

REPUBLIKA Y'U RWANDA



National Commission for the Fight against Genocide
Commission Nationale de Lutte contre le Génocide
Komisiyo y'Igihugu yo Kurwanya Jenoside



-CNLG-

PRESS RELEASE

On 9th December 2016, the world will commemorate the 68th anniversary of the International Convention for the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations in resolution 260 A (III) of 9th December 1948. The international community resolved then to cooperate with this Convention, in order to combat the odious scourge of genocide.

On this date, the National Commission for the Fight against Genocide (CNLG), in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, requests that all the public and private higher learning institutions of Rwanda organize public debates on the themes of prevention and control against the ideology of genocide and its renunciation.

Since 2013, university students have met on the anniversary of 9th December to commemorate the Convention and together, discuss means to forever eradicate genocide and its ideology.

Hate speeches advocated by the successive governments since the independence of our country led to the perpetual persecution of the Tutsi, culminating in their victimhood in the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi. The Rwandan government has since made every effort to eradicate all forms of discrimination, restore unity and national reconciliation, and combat the ideology of hatred that led our country to the tragedy of the Genocide against the Tutsi.

Considerable progress has been made and, according to studies carried out by the National Unity and Reconciliation Commission (NURC) and the CNLG, the rates of genocide ideology in 2015 have fallen by more than 80% within the country.



Jdt

However, problems relating to the consequences of the Genocide perpetrated against the Tutsi remain. They are a result of the inaction and lack of political will by global leaders to carry out justice. Denial of the Genocide perpetrated against the Tutsi is still rampant in foreign countries, and the absence of robust legislation or political will has led to its endurance. The same inaction and lack of political will have also meant that many suspected *génocidaires* residing outside Rwanda remain unpunished. The concept of universal jurisdiction remains empty when host countries do not have sufficient legal measures or determination to prosecute them before their national courts, or extradite them to Rwanda for trial.

The case of France is particularly outstanding: apart from two recent trials, other alleged genocide suspects have enjoyed the utmost impunity for many years and Rwanda's requests for extradition are systematically quashed by the French courts. France constantly denies the involvement of some of its political and military leaders in the Genocide perpetrated against the Tutsi even though the facts relating to it have been largely documented and filed by French researchers and journalists alike. The French authorities are now requested to cooperate with Rwanda for mutual legal assistance in connection with the ongoing investigations carried out by the Rwandan judicial authorities on the involvement of French officials in the Genocide perpetrated against the Tutsi.

On 9th December 2016, the National Commission for the Fight against Genocide has asked the Universities and Higher Learning Institutions of Rwanda to organize workshops on the occasion of the anniversary of the UN Convention. CNLG has offered themes for reflection, namely:

- The nature of the ideology of genocide and its current manifestation in Rwanda;
- The facts constituting the crime of genocide ideology;
- The remarks of individuals abroad who wish to deny the Genocide perpetrated against the Tutsi;
- The reasoning behind the minimization of the Genocide perpetrated against the Tutsi, by genocide deniers;
- The strategies to be adopted to combat the ideology of genocide.



In all universities and institutions of higher education, the debates will be led by Members of the Rwandan Parliament gathered in the Anti-Genocide Parliamentary Forum for the Fight against Genocide, in addition to the professors and researchers in attendance.

In particular, the National Commission for the Fight against Genocide calls on university students to embrace this anniversary to reflect on the prevention of genocide and the fight against divisionist ideology.

The CNLG also requires nation-states that host genocide suspects, to comply with their international obligations, by bringing them before their own courts or extraditing them to the Rwandan courts.

Finally, the CNLG requires the states that have not yet adopted legal provisions, to take measures to sanction those who deny the Genocide perpetrated against the Tutsi.

Done at Kigali, 08/12/2016



Dr BIZIMANA Jean Damascène

Executive Secretary

P.O Box: 7035 Kigali – Hotline: 3560;E-mail: administrator@cnlg.gov.rw Web site: www.cnlg.gov.rw