

# **REPUBLIC OF RWANDA**



## **MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND REGIONAL COOPERATION**

### **COMMUNIQUE**

The Government of the Republic of Rwanda has received information that the EXFAR/Interahamwe now calling themselves the FDLR/FOCA, currently operating in Eastern DRC have made the decision to unconditionally disarm and return to Rwanda. Government urges the DRC government, and the International Community to act with dispatch to make sure that this disarmament and return takes place expeditiously, in fulfillment of the Lusaka Ceasefire agreement of 1999 , the Pretoria agreement between the DRC and Rwanda of 2002 and the decision of the Peace and Security Council Resolution of the African Union of 10<sup>th</sup> January 2005. Rwanda welcomes the commitment of Saint Egidio Community to join the International Community in working for a speedy disarmament and demobilization of these groups.

Government reiterates the fact that this disarmament and demobilization of this group is long overdue, and reminds the International Community that failure to do so has been the root cause of wars, conflict, and persistent insecurity in the Great Lakes Region. It has also allowed the ExFAR/Interahamwe to attempt to change identities while pursuing the same agenda, over the last decade, calling themselves ALIR I, ALIR II and PALIR, and finally the FDLR/FOCA when the United States of America placed ALIR/PALIR on its list of International terrorists in the aftermath of the September 2001 Al queda attack on the USA, in response to the massacre by ALIR/PALIR of Western tourists in Bwindi national park. Government is convinced that as the world prepares to commemorate the genocide of 1994 for the eleventh year, Rwandans deserve to have the threat of genocide removed from them once and for all.

Government remains committed and ready to receive all those former combatants who return to Rwanda, and to assist in their reintegration into Rwandan society. Those Rwandans, who have spent the last decade roaming the forests of the DRC in the service of a misguided and criminal enterprise deserve a better life, and are called to join other Rwandans in the building of a better future for all. Government will spare no effort to assist them and all Rwandans in this noble endeavor.

Finally, while Government understands that need of the Government of the DRC to talk to these genocidal groups to cease their activities on DRC territory and disarm, Government is gravely concerned by the information that the United Nations, the European Union and some countries plan to sit on the same table with a group that committed the last horrific genocide of the 20th Century. Rwanda believes that such a course of action would be an indelible blot on the respect, honor, and moral standing of the bodies and countries in question. Government is also gravely concerned that the political leadership of these groups is based in, and have an official address in Belgium. This is unacceptable to the Rwandan people, and should be to the whole of humanity.

**Done in Kigali, April 1, 2005**