

HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH/AFRICA

Formerly Africa Watch

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URGENT

May 10, 1994

By fax: 011257225205

Mr. Jose Ayala Lasso
U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights
Hotel Source du Nil
Bujumbura

Dear Commissioner Lasso,

I hope that you have received my letter of May 8 which I faxed to your Geneva number on May 8 and to this number on May 9.

We have just learned that the national committee of the Interahamwe militia last night broadcast a communique calling on their members to stop killing Tutsi and members of the political opposition. They also asked them to help stop killings by those who were not members of their groups.

I suppose this effort to halt the slaughter, at least temporarily, is connected to your projected arrival in Kigali tomorrow. As I suggested in my letter of May 8, I would expect your presence to cause a significant reduction in or end to the killings. The self-proclaimed government is most concerned to gain some kind of international recognition and understand that continuing massacres in too close proximity--in time or in space--to your passage might hinder that effort.

We have also received information that a number of young people evacuated from Kamenge (Bujumbura) before April 29 are being detained at the Ecole Nationale de Police (ENAPO) in Bujumbura. Their families and friends have been unable to contact them. Would it be possible for you to verify this information and to try to see them?

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,


Alison L. DesForges

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RIGHTS
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