

Association Internationale pour la Solidarité et la Sécurité des Tutsi du Burundi

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António Guterres
High Commissioner
UNHCR
Case Postale 2500
CH- 1211 Genève 2 Dépôt
SWITZERLAND

Bristol, 17 April 2009

Dear High Commissioner,

Further to the meeting held in Brussels with the Burundian Diaspora's delegations from many European countries, it was decided to write a letter to the Prime Ministers of the main European countries, which host the Burundians. This was decided following a frenzy campaign orchestrated by the Burundian Government in order to force the return of all Burundians asylum seekers back to Burundi. Please find attached a copy of this correspondence.

The UNHCR has an important role to play in the objective assessment of the risk to be killed, tortured, raped or persecuted that any asylum seekers is running if he or she were to be deported back to Burundi. Your role in contributing for a fair and objective assessment of the situation prevailing in Burundi would ultimately help many European countries' courts in the understanding of the reasons behind the increased number of asylum seekers and refugees coming from Burundi, when officially the situation is held to be improving because there has been an agreement between the same Hutu political organizations; the CNDD-FDD and the PALIHUTU-FNL.

Finally, may I reiterate my deep conviction that no peaceful solution would be forthcoming when it involves those who are suspected to have played an active role in the genocide or any crime against humanity. I therefore do welcome the agreement, which was made between the United Nations and the Government of Burundi to have the First Vice President as the person who should have the overall control of the process.

Yours truly,

Pacelli Ndikumana

President

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