

Press release

NBA All-Star Game in Toronto : Paul Kagame's possible attendance condemned

Gatineau, February 13, 2016 – Rwanda's President Paul Kagame is expected to attend the NBA All-Star Game in Toronto this week-end. Each year, some of the top players of the NBA take part in that event, but the image of 2016 edition, of the city of Toronto and of Canada will be greatly damaged if Kagame is indeed present.

President Paul Kagame is accused by many people of being responsible for massive crimes against humanity and war crimes. According to professor Filip Reyntjens, a world-renowned expert on central Africa, Paul Kagame is "probably the worst war criminal in office today". The President of Rwanda is among those who most certainly do not deserve to be allowed on Canadian soil and much less to be greeted at a sport event symbolizing the greatest human values.

The Rwandan Congress of Canada hopes that Kagame was not invited to attend the NBA All-Star Game by the organizers of that event. If the rumours about such an invitation were true, it would bring great dishonour to the NBA.

Canadian authorities should also protect the reputation of Canada. Let's not forget that the presence of the New Zealand team at the 1976 Olympic Games in Montreal caused the boycott of the Games by many African countries, who were very upset that New Zealand had sent its rugby team to the country of apartheid.

Let's not forget also that Paul Kagame's henchmen from the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) are the main suspects in the assassination of two Canadian priests in Rwanda. Father Claude Simard was killed with a hammer in 1994 by the RPF, according to an official Canadian UN investigator.

Father Guy Pinard was shot dead in 1997 while he was celebrating mass in his church. Numerous parishioners witnessed the horrific scene and saw the murderer. To this day, both crimes remain unpunished and are clearly linked to Paul Kagame, who should not be allowed to step foot on Canadian soil.

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