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T/PET.3/L.60  
13 October 1960  
ENGLISH  
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

PETITION FROM MESSRS. A. BICAMUMPAKA, S. KARABAYE,  
C. SINGIRANKABO AND SEVEN OTHERS CONCERNING  
RUANDA-URUNDI

(Circulated in accordance with rule 85, paragraph 2 of the  
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Shangugu, 22 July 1960

P.O. Box 874  
BUKAVU  
Belgian Congo

S.O.S.

To the President of the United Nations  
New York

Copy to H.M. King BAUDOIN  
the Belgian Parliament  
BRUSSELS

and to all the free nations of the world

Sir,

We, the people of Ruanda, have no alternative but to request your immediate intervention in Ruanda because of the barbarity of the Belgian Administration towards the people of Ruanda. Thousands of patriots are persecuted, imprisoned or deported daily for no other reason than that they oppose the inhuman actions and mental and physical hardship inflicted upon them by the Belgian local authorities.

We must ask the United Nations and the free and just peoples of the world to intervene and drive out of our country the Belgian Administration and army of occupation. Day after day, our people suffer considerable loss of human life as a result of the insidious provocation of the army of occupation and the arbitrary orders of the Belgian authorities, whose only object is to destroy an innocent people.

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We are determined to fight to the end the regime of slavery which has been imposed on us for forty-one years and which oppresses us more heavily each day.

Our people, martyred by the Belgian colonialists, asks you, Mr. President, and all the free and just peoples to put an immediate end to this regime of shameful exploitation and mass murder.

Death-dealing commandos, grown fat at the expense of the people of Ruanda, are ruthlessly slaughtering those of our fellow-countrymen who are brave enough to withhold from the regime of slavery, imposed on our country by Belgium, their co-operation and their support.

At the time of writing, scores of people have been brutally thrown into prison or confined to their homes between 16 and 18 July by a band of armed criminals sent by a Belgian Administrator to ill-treat them and to prevent them from taking part in the local elections now being held.

A number of political prisoners, whose only crime is to have demanded national independence, are dying of hunger and hardship in the concentration camp at NYAMATA. Ruanda women and girls are being shamefully and brutally ill-treated by the Belgian para-commandos. Some hundreds of citizens have already languished in gaol for several months, although no charge has been entered against them, solely because of their baleful influence on the good citizens, i.e., those who collaborate with the Belgian Government in enslaving their own people.

In the name of justice and law, should citizens who demand their people's liberation from foreign domination be treated as felons? We urgently demand a review by international judges of all political trials, and the return of the patriots deported to NUAMATA to their homes and properties.

We categorically reject the Belgian Administration and the presence of its army in our national territory, and urgently call for an unbiased administration and army, i.e., one which will not try to perpetuate the shameful rule of colonialism.

The whole population of Ruanda urgently demands an international administration and army, which alone can impartially prepare Ruanda for its accession to independence.

We ask all free Governments to broadcast this message of distress from the people of Ruanda.

THE PATRIOTS OF RUANDA

A. BICAMUMPAKA

S. KARABAYE

C. SINGIRANKABO J. KAYONGA

N. NGIRUMPATSE

L. HABIMFURA

B. NDUWAYO

J. NDIRIYE

R. RWAKANA

J. NTAKARIMARA

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