

HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH

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April 26, 1994

The Honorable Bruno Delaye
Counsellor to the President of the Republic of France
Elysee
Paris, France

Dear Mr. Delaye:

I had the honor of meeting with you at Human Rights Watch when you were in Washington earlier this year, and I believe you received a member of my board, Ms. Alison Des Forges, when she was in Paris several months ago. I am writing now to request your personal attention to an important matter. I am informed that your government has received a delegation of the self-proclaimed government of Rwanda, including Mr. Jerome Bicamumpaka, the "Minister of Foreign Affairs," and Jean Bosco Barayagwiza, the President of the CDR (Coalition for the Defense of the Republic) political party. As I am sure you are aware, it is the militias affiliated with the CDR and the MRND which have carried out the extraordinary campaign of abuses against moderate political figures and Rwanda's Tutsi population. Human Rights Watch and the International Committee of the Red Cross have identified the slaughter of the Tutsis as genocide.

I am very disturbed to learn that your government is receiving these individuals. I was informed that today they met with M. Simon of your Cooperation Directorate, and that tomorrow they will meet with M. De la Sabliere of the Foreign Ministry, and that they will also be received at the Elysee.

I thought you would be interested to know that the White House issued a statement on Friday April 22 which identified by name a number of individuals in the Rwandan army who are directly responsible for the mass killings, and called upon them to put a stop to the atrocities. A copy of that statement is enclosed.

Human Rights Watch/Africa has received a great deal of information about the well-planned, targetted nature of this campaign of killings, which has devastated Rwanda in just a few short weeks. (The State Department is now saying that the number dead is well over 100,000.) We believe that the individuals named in the White House statement as well as Col. Mpiranya, the head of the Presidential Guard, started the violence, and that they can stop it. One need look no further than Butare Prefect to see how deliberately this campaign was organized and carried out by the army and the militias: Until Wednesday, April 20, Butare was quiet, with no killings. On that day, however, the moderate governor of the prefect was removed and a hard-line

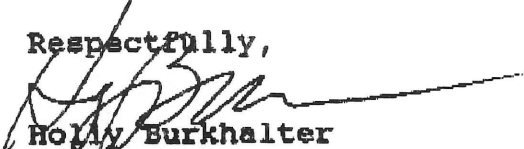
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military figure took over. Immediately the killing started, with Rwandan army officials accompanying the militia as they slaughtered. Please see attached our news release of yesterday on recent developments in Butare.

In our meetings with the National Security Advisor and other top U.S. government officials, I have asked them to contact the Government of France directly to urge that your government use its considerable connections with the Rwandan military to publicly urge them to stop the campaign of genocide that they put in motion. I would be most grateful if you would consider this request, and use your influence to see that this message is conveyed to the visitors you will be receiving tomorrow at the Elysee.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Respectfully,



Holly Burkhalter
Washington Director
Human Rights Watch