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PETITION FROM MR. GEORGES NTABANA, CHAIRMAN OF THE "UNION DES ABOROZI AFRICAINS DU RUANDA-URUNDI (UAARU)" CONCERNING RUANDA-URUNDI

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

Union des Aborozi du
Ruanda-Urundi
Nyagatare, Post Office Gatsibo
Byumba (Rwanda-Urundi)

Nyagatare, 3 October 1960

To the Under-Secretary for Trusteeship
and Information from Non-Self-
Governing Territories
New York, USA

Sir,

I have the honour to send you herewith by registered mail a letter of complaint against the Belgian Government, which has invaded the headquarters of our party and the houses of our influential members and has resorted to looting the money of the party and its members. We also attach a list of the injustices which have taken place in our country.

I have the honour to be, etc.

Georges NTABANA

Chairman of the Union des Aborozi Africains du Rwanda-Urundi.

UAARU NYAGATALE
P.O. GATSIBO
BYUMBA - R.U.

UNION DES ABOROZI AFRICAINS
DU RWANDA-URUNDI
NYAGATARE - P.O. GATSIBO
BYUMBA (RWANDA-URUNDI)

Nyagatare, 3 October 1960

To the Under-Secretary for Trusteeship
and Information from Non-Self-
Governing Territories
New York, USA

Sir,

The following is a list of the various appalling things in Rwanda perpetrated by the Belgian colonialists:

1. Heaping insults on our well-beloved Mwami Kigeli V in his own country.
2. Looting and destroying the Queen Mother's residence and even threatening her at the place where she was receiving medical care by arresting those who were caring for her on her bed of sickness.
3. Shooting prisoners, as was done at Kigali.
4. Imprisoning three innocent princes in their country, which is against the tradition of the country.
5. Sending political prisoners to an island so that they might be mishandled and even perhaps murdered without the Ruandese knowing.
6. Carrying out rigged elections by force and afterwards declaring that it was the will of the inhabitants.
7. Saying that there are only four political parties and ignoring others which were founded by the indigenous inhabitants of the country.
8. Authorizing the PARMEHUTU party to turn the country into a republic, whereas in reality PARMEHUTU is not a political party but a kind of racial association which does not want to unite Rwanda but to separate the country.
9. Supplying that same party with defensive weapons so that it can cause harm to the inhabitants. For example, Belgian parachutists are even now murdering the Mayaga in the Nyanza District and Nduga in the same District as well as in the Astrida District.
10. Giving the APROSOMA and PARMEHUTU parties money to travel abroad; these delegates say that they are the envoys of the Ruandese people but it is a lie.

/...

11. Harrassing people and hounding them out of their native country, so that now they are dying of hunger where they have fled abroad.

Besides this, we request you to send us the report of the United Nations Mission on their visit to Rwanda in March of this year. These political parties request your authorization to come and participate in the United Nations meeting. These parties are: UAARU - ABAKI - MUR - MOMOR - UMAR; OMNI LIGAE.

Hoping to receive a favourable reply to our request, we have the honour to be, etc.

FOR THE CHAIRMEN OF THE ABSENT POLITICAL PARTIES:

Georges NTABANA: Chairman of UAARU.

(Signed: illegible)

Denis KABERUKA: Chairman of ABAKI

(Signed: illegible)

Union des Aborozi africains
du Ruanda-Urundi
Nyagatare: Post Office Gatsibo
Byumba (Ruanda-Urundi)

Nyagatare, 3 October 1960

To the Under-Secretary for Trusteeship
and Information from Non-Self-
Governing Territories
New York, USA

Sir,

At the meeting which was held at Usumbura on 29/3/60 between the representatives of the United Nations and the Chairmen of the political parties, a resolution was adopted according to which each political party could make propaganda freely provided that it kept within a framework of legality.

Yet the UAARU, against which the Government had no valid grievance, had its headquarters sacked on 23/5/60 by Belgian parachutists, its funds looted and its influential members robbed of their personal savings.

The following is a list of the property unjustly confiscated:

Party funds:	100,000 Frs
Ruhandamilindi:	90,000 Frs

/...

Kayonbya:	28,000 Frs
Kajuga:	20,000 Frs and a new truck
Mutsinzi:	49,000 Frs
Kanyamugenge:	7,000 Frs
Ndimbati:	30,000 Frs
Bigaba:	8,000 Frs
Bisugire:	7,000 Frs
Mpogoma:	20,000 Frs
Sarushi:	20,000 Frs
Total:	379,000 Frs

Besides this, we did not accept the Special Council which was set up on the spot by the Trusteeship Administration against the will of the Rwandese population.

Trusting that you will put the matter in order, I have the honour to be, etc.

Georges NIABANA BIRABO (Signed: illegible)
Chairman of UAARU

Copy to:

The Minister for African Affairs at Brussels (Belgium)
The Resident-General of Rwanda-Urundi at Usumbura
The Special Resident of Rwanda at Kigali (Rwanda)
The Administrator of the District of Byumba (Rwanda)
