

**Security Council**

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**Letter dated 4 April 2005 from the Permanent Representative of  
Rwanda to the United Nations addressed to the President of the  
Security Council**

I have the honour to transmit herewith a communiqué issued by the Government of the Republic of Rwanda at Kigali on Friday, 1 April 2005, concerning the decision of the ex-FAR/Interahamwe (FDLR/FOCA) to disarm unconditionally and return to Rwanda (see annex).

We request that the present letter and its annex be circulated to all members of the Security Council and that they also be issued as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Stanislas **Kamanzi**  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative

**Annex to the letter dated 4 April 2005 from the Permanent Representative of Rwanda to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

**Communiqué issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Rwanda at Kigali on 1 April 2005**

1. The Government of the Republic of Rwanda has received information that the ex-FAR/Interahamwe forces are now calling themselves FDLR/FOCA, currently operating in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, have made the decision to unconditionally disarm and return to Rwanda. The Government urges the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the international community to act with dispatch to make sure that the disarmament and return take place expeditiously, in fulfilment of the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement of 1999, the Pretoria agreement between the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda of 2002 and the decision of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union in its resolution of 10 January 2005. Rwanda welcomes the commitment of Sant' Egidio Community to join the international community in working for a speedy disarmament and demobilization of these groups.
2. The Government reiterates that the disarmament and demobilization of this group is long overdue, and reminds the international community that failure to do so has been the root cause of wars, conflict and persistent insecurity in the Great Lakes region. It has also allowed the ex-FAR/Interahamwe to attempt to change identities while pursuing the same agenda over the last decade, calling themselves ALIR I, ALIR II and PALIR, and finally FDLR/FOCA, when the United States of America placed ALIR/PALIR on its list of international terrorists in the aftermath of the September 2001 Al-Qaida attack on the United States, in response to the massacre by ALIR/PALIR of Western tourists in Bwindi national park. The Government is convinced that as the world prepares to commemorate the genocide of 1994 for the eleventh year, Rwandans deserve to have the threat of genocide removed from them once and for all.
3. The Government remains committed and ready to receive all former combatants who return to Rwanda, and to assist in their reintegration into Rwanda society. Those Rwandans, who have spent the last decade roaming the forests of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in the service of a misguided and criminal enterprise, deserve a better life and are called upon to join other Rwandans in the building of a better future for all. The Government will spare no effort to assist them and all Rwandans in this noble endeavour.
4. Finally, while the Government understands the need of the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to talk to these genocidal groups to cease their activities on Democratic Republic of the Congo territory and to disarm, the Government is gravely concerned by the information that the United Nations, the European Union and some countries plan to sit at the same table with a group that committed the last horrific genocide of the twentieth century. Rwanda believes that such a course of action would be an indelible blot on the respect, honour and moral standing of the bodies and countries in question. The Government is also gravely concerned that the political leadership of these groups is based in and has an official address in Belgium. This is unacceptable to the Rwandan people, and should be to the whole of humanity.