



NREF: 33/COJESKI/NK/08/2023

Date: 27/08/2023

Re: Seeking for collaboration and partnership in the first Commemoration of the Genocide against Hutu Refugees and Congolese Citizens in the Democratic Republic of Congo since 1996 up to now

Dear Sir/Madam,

We humbly come to you for the above mentioned. In fact it may be the first time you have heard about this but it is there. Less things are being said about refugees inside the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Since 1996 up to now Rwanda and Uganda invaded the Democratic Republic of Congo through their armies which has been characterized by various crimes among them the Genocide against Hutu Refugees and Congolese citizen in DRC.

As being argued by Rwandan claiming that most of Hutus Refugees in DRC are either genocidaires or members of FDLR armed group against the current Rwanda regime. This justified the Rwanda military interventions in DRC up to now with the support to M23, however these arguments are not credible basing on our observations on ground.

The reality is that most of Hutus refugees in DRC since 1994 up to now are mere civilians in search of protection. More than 60% of the current Hutus refugee population in DRC are young people who were born in Congo and are not associated with the Genocide, more than 30% of the current Hutus Refugee population in DR Congo came when they were below 10 years and were not associated to the genocide in Rwanda.

The United Nations Mapping Report indicates clearly that Rwandan Army targeted Hutus Refugees in DRC, burnt their camps, massacred thousands, forced others to

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disperse in various places and others to seek asylum in other countries just because they are Hutu refugees.

The massacres against Hutu refugees have remained unknown and does not appear in mainstream media. In DR Congo most of the sites of various massacres against Congolese are well identified, however the sites of massacres against Hutu refugees' remains unmarked, recently at national level the DRC Government Commemorated the first Massacre against Congolese but still massacres against Hutu Refugees were left out.

We intend to organize **the first commemoration of the genocide against Hutu Refugees in DRC in the whole month of October 2023**. October because it was on first October 1996 that the very first Hutu Refugee Camp was burnt by Rwanda soldiers, hundreds of Hutu refugees massacred in that camps and more other massacres were committed in various dates of October. So the month of October is unique in the history of the massacres against Hutu Refugees in DRC.

While we aim at advocating for the inclusion of refugees in the national commemoration of the genocide in DRC at the national level, we also seek to engage all the stakeholders to ensure that refugees are well protected, to open up a dialogue and discussions around refugees in DRC who are always used by Rwanda as the pretext to justify military interventions in DRC.

There are better ways to deal with refugees in DRC and to ensure they do not pose a threat to Rwanda, and those ways should be explored and be given the priority.

The purpose of this letter is therefore to seek for your collaboration and partnership for a fruitful organization of the first Commemoration of the genocide against Hutu Refugees in DRC. You may join us and together we do different activities, you may sponsor an activity, you may also host an event among others.

We have also developed a fundraising link for this event, please join us here: Link: <https://www.globalgiving.org/projects/memorial-of-the-genocide-against-refugees-in-drc/> Short link: <http://goto.gg/61038>

May, I implore your consideration

Yours sincerely

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