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PETITION FROM BANYARWANDA, ABADAHEMUKA BRANCH  
CONCERNING RUANDA-URUNDI

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24th January, 1961

To you Gentlemen of UNO.

Seing the situation in which our country men are, we have found that we could do nothing except to make an alarm to you.

We are in Buganda not because we do not like to be in our mother country but because we wanted peace which is sought by every body on earth surely had we peace in it, we could not leave it.

The condition in which Banyarwanda are now has made us forget ours. At present, the Banyarwanda who have been in Ruanda are rouming about the whole of their sourrounding countries particularly in those countries which are under the protection of English. These people from Ruanda are extremely in misserable state. As you already probably know, a great number of them is dead, children are there without parents, wives are there without husbands, they are looking refuge here and there. They have become nuisance to those who are in peace seeching a shelter from them.

Our Umwami (King) is not in his country whom we know as the heart of it. Had he stil there, he should be dead by now. Of course we canot tell the number of dead Banyarwanda, killed by Beligians or by their country men under the influence of Beligians. I say it openly because had they not supported the Bahutu and give them all the means of percuting their fellow men nothing could happen. Since

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Beligians were shooting Batutsi themselves. So instead of keeping peace in the country, they are increasing disorder. They do not look for peace in Ruanda the peace they need is to see that those seem come out is away with him killed or chased away. They are looking for their own benefits; because by removing those who could govern Ruanda, he will remain there saying that it is still behind. Even if we look behind a bit, we find that this man (Beligian) was not in favour of developing it. The very first thing he did was to exile our Umwami (King) young men were removed from schools saying that they were old and they were needed to give pole tax. People who are outside Ruand who are Banyaruanda are almost as men as those who were still there before they were killed or send away from their country. There are so many things which are proofs of not wishing development of Ruand. A book could be written showing on these proofs.

Gentlemen if you try and imagine those young men or children who have been in some boarding schools suffered when they came back and found their parents others sent away their houses already burnt upon which some had a temptation of hanging themselves, you could really see how horrible it is in Ruanda at present.

Among those things which grieve us most is to see that Belgians are trying to make people hate our King while our King is there by tradition we have never liked to change and we shall never like such other people to be king neither shall we ever like to have our country without Umwami (King) according to the tradition of our country.

Now Beligian are trying to make people choose their way in which they would like to govern their country before our people are brought back (those still alive) and before they get settled down and before our King comes back, Beligians have already tried to put a King which is against our wishes and tradition. Gentlemen we are calling for help we are asking helpers as soon as you could give it because Belgians are making the matter worse and worse from day to day. We are also Gentlemen asking you to be with you before we are able to get indiependence the Beligians now cannot do anything good for our country and our country men and this is obvious from what we have seen. What has hurt us mostly we Banyarwanda from Ruanda is that all those people who we are or who have been trying to develop our

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Country such as Omwami and Batutsi are those who have been killed imprisoned, chased away and percuted in a terrible way. So Gentlemen we end our appeal saying help us help us help us otherwise we perish completely. We are some of Banyaruanda living in Bugunda Province.

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