



Wednesday, October 7, 2009

**PETITION TO THE RWANDAN GOVERNMENT
TO REGISTER DEMOCRATIC GREEN PARTY OF RWANDA**

To His Excellency, The President of the Republic of Rwanda, H.E. Paul KAGAME

I, Silvine Zimmermann, the **International Representative to the Global Greens for the Green Party of Canada**

HAVING learnt from the Founding President of the Democratic Green Party of Rwanda and the President of the African Greens Movement, Mr. Frank Habineza, that the Rwandan Government authorities, were unable, for a third time, to officiate at the inaugural congress of the Democratic Green Party of Rwanda, which had been scheduled to take place on 2nd October 2009 in Kigali;

AWARE that this is not the first time such problems have occurred which have caused the delay the evolution of real democracy in Rwanda

FURTHER aware that that the legal provisions of the Rwandan Law clearly provide for the formation, establishment and registration of political parties;

HAVING been fully briefed by the Interim President that the members of the Democratic Green Party of Rwanda [in formation] have complied with all legal requirements and will continue to do so as law abiding citizens,

DO THEREFORE HEREBY PETITION HIS EXCELLENCY Paul **KAGAME**, the President of the Republic of Rwanda and all other government officials concerned to do the following: [a] To observe and respect all legal provisions relating to the formation and establishment of political parties; [b] To remove all forms of obstacles, which may be legal, extra—legal, physical, political, institutional, infrastructural or otherwise, so that the party is registered. [c] To facilitate the party in formation by instructing and or advising the relevant officials concerned to do whatever they are required to do, so that the registration process is completed without undue delay; [d] To do or perform any other act that is politically and legally conducive to the successful registration of the party; [e] To continue to adhere to internationally accepted democratic principles so that the culture of multiparty democracy is entrenched in Rwandan society,

The Green Movement

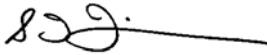
The modern green movement started in Canada and around the world in the 1960s when the counter-culture movement launched the first mass rejection of consumer culture. Four decades later, the 60s values of peace, love and understanding have become the founding **Green Party values** of non-violence, social justice and ecological thinking. While the end of the 60s saw the decline of many grassroots movements, their life-affirming values didn't go away. In the '70s, the green movement re-emerged in isolated, small-scale enterprises such as health food stores, women's and environmental groups, renewable energy programs and organic farms. This time the green movement, however disparate, had structure and an economic base. Building within rather than outside communities, green groups worked to shed their reputations as transient, unessential enterprises. In the 1980s, many became dissatisfied with the impotence of isolated activity and opinions, and attempts were made to further organize the green

movement into coalitions. This decade saw the founding of the [Canadian Environment Network](#), [Canadian Organic Growers](#), [Canadian Peace Alliance](#), [Voice of Women](#), [Solar Energy Society of Canada](#) and many others. The scale and organizational level of these coalitions took the green movement to a new level - a pre-electoral level. The natural next step was to organize the green movement into a political party.

Green Parties Around the World

The first national green party in the world, the Values Party, was started in the early 1970s in New Zealand. The first green party in the western hemisphere was formed in the Maritimes in the late 70s and was called the Small Party after E.F. Schumacher's book, *Small is Beautiful*. In Britain the first green party was called the Ecology Party. When the West German green party, die Gruenen, crossed the five percent vote threshold and entered the German legislature in the late 1970s, the green political movement started in earnest. There are now [over 100 green parties](#) worldwide, new parties in formation in India Asia and Africa as we write, and with green members of National parliaments have been elected in many countries including Australia, Mexico, New Zealand, Italy, France, Germany, and Finland. In the 2008 Federal election the Green Party of Canada garnered 6.8% of the popular vote.

Respectfully yours,



Silvine Zimmermann,
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International Representative to the Global Greens for the Green Party of Canada,
Delegate to the Federation of Green Parties of the Americas (FPVA),
Co-founder of the Green Party of Canada (1983)