



## Inkingi Forces Démocratiques Unifiées United Democratic Forces

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**Kigali - Rwanda**

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*"Pour un Etat de Droit, la Democratie et l'Egalité de chances"; "For the rule of law, democracy and equal opportunity"*

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### **INGABIRE TRIAL: THE GOVERNMENT HAS ADOPTED A SNAIL STRATEGY HOPING TO DIVERT NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ATTENTION.**

**Kigali 13 September 2011**

Since the opening of this politically motivated trial, Paul Kagame's government has adopted a snail strategy in order to divert national and international attention and hoping that the defense will end up in exhaustion. After the prosecutor failed the adjournment, he did not allow the key defendant Madame Victoire Ingabire, FDU-Inkingi chair, to pronounce any single word and instead he has been endlessly repeating the indictments.

The strategic low speed has nothing to do with the volume of the file. For example today on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of the trial, the Prosecutor has been reading again a dozen of documents supposedly from the inbox of the collaborating key witnesses Vital Uwumuremyi and Tharcisse Nditurande who pretend that those emails copies from an unknown sender are overwhelming proof of the funding of terrorist acts. In total, the allegations concern a total amount of 11, 000 US dollars sent between 2008 and 2010 by different people to different recipients. Though the accuracy of those emails and locally completed western union forms is not established, the link between the names of different people involved and Madame Victoire Ingabire is not established beyond any doubt. The real substance of the much touted lengthy and meticulous investigation is not visible. It's only mere statements volunteered by some defeated prisoners who happened to belong to the FDLR and who are now serving the victor's justice.

It's clear that the government is buying time, expecting that the British barrister Iain Edwards who started the case will not stay indefinitely in Kigali and that he will need to return and take care of other national and international Court cases that need his attention. From the start, many European countries and international human rights organisations have been following the debates on a day-to-day basis. This has been a serious challenge to the prosecutor's evidential content.

The same time, President Paul Kagame and the Foreign affairs Minister Louise Mushikiwabo continue to insert themselves in the case claiming that there is overwhelming evidence. For example on 11 September in Paris, echoing her president, the foreign minister told Radio France International: "Ingabire has committed extremely serious crimes. She is in court now, to defend her rights. If she is innocent, the court will tell. Let the future show the truth". Why they did not let her free of her movements and leave the judicial continue its course? This is just intimidation because they know

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that a judge who will engage the president of Rwanda or contradict him inside the country will put his career at risk. Should they respect or believe in their own judicial system, they would let it do its business with no interferences.

The trial is scheduled to continue everyday from 08 to 13:00.

FDU-Inkingi  
Boniface Twagirimana  
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