

CASE No: ICTR-98-44-T  
EXHIBIT No: DNZ484  
DATE ADMITTED: 13/2/2009  
TENDERED BY: DEFENCE  
NAME OF WITNESS: DECISION OF 13/2/2009

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## ANNEX "L"

REPUBLIC OF RWANDA

Presidency of the Republic

Cabinet of the President

SPEECH OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC AT THE MRND RALLY IN KIGALI  
(AMAHORO STADIUM) ON 29 JANUARY 1993

Translation

Democracy, the anniversary of which we are commemorating today, is founded on tolerance. Democracy entails mutual respect. Democracy means listening to the people and obeying their will and aspirations.

The heroes of democracy, to whom we pay tribute today and who gathered in Gitarama on 28 January 1961, were persons elected by the people who went there to confirm the will of the people. That is democracy. You cannot be the champion of democracy while flouting the will of the people.

You cannot speak of democracy and claim to be doing the bidding of the people while denying them the right to speak. The people of Rwanda are there; they should be asked what they want; that is what we are going to do. That is what the democracy we are celebrating today means; one that seeks to know what the people want; a democracy based on tolerance and mutual respect.

The other point I wanted to emphasize relates to demonstrations by political parties; demonstrations of a political nature. The right to express one's opinion is guaranteed, and that does not apply only to politics. Universally, and in Rwandan tradition, when people are happy, they get together and express their joy. Disgruntled individuals do the same; that is the tradition. Demonstrations are therefore allowed; they are permitted and guaranteed under the laws of Rwanda.

What then is not allowed? What is not allowed are unauthorized counter-demonstrations. It is the exclusive duty of the security services, when they deem it necessary, to prevent demonstrations. They may do so either because the demonstrations were not authorized or because those demonstrating had attacked people, destroyed or looted other people's property. That kind of demonstration is not allowed and deserves to be condemned. However, it is the duty of the forces of law and order to act; it is not the population to take on the demonstrators in a bid to stop demonstrations which might have been duly authorized.

What else is not allowed? What is not allowed is to use such demonstrations as an excuse to loot other people's property. What is not allowed is to use such events as an excuse to kill people. I insist that such excesses are not allowed.

Let me seize this opportunity to condemn publicly all those who hide behind demonstrations to loot; all those who hide behind demonstrations of a political nature to kill. I condemn all such misdeeds publicly. It is my fervent hope that the courts, the Ministry of the Interior, and all those in charge of law and order, will conduct extensive investigations into all those atrocities so as to identify the guilty who disrupt the peace and security of others.

We must all strive to safeguard peace in our communes. We must all work to preserve unity among all Rwandans. We must all struggle to enhance the security of the population. The population, wherever they may be, even on the hills, are the very foundation of our country, Rwanda.

They are the foundation of political parties and the end-purpose of politics itself. The population must have adequate security; they must have peace. Whether one is poor or rich, each person must live in peace.

I repeat my request to authorities at all levels to initiate the necessary action to prosecute all troublemakers before the courts, whether they be for recent or for past misdeeds. I have always been told that investigations are being conducted. Let the findings of such investigations be forwarded to the courts, so that those who are hiding behind demonstrations to loot and kill, are punished in accordance with the law.

That is why I am calling on all Rwandans, wherever they may be, whatever be their political party, to work for peace and security. All Rwandans should work to ensure respect for human rights and the human being. All Rwandans should work to ensure security in their *secteurs*, in their communes. I also plead with them to bear in mind that the watchword for this year, 1993, is reconciliation of the people of Rwanda with themselves and with their history.

We should insist on that watchword and spread it throughout the country. As I have said, we shall achieve that goal by working for peace on our hills; it shall be achieved through dialogue and meeting with others.

To work for national reconciliation is to work for peace and security. To work for national reconciliation is to ensure that the Arusha talks proceed with consideration for the aspirations of the people, with consideration for national consensus. Moreover, reconciliation is not made solely with friends; it is made above all with one's enemy, with someone with whom one does not share anything. Otherwise, such reconciliation cannot endure. Reconciliation is not with a friend; reconciliation is with an enemy. One reconciles with a neighbor with whom one is no longer in good terms. That is my understanding of reconciliation. Admittedly, reconciliation always involves improving relations with friends, but it means above all, moving closer to one's enemy and trying to reach an understanding.

Let me repeat my appeal for each of us, wherever we may be, and in whatever circumstances we may find ourselves, to demonstrate our determination to work for peace and for unity among Rwandans.

Thank you.

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