

UNITED NATIONS

TRUSTEESHIP
COUNCIL

UN/SA COLLECTION



Distr.
GENERAL

T/PET.3/128
13 October 1960
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

PETITION FROM MR. FRANCOIS RUKABA, CHAIRMAN OF THE
"UNION NATIONALE RUANDAISE (UNAR)" IN BUKAVU,
REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO CONCERNING RUANDA-URUNDI

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

François RUKABA
CHAIRMAN OF THE "UNION NATIONALE RUANDAISE (UNAR)"
c/o Mr. Simon Munyakazi
P.O. Box 874
BUKAVU, Republic of the Congo

Usumbura, 30 August 1960

To the President of the Security Council of the United Nations
New York

Sir,

Further to the many petitions regarding the catastrophic political situation in Ruanda-Urundi, which has been worsening rather than improving in the last ten months, we have the honour to inform you that the Trusteeship Council, to which the said petitions were addressed, has given us no satisfaction whatever, in spite of the promises made by the Mission of inquiry of March 1960, which was an eyewitness of the Belgian Government's oppression of the people of Ruanda.

Both when the Mission of inquiry left and when it was here, we continually and unreservedly proclaimed the grave nature of Belgian policy in our Trust Territories, and in particular the deliberate and utterly cruel destruction of human lives, regularly and in considerable numbers, by Belgian soldiers in person, while the Administering Authority, so that it should not be known, was falsely informing world opinion that it was a question of a conflict between Hutu and Tutsi, who were killing each other.

Since the most important function which the government of a Trust Territory is called upon to perform, that of ensuring public order, is no longer being fulfilled, and this is tolerated by the Trusteeship Council, we regret that, as

60-25178

/...

there has been no response to our appeal, we are now obliged to implore the urgent help of the Security Council. Besides Belgian policy, according to which, because of the increasing disturbances in Ruanda, our independence ought to be delayed as long as possible after the conclusion of negotiations highly favourable to Belgium, thanks to certain Ruandese persons mindful of their private interests, we are suffering still more dangerously from the anger caused by the recent events in the nearby Congo.

In this respect, any Ruandese who does not possess the card of the Parmehutu and Aprosoma government parties loses, ipso facto, his human rights on pain of being either shot, imprisoned, transported, or incapacitated by almost deadly blows from Belgian soldiers, while looting or confiscation of property and setting fire to houses have become the custom, as well as holding political prisoners and making people live under surveillance, while the leading members of UNAR who have already been in prison for more than three months, charged with having sent a truthful telegram for help to the United Nations, have been transferred to an island in the Ruhengeri district where the most poisonous mosquitoes abound and the cold is terrible, piercing human flesh to the marrow of one's bones, a fortiori that of prisoners lacking the necessary clothes for such a climate, so that it is death indirectly prepared for the best elements of the country.

We are particularly concerned about the position taken up by enormous numbers of Belgian soldiers who have been placed at all the frontiers of Ruanda-Urundi, fully armed in preparation for a war against the former Belgian Congo. Thus all the Belgian para-commandos withdrawn from the Republic of the Congo by United Nations troops are advancing on our Territories from morning to night.

We know from reliable sources that such measures are taken not only to attack the Congo, but also to present an obstacle to any Power which might assist us and to kill any national of Ruanda-Urundi who threatens the security of the Belgian Government, that is to say, who opposes Belgian policy.

A week ago 200 people in the Mayaga area in the Nyanza District were killed by machine-gun fire in less than ten minutes, simply in order to terrify the people.

Because of the aforementioned, we express to you our categorical opposition to the presence of Belgian soldiers and to the organization in our country of a war which might spread to the whole world. We foresee that world peace will be

/...

compromised by Belgium in the very near future, so that the intervention of a Power is extremely urgent and necessary.

The Trusteeship Agreements negotiated between Belgium and the United Nations having become worthless, particularly from the point of view of human rights, precisely because of the understanding between the Administering Authority and the Trusteeship Council, we beg the Security Council, to counterbalance this, to be good enough to give us prompt and effective assistance as follows:

(1) We ask that aggression by Belgian soldiers be stopped urgently by the immediate despatch of international troops to replace the former, who, armed to the teeth, are slaughtering our compatriots in vast numbers like animals, wickedly raping women and girls, even those of tender age, setting fire to or making people set fire to our houses, in short, who are torturing Ruanda mercilessly.

We feel that this measure is most necessary, otherwise we shall shortly find ourselves obliged to call for the intervention of one of the world Powers; its aid would have reached us before we had undergone such devastation if we had not had too much confidence in the Trusteeship Council, or if we did not count on the Security Council.

In order to be effective, the international troops requested should be placed at the disposal of the Mwami KIGERI V and should be directly subordinate to him.

(2) We ask that the Belgian Government which is responsible for the disturbances should undertake to compensate our country for the Ruandese who have been shot or have become refugees or have been imprisoned without cause, for the widows and orphans, and for the property looted or confiscated; if this indemnification, and a general amnesty for political prisoners, is not forthcoming, we ask the Security Council to envisage our bringing a complaint against Belgium before the international court after we have become independent. Since there is a growing threat of famine caused by these disturbances, it is most necessary to make the Administering Authority take precautions urgently in order to avert this terrible calamity in time.

We also request the Security Council to send us a special Mission to study the political situation at issue and to give financial assistance to our widows and orphans pending the payment of compensation or a judgement by the international court. Should financial assistance be possible, we should like, in the interests

/...

of the widows and orphans, the funds to be paid to His Majesty the Mwami KIGERI V so as to ensure that they are honestly and fairly distributed.

Finally, we plead once more, with confidence and fervent thanks, for the urgent despatch of international troops; that is the most important help which we need to have first of all.

We have the honour to be, etc.

political prisoners

Chairman of the Union Nationale Ruandaise

(Signed: Rukeba François)

Mbayiha Joseph (Signed) (illegible)

Mahame Siméon (Signed) (illegible)

Sekamana François "

Shumbusha Boniface "

Muhama Fabien "

Munyurwa Paul "

Buyaga Vianey "

Biyange Jean "
