



TRUSTEESHIP  
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PETITION FROM MR. RUNIGA CONCERNING RUANDA URUNDI

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of the rules of procedure for the Trusteeship Council)

Note by the Secretariat: This communication was  
transmitted to the Secretary-General by the United  
Nations Visiting Mission to Trust Territories in  
East Africa.

Kigali, 5 August 1954

United Nations,  
New York.

Firstly: about the abolition of Ubuhake

1. Ubuhake is the main source of wealth in Ruanda-Urundi, for the following reasons:

The Mututsi gives the Muhutu a cow if he will work for him for two months out of the whole year.

The Muhutu's cow produces beef and brings him in money with which he can buy clothes or hoes or can pay his taxes; in short, he is rich because he doesn't lack possessions. You understand, of course, that nobody is really rich but there will always be plenty of poverty.

Thus the Mututsi is rich because he has enough to eat and drink and he even has money; the man who has cows does not lack money, but the man with money cannot get cows; why?

This is why:

We have to pay out more money (than we receive) in wages. For example, I earn 345.50 francs a month, but in the course of a month it costs me 1,370 francs for the basic necessities of life without counting clothes and linen for my wife, let alone the children.

Therefore if you want to abolish Ubuake you must find some substitute for it. What you should do is as follows:

Give me an adequate minimum wage, say 6,000 francs. This is why: I have to pay for my children who are at high school and even for those who are at home.

I cannot go into greater detail because I haven't the time to write everything.

My name is Runiga.

United Nations,  
New York.

Kigali, 5 August 1954

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About the indigenous tribunals

1. I have no faith in the judges because they are all unjust.
2. The poor will never have the best palavers because they have nothing to give the judges.

They should be very severely punished.

- 1) a - 15,000 francs and two years in prison.

b - degraded for an indefinite period.

Or either banished or sent to the tin mines(?)

- 2) a - or put to manual labour.

That's what I should like to see done.

You would see (results) six months from now.

Runiga

APOLOGIES FOR MY FRENCH

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Visiting Mission.

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