

To: Mr. HE. John P. Magufuli
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Arusha
United Republic of Tanzania

Cc: Mr. HE. B. Mkapa, Mr. HE. Y. K. Museveni, Mr. HE. J. Benomar

Amsterdam area, The Netherlands, March 29, 2017

Subject: Involvement of youth and women in the peace dialogue on Burundi

Your Excellency, Mr. John Magufuli,

April 6th the 18th EAC heads of state summit takes place. We would like to bring the following to your attention.

We, as a group of international peace organizations, express our serious concerns about the situation in Burundi. We are extremely concerned by the current sufferings of the people in Burundi as a result of the ongoing crisis, such as:

- The killings and disappearances that continue unabated
- The ever-increasing number of refugees, today almost 400,000
- The 1 million people with a severe shortage of food¹, severe malnutrition of children
- The shortage of medicines in all facilities, people dying from malaria
- The disruption of the education of children, many of them forced to work in order to get some food

We would like to support the suggestion of Burundian youth organizations both in the country and in exile, Burundian women, Burundian women peace organizations both in the country and in exile to participate in the Burundi peace talks. We are convinced that they will add tremendous value to the peace negotiations. Women and youth are a big part of the population. In addition, they can play a valuable role in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, peace negotiations, peace-building, peacekeeping, and humanitarian response. The reason why they

¹ OCHA, Bulletin Humanitaire Burundi February 2017

did not sign this letter is because they fear that they or their family might be at risk when they sign it.

We will be pleased to help you in any way you think appropriate to achieve peace in Burundi and to improve the humanitarian situation of the citizens in Burundi and the situation of the refugees. If there is anything we can do to contribute to the peace process and the humanitarian situation in Burundi, please let us know and we think along with you.

We hope that you can discuss this letter during the 18th EAC heads of state summit and we are looking forward to your reply.

Warm regards,

Arie de Bruijn/ Jan Anne Bos, Kerk en Vrede (Church and Peace)

Joke Oranje, Oranje Consult

Hanna Nolan, Pax for Peace

May-May Meijer, Peace SOS

Marlies Tjallingii, Netherlands Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

Ted Strop von Meijenfeldt, Women for Sustainable Peace (an umbrella organization)

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