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PETITION FROM THE BARUNDI ASSOCIATION CONCERNING RUANDA-URUNDI

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BARUNDI ASSOCIATION  
P.O. Box 3704  
KAMPALA  
UGANDA

Kampala, 6 November 1961

To the Secretary-General of the  
United Nations

NEW YORK, U.S.A.

Sir,

Following the assassination of Prince Louis RWAGASORE, Prime Minister of the Government of Burundi, the Barundi Association in Uganda once more appeals solemnly to the United Nations to examine the cause of that assassination.

We need not tell you that the Murundi People are in mourning and determined to avenge him to whom it had given its full confidence under the eyes of the United Nations Observers.

Burundi being under the same Administering Authority as Ruanda, like the latter, it was only thanks to its Statesman, whose untiring devotion was certainly the cause of his death, that it avoided bloody incidents.

The Belgian Government's opposition to the Prince's policy was long-standing: see repeated protests against petitions from Uprona delegates to the United Nations by the illegal Council installed by the Administering Authority. In order to restrain the Prince's activities and propaganda, the Government installed a team of Ministers and a Council without consulting the People and against its will, and placed the Prince in residence under surveillance (see our telegram of 25 November 1960, answered by your letter No. T/PET.3/L.72 of 30 November 1960).

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As for the arrested suspects, whom the Belgians are using for their own defence, everyone knows that when the colonialists want to end the lives of politicians who attack their régime they do it indirectly, by a party in their pay working to perpetuate their colonial imperialism.

It was only with the object of concealing their crime that the Government sent you a telegram of so-called regret; but above all it was to prevent any investigation on your part and to attribute his death to the opposition existing between Parties.

We maintain our petition of 25 November 1960, in which we requested you to place in Urundi whatever forces are necessary to keep order and protect our Mwami and his Ministers, in replacement of the Belgian troops, who spend their time looting and murdering, under the pretext of maintaining order.

We have full confidence that you will not allow the ignominious act of which Belgium has just shown itself guilty, something the Murundi People would never have expected, to go unpunished. To conclude our petition, we wish to report that even abroad, as in Uganda, for example, where there are a large number of Banyaruanda and Barundi, the Government of Ruanda-Urundi has installed a Vice-Consulate for training its chosen Barundi and Banyaruanda, who are to fight against their brothers even abroad; the Vice-Consulate has even refused to repatriate Barundi opposed to its party, Barundi Union and Banyaruanda Abahutu Association, and with the funds paid monthly by the Government for assistance to Ruanda-Urundi subjects who are in Uganda it rents a Social Centre in which political meetings are held and has even organized a dance group, cinema performances and so on.

We should be grateful to you, Sir, if you would kindly have our petitions considered by the Council and inform us of its decisions.

We have the honour to be etc.

For BARUNDI ASSOCIATION  
P.O. Box 3704  
KAMPALA - UGANDA

MUSEGETE Joseph  
(signature illegible)  
Chairman

NAHIMANA Jean  
(signature illegible)  
Secretary

NDARUZI Esekiel  
(signature illegible)  
Adviser to the Association

Copies for information to:

The Prime Minister of Burundi  
The President of the Council of Burundi  
The President of UPRONA