions handed to them have not been expunged.
- Reliable source of information tells us that through Rwandan embassies in foreign countries, your government's efforts to silence the opposition have not abated. We understand that schemes to harass political figures and frighten them into submission continued, including fabricating crimes and lobbying for their deportation to Rwanda.

While it is traditional for the international community and the sub-region to accompany a national dialogue process like the one to which we all aspire, we must own the process as Rwandans. Your Excellency has the greatest historical responsibility in that regard.

Please accept, Mr. President, the assurance of our highest consideration.

Jerome Nayigiziki,

Current Chairman of F5 Platform.

CC:

- H.E. Paul Kagame, Current Chairman of the African Union
- Their Excellencies African Union Head of States and Governments (All)
- Their Excellencies Members of the United Nations Security Council (All)
- H.E. the President of the United States of America
- H.E. the President of the Republic of France
- H.E. the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom
- H.E. the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Belgium
- H.E. the Chancellor of the Republic of Germany
- H.E. the EU Commission President