



National Commission for Human Rights

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STATEMENT OF THE NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS ON THE DETENTION CONDITIONS OF PAUL RUSESABAGINA

Pursuant to Article 1(4) of Law No 61/2018 of 24/08/2018 modifying Law No 19/2013 of 25/03/2013, which entrusts the National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) with the responsibility to monitor the respect for the rights of detainees, on the 10th of June 2021, the Commission visited Mr. Paul RUSESABAGINA in Nyarugenge Prison, where he is being detained.

The visit aimed at ensuring that Mr. Rusesabagina's right not to be tortured, the right not to be discriminated, the right to health, the right to social welfare, and the right to due process of law are respected.

In that regard, the Commission had discussions with the prison administration, Rusesabagina's co-detainees and privately conducted interviews with Mr. Rusesabagina.

From the above said discussions and interview, the Commission established that:

- Mr. Paul Rusesabagina's right not to be tortured is respected and he has never been subjected to inhuman and/or degrading treatments;
- His right to health is also respected as he can easily access his medical Doctor at any time of need and he is provided with necessary medical care according to his Doctor's prescriptions. In particular, he has received both doses of COVID-19 vaccine and he regularly receives facemasks;
- His right to social welfare is respected too without any discrimination. He is detained in a spacious and clean room with other two detainees whose coexistence he appreciates. The room has enough light, fresh

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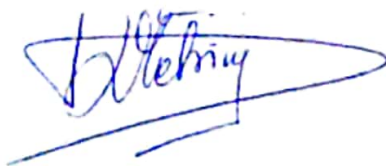
air, proper beddings and a mosquito net. He uses a private washroom that has all adequate sanitary facilities.

- He is provided for by the prison with the same food like other detainees and enough clean drinking water. He is allowed to buy himself special meals from the prison canteen at any time. He has deposited, on his account in prison, the amount of money that he uses to order for anything he wants from the prison canteen.
- He is facilitated to communicate with members of his family;
- He has the access to his case file and he is in contact with his two lawyers whom he can talk to in accordance to the prison's guidelines.

The Commission noticed that all detainees who need special meals get them by their own means. However, Mr. Rusesabagina expressed his wish to get the special meals from the canteen on the expenses of the prison as he used to benefit it during the first months of his detention.

Therefore, the Commission recommends to the Prison authorities to remind all the detainees on the available procedures to be followed regarding the acquisition of special meals in the prison.

Kigali, 11th June 2021



MUKASINE Marie Claire
Chairperson of the National Commission for Human Rights