Observatoire National des Elections et des Organisations pour le Progrès

CLARIFICATION BY ONELOP-BURUNDI ON THE CURRENT SOCIO-POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SECURITY SITUATION IN BURUNDI

The National Observatory for Elections and Organization for Progress, ONELOP-BURUNDI in French acronyms, has the honor to extend a warm welcome to their Excellencies the Heads of State and Government sent by the African Union to help Burundians to regain security, stability and sustainable peace.

On this occasion, the ONELOP-BURUNDI, as one of the civil society organizations established across the national territory of Burundi, judges relevant to bring to the attention of the Heads of State and Government the following clarifications as a humble contribution to guide their decisions:

1. Peace and security prevails throughout the 3000 hills that make up the Republic of Burundi. Only four urban boroughs know insurgents and terrorists who commit despicable acts to get the world believe that Burundi is at crossroads so as to push the international community send a foreign military intervention which, in the hopes of the troublemakers, would facilitate their machiavelic enterprise directly or indirectly.

2. The politicians behind these despicable terrorist acts against their fellow citizens are simply political adventurers. Unfortunately it is innocent and peaceful citizens, mostly women and children who are constantly killed. Moreover, these ongoing terrorist acts observed at the moment are an extension of the failed coup of 13-14 May 2015 and should be plainly condemned by the same international community that condemned the putsch.

3. In the light of the above stated, ONELOP-BURUNDI believes that the international community, starting with the African Union, should formally

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4. declare as terrorist acts, those acts that coldly kill innocent people as well as the serious violations of human rights, war crimes and crimes against humanity and refer to courts these morally and legally reprehensible acts.

5. ONELOP-BURUNDI appeals to the Heads of State and Government to officially condemn Rwanda that recruits, trains, provides weapons and finance terrorists who cause bloodshed in Burundi, as evidenced by various independent bodies reports and even the USA. Those terrorists are Burundian refugees in Rwanda who are forcibly recruited to commit the above mentioned crimes. Refugees who stand against recruitment for terrorist purposes in Rwanda are not spared: they were severely mistreated and prevented from returning home as the vast majority of them have finally discovered they were trapped and manipulated to serve ulterior sectarian interests; this forced recruitment is an undeniable illustration.

6. ONELOP-BURUNDI asks the European Union not to support the radical opposition in Burundi, but rather to condemn it as it does in Europe against neo-Nazi parties and other extremist organizations or other groups that make use of violence as a means to conquer the power. The European Union should extradite the coup plotters dwelling in their countries as well as other people sought by the Burundian justice. Otherwise, the EU will be considered as a major stakeholder in the destabilization of Burundi and consequently accountable to the history. In the same vein, it is relevant to wonder why the EU strongly condemned Gilbert Diendéré but does not condemn the coup plotters in Burundi living in Europe, organizing and carrying out in the daylight destabilizing activities against a sovereign state which is also their motherland. This violates international refugee law and leads to assume that Burundian terrorists are exempted.

7. Notwithstanding what has been said, ONELOP-BURUNDI finds that the vast majority of Burundians live in harmony. Therefore, there is neither the risk of genocide in Burundi as tend to affirm some ill intentioned people, neither early signs of this crime of crimes. Instead, such lancinating thoughts of genocide can be found in the minds of those who want to attain power without going through elections because they have no popular support in the country, therefore resorting to ousting democratically elected institutions.

8. ONELOP-BURUNDI asks their Excellencies the Heads of State and Government visiting Burundi to effectively support the inter Burundian Dialogue which is TRULY INCLUSIVE, that is to say the one that does not sacrifice the majority of Burundian citizens who peacefully live inside their countries for the benefit of a few politicians who decided by themselves to flee their country. In this perspective, the activities of the CNDI must be soundly supported.

9. ONELOP-BURUNDI urges members of the ACP countries to play their intermediary role to save Burundi. In particular for Africans, they should always remember the old Kirundi adage that goes: "INKONI IKUBISE MUKEBA UYIRENZA URUGO"; meaning that the stick that was used to hit a rival should be thrown away so that it might not whip you some other time. Indeed, any successful plan to destabilize and overthrow a legally elected government in Burundi could pave the way for the same evil plan in any other African country some other day.

10. In this respect, the sovereignty of Burundi should be considered sacred by all the ACP, AU, EAC, COMESA, the ICGLR member countries; as well as the rest of the world. The members of the aforementioned organizations must instead play their part in safeguarding democracy and dialogue, foundations for stability, peace and security, or even pillars of good governance and welfare of the population.

Done at Bujumbura, February 25, 2016.

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Plateforme Nationale des Elections et des Organisations pour le Progrès
ONELOP-Burundi