



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE New York City — September 23, 2025

Banyamulenge/Tutsi Delegation Denied Entry to UNGA Side Event on DRC Conflict

A delegation representing the Banyamulenge/Tutsi community in the United States was unjustly denied entry to a high-level conference held on the sidelines of the 80th Session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York City. The event, titled *“Thirty Years of Armed Conflict in the D.R.C: A Call for Recognition of Forgotten or Ignored Genocides, for Truth and Justice,”* was hosted by the government of the Democratic Republic of Congo through its Permanent Mission to the UN.

Despite having valid registration and formal confirmation, members of MAHORO PEACE ASSOCIATION, led by President **DOUGLAS KABUNDA** and ISÔKO_USA, represented by Vice-President **SAFARI KAGIRANEZA**, were unjustly refused entry on the morning of September 22nd, 2025, at 10:30 am US Eastern Time.

Delegates were told, disturbingly, that their **names did not sound Congolese**, their **facial features did not appear Congolese**, and that they were **Rwandan, not Congolese**, a blatant act of ethnic profiling and discrimination.

In August 1991, the similar painful legacy happened to Tutsi and Banyamulenge delegates elders—including Mgr. Patient Kanyamacumbi and Joseph Mutambo, who were barred from participating in the National Sovereign Conference (CNS) in Kinshasa based solely on their ethnicity.

This incident reflects the DRC regime’s ongoing efforts to suppress truth and silence voices that speak out against the systemic persecution of the Banyamulenge/Tutsi and Hema people. We remain committed to amplifying the stories of our mothers, children, and families who have endured decades of violence, displacement, and marginalization.

We strongly condemn this act of exclusion and call for immediate international attention to the human rights abuses targeting the Banyamulenge/Tutsi and Hema communities in the DRC.

We urge global leaders and human rights organizations to recognize and respond to the ongoing genocide perpetrated by the Wazalendo militia, reportedly armed and supported by the Kinshasa government.

We also call upon the United Nations, humanitarian organizations, and international donors to urgently intervene in **Minembwe, Mikenke, and surrounding areas**, which are currently under siege by the DRC government and its allies the **Wazalendo militia, FDLR, and the Burundian Army (FDNB)**.

Today, thousands of Banyamulenge civilians are trapped in these areas facing starvation, displacement, and targeted violence. Immediate humanitarian aid is needed to provide food, medical care, shelter, and protection to the vulnerable populations in these regions.

Contact Information:

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