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April 21, 1994.

President Clinton  
The White House

Dear Mr. President:

My country and I have suffered grievously since last December when you spoke so many kind words about me at the White House. I am sure that you know that tens of thousands of Rwandans have been summarily executed over the last two weeks, since a plane bearing President Habyarimana was shot down in Kigali, the capital city. These killings have been carried out by the Presidential Guard and by the militia trained by the president's political party and its allies in government. I myself barely escaped from Rwanda with my life, wearing only a single cloth tied around my body.

Although the situation in Rwanda now seems like anarchy, it is only a small group of extremists around the late President Habyarimana who have planned and intensified the massacres. They have been able to cause a catastrophe of this magnitude because they were carefully organized and very well armed, and because they were attacking people who had neither organization nor arms. This slaughter of the defenseless - which continues even today - accompanies but is different from the fighting that has been going on for some years between the mainly Hutu Rwandan army and the RPF, the mostly Tutsi rebel movement. Although most of the victims of the latest massacres are Tutsis, many are children, women and the elderly, who have never taken up arms against the government or joined any opposition movement. Among the 1,150 people killed in a church at Musha, 650 were children, according to the pastor.

The forces of the UN that came to Rwanda to supervise a ceasefire between the government and the RPF (UNAMIR) are protecting thousands of Rwandans from a similar fate. They are guarding 25,000 to 30,000 people in a stadium, a hospital and other sites in Kigali. These people deliberately sought the protection of the UN forces, yet the Security Council of the UN has already withdrawn some soldiers, and is considering withdrawing those troops who remain in Rwanda. To do so would deliver these 25,000-30,000 people into the hands of the killers.

I understand concerns about the safety of the UNAMIR troops. However, there have been no fatalities among them since the first day of the violence, when ten Belgian soldiers were killed while defending the Prime Minister. The RPF has specifically stated that it hopes the UNAMIR will stay and that it would not intentionally fire on them. While attacks by Rwandan army troops can not be excluded, such an attack is only a possibility; this

Box: 97D241 (5 of 8)  
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FILE: PHUM-01 RWANDA/HUMAN RIGHTS JAN-APR 1994

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
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possibility must be weighed against the near certainly that the tens of thousands of Rwandans now in their care will be slaughtered if they leave.

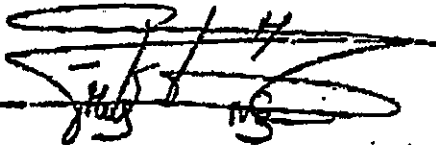
Withdrawal or reduction of UN forces in Rwanda would also seriously weaken any effort by the international community to persuade those who are carrying out these massacres that their strategy for taking power will fail.

The extremists from President Habyarimana's circle know they must depend upon international assistance in the future if they are to survive as a government. All international donors must therefore forcefully and unanimously convince them that any hope for such aid is futile. But these declarations will not be credible if at the same time the UN withdraws or reduces its troops. Such a withdrawal or reduction will only show that the international community is willing to turn its back on these horrendous crimes against humanity and will suggest to the killers that at some time in the future the killers will be accepted into that community.

If the UN lacks the will or the courage to maintain its concrete resistance against these killers, what is to stop them from destroying every single person who has ever opposed them and every single Tutsi in the country. Their campaign is genocide against the Tutsis. The US, like many other countries, has a moral and legal treaty obligation to "suppress and prevent" genocide.

Mr President, I appeal to you to act immediately to ensure a continued and effective peacekeeping force in Rwanda

Sincerely,



Monique Mujawamariya