

National Commission for Human Rights



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PRESS RELEASE ON PROTEST BY CONGOLESE REFUGEES IN KARONGI TOWN AND KIZIBA REFUGEE CAMP

Kigali, March 9, 2018

Pursuant to the Constitution of the Republic of Rwanda of June 2003 as revised in 2015, especially in its Article 42 and which entrust the Commission with the mandate to receive, examine and investigate complaints relating to human rights violations; as well as to monitor the respect of human rights; and Law N° 25/2013 of 19/3/2013, determining missions, organisation and the functioning of the National Commission for Human Rights, especially in its Article 6, regarding protection and monitoring of rights of vulnerable groups, including refugees;

After learning about the protest by Congolese refugees in Karongi town and Kiziba refugee camp, the National Commission for Human Rights initiated the investigations and visited the sites on 23 February 2018;

In its preliminary investigations, the Commission established that among other things, humanitarian and social conditions, including food shortage in the refugee camp led to the protests;

The Commission learnt that after negotiations that were initiated by local authorities failed, the protests turned violent when clashes broke out on Thursday 22 between refugees and the police after the latter were attacked while trying to quell violence at the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees office in Karongi District;

The Commission is saddened by the incident and deplors that the protest caused injuries and death of some protesters as well as injuries on police side.

The Commission is seized on the matter and is still conducting a thorough investigation and will publish a detailed report in due course.

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