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TONY P. HALL

THIRD DISTRICT, OHIO

CONSTITUENT

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON RULES

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THE HOUSE

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
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July 1, 1994

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The Honorable Warren Christopher
Secretary of State
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I wish to express gratitude and lend my support to your unequivocal labelling yesterday of the Rwandan atrocities as genocide. As you know, I have been concerned for several weeks at the delay in our own government, along with that of other serious members of the United Nations, in labelling the Rwandan genocide for what it is.

While I agree with your allusion to an "international war crimes tribunal" to deal with the perpetrators of genocide, I disagree with your implication that these acts merely "could" call for the creation of such a tribunal. They must result in the establishment of such a tribunal on a fast track basis -- especially since we have delayed so long in realizing any mitigation and deterrent effects which such an accountability for crimes against humanity might offer.

I am also concerned about an assertion you made earlier that the names of those responsible for genocide are not known, or are difficult to identify. When I visited the Benako refugee camp in Tanzania, as part of the recent Presidential Mission to the Greater Horn of Africa, I learned that a substantial list of the perpetrators had been positively identified in that single location.

Let me call upon you to support two urgent actions in this regard:

First, insist that the UN Human Rights Commission, with the personal engagement of our new UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, fast-track its investigations and identify by name the prime perpetrators of the Rwandan atrocities, from whatever faction. These names need then to be broadcast into Rwanda and Burundi as suspects being charged before an international tribunal with crimes against humanity. Second, please exercise your leadership and that of this Administration to achieve the early (within a month) establishment of this international tribunal.

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Any further delay clearly increases the burden of guilt on our account. Despite all the horrible killings, there are still people left in Rwanda and Burundi who can be saved if we act now.

Sincerely,

Tony P. Hall
Tony P. Hall
Member of Congress

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