

P R E S S R E L E A S E

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DECLARATION ON THE EVENTS IN KIBEHO
MADE BY THE PRESIDENCY ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

The European Union utterly condemns the violence which led to several thousand civilian deaths in the Kibeho camp during Rwandan army operations to close down the camp on 22 April. The Union urges the Rwandan authorities to launch an inquiry without delay in order to identify those responsible for the massacre and to take all the necessary sanctions speedily.

Events of this gravity can only make it more difficult for refugees and displaced persons to return, this being an essential pre-requisite for national reconciliation and a lasting solution to the Rwandan problem.

The European Union would point out that its development aid for Rwanda is conditional on respect for Human Rights and progress towards national reconciliation.

It emphasizes that international aid to the local population must be allowed to proceed unhindered. It therefore calls on the Rwandan authorities to make it easier for the international and non-governmental organizations to carry out their task of relieving suffering.