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PETITION FROM THE ABANYARUANDA N'ABARUNDI ABADAHEMUKA
CONCERNING RUANDA-URUNDI

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Abanyaruanda n'Abarundi Abadahemuka,
P.O. Box 332,
KAMPALA

1st October, 1961

To the President of the United Nations
General Assembly,

NEW YORK.

Sir,

R E S O L U T I O N

This extraordinary meeting of the Banyaruanda and Barundi Abadahemuka, together with representatives of the refugees from Ruanda (about two thousand of us), held this 1st day of October, 1961, in Kampala, Uganda, in an atmosphere of peace and freedom,

1. do hereby unanimously reject the results of the recent elections in Ruanda as a force and a complete mockery of the fundamental human freedoms and rights enunciated in the charter of the United Nations, and do hereby adduce the following reasons to support this resolution:

(a) The said elections were held in an atmosphere of intimidation, torture, arson, bloodshed and lawlessness, which conditions could not guarantee free choice on the part of the voters; and it is the unanimous feeling of this meeting that the Administering Authority was the force that engineered this chaotic state of affairs.

(b) The said elections were not held in accordance with the resolution of the United Nations which, inter alia, recommended that:

- (i) Refugees should be allowed to return to their homes before the elections
- (ii) All political prisoners should be released
- (iii) The Umwami, Kigeri V, should be allowed to return to his kingdom before the elections
- (iv) Freedom of speech during the elections should be guaranteed to all political parties

We charge and we do wish to bring it to the notice of the United Nations that none of the above mentioned recommendations was fulfilled. More than 150,000 refugees were and are still outside Ruanda and more others are fleeing the country for their lives. Thousands of Banyaruanda who wished to take part in the elections and the referendum on the monarchy were refused entry into their mother country, while others were refused registration as voters on the ground that they were pro-Umwami. A number of prominent politicians are still in prison. Freedom of speech was given exclusively to the pro-Belgian Parmehutu party.

2. This meeting therefore resolve that the said elections held in Ruanda are null and void, and consequently do request the U.N. to declare them so.

And further do request the United Nations to expel at once the Administering Authority since the latter has ignored and failed dismally to execute the desire of the United Nations to establish peace and order in Ruanda, and has, instead, promoted disunity and trouble in the country. The U.N. should therefore assume direct administration of the kingdom and establish peace and order under which truly democratic elections can be held.

3. This meeting unanimously and resolutely maintain and uncompromisingly declare that Umwami Kigeri V is still the sole and rightful King of Ruanda, and that the Banyaruanda shall never recognise any other ruler imposed on the people by the Belgian Administration, no matter how surreptitiously.

4. This meeting further do abhor the use of Parmehutu by the Administering Authority as an instrument to advance disunity and hatred in order to perpetuate Belgian colonial rule over Ruanda in complete disregard of the wish of the majority of the people of Ruanda to rid themselves of Belgian imperial yoke.

5. This meeting therefore do reiterate its request to the U.N. to terminate at once the Belgian "mandate" in Ruanda, and supervise fresh elections in the country.

sgd. (E. Kirenga)

Publicity Secretary.
