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Rwanda Government's Violations of Ms Idamange Yvonne Iryamugwiza's Fundamental Rights to Freedom of Expression, Assembly and Protest

Rwandans in exile are herein extending their gratitude to:

- The UN Commissioner of Human Rights for recently raising their concerns over the Human Rights abuses by the Rwandan government towards the citizens including allegations of extrajudicial killings;
- The United States Congress for their letter to Rwanda President Kagame in which they called for the release of Paul Rusesabagina following many flaws of due process in the case;
- The European Parliament for their recent Resolution condemning the enforced disappearance, illegal rendition and incommunicado detention of Paul Rusesabagina by the Rwandan government;
- Human Right Watch for their tireless effort in reporting on human rights abuses inside Rwanda;
- The US 's Freedom House report recognizing Rwanda as one of the six countries in the world which operates aggressive campaigns of transnational repression.

Ladies and gentlemen, while we are pleased to learn that the International Community is making important and progressive steps to recognize Rwanda's horrific human rights abuses and therefore made subsequent recommendations which would produce positive results if applied, we are very concerned that even after those recommendations, more atrocities continue to be committed by the Rwandan government.

In fact, just one day after the European Parliament's Resolution in the case of Rusesabagina was made, a Rwandan citizen by the name of Joel Nsekanabo from Rusizi went missing for days. At first, he was declared unknown to the nearest police station in the western Province of Rwanda. Later on, the very same police which had denied knowing his whereabouts called for his wife to come and pick up his body, attributing his death to a possible suicide whilst in prison! This is one of the many cases of the 'found dead' whilst in police custody, just like Kizito's case.

On February 7th, 2021 a famous Rwandan poet and artist by the name Innocent Bahati was declared missing. RIB and the Rwanda police have denied to have Bahati is in their custody. BBC Gahuza radio has reported that during 2019-2020, over 1,300 people had been reported missing inside Rwanda!

The very sad and disastrous case and for whom this call is especially made is for Iryamugwiza Yvonne Idamange, a 42 year-old mother of four children who was arrested for criticizing the Rwandan government.

On February 15th, 2021, after appearing in a series of YouTube videos criticizing the ruling political establishment in Rwanda for their disastrous human rights abuses, Idamange's home was stormed by heavily armed men in uniform and she was arrested by Rwanda Investigations Bureau (RIB) where she is still awaiting prosecution and possible enforced mental examination. RIB said she was imprisoned for exhibiting conduct "which mixes politics, criminality and madness."

In her speeches, Idamange said what other Rwandans are experiencing but do not dare to say because government critics and opponents are always threatened, arrested even many of them killed. "You don't know but let me tell you, this is a country that is led by thieves and criminals; we are just sitting in the hell fire, and it's only by God's protection that we survive this fire;" Idamange said as she demanded the government to resign and called for protests throughout the country the following day. Within a short time of making the video public, Idamange was then arrested.

Prior to Idamange's house arrests however, Rwanda's State Minister Bamporiki had visited her twice in an attempt to bribe her, for her to remain silent in exchange for all government privileges. She was told that if she does not stay quiet, she could be killed.

Idamange was arrested for her courageous speech calling on Rwandans to stand up and fight for their basic human rights which she said have all been taken away. Idamange should not be blamed for her views on her country's bad governance and human rights abuses.

We are therefore writing, ladies and gentlemen, condemning this shameful act of the Rwandans Government of imprisoning an innocent, single mother of four young underage children.

We are writing, asking the International Community to help in the finding of the whereabouts of Innocent Bahati and many other Rwandans who have mysteriously disappeared.

We are writing, asking the international community to help free Idamange and to let her be reunited with her children immediately.

We are also calling for the International community to take very strong measures towards the Kagame regime which operates like an illegal despotic regime where civilians are continually being kidnapped, disappeared or killed on a daily basis; by linking arms with such regime, it only reflects badly on International Community.

Sincerely,

Rwandan Community in Exile

Your Name

Names in your group

CC

The United States Congress

The European Parliament

Human Right Watch

The US 's Freedom House