

REPUBLIC OF RWANDA



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND COOPERATION

RESPONSE TO ALLEGATIONS BY THE UDF-INKINGI AGAINST MAJOR GENERAL KARENZI KARAKE, JOINT DEPUTY FORCE COMMANDER FOR THE AU-UN HYBRID FORCE (UNAMID)

On 14 August 2007 the United Democratic Force-Inkingi (UDF-Inkingi), an amalgamation of extremist fugitives known for their genocide ideology and hostility against the Government of Rwanda, largely based in Europe, made serious and unfounded allegations against Major General Emmanuel Karenzi KARAKE and indeed against the Government of Rwanda. The allegations were made soon after the appointment of Major General KARAKE by the African Union and the United Nations to the post of Deputy Joint Force Commander of the AU-UN Hybrid force (UNAMID) to be deployed in the Darfur region of the Sudan.

One of the allegations is that Major General KARAKE “*masterminded the assassination of numerous politicians at a time when he was the RPA’s Chief liaison officer to the Organisation of African Unity’s Neutral Military Observer Group (NMOG) in Rwanda and to the United Nations Assistance Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR)*”. This is a mere fabrication by the UDF-Inkingi and should be treated with the contempt it deserves. It is, indeed, a well known fact that the deaths of several politicians from the opposition, who had been consistently accused and condemned as being RPF allies by the notorious hate media particularly the RTLM and KANGURA as well as the extremist CDR political party together with the then government were as a result of extremist elements’ actions in the country who sought to derail the peace process, muzzle the opposition and lay foundation for the genocide against the people of Rwanda. Many of the remnants of these extremist groups are today with the UDF-Inkingi. Why didn’t these extremists accuse Major General KARAKE at the time of these assassinations, put him to trial or expel him from Kigali, a government-held territory, where he lived under extremely limited freedom of movement? Why didn’t they investigate these murders while they were still in power?

The other allegation by UDF-Inkingi is that Major General Karenzi was involved in Kibeho incident in 1995 during which time about 8,000 people are alleged to have been killed. The circumstances of the Kibeho incident are well known and documented. Indeed, an International Commission of enquiry, led by a Senior Canadian diplomat, Ambassador Bernard DUSSAULT, was set up to investigate on the causes of death of people who were internally displaced in Kibeho. The commission was officially constituted in Kigali on 3rd May 1995 and began work on 8th May. The findings of the report were submitted on 18th May 1995. The conclusions of the report were that the Kibeho massacres, which constituted a humanitarian disaster then, were neither the result of a planned action to kill a specific group of people nor the result of an incident which could have been prevented. The said

international commission established that the camp was a source of insecurity to the country. The report also concludes that there exists sufficient evidence to establish the fact that the death of people in Kibeho was a result of armed individuals among the displaced persons themselves who constituted a security threat at a time of rampant insecurity in the aftermath of the 1994 genocide. *General KARAKE did not take part in any operation at the Kibeho Camp as can be found in the above mentioned report by an International Commission of inquiry.* Moreover any RPA officer found to have employed excessive force during the operation at Kibeho camp for displaced persons was punished as evidence demonstrates.

The allegation that General KARENZI “*supervised the mass killings of civilian refugees in the DR Congo*” is farfetched. Contrary to the allegation, Rwanda’s entry into the DRC helped to free hundreds of thousands of Rwandese that were held hostage by ex-FAR/Interahamwe in the camps. The authors of the killings of civilian refugees are ex-FAR/Interahamwe, who, up to now, do not hesitate to kill refugees trying to abandoning them to return to Rwanda. The allegation that the Rwandan Army committed mass killings of civilians in DR Congo is part of the ongoing campaign to tarnish its image orchestrated by the genocidal regime and its friends.

The timing of the allegations by the UDF-Inkingi against General KARAKE is not a mere coincidence having come just after his AU/UN appointment and is intended to discredit the government of Rwanda and confuse the international community. However, Rwanda can neither be intimidated nor be tempted to abandon an important exercise of peace support to a sister African country like the Sudan by the likes of UDF-Inkingi.

Rwanda’s role in peace keeping efforts is increasingly appreciated by the international community. The Rwanda Defence Forces (RDF) deployed in Darfur are known to be second to none in terms of discipline, professionalism and relations with the population they serve. They have made significant contribution to the stabilisation of the Sudan and will continue to do so as part of Rwanda’s contribution to international peace and security.

It is owing to the credibility, resilience, discipline and professionalism of the Rwanda Defence Forces that the United Nations and the African Union appointed General Karenzi KARAKE as the Deputy Force Commander for the UNAMID Force. Major General KARAKE is a well trained and experienced senior officer who has ably served in various senior command and staff roles in the RDF and rightly deserves the post of Deputy Force Commander of the UNAMID Force.

In view of the above therefore, the baseless allegations made by the UDF-Inkingi and their timing can only be construed as a desperate attempt by the organisation to tarnish Rwanda’s image and to derail efforts at stabilising peace in the Sudan.

Done at Kigali, August 20, 2007