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COMITE DIRECTEUR – STEERING COMMITTEE

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

**THE LIFE SYLVAIN SIBOMANA FDU-INKINGI SECRETARY GENERAL AT RISK OF SIGNIFICANT HARM
AS RWANDAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS DISMISS MEDICAL ADVICE**

Since 5th August 2015 Rwandan prison officials have refused Sylvain Sibomana, FDU-Inkingi Secretary General, to get access to food recommended by medical Doctors because of his health condition. Members of the family including his wife and children are devastated, fearing the worst could happen to him. The medical recommendation no 1003/08/2014 signed by a government recognised Doctor, was rejected by GASABO prison officials. Our Party FDU-Inkingi is very concerned that the suspension of appropriate food provision to Sylvain could be part of a strategy to get rid of Sylvain Sibomana slowly without firing a shot. He is serving an 8 year jail sentence for daring to exercise his political rights in a Police State.

In September 2012, Mr. Sibomana, Secretary General of the FDU-Inkingi was arrested in a bar in Rutsiro district while he was having a drink with friends and chatting about his party FDU-Inkingi. He was charged with *"inciting insurrection against the government among the population"* and [sentenced to six years imprisonment](#). We may recall here that that it is a crime to criticise government policy for it is considered as inciting the public to hate the government and therefore inciting them to reject it.

On the 25th of March 2013 Sylvain Sibomana was arrested beaten up till he was rushed to hospital because he had dared ask a Police officer guarding the High Court premises why the Police was barring him and a colleague to proceed to the public gallery of Court to follow the trial of Mrs Victoire Ingabire Umuhoza. They were charged for contempt of public officials, and inciting insurrection and causing trouble amongst the population.

He is now serving an 8 year jail sentence more than enough time to get rid of him, if the refusal for him to get the right food is maintained.

We are appealing to governments, human rights organisations and all people of goodwill to help save this life by putting pressure on the Rwandan government to allow Sylvain Sibomana to enjoy the most fundamental right: right to life and physical integrity.

London September 8, 2015.

Justin Bahunga

Commission for External Relations and Spokesperson FDU-Inkingi

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