

From the civil society representatives Kampala, December 28th, 2015
to the launch ceremonies_in inter Burundian talks

To His Excellency Yoweri Kaguta Museveni president of the
Republic of Uganda, Mediator in the Burundian crisis,

KAMPALA - Uganda

Subject: Request to enlarge the group of civil society
representatives to participate to inter Burundian talks

Excellency the Mediator,

The Burundi civil society representatives to the Launch ceremonies_in inter Burundian talks , on behalf of the organizations committed at the respect of the Rule of Law, good governance, welfare of the population including youth organizations, Platforms of the organizations and Unions are pleased to express our thanks to the mediator for having invited us to the inter Burundian talks.

However, we take the opportunity to express our concern about the little civil society representation in number (2 representatives)

The aim of all the above organizations is to ensure the respect of the constitution and the Arusha Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in Burundi, signed in 2000. In this respect, those organizations have initiated several advocacy activities for the respect of the Arusha Agreement and the Constitution. This is notably the development of several advocacy documents such as statements, press releases, memos etc. The activity that has mostly marked this advocacy has been a peacefully protest demonstration that started on April 26, 2015, in reaction to the announcement of the third term of President Pierre Nkurunziza.

While, in accordance with national and international laws, civil liberties, the freedom of expression and opinion is guaranteed to every citizen, these demonstrations were rudely and bloodily repressed by the Burundi security forces. The consequences have



therefore been human rights violations to a large-scale (massacres, targeted killings, abductions, torture, arbitrary imprisonments, the general pauperization of the country, etc.).

Until today, the negative consequences keep falling on the organizations and the entire population who openly spoke against the violation of the Arusha Accord, especially people living localities that showed more dynamism in these demonstrations. For instance, bank accounts for more than 15 civil society organizations have been freezed and consequently the activities are stopped.

From all the above, the Burundi civil society organizations would not be left out of the talks owing to the fact that not only they are witnesses of all human rights violations that mark the current crisis in Burundi but also because they are the ones to defend those human rights and are also victims of the arbitrary treatments by the Burundian government. We note that young people have been the most victims and the latter would get the opportunity to express their concern and suggest eventual solutions.

Therefore, Civil society suggests to be represented at the following proportions:

- Organizations for youth: 4
- Unions workers: 4
- Organizations that work with Economic, Social and Cultural rights: 4
- Organizations that work with Civils and Politics rights: 4

The above groups are the stakeholders for the general interest at the same level as the politicians however different in their objectives.

Since Civil Society Organizations are victims of the violations and mistreatment and they are the ones to follow up the implementations of the resolutions, so they must be involved to work out all the difficulties:

Excellency the Mediator,

In any case, we do not doubt that this will also be involved in these talks given the role it has played and continues to play in safeguarding democracy and good governance in Burundi as well as in defending and protecting Human rights.

That is why the civil society representatives and signatories of the present are requesting to have enough representatives in those talks incoming, and to have the right to nominate them .

Looking forward to a favorable response, please accept, Excellency, the Mediator, the assurance of our highest consideration.

**Burundi Civil Society Representatives
to the launch ceremonies in inter Burundian talks**

**Pierre Claver MBONIMPA
APRODH,
President**



**Gabriel RUFYIRI
OLUCOME,
President**



Copies to:

- Mrs President of the Commission of the African Union
- The representative of African Union in Great Lakes Region
- The Representative of the EAC in inter Burundian talks,
- The Special Envoy of the European Union in the Great Lakes Region,
- The Special Envoy of the United States in Great Lakes Region
- The United Nations representative in Great Lakes Region
- Special Envoy of Belgium Kingdom in Great Lakes Region
- Executive Director of CIRGL