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Rwanda - Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on 21 December 2011.

RE: Information on the FDU Inkingi Party?

A report from *Freedom House* published in November 2011 notes:

“The 2010 presidential campaign involved extensive violence and harassment directed against the opposition. The government prevented the United Democratic Forces-Inkingi (FDU-Inkingi) and the Democratic Green Party of Rwanda (DGPR) from fielding candidates by refusing to register them as parties. The FDU-Inkingi's presidential candidate, Victoire Ingabire, and the party's general secretary and treasurer were arrested.” (Freedom House (10 November 2011) *Countries at the Crossroads 2011 - Rwanda*)

Under the heading ‘Civil Liberties’ the report notes:

“FDU-Inkingi president Ingabire and her assistant were attacked in February 2010 as they tried to register their party. [...]”

Despite widespread perceptions of identity-based conflict and discrimination, the political climate makes it nearly impossible for individuals to seek redress for ethnic or other forms of discrimination. Open discussions of ethnicity have been taboo in Rwanda for a decade, and the laws against divisionism and genocide ideology have made it legally risky for individuals to talk about ethnicity. After FDU-Inkingi leader Ingabire spoke in January 2010 about the government's failure to acknowledge Hutu victims of the 1994 genocide, she was denounced by a number of government officials and state-dominated media outlets and ultimately charged with division and genocide ideology.” (ibid)

A report on the Official Website of the *FDU Inkingi Party* notes:

“FDU-Inkingi is shocked by the violent murder of Charles INGABIRE committed last Friday December 1, 2011, at Kampala (Uganda) where he had sought and obtained political asylum. The deceased was a very active journalist at Inyenyeri News, a critical Kinyarwanda and English electronic outlet published on the web.

The circumstances of his death show that he lost his precious life because of his opinions.” (FDU Inkingi Party Website (3 December 2011) Charles Ingabire's death must be investigated and his assassins brought to justice)

The report also notes:

“Last year on July 14th, Prof. Jwani MWAUKUSA a lecturer at the University of Dar-Es-Salaam and defence lawyer at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda was shot in his home. His assassins were never found. A couple of weeks before, former army chief of staff Lt Gen. Kayumba Nyamwasa was shot and seriously wounded by gunmen at his residence in Johannesburg (South Africa). He escaped death but his killers attempted to finish him off in the hospital bed.

FDU-Inkingi strongly asks all Rwandans who have been in a way or another witnesses to these assassinations to come out and help expose the killers and their master minds in the Rwandan government before it's too late for them to testify.

FDU-Inkingi calls upon the Ugandan, the Cameroonian, the Kenyan, the Tanzanian and the South African governments to investigate thoroughly those deaths and find those who ordered and executed the assassinations and bring them to justice.

In as much as the network committing those crimes clearly covers different countries, FDU-Inkingi urges the concerned governments to institute an international commission of inquiry so as to cooperate and exchange information more efficiently in order to end the impunity the killers are enjoying since 1994.

Lastly, FDU-Inkingi calls upon Rwandans from all walks of life to unite their efforts so as to bring to an end the criminal, totalitarian and sectarian regime in Kigali." (ibid)

A report from *Amnesty International* notes:

"Past elections have been marred by intimidation, however this year's vote gives Rwanda the chance to promote rights not repression," said Amnesty International's Africa Programme Deputy Director Tawanda Hondora.

The letter was prompted by a recent attack on two members of United Democratic Forces (Forces Démocratiques Unifiées, FDU-Inkingi) and harassment of the President of the Democratic Green Party of Rwanda (Parti Démocratique Vert du Rwanda, DGPR).

"Amnesty International is concerned that these recent incidents are part of a wider pattern of intimidation and harassment to discourage and discredit opposition groups," said Tawanda Hondora.

On 3 February, Victoire Ingabire, president of the FDU-Inkingi, and her aide Joseph Ntawangundi were attacked in the capital Kigali while collecting documents needed for the party's registration from a government building." (Amnesty International (18 February 2010) *Intimidation of Rwandan opposition parties must end*)

In the Political Program under the heading Purpose, vision, values, principles and objectives of the United Democratic Forces "FDU-INKINGI" the *United Democratic Forces UDF Inkingi* list their Purpose and vision, their values and their main objectives:

"3.1. Purpose and Vision

The purpose is:

Promoting a vision of society where people, through democratic, consensual, and participatory institutions, reconciliation and solidarity with present and future generations, fully assume their individual and collective destiny.

The vision of FDU-Inkingi reads as follows:

Become a credible democratic political movement and known for its ability to fairly administer public affairs, fight against poverty, eradicate social inequalities and all

forms of discrimination, to strengthen sustainable development.” (United Democratic Forces UDF Inkingi (13 June 2009) *POLITICAL PROGRAM*)

Under section 3.3. Main objectives of FDU-INKINGI are listed below and are expanded upon in the document:

- a. “Establishing a multiparty democratic political system.
- b. Creating the conditions for the holding and concluding of a highly inclusive Rwandan dialogue.
- c. Ending impunity and ensuring fair and impartial redress to victims.
- d. Ending discrimination and ensure equal opportunities for all Rwandan citizens.
- e. Repatriating refugees and reintegrating them
- f. Restructuring and revitalizing the national economy
- g. Putting an end to the expansionism and help restore peace and regional security” (ibid)

A report from *Agence France Presse* published in February 2010 states:

“Human Rights Watch (HRW) on Wednesday condemned the harassment of political opposition figures in Rwanda, which holds presidential elections in August.

"Opposition party members are facing increasing threats, attacks, and harassment in advance of Rwanda's August 2010 presidential election," the New York-based rights group said in a statement.

The group urged the government to investigate all such incidents and to "ensure that opposition activists are able to go about their legitimate activities without fear".

"In the past week, members of the FDU-Inkingi and the Democratic Green Party of Rwanda -- new opposition parties critical of government policies -- have suffered serious incidents of intimidation by individuals and institutions close to the government and the ruling Rwandan Patriotic Front," HRW said." (Agence France presse (10 February 2010) *Rights watchdog slams attacks on Rwanda opposition*)

References

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This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Refugee Documentation Centre within time constraints. This response is not and does not purport to be conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum. Please read in full all documents referred to.

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