

**Report on the Harassment of the Family and Colleagues of Paul Rusesabagina  
November 2020 – January 2021**

Since early November 2020, Paul Rusesabagina's daughter Carine Kanimba, currently in Brussels, Belgium, has been receiving voice recordings and text messages from "Hamiss Mjinya" who claims to be one of Mr. Rusesabagina's prison guards in Rwanda.

First contacting her via Direct Messages on Twitter (handle: @HMjinya), Mr. Mjinya has also started contacting Ms. Kanimba via WhatsApp and phone, from the number +255 759 779 233. Ms. Kanimba blocked this number, and then started receiving the same messages from phone numbers +255 756 829 781 and +255 746 948 167.

Mr. Mjinya claims that he received Ms. Kanimba's phone number and contact details from Mr. Rusesabagina in prison. This is impossible, given that Mr. Rusesabagina does not have (and has never had) the contact details in question. Ms. Kanimba has never communicated with the prison guard, or responded to his messages. She has recorded all communications, and handed them over to the Belgian Authorities and the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigations.

Relevantly, these messages claim that:

- Mr. Mjinya is one of Mr. Rusesabagina's guards, and spends much time with him. He is a Rwandan soldier, with the grade of Lieutenant-Colonel.
- Mr. Rusesabagina is not imprisoned in Mageragere Prison. When there is media or others who want to see him, he is brought to Mageragere Prison to make it seem like that is where he is detained.
- In reality, Mr. Rusesabagina is detained in a military prison with "Sankara" and "Herman".
- He is not receiving proper medical care or edible food.
- It makes the guards sad that a 66 year old man is all day blindfolded and bound, and fed with unsanitary oil, and salt and sugar even though it is not good for him
- Mr. Rusesabagina's trial will begin on 26 January at the High Court of Nyanza, he has been told to present on that day. He will be sentenced and get life in jail.
- The authorities have already foreseen that Sankara and more than 10 others will accuse Mr. Rusesabagina, and their own sentences will be reduced as a result.
- The only way to avoid Mr. Rusesabagina spending the rest of his life in jail is for him to escape. Mr. Mjinya and his three colleagues (one of whom has the rank of Major) have a plan for his escape, but they need Ms. Kanimba to agree to this plan, and provide money for a vehicle. After his escape Mr. Rusesabagina will be taken to Bujumbura, in Burundi.
- Other prisoners have successfully escaped, such as Hussen Rajabu (Burundian), Ntamuhanga Cassien (Abaryankuna) who was in the prison of Mpanga and he had been sentenced to 25 years in prison, General Mupenzi Jean de la Paix (Butare Prison) who escaped with 3 other people.

The messages also threaten Ms. Kanimba that if she speaks about this in the newspapers or radio, the guards will be imprisoned, and the authorities will note in Mr. Rusesabagina's file that he was trying to escape.

Similar messages from the same prison guard have also been left with two of Mr. Rusesabagina's colleagues, including Mr. Celestin Komeza in Belgium. Neither of them have responded to these messages. These messages corroborate those left with Ms. Kanimba, and state that:

- Mr. Rusesabagina's health is very bad, his head spins have returned and he probably has other illnesses.
- For the escape plan, Mr. Rusesabagina needs clothes, money and petrol for the truck that will break him out, including a GPS system that costs USD 3000.
- Instead of Bujumbura, they will take Mr. Rusesabagina to Igitega, Burundi.

The details of these messages provide corroboration of information already known to the Rusesabagina family, namely that:

- Mr. Rusesabagina is in extremely poor health, and is not receiving his prescribed medication provided by the Belgian Embassy in Kigali to the Rwandan prison authorities;

- Mr. Rusesabagina has experienced dangerous weight loss (approximately 50 pounds) since his kidnap and illegal extradition to Rwanda on 27 August 2020;
- Mr. Rusesabagina suffers daily from extreme headaches and dizziness;
- Mr. Rusesabagina informed his lawyer Maitre Gatera Gashabana on 7 January 2020 that his health has deteriorated to the point that he believes he will die of a stroke.

Mr. Rusesabagina's family and colleagues remain extremely concerned by these messages, particularly given the parallels with other Rwandan political detainees who were shot and killed during alleged attempts to escape from prison (including, for example, David Shukuru Mbuyi and Boniface Twagirimana), or others whose sentences were increased as a result of an alleged prison escape (including for example, Tom Byabagamba).

The frequency and content of these messages constitute harassment of Ms. Kanimba and the other recipients.