



Security Council

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Letter dated 13 August 2025 from the Permanent Representative of Rwanda to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to write to you on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Rwanda to express our deep concern regarding elements contained in your recent report on conflict-related sexual violence ([S/2025/389](#)). In particular, Rwanda is troubled by the language used in paragraph 32, which reads: “While no cases of conflict-related sexual violence have been attributed to the Rwanda Defence Force, M23 has continued to receive instructions and support from the Rwanda Defence Force, which exercises de facto control and direction over the group”.

According to the report, this language was drawn from the Group of Experts’ report ([S/2024/432](#)), to which Rwanda’s position is already clear and documented. This suggests that the author of the present report did not undertake an independent assessment, but instead relied on secondary sources, however misleading they may be.

This deliberate and misplaced phrasing is not only unfounded but appears to have been intentionally crafted to perpetuate a narrative and propaganda campaign aimed at smearing Rwanda. Such language is prejudicial, undermines trust and risks politicizing a thematic report intended to serve the cause of truth, impartiality and peace.

As the Secretariat of an organization founded on the principles of impartiality, professionalism and respect for the Charter, the United Nations should not allow itself to become an instrument for the dissemination of propaganda against a Member State. Rwanda condemns this behaviour in the strongest terms and appeals for United Nations offices to apply the highest ethical standards, free from political bias or manipulation.

Rwanda has consistently and unequivocally condemned all forms of conflict-related sexual violence and the actions of any conflict actors who weaponize such atrocities. This abhorrent crime is not only a grave violation of human rights but, as affirmed by the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, constitutes a crime of genocide. Since 1994, Rwanda has been at the forefront of international efforts to combat such crimes and has consistently upheld this commitment in multilateral, regional and bilateral peace operations.

We are therefore deeply concerned that the inclusion of the Rwanda Defence Force, a force recognized for its professionalism in peacekeeping operations, in such allegations appears to be a deliberate attempt to tarnish its image.



When reports of this nature are biased or instrumentalized to advance unrelated political agendas, they risk causing significant harm to their intended purpose. In this case, the inclusion of references to Rwanda in paragraphs 30 and 32 of the thematic report raises several serious concerns:

- Manipulating domestic and international opinion
- Distracting from genuine victims and urgent cases
- Undermining survivors' trust in reporting mechanisms
- Weakening the credibility of the monitoring and advocacy role of the United Nations
- Eroding the international consensus and cooperation needed to fight this crime effectively.

Rwanda reiterates its unwavering support for the fight against conflict-related sexual violence and for the broader protection of human rights and international humanitarian law. We urge the Secretariat and all relevant United Nations offices to ensure that future reports are devoid of politicization, remain strictly evidence-based and serve their intended purpose of informing the Security Council and the international community in a balanced, impartial manner.

We therefore respectfully request:

- Clarification on the basis for the inclusion of the reference to the Rwanda Defence Force in paragraph 32 of document [S/2025/389](#)
- Assurance that such thematic reports will not be instrumentalized for political purposes in the future
- That the present letter be circulated to all members of the Security Council and placed on the records of the United Nations.

(Signed) Martin **Ngoga**
Ambassador and Permanent Representative
