

# Democracy Is Incompatible With Violence

Fellow Rwandans,

Inhabitants of Rwanda,

On 28 January, I informed you that the fundamental objectives of our Republic include, inter alia, peace among the population at all levels and in all administrative organs. I told you that the peace we have enjoyed for one and a half years, particularly, since independence, has been disrupted by refugees that have transformed themselves into the Inyenzi, attacked the government, which protects you all and, above all, prohibits any unqualified person from interfering in the search for offences.

We congratulate the people who have followed our password, which has enabled the Hutus to continue to pursue peace.

We congratulate State employees investigating crimes, policemen and soldiers, for striving to accomplish the mission that the country has entrusted to them. We congratulate the citizen of this country who did not take advantage of the Inyenzi provocation to acquire the bad habits of violence. On 28 January, I reminded you that democracy is incompatible with violence. I urge all of you to continue in the good path that protects our democracy, indeed, democracy without violence. Power exists: the legislative, executive, judiciary and. State employees whose responsibility is to offer assistance to all advocates of democracy. Democracy is incompatible with violence. I am speaking to all categories of State employees.

Democracy is incompatible with violence: I am speaking to all authorities entrusted with the power to ensure security and lead the population to develop the country, the communes and their homes. Democracy is incompatible with democracy even though this democracy would be concealed by treachery comparable to that of time past. Violence is incompatible with violence: that explains why every citizen, no matter how small, victim of violence, must have recourse to the nearest administrative or judicial officer of law and order. All the authorities must maintain peace and abolish violence by adhering to the law and the usual good habits. Democracy is incompatible with violence: given that violence and chaos undermine work and impede the development of your homes, they bode ill for all countries, irrespective of the perpetrator, even when concealed by lies. You witnessed the situation of the perpetrators of the 1959 chaos and violence: they had hoped to win by violence, chaos and deceit but they found all of us vigilant, since we say no to violence.

Democracy is incompatible with violence: I am speaking to militants of all political parties of this country. They should have peace, each one within his party; otherwise,

the country and the government of the Republic would not recognize them as a true political party. Democracy is incompatible with violence: I recall these words at all meetings, irrespective of whether they are party meetings, meetings organized by the authorities for the population, meetings of the Parliament or government council. Meetings advocating peace should be propagated during others. Democracy is incompatible with violence: in opulence and poverty, particularly, for a country like ours, which is in search of anything that can develop it. Democracy is incompatible with violence: any peace-loving person should respect it; any person who commits violent offences and anyone who causes chaos must know that they are supporting the Inyenzi, or that they are accomplices. They must know that they are being used as accomplices and the passageway for the Inyenzi. Democracy is incompatible with violence: any person who commits violent offences and anyone who causes chaos must be denounced to the authorities that are expected to examine the issue and punish those guilty in accordance with the applicable law.

Democracy is incompatible with violence: Anyone who hesitates to lodge his complaint with the authorities has not yet embraced democracy. There do exist frivolous complaints: false allegations or those that arouse jealousy or hatred. Democracy is incompatible with violence: Each time that a citizen arouses jealousy and hatred, he wastes time that should be used to work for his country, for his home, to establish democracy in the Republic. He becomes an accomplice of the Inyenzi, the enemies of Rwanda. No one should call anybody Inyenzi, since this is an insult. If he suspects him to be an Inyenzi, then he has the duty to inform the appropriate authorities and thereafter go about his business. Democracy is incompatible with violence: You have all understood that the Inyenzi use their attacks to pursue this objective. Violence and chaos encroach on time that should be devoted to the development of the country and its citizens. Fellow Rwandans, I am reminding you of this idea, for in democracy, peace for the entire population is a development factor that should be taken into consideration. Avoiding violence and chaos should be the watchword for every citizen, be he big or small, an authority or not. You have constantly requested magistrates to be rigorous particularly on this important point of maintaining peace among the population. The Government has forced nobody to belong to any party: it is important for all to be tolerant, acknowledge and respect the law. Whoever denounces injustice, pursues the democratic program but does not love peace must be punished independently of his party, for the law requires every citizen to avoid violence and chaos.

We extend special congratulations to all the authorities and the entire population, determined to fight the violence imposed on the country by the Inyenzi attacks. We congratulate all militants who love peace, without violence or chaos, and respect the law governing the country. Whoever commits violent offences and whoever causes chaos,

unconsciously supports Inyenzi violence and treachery. Support the development of the Republic and your homes and may the peace of the Lord be always with you.

Kigali, 10 April 1964

G. Kayibanda  
President of the Republic