



Juristen und Juristinnen gegen atomare, biologische und chemische Waffen
Für gewaltfreie Friedensgestaltung
Deutsche Sektion der International Association Of Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms

IALANA, Marienstraße 19-20, 10117 Berlin

Berlin, 7. Mai 2014

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Geschäftsführer:
Reiner Braun, Berlin

Your Excellency, President Paul Kagame,

We are writing to you with an important request as a group of lawyers and legal experts from Germany working together towards peace, disarmament and civil conflict resolution in the German section of the International Association of Lawyers against Nuclear Arms (IALANA – please see: www.ialana.de).

With great interest we followed your statements on the 20th anniversary of the massacre in Rwanda, as reported in the international media. Among other things, you stated that France played a "direct role ... in the political preparation of the genocide" and participated "in its actual execution". In the German media, however, there have only been isolated reports on this.

According to published reports, during the events in Rwanda in 1994 several hundred thousand people were killed - some speak of up to a million. These occurrences therefore count as one of the most terrible crimes in recent history.

In an interview with the newspaper "Jeune Afrique" in April 2014, you recently referred once again to the active participation of France in the genocide in Rwanda. The French government and many representatives of the "political class" in France have vehemently refuted your accusations, although they have not addressed them in any detail. So far the German government has made no statement in this regard.

As far as we know, no comprehensive international appraisal of this crime in Rwanda has yet been conducted. So far, there is also no documentation of the responsibilities of France and other major powers or of the corresponding legal consequences. In a very noteworthy article in the German newspaper "Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung" on April 14, 2014, the journalist Michaela Wiegel drew attention to this. Ms Wiegel is the permanent correspondent of this newspaper in France. We are enclosing a copy of this important article with this letter.

Co-Präsident der International Association Of Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms:

Prof. Dr. h.c. mult. Christopher Gregory Weeramantry

Vizepräsident des Internationalen Gerichtshofs in Den Haag i. R.

Träger des UNESCO Prize for Peace Education 2006 / Träger des Right Livelihood Award 2007

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In Germany and other countries, the genocide in Rwanda is used by government representatives and members of the "political class" to legitimise so-called humanitarian military interventions in Africa and around the world. An example of this is the recent statement from the German Federal President Joachim Gauck in an interview with the German TV channel ARD on March 20, 2014. He stated:

“Do you know, just take a look at Africa, when in Rwanda hundreds of thousands of people were mowed down. Can we really be proud that we did not make use of the option of a military intervention then?”

Here the German president is disregarding the real background and in particular the (joint) responsibilities of the governments of Western countries such as France for these terrible mass murders, which you have addressed, Mr President.

For this reason, we are writing to you with the following request:

Could you please provide more specific details regarding your accusations towards the government of France and the responsibility you see that they carry for the genocide in Rwanda? Perhaps you can also back up these accusations with documents and corresponding materials.

We would then do our best to bring this information into the national and international public debate on the issue, as well as trying to obtain further statements in this regard. We consider this request to you to be a contribution to establishing the historical truth about this terrible genocide. As far as we can see, it is only possible to prevent future massacres on this scale if we can learn from historical events such as those in Rwanda, clarifying the interests of the different actors involved, and coming to the necessary conclusions.

We thank you in advance for your efforts. Of course, we are more than willing to further discuss this request with your embassy in Germany.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Reiner Braun', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Reiner Braun (executive director)