



Date: Thursday 16th, 2017

The Commissioner

OPM Department of Refugees/ Government of Uganda,

The Country Representative/UNHCR

Kampala Uganda

Dear Sir/ Madam,

Re: We protest against the Office of the Prime Minister Department of Refugees and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for their silence towards Two Rwandan Refugees Leaders who went missing it is now two weeks: You have up to Monday November 20th, 2017 to produce the two Rwandan Refugee Community Leaders who are missing.

We, the Foundation People for Peace and Defense of Human Rights humbly come to you in protest against your failure to deploy all needed efforts in order to identify the where about of the Two Rwandan Refugee Leaders who went missing it is not two weeks and no body seems to know what happened to them.

Marcel Rasta is a Rwandan Refugee Community volunteer helping his community and the entire refugee community on many things affecting them, and Semukanya Leord is among the Rwandan Refugee Leaders in Uganda who has often stood up to defend his community when it had problems.

According to the family members, Rasta left his home on **Sunday October 29th, 2017** and up to now they do not know where he is. According to Semukanya's wife also, Semukanya was called on phone for a meeting with Rasta on **Tuesday October 31st, 2017** and since he went he did not come back anymore. Their families have never seen them since then up to now.

Information which was confirmed by the Norwegian Embassy indicated that the two were at the Norwegian Embassy trying to seek for some assistance since Tuesday **October 31st to Thursday November 2nd, 2017**, and they stayed there up to Thursday morning when they voluntary left the Norwegian Embassy alleged the Embassy. According to the Embassy they refused all the suggestions proposed between the Embassy and UNHCR and then decided to leave on their own will.

As organization we highly doubt if they could have left on their own will without pressure exercised to them, our doubt is not based on nothing because allegations from informed sources in OPM Department of Refugees indicated that these two refugees were forced out from the Norwegian Embassy through OPM Directive.

And on top of that we are concerned that they were confirmed to accept certain proposed solutions which are advanced by UNHCR and the Embassy rather than allowing them to table their own solutions. This alone was not the best the Embassy could have done, yet the Norwegian Embassy could have been so much aware that UNHCR Uganda has strongly taken part in all sorts of abuses and crimes against Rwandan Refugees in Uganda in the past, and there is enough information available about UNHCR Uganda failure to protect Rwandan Refugees in Uganda.

Later on in the afternoon on the same Thursday November 2nd, 2017, officials from the OPM Department of Refugees informed us that the two refugees were seen at the United Nations Human Rights Council's Offices in Kololo. We tried to find out from the UNHRC Offices but they have not responded to our emails.

On Friday November 3rd, 2017 Rasta called his lawyer twice on phone and claimed that they were safe and being protected by some people in Ntinda but we could not verify how true was this and since then we have completely lost any idea about where they could be.

All the lawyer's efforts to engage with UNHCR officials have not been fruitful and often UNHCR officers have not been so kind to this lawyer's struggle in order to engage, as per now UNHCR has not given the lawyer the opportunity to discuss. And on top of that UNHCR has been totally silence to our request through emails to seek for information and also to the members of the family efforts to engage with them.

We do recognize the regular communication we received for the OPM about this issue and we thank them for that but it is not yet enough because they hold the obligation for the protection of refugees in Uganda.

Family members, the wives and children, friends, fellow refugee leaders of these two Rwandan missing refugees are highly concerned about their fate and we should know where they are and how we can visit them. One thing is true is that they not in the community and all refugees are concerned where they are now.

If they are being detained by security services we strong appeal to OPM and UNHCR that they are urgently brought to the normal places of detention where we can access to them, and if they are under UNHCR's Protection Houses we strongly recommend that UNHCR engages as quick as possible with their family members and update them but also allow their wives and children to visit them, if they are hiding somewhere by themselves we strongly recommend that as quick as

possible OPM and UNHCR engage with the Police to search for them and bring them back to their homes.

We also urge both OPM and UNHCR to urgently look into the social welfare of their family members especially the wives and children and quickly extend to them urgent humanitarian aid relief such as food, house rent, and counseling among others,

We need to see positive steps being taken by both OPM Department of Refugees and the UNHCR and in period from today up the Evening of **Monday November 20th, 2017** if we observe that we are not satisfied by the situation of these two refugee leaders, we shall call for a public demonstration bringing together all refugees here in Kampala.

We call upon our colleagues in the media and press to help us in this situation towards the most people in need and be the voice of all these voiceless refugees in Kampala who appear more and more helpless in this situation.

Yours sincerely

Kulihoshi Musikami Luc Pecos

Executive Director