

**Security Council**

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Letter dated 2 March 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Rwanda to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to write to you to address a matter of concern to Rwanda.

You will recall that on 17 May 1994 in the midst of the unfolding genocide committed by the then Government of Rwanda, the Security Council of the United Nations had adopted resolution 918 (1994) which imposed an arms embargo on Rwanda. The same resolution established a Committee of the Council, consisting of all States members of the Council, to monitor implementation of the provisions of the resolution.

The embargo imposed under paragraph 13 of the resolution was lifted for the Government of Rwanda on 1 September 1996 pursuant to resolution 1011 (1995), although it is still in effect for non-State actors. Resolution 1011 (1995) also stipulated that all exports of arms or related materiel to Rwanda should be brought to the attention of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 918 (1994).

In a statement issued on 11 September 1996 (press release SC/6265), the Chairman of the Committee declared that no notification would be required for arms exporting countries or importations by the Government of Rwanda. This decision was reiterated in the Committee's report to the Security Council for 1996 (S/1997/15, annex). This situation has remained unchanged since then.

In its report to the Security Council of 28 December 2006 (S/2006/1049, annex), as transmitted by Ambassador César Mayoral (Argentina), in his capacity as Chairman of the Committee, the Committee requested the Council to decide on the future status of the notification requirement.

The Government of Rwanda is aware that there are politically motivated attempts to revive the notification requirement. I wish to appeal to members of the Security Council not to allow the solemn mandate entrusted to them by the Charter of the United Nations to be abused or blemished by States that seek to settle old scores using the Council.

I would like to recall that the arms embargo imposed in resolution 918 (1994) had been directed at the Government that had committed the genocide in Rwanda in 1994. As you are aware, that Government was deposed in July 1994. Since then, Rwanda has successfully emerged from conflict and is on a steady and sound path



towards economic and social development. I would encourage the Security Council to acknowledge this progress and not to maintain the notification requirement which now seems extraneous.

I would also encourage the Security Council to take account of the positive developments in the wider subregion, particularly the signing on 15 December 2006 of the Pact on Security, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes Region of Africa at the Second Summit of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region. There has also been commendable progress in achieving peace, security and democratization in the region over the last several years.

I also wish to recall Rwanda's contributions to international peace and security by providing military and police personnel to United Nations peacekeeping operations in the Sudan, Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia and Haiti, as well as African Union missions in Darfur and the Comoros. These contributions demonstrate Rwanda's commitment to international peace and security, and are at variance with the spirit of the notification requirement that was imposed over 11 years ago.

Furthermore, I am sure there will be little doubt that these requirements would impede efforts to ensure that our personnel serving under United Nations and African Union mandates continue to be well equipped for peacekeeping duties. We urge the Security Council to address this issue urgently.

I would therefore like to request the Security Council, through you, to abrogate the provision of Council resolution 1011 (1995) requiring that the Committee established pursuant to resolution 918 (1994) receive notification of all exports of arms or related materiel to Rwanda. We see no continuing justification for this provision.

Finally, I wish to request that the present letter be brought to the attention of the Chairman of the Committee, and that it be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Joseph Nsengimana
Ambassador
Permanent Representative