

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

December 18, 2020

President Paul Kagame
Republic of Rwanda
Urugwiro Village
Kigali, Rwanda

Dear President Kagame,

We are writing to urge you to return Paul Rusesabagina, a U.S. Lawful Permanent Resident and Presidential Medal of Freedom honoree, safely to the United States to be reunited with his family. As Members of the U.S. Congress who have a strong interest in U.S. – Rwandan relations, we believe that releasing Mr. Rusesabagina on humanitarian grounds is both justified and appropriate, since he is a cancer survivor in the midst of the COVID pandemic who suffers from several chronic medical conditions.

Moreover, we write to express our grave concern with the manner in which your government extrajudicially transferred Mr. Rusesabagina from the United Arab Emirates to Rwanda and then immediately placed him in solitary confinement and charged him with multiple crimes, including terrorism. As your government is aware, U.S. deportation law provides a clear, legal procedure to deport persons for various crimes, including engaging in acts of terrorism. The U.S. deportation process complies with due process while enabling the United States to deport those who should face criminal prosecution in another country. In fact, it is our understanding that over the past two decades, the United States has deported four people to Rwanda and will deport four more to Rwanda after they complete their U.S. criminal sentences. Given this record of Rwandans being deported from the United States when the legal standards are met, your government's resort to the extrajudicial transfer of Mr. Rusesabagina demonstrates a disregard for U.S. law and suggests a lack of confidence in the credibility of the evidence against him.

We wish to underscore the breadth of bipartisan support in the U.S. Congress for your government to return Mr. Rusesabagina. Our government is monitoring his condition closely. Because it is in the strong interest of U.S. – Rwandan relations and Rwanda's international reputation, and there are compelling humanitarian grounds for your government to return Mr. Rusesabagina to his family in the United States, we urge you to do so expeditiously.

Sincerely,



JAMES E. RISCH
United States Senator



ROBERT MENENDEZ
United States Senator



JAMES P. MCGOVERN
Member of Congress



CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH
Member of Congress



PATRICK LEAHY
United States Senator




JOHN CORNYN
United States Senator


MARCO RUBIO
United States Senator



KIRSTEN GILLIBRAND
United States Senator


RON WYDEN
United States Senator


SHERROD BROWN
United States Senator

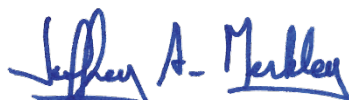

CHRISTOPHER A. COONS
United States Senator


ELIOT L. ENGEL
Member of Congress


CORY A. BOOKER
Member of Congress



DEAN PHILLIPS
Member of Congress



STEVE CHABOT
Member of Congress



JEFFREY A. MERKLEY
United States Senator


BENJAMIN L. CARDIN
United States Senator



SHELDON WHITEHOUSE
United States Senator



SUSAN M. COLLINS
United States Senator



TAMMY DUCKWORTH
United States Senator



CHRIS VAN HOLLEN
Member of Congress


MICHAEL MCCAUL
Member of Congress


KAREN BASS
Member of Congress


TED W. LIEU
Member of Congress


JOAQUIN CASTRO
Member of Congress


JAMIE RASKIN
Member of Congress

STEVE COHEN
Member of Congress

AL GREEN
Member of Congress

GREGORY W. MEEKS
Member of Congress

ANNA G. ESHOO
Member of Congress

RON WRIGHT
Member of Congress

LLOYD DOGGETT
Member of Congress

JOE WILSON
Member of Congress

GREG WALDEN
Member of Congress

WILL HURD
Member of Congress

JAN SCHAKOWSKY
Member of Congress

TED S. YOHO, DVM
Member of Congress