



UNITED NATIONS

TRUSTEESHIP  
RECEIVED  
COUNCIL

23 NOV 1959



INDEX SECTION, LIBRARY

Distr.  
GENERAL

T/PET. 3/99  
20 November 1959  
ENGLISH  
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

PETITION FROM THE LEAGUE FOR THE RIGHTS OF MAN OF  
RUANDA-URUNDI CONCERNING RUANDA-URUNDI

(Circulated in accordance with rule 85 of the rules of  
procedure of the Trusteeship Council)

LEAGUE FOR THE RIGHTS OF MEN OF RUANDA-URUNDI

Affiliated to the International League for the Rights of Man  
and  
United Nations Information and Documentation Centre

Registered Office:  
Kisenyi (Ruanda)  
P.O. Box 120  
Secretariat  
P.O. Box 5

Kisenyi, 5 November 1959

Your Excellency,

We duly received your message on the occasion of the 14th anniversary of the foundation of the United Nations and we thank you for it. When the last Visiting Mission, under your chairmanship, was here we were unable, to our great regret, to meet you and greet you. You probably spoke French too well. Greatly disappointed, we wrote to you personally. Probably our letter was intercepted too? We venture to send you a copy.

Thus two years have passed since your visit without any major changes taking place apart from the unfortunate events at Léopoldville. They were extremely serious. What caused them? Your Organization - it was its duty - must have received information from both sides. The fact remains that since those events

His Excellency Mr. Dorsinville  
President of the Trusteeship Council  
Lake Success

took place political life, which was formerly non-existent, has suddenly become active, in an atmosphere of confusion. The confusion was inevitable in view of the general lack of preparation for civic and political life. Furthermore, whereas everywhere else nationality is a condition of citizenship and enjoyment of civic rights, some civic rights are suddenly being granted here to persons who are not legally citizens.

To be brief, and to come to the point I wanted to make, Congolese agitation has overtaken Ruanda-Urundi, a Trust Territory which logically should have been liberated before the Congo, at the same time as the other countries still under trusteeship. Hence in order to avoid the bloodshed which has overtaken the Congo, it is becoming urgent that the Trusteeship Council should intervene as soon as possible.

Some political parties in the Congo have already requested that the United Nations delegation should come here, at the same time as a Belgian parliamentary delegation, to observe and supervise the forthcoming elections in December. We request on behalf of our League and, even more, on behalf of the people, that the Trusteeship Council should delegate representatives immediately to observe the popular reactions and the political development which will follow the ministerial statement concerning Ruanda-Urundi expected in the near future. Human lives are in danger, for provocation may have the effect of setting groups of the people one against the other and lead to conflicts between them. The Tutsi-Bantu antagonism to which we have repeatedly drawn your attention and which could be palliated by a joint claim of self-government or independence but which some interested parties might exacerbate in order to create divisions, disturbances and the restoration of order by slaughter, is already quite enough. Civic duty and human duty demand our vigilance and also demand your intervention.

We hope that it will be forthcoming.

We have the honour to be, etc.

(Signed) E. RAPAUD  
Secretary for the Committee

LEAGUE FOR THE RIGHTS OF MAN OF RUANDA-URUNDI

Kisenyi, 7 November 1959

Your Excellency,

I am sending you this letter, marked S.O.S. and urgent, in place of the copy I promised. As expected, the tragedy is taking place, with its train of corpses and houses pillaged and burned. The imbroglio is complete, and three groups are throwing responsibility for the drama onto one another and sharpening mutual antagonisms. Bahutu, Batutsi and Europeans will soon come to grips unless you intervene immediately and energetically. For the slightest frontier conflict the United Nations sends observers and special troops. The situation here is just as serious. Instead of two nationalities, three races are in conflict. An astonishing and, if I may say so, suspicious fact is that the progressive Batutsi elements recognize democratic principles and a Ruvian National Union Party has on the initiative of Kahiyura, a highly intelligent chief and Vice-Chairman of the Council of the country, who appears to have started the strife. The fault lies first of all with the Administering Authority, which dismissed Kahiyura from his post as chief of the Bugoye and authorized with its encouragement the establishment of a group of Bahutu extremists. Since these things were done there has been an endless succession of incidents. Despite the appeal of Mwami Kigeri V and the moving appeal by the Vice-Governor General Harroy, the incidents are developing into full-scale drama. I beg you, in the name of the principles of humanity which we have defended all our lives, to ignore all the formalities and demand immediate intervention by the United Nations.

I assure you of my complete devotion to the Principles of the United Nations.

I have the honour to be, etc.

(Signed) E. RABAUD  
Secretary for the Committee

His Excellency Mr. Dorsinville  
President of the Trusteeship Council

-----