



22 September 2021

President Joseph R. Biden Jr.
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20500

We, the undersigned, are writing to request your support in decrying and condemning the Rwandan government's criminal violation of human rights and the fundamental legal rights of Paul Rusesabagina, a Belgian national, United States Lawful Permanent Resident, and Medal of Freedom recipient. The New York Center for Foreign Policy Affairs (NYCFPA) along with The James Foley Foundation, No Business with Genocide, The Lantos Foundation, Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights, and Ambassador Carol Moseley-Braun are calling on Congress, the State Department, and the White House to ensure the safe and immediate release of Paul Rusesabagina.

The Rwandan Court's ruling against Mr. Rusesabagina is not only a misrepresentation of justice but a travesty of fundamental human rights. The Rwandan government illegally arrested and kidnapped Mr. Rusesabagina, denied him basic legal and human rights, tortured him in government custody, and used illegal cellphone taps to spy on his family and supporters. Additionally, the Rwandan Government has yet to present any credible evidence that would be admissible in any legitimate court of law.

Mr. Rusesabagina's kidnapping was not only in violation of Rwandan law but international law as well. The Rwandan government denied Mr. Rusesabagina access to international counsel, seized attorney-client privileged documents, and violated the presumption of innocence by publicly condemning him at the highest levels of government.


From the moment Mr. Rusesabagina landed in Kigali, he was subject to horrendous conditions and a guilty verdict. He was tortured and in solitary confinement for 250 days. Communication with his own lawyer and family was blocked. It was not until Mr. Rusesabagina's family and legal team sounded the alarm of the human rights abuses that he was given minimal communication with his family and legal team.

Paul Rusesabagina is a humanitarian who has regularly criticized human rights violations and the lack of democracy in Rwanda. It is no coincidence that one of President Kagame's harshest critics was subject to an unfair trial accompanied by false accusations. No matter the political atmosphere of Mr. Rusesabagina's case and what claims are against him, he should be guaranteed fundamental human rights. Human rights are something that our organization and others will always advocate for, no matter the climate of the situation.

The world has been intently watching this case unfold. The system that President Kagame was using to establish 'justice' is the same system that denied Paul Rusesabagina the right to a fair trial. President Kagame, a man whom many believed would be a light in Rwanda, has dimmed the light of not only democracy but has put basic human rights in darkness.

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Furthermore, it is the U.S. Government's duty to condemn this travesty of justice carried out against one of its permanent residents subjected to wrongful detention, as defined in the Robert Levinson Hostage Recovery and Hostage-Taking Accountability Act. The unlawful nature of Mr. Rusesabagina's illegal rendition to Rwanda tainted every proceeding that flowed from that violation of his rights- this is a classic example of the fruit of the poisonous tree doctrine.

We call on you, Mr. President, along with the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Congress to work towards demanding the safe release of Paul Rusesabagina and holding President Kagame accountable so that democracy can thrive in Rwanda.

Very Respectfully,



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