

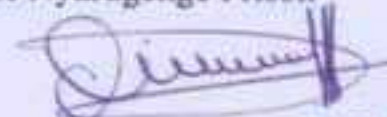
CONFIDENTIAL

Paul Rusesabagina
C/O Nyarugenge Prison
Nyarugenge, Rwanda

October 14, 2022

S/C Director of Nyarugenge Prison

President Paul Kagame
Village Urugwiro
53 KG 7 Avenue
Kigali, Rwanda


A. DWAJEZU

Your Excellency,

I am writing to humbly request a pardon so that I may return to my family in the United States. There are many reasons I cite in favor of this request, the most predominant of which is my advanced age and a number of chronic maladies that unfortunately will persist for the remainder of my life.

I wish to express my regret for any connection my work with the MRCD may have had to violent actions taken by the FLN. First, to be clear, I do not condone violence. Violence is never acceptable, including the use of violence to achieve political aims. Violence as a political tool is plainly wrong and more grievously so when used to target civilians. I abhor any violence committed against civilians, whether by FLN or other groups, which I have and will continue to publicly condemn. The loss of a single human life is always deeply regrettable.

As a former head of the MRCD, I regret not taking more care to ensure that members of the MRCD coalition fully adhered to the principles of non-violence in which I fully and deeply believe, and have always ascribed. I extend my heartfelt sorrow for any pain FLN's actions have caused to victims and their families.

If I am granted a pardon and released, I understand fully that I will spend the remainder of my days in the United States in quiet reflection. I can assure you through this letter that I hold no personal or political ambitions otherwise. I will leave questions regarding Rwandan politics behind me.

Moving forward, I know you will focus on securing a peaceful future for all Rwandans. I hope all Rwandans can find peaceful ways to overcome national disagreements and bring Rwandans together through the power of words.

I am also hopeful that my release can be one small gesture to further these aims. And, so, Your Excellency, I ask you to grant me this pardon on humanitarian grounds so that I may move on from here to be with my family as I spend the remainder of my days as a husband, father and grandfather, as you carry on for a hopeful future for the people of Rwanda.

Paul Rusesabagina

