



DGPR/PDVR

DEMOCRATIC GREEN PARTY OF RWANDA

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PRESS RELEASE No.3

The Democratic Green Party of Rwanda would like to inform, the media, international community, Representatives of foreign diplomatic missions and Embassies in Rwanda and the general public that the Government of Rwanda has continued to do actions which are against democratic principles and human rights.

According to what happened on 30th October 2009 in Kigali at St Paul, in our party Congress aimed at approving the party constitution, we faced extra-ordinary circumstances where by our members were beaten by people who entered in the conference room by force and clandestinely and started the chaos, shouting “RPF Oyeee, RPF Oyeee!”. We would like to say something about what has been happening to us and our members, since that time.

After Congress, some of the people who caused it were caught by the police and taken for interrogation, but sadly enough, none of them stayed in the police custody for more than an hour, they were immediately released and continued their normal life and even though some of our members were wounded, hospitalized and others lost their valuables.

Something else which is strange is that nobody summoned us -as Party representatives- to give explanations on the people who caused the chaos. We were again surprised to hear the explanations of the Police Spokesman on Radio Rwanda and Contact FM, in the evening of that day, confirming that what happened at St Paul (in Green Party’s Congress) was caused by Green Party members themselves.

We would like to emphasize the following three issues:

1. Our members have continued to be threatened and harassed by Local Government Authorities
2. Oppression from the National Police denying us the permission to hold another congress
3. Newspaper articles in UMUVUGIZI Vol. 66 and UMUSESO No. 386, showing a list of people suspected to be our members.

1. About our members who have continued to be threatened and harassed:

After the sabotaged Party Congress of 30th October 2009, many of our members have continued to be threatened and harassed in different ways; below are some examples:

- After the Congress of 30th October 2009, a member, called Isaac KARANGWA, resident of Nyagatovu cell, Kimironko Sector, was interrogated by Village authorities (Umudugudu) and was advised not to join Green Party when it is his right as a Rwandese to belong to any political party;
- On 2nd November 2009, Melisiyana NZAMUKOSHA, also from Nyagatovu, was threatened by her neighbor and when she went to Village authorities, they refused to receive her problem, because she is in Green Party;
- On 4th November 2009, Daphrose MUSABYIMANA was suddenly called to Kimironko Sector by Mr. HABIMANA Robert, the Executive Secretary, she was asked why she become a Green party member;
- On 15th November 2009, BIHIBINDI Gaston who is a former soldiers in R.D.F., now demobilized, resident of Nonko cell, Nyarugunga Sector, Kicukiro District, was kidnapped by unknown people and later imprisoned in the basement of the Ministry of Defense, where he stayed for three days without food, he was also asked why he joined Green Party and accused of recruiting fellow demobilized soldiers for Green Party, he was beaten and also threatened not to tell anyone what has happened to him;
- On 21st November 2009 in a meeting that took place after public activities commonly known as “umuganda”, Innocent BAYITO, the president of GOBOKA Coperative in collaboration with the Executive Secretary of Kimironko Sector and General RUTATINA, questioned the husband of Daphrose MUSABYIMANA (Green Party member), accused of having a Green Party member as his wife.

We have so many other cases even from Provinces where people have been threatened by local authorities, we have always advised them to be patient, remain calm and let inform us, so that we can make a follow up;

- In particular, The Green Party 1st Vice-President, Mr. RWISEREKA André, resident of Huye District in South province, has been threatened by different and unknown people saying that his commercial activities which are in NEW SOMBORERO CLUB are going to be stopped without any reason apart from being in Party administration.

2. Oppression from the Rwanda National Police

On 5th November 2009, we wrote to the mayor of Gasabo District, requesting her permission to hold another congress. This was the fifth time we were trying to hold a congress in the process of registering our Party. We got the response within two days. In this response, we started being accused -in writing- of having caused the chaos in our own congress held at St Paul.

The Mayor requested us to look for the clearance certificate from the National Police certifying that, what happened at St. Paul will not happen again in Gasabo District and also showing how the 'so called conflicts' were resolved by the police.

On 11th November 2009, we wrote to the Commissioner General of Police, requesting him that certificate. We informed him that the people who caused chaos in our meeting were caught by the National Police and are not our members. We reminded him that, if they were our members, the police would have called us to give some clarifications and nobody called us, and unfortunately all those who were in police custody were released in a period of just an hour.

The Commissioner General responded to us after twelve days, where he said that he couldn't give us the requested permission, because the police is not yet sure that what caused the chaos/conflicts was resolved, he informed us that they are still carrying out investigations and requested us to provide any information about the people who caused the chaos.

What was surprising is that the National police requested us to make investigations when it is one of their responsibilities and yet they released those they caught in action at a short notice.

The same day we received that response, the 23 November 2009, we directly wrote another letter to the Commissioner General of the National Police.

In that letter we presented him two names: KAYISIRE Emmanuel, resident of Kimironko Sector, Gasabo District who works as a business broker at Gicement, in Remera and KIMENYI Jean Claude, resident of Nyamirambo and works as money changer in central town of Kigali.

From that time we wrote the letter, giving those two people mentioned, none of them has been arrested because they are seen doing their business as usual. We have patiently waited for the response.

On 22nd December 2009, we phoned the secretariat of National Police headquarters, in order to see if we any response. They recommended us to be patient, because the response was not yet ready. A whole month has ended.

When you analyze this, you find out that there is nothing else hidden behind other than delaying and complicating us.

3. Newspaper articles in UMUVUGIZI Vol. 66 and UMUSESO No. 386, showing a list of people suspected to be our members.

UMUSESO Newspaper, No 386 of 14th to 21st December 2009, P.2 has an article saying that there exists an intelligence report written by Gen Jack NZIZA (Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Defense) showing that Colonel Senator Joseph KAREMERA and Patrick MAZIMPAKA are behind Democratic Green Party of Rwanda, the Party which is still looking for legal registration. UMUSESO is saying that the report is aimed at ‘chopping off the heads’ of both Col. Joseph KAREMERA and Patrick MAZIMPAKA.

UMUVUGIZI Newspaper, Vol.66 of December 18th – 27th. 2009, also writes on the existence of that Report, and it says as well, that those RPF-Inkotanyi historicals, have a sole objective of overthrowing Kagame’s Regime, it is alleged that, these historical/senior members are the ones behind the new political parties being born in Rwanda. It goes ahead and says that the report has linked all of them to be behind the Democratic Green Party of Rwanda (DGPR).

Details of those mentioned are below :

1. MAZIMPAKA Patrick (Former vice-chairman of the African Union Commission, and former Minister)
2. Ambassador RWAMASIRABO (Former Rwanda’s ambassador to Japan, and former Rector of National University of Rwanda)
3. Senator Joseph Karemera (Former Ambassador and Minister)
4. Colonel Mudenge (current Director General of Rwanda Regulatory Agency)
5. Sam NKUSI (Former Minister of state for Energy in MINIFRA).
6. Commissioner General of Police Brigadier General Emmanuel Gasana (current Police Chief)
7. Commissioner General RWIGAMBA Andrew (former Police chief)
8. Ambassador NGOGA Pascal (who was Rwanda’s ambassador to Ethiopia)
9. Dr. Maj. Ben KARENZI (Former permanent secretary in the Ministry of Health)
10. General Ambassador KAYUMBA NYAMWASA (former Rwanda’s Army Chief of staff, now Ambassador in India)
11. Senator INYUMBA Aloysie (former Minister and Treasurer of RPF)
12. Brigadier General Richard RUTATINA (Presidential Advisor on security)
13. Colonel Zigira (who was a commissioner in the commission for the demobilization of soldiers.)
14. Dr.BIHOZAGARA (Former Rwanda’s ambassador to Bruxelles, former Minister as well)
15. NKONGORI John (former Director General of Civil Aviation Authority)

We would like to say something on these articles. The Democratic Green Party of Rwanda seriously refutes the allegations stated in these newspapers; there is nothing like or anyone behind the Democratic Green Party of Rwanda, who wants to overthrow RPF's Government.

UMUVUGIZI Newspaper, says that, the report has names of people whose objective is to overthrow Kagame's Government. The Democratic Green Party of Rwanda has no intentions of destroying and overthrowing Kagame's Government. UMUUVUGIZI Newspaper continues saying that in that intelligence report, that some of those people mentioned in connection to the allegations stated in the above paragraph, have close relational ties with, or are friends to KABANDA Charles and Frank HABINEZA, some of the eleven people in the Executive Committee that govern the Democratic Green Party of Rwanda.

The leadership of the Democratic Green Party of Rwanda, wishes to inform all the people living in and outside of Rwanda that the names of those people listed down in the report do not belong to our party.

Those people allegedly mentioned to be hiding behind the Green Party, cannot do so, because our party members do not hide behind anyone or anything else. Our party members are very well known and do attend our party meetings regularly and their contributions openly.

But if someone, so wishes to join our Party, the doors are widely open.

The Democratic Green Party of Rwanda has a clear strategy and program of recruiting all Rwandans with sound mind, both inside and outside Rwanda to become Green Party Members.

Writing a report of that nature, which contain lies and terminologies, such as overthrowing a government, is something we condemn vigorously, making it categorically clear in no unmistakable terms, that, those actions referred to in the allegations (overthrowing a government) are contrary to the Green Party principles all over the world over.

We know very well that the people mentioned in that report, are high profile personalities, quite experienced and not cowards.

If they belonged to our party, they would say it openly without any fear. Therefore nobody should be allowed to make them what they are not. We would therefore, like to re-confirm the they are not members of our party.

The News in Umuseso and Umuvugizi indicate that, that report shows names that are relatives and friends who have connections to HABINEZA Frank and KABANDA Charles.

Being a relative or a friend of a person, does not make one share the same political opinion or be a member in the same political party. And even if they were in the same political party this would not directly mean that it emanates from friendship or close relationship. But on the good political program of the party.

Our political party does not harbor any nepotism tendencies. Anyone who would like to know more about this, should come, and examine the composition of the members in the current Executive Committee.

The UMUVUGIZI Newspaper states that, the report, says, that there is a connection between the Democratic Green Party of Rwanda and John NAGENDA, Senior Advisor to President MUSEVENI of Uganda. As a matter of fact, this is a pure lie.

The Democratic Green Party of Rwanda does not have any intentions of destroying or overthrowing the present government. Our party has a good political program, which will be presented Rwandans, then, it will be up to them, to choose for themselves what type of political program, they need, using democratic means.

All such things are being done, in order to make people hate us, these tactics are well known, we shall continue to show the truth.

The Democratic Green Party of Rwanda, would like to request, International Organizations for Human Rights and Democracy, International Community, Representatives of Foreign Diplomatic Missions and Embassies in Rwanda and Commonwealth: to follow very closely our problem and to carry out an investigation or inquiry on the violence unleashed against us on 30th October 2009 at St.Paul.

We would also like to request the friendly nations/countries of Rwanda, to make an appeal to H.E. President KAGAME and the ruling RPF to let the Democratic Green Party of Rwanda be accorded legal status in Rwanda.

We also would like to conclude by requesting, all Religious Leaders both in Rwanda and all over the world, to request H.E, President Kagame and the Ruling RPF to accept the Democratic Green Party of Rwanda, and also let democracy take root in Rwanda.

CONCLUSION

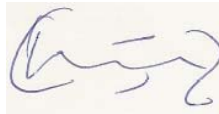
After all this, and other things that may be planned against us, we shall continue to project the truth, among the Democratic Green Party Principles, we have that of **non – violence**, we shall continue to use it as one of the main pillars guiding us.

We have the faith that RPF will come to a point, when it will realize the truth, and stop basing on false reports; we shall continue expressing our grievances and the call to address our plight, be it in Rwanda and among the international community.

Having different views/ideas from that of the current Government, does not automatically turn one into an enemy of the country.

Our objective is to build a country free from oppression of any kind, nepotism, corruption, and all other evils, so that our children will live in a good country, where everyone will have an equal say and can exercise his/her democratic rights freely.

Done at Kigali on 24th December 2009

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Frank Habineza', is centered on a light beige rectangular background.

Frank HABINEZA
President, Democratic Green Party of Rwanda