STATEMENT

JOINT STATEMENT BY THE EAC, COMESA, ICGLR, AU AND UN ON THE SITUATION IN BURUNDI ISSUED ON 24 MAY 2015 IN BUJUMBURA

East African Community Headquarters, Arusha, Tanzania: 25 May 2015: The Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary General for the Great Lakes Region, the East African Community (EAC)/Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) Eminent Persons, the High Level Delegation of the African Union (AU) to Burundi and the Executive Secretary of the International Conference on the Great Lake Region (ICGLR) are appalled by the escalation of violence in Burundi that has led to many deaths, injuries and thousands of refugees.

The envoy strongly condemns the despicable grenade attack on 22 May 2015 that killed eight and injured forty people, as well as the assassination of Mr. Zedi Feruzi, a presidential candidate of the Union for Peace and Development (UPD)-Zigamibanga Party and his bodyguard on 23 May 2015.

They extend their deep condolences to the families of the bereaved and wish quick recovery to those injured.

They call on Burundi authorities to swiftly investigate and prosecute the perpetrators of these heinous crimes against civilians and political leaders.

They also call on the Government of Burundi to guarantee the security of all citizens, respect their human rights and exercise restraint at all times and in particular while handling demonstrations.

They further urge civil society, political parties and demonstrators to act responsibly within the law. They appeal for calm and urge all parties to make all efforts to avoid leading the country to a deeper crisis with far-reaching consequences on peace and security in the region.

They recall that the political dialogue involving the Government, political parties, civil society and religious representatives that started on 05 May 2015 continues with a view to ease tensions, restore confidence and create conditions conducive to the holding of free, fair, inclusive and peaceful elections.

They strongly urge all participants to remain fully engaged to the dialogue and act in good faith and wisdom to compliment the efforts of the facilitators.
The Facilitators re-affirm their commitment to work with all parties to prepare the ground for peaceful and credible elections in Burundi in respect of the Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement and the Constitution of the Republic of Burundi.

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