

Press release:**WHERE IS THIS BLOOD-SHEDDING REGIME TAKING OUR COUNTRY?**

May 16, 1998 - May 16, 2026: 28 years have passed since Seth Sendashonga was assassinated in Nairobi, Kenya, in broad daylight. It has also been 7 years since the President of Rwanda, Paul Kagame, publicly boasted about this act of murder during a retreat of senior government officials held in Gabiro in February 2019.

Seth Sendashonga was one of the Rwandans who fought injustice from a young age. He was a champion of democracy, advocating for unity and reconciliation, and wishing that all Rwandans would have equal opportunities in their country. When he served as Minister of Interior and Communal Development between July 1994 and August 1995, he firmly opposed the killings carried out by the Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) army led by General Paul Kagame. That is where the plot to assassinate him originated.

In remembrance of the day they took his life and reflect on the ideals of this hero, the organization named after him (Institut Seth Sendashonga pour la citoyenneté démocratique, abbreviated ISCID asbl) delivers the following message to all Rwandans and friends of Rwanda :

- 1) It has been 32 years since the RPF Inkotanyi took power in Rwanda. At no time has this government brought reassurance of building a peaceful country. In Rwanda's history, the RPF regime will be remembered as a cruel and bloody regime ("ingoma y'agafuni" as some call it). The killing of tutsi genocide survivor Aimable Karasira Uzaramba on May 6, 2026, the very day he was supposed to be released from Mageragere prison after 5 years, is one of the signs of this bloody rule. His death adds to many others planned and executed by this government led by Paul Kagame. The list of people who have been killed, some claimed by the regime to have committed suicide, others allegedly shot by police in self-defense, or to have disappeared, has become very long. Fellow Rwandans, this is intolerable. Paul Kagame's bloody regime must be stopped. The situation has gone too far.

- 2) Seven months after the signing of the Washington agreements intended to end the 30-year war waged by the RPF government against the Democratic Republic of Congo, the problems remain unresolved. The United States of America imposed sanctions to pressure Paul Kagame, but he has remained defiant. The consequences of these sanctions are hunger and increasing poverty among Rwandans, rising prices, growing unemployment, and worsening conditions for the most vulnerable. We believe Kagame's stubbornness is self-destructive and will have serious consequences for the population. Apart from arrogance and sacrificing Rwanda's youth, he lacks the capacity to continue the plundering he has engaged in, especially as even his former supporters now call on him to stop. President Kagame has already lost the war in Congo. He should shamefully acknowledge that the war he started which has claimed millions of lives on both sides and destabilized the entire region has been lost.

- 3) The Seth Sendashonga Institute remains concerned about how the RPF regime continues to distort the history of our country in order to devalue the Hutu ethnic group. In this regard, the Minister of National Unity, Dr. Jean Damascène Bizimana, repeatedly states in his speeches across the country that the 1994 atrocities are unrelated to the downing of the plane which was carrying the presidents of Rwanda, Juvénal Habyarimana, and Burundi, Cyprien Ntaryamira, along with all those on board. He also claims these events are unrelated to the war that began on October 1, 1990, opposing mainly Tutsi rebels on one side and mainly hutu government forces on the other. Minister Bizimana asserts that the origin of the 1994 genocide against the tutsis lies with hutus, specifically those who opposed the injustice of the monarchy that had ruled Rwanda for over 400 years. We recall that the 1959 Revolution largely came about due to the stubbornness of those in power at the time who refused peaceful reform. No Rwandan should feel ashamed that there were activists who stood up to abolish systems like feudal servitude and exploitation that turned some citizens into hereditary subordinates of others. The Institute insists that true national unity cannot be built while ignoring the country's real history.

- 4) The Seth Sendashonga Institute again urges Rwandans, especially the youth, to understand that the country's serious problems will not solve themselves. The international community, although its support is needed, will not remove this bloody regime for us. It is our responsibility as Rwandans to do everything possible to leave future generations a country where every citizen feels safe and has equal opportunity to use their intelligence and skills to prosper. We call on Rwandans everywhere to reject the evil that is putting them in danger. Stand up and oppose this regime that is condemned worldwide in various resolutions of the United Nations Security Council.

- 5) The Seth Sendashonga Institute calls on friendly countries and human rights organizations to remain vigilant at this time when our country appears to be in a critical situation. There are many signs that the current government is prepared to use all means to suppress any ideas or plans aimed at positive and peaceful change. Without fear of international pressure and sanctions, there is no doubt that many political prisoners and journalists detained in Mageragere would already have met a tragic fate. The killing of Aimable Karasira Uzaramba on the day he was due for release is a message that must not be ignored. Political prisoners are in grave danger.

With modern technology, the world is said to have become a global village. How can atrocities continue to be committed in Rwanda while those responsible carry on without consequence? What is the international justice doing?

Done in Brussels, May 16, 2026

Jean-Claude Kabagema

President of ISCID asbl

