



Permanent Mission of Rwanda
Geneva

GE/ 190 /16/2018

Geneva, 31 August 2018

Mr David Kaye,
Special Rapporteur on the Promotion and Protection of the Right to Freedom of Opinion and Expression

Dear Mr. Kaye,

I refer to your letter dated 30th May 2018 on the alleged detention of Journalist Robert (Bob) Mugabe for the purposes of preventing him from attending the 2017 Internet Governance Forum in Geneva and in which you further raised allegations of intimidation, criminal investigation and attacks against Robert Mugabe (Bob) made in a separate communication dated 18 January 2017. I would like to provide the following clarifications:

1. The allegations concerning the circumstances around the detention of Mr. Robert Mugabe communications are entirely false and unfounded. There is no link whatsoever between Mr. Mugabe's alleged activities with the United Nations, the Human Rights Council or any of its mechanisms and his detention.
2. Rwanda's legislation and law enforcement measures are in full conformity with our international law obligations and are applied equally to all individuals and groups. The Government of Rwanda would wish to reiterate that the right to freedom of opinion and expression is provided for by the Constitution and guaranteed by the State.
3. Any restrictions to the right are provided for by the law and are in line with international human rights law standards. In addition, Rwanda has strong and capable institutions to ensure that effective remedy is provided in case of any violation of human rights including the right to freedom of opinion and expression. Mr. Mugabe, like any other individual, journalist or human rights defender, enjoys his or her full rights

to freedom of opinion and of expression and the remedies provided by law.

4. The Government of Rwanda does not consider the United Nations and its mechanisms on human rights to be a threat to Rwanda. Rwanda cooperates with and supports the UN and its mechanisms on human rights in promoting and protecting human rights in Rwanda and around the world. Rwanda has no interest in scrutinizing the conduct of its citizens based on their cooperation or work with any United Nations mechanism.

Yours sincerely,



Moses RUGEMA
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.