

A Call for Truth and Justice in the African Great Lakes Region

By [Global Research News](#)

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Region: [sub-Saharan Africa](#)

On October 1, 2014, BBC2 broadcast a documentary "Rwanda's Untold Story" on the tragedies which have devastated the Great Lakes Region of Africa since 1990, especially Rwanda, Burundi, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). This documentary methodically deconstructs the narrative that has been made official by most of the Western media.

The signatories of this appeal, who have been actors or observers in the African Great Lakes Region, through their work and/or humanitarian commitments, wish to congratulate and express their support to the BBC journalists and management who have significantly contributed to establishing the previously ignored historical truth.

International justice has been instrumentalised and has not fulfilled its role :

— Essential documents such as the [Gersony Report](#) or the [Hourigan Inquiry](#) have not been taken into consideration by the ICTR

— Ms, Carla Del Ponte was going to issue indictments following the special investigation into the ruling Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) crimes but, in 2003, she was removed from her position of ICTR Chief Prosecutor after the intervention of several member states of the UN Security Council

— The [1998 UN Garreton Report](#) and the [2010 UN Mapping Report on Human Rights Abuses in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, 1993-2003](#), which both implicated the Kigali regime for its action in DRC, did not result in any legal action.

— The attack on the plane carrying the Presidents of Rwanda and Burundi is considered by a great number of observers and commissions of inquiry as a key element in the escalation of violence and the outbreak of the 1994 genocide in Rwanda; therefore it is not acceptable that twenty years later the perpetrators and the actors should not be known, tried, and convicted.

At a time when the European Parliament has awarded [Dr. Denis Mukwege the 2014 Sakharov Prize](#) for his work in favor of the women victims of rape and sexual violence during the armed conflicts that have torn the Eastern DRC for almost twenty years, it is unacceptable that those responsible for these crimes against humanity or genocide which have caused several million deaths in the DRC should not be designated, prosecuted, and convicted.

Peace can only be achieved if justice is rendered fairly and equitably. Therefore the signatories call upon the UN to set up at the earliest the structures and procedures

permitting to prosecute all those responsible for all the crimes perpetrated in this region since 1990, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide.

The signatories ask that the political pressures and media bias which aim at discrediting the French and Spanish judicial investigations that implicate the ruling Rwandan Patriotic Front be denounced. We cannot help being astonished by the silence in almost all French-language media after the broadcast of the documentary by the BBC whose professionalism and deontology are internationally recognized.

Only truth and impartial justice will help restore peace to the region. The signatories of this call reiterate their support to the BBC and call upon it to continue its work of presenting information and truth in the dramatic events that took place in Rwanda and in the Great Lakes region. This will be the best way to respond to the criticisms of the BBC documentary broadcast last October.

Signatories

BEUNZA, Professor Pepe, Spain, first Spanish conscientious objector

BONET JPUIGERT, Joseph, Spain, member, GEES (Grup d'Empordaneses i Empordanesos per la Solidaritat)

BOULE, Pierre, Canada, lawyer

CABOT-VIDAL, Spain, human rights activist

CANET, Professor Francesc, Spain, former Member of Parliament

CARRERO, Juan, Spain, founder "Veritas Rwanda Forum"

CASOLIVA, Joan, Spain, INSHUTI Association

CASTRO ELCACHO, Pedro, Spain, financial investor

CLAEYS BOUUAERT, Thérèse, Belgium, sociologist

COMELLAS HUMET, Sergi, Spain, engineer

CONSTANT, Raphaël, France, head of Martinique Bar Association

CUADRAT i PELACH, Professor Nuria, Spain,

CUSSAC, Colonel Bernard, France

DE BEULE, Christiaan, Belgium, Rwanda – Burundi asbi

DE LA CAMARA, Belen, Spain, Mediator

DESGAGNEA, Bernard, Canada, Journalist

ERLINDER, Professor Peter, USA, ICTR defense attorney

FARRES Josephina, Spain, INSHUTI Association

FRUCHARD, General Michel, France, ex African matters counselor, French Ministry of Defence

GARRISON, Ann, USA, print and radio journalist

GENTILINI, Professor Marc, France, Honorary President, French Medecine Academy, honorary President, French Red Cross

GISPERT, Maria, Spain, Contractor

HABYARIMANA, General Emmanuel, Switzerland, Geopolitical scientist, President, Virtus Panafricaine de Géopolitique

HERMAN, Professor Edward S., USA, Writer and teacher

COLONEL HOGARD, Jacques, France, area commanding officer, Operation Turquoise

KALINGANIRE, Pascal, USA, human rights activist, Organization for Peace, Justice and Development in Rwanda and Great Lakes Region

KAZADI KABIMBA, Richard, DRC, lawyer

KÖCHLER, Hans, Austria, President, International Progress Association

LAFOURCADE, Jean Claude, Professor, France, Commanding officer, Operation Turquoise

LIONDJIO, Philippe, Switzerland, President, Swiss chapter, CLD
 LIGA DEL DRETS DEIS POBLES, Spain, human rights NGO for the African Great Lakes Region
 MARCHAL, Luc, Belgium, Colonel, Commanding Officer, Kigali Sector, United Nations Mission In Rwanda, 1993-94
 MATATA, Joseph, Belgium, Coordinator, Center for the Fight against Impunity and Injustice in Rwanda
 MBEKA, Joseph Salomon, Belgium, human rights activist
 MOLINA, Amparo, Spain, President, Federation of Black Africa Committees
 MUKASINE Florentine, Netherlands, Netherlands Coordinator, Womens International Network for Democracy and Peace
 NDAGIJIMANA, Jean-Marie France, Former Rwanda Foreign Minister
 NDAYISABA, Elysee, Belgium, President, Assistance to Victims of Conflict in Central Africa
 NDJOKO, Bénédicte, Switzerland, teacher, human rights activist
 NKINAMUBANZI, Pierre – Claver, Canada, President, CRC (Rwandan Congress of Canada)
 NYABIRUNGU MWENE SONGA, Raphael, Professor, DRC, Dean, Kinshasa Law Faculty
 NYIRANKUNDWANKIZE, Daphrose, Belgium, Belgium Président, Women’s International Network for Democracy and Peace
 OLIVAR, Joan, Spain, Geographer
 OLIVER GONZALES, Antoni, Spain, Lecturer
 PACHA VINCENTE, Carlos, Spain, Engineer
 PALOU, Sergio, Spain, Economist
 PALOU – LOVERDOS, Jordi, Spain, lawyer for the Rwandese, Spanish and Congolese victims, lawyer,
 International Forum for Truth and Justice in the African Great Lakes Region
 PETERSON, David, USA, Writer and researcher
 PHILPOT, Robin, Canada, publisher and author books on the African Great Lakes region
 PHILPOT, John, Canada, Lawyer
 PLOURDE, Philippe, Canada, Lawyer Legal Assistant for defence team at the ICTR
 PONS, Jordi, Spain, Inshuti association
 PUIG-LOVERDOS, Oscar, Spain, economist
 PUTS, Jean-Paul, Belgium, Surgeon (former Rwanda war and humanitarian surgeon – 1994 – 1996)
 RAFFIN, Madeleine, France, Caritas Gikongoro director (1991 – 1993)
 REID, Timothy B., Canada, former Investigations & Justice Reform Officer UN Human Rights Field Operation in Rwanda & former DDRRR Team Leader for South Kivu – UN Mission in DRC (MONUC)
 REVER, Judi, Canada, Journalist
 ROBARDEY, Michel, Colonel, France, Counselor, Investigation police (1990 – 1993)
 ROMERO ALVAREZ, Jordi – Xavier, Spain, Theologian
 RUTIHUNZA, Théobald, France, President, RIPRODHOR
 SAYO ROURA, Ester, Spain, Member, GEES (Grup d’Empordaneses i Empordanesos per la Solidaritat)
 SBOLGI, Mauro, Belgium, Administrator, S.I.R.E.A.S association
 SOLER ROS, Maria, Spain, Member, GEES (Grup d’Empordaneses i Empordanesos per la Solidaritat)
 TERES BONET, Noria, Spain. Justicia i Pau
 VALLMAJO, Marti, Spain, brother Joaquim Vallmajo killed in Rwanda 04/26/94
 VILA TRIOLA, Spain, Pere
 VILLENA, Rafael, Spain, President of Coordonadora ONG Saladaries, de les comanques gironines I l’Alt

VINCENT, Colonel André, Belgium, commanding officer, Belgium technical military assistance (1991 – 1993)
WEYL, Frédéric, France, Lawyer

The BBC documentary can be viewed on Vimeo here: <https://vimeo.com/107867605>. It can be viewed with French subtitles here: <https://vimeo.com/110709607>.

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