



SFOP: Background sheet (press)

In one sentence

Stand For Our Parents (SFOP) brings together the families of persons acquitted or released and the detained by the ICTR/IRMCT and calls, ahead of the UN decisions in June 2026, for their relatives not to be transferred to Rwanda and for a durable, dignified solution to be found — the association being open to any option other than transfer to Rwanda —, including a concrete solution without delay for the acquitted persons held in Niger.

Background

The UN ad hoc tribunal tried the cases within its jurisdiction, its Residual Mechanism (**IRMCT**), now carries out the remaining functions (enforcement of sentences, archives, monitoring). As the Mandate of IRMCT is expected to end this year, the future of the detained and acquitted persons under UN protection arises — This situation raises in particular the responsibility of the UN, as guarantor of the international justice and the coherence of its actions to maintain peace and justice around world.

Who is in danger, and why

The persons concerned face a real danger in the case the UN tries to shirk its responsibility, our parents are in imminent danger---- in the case they are transferred to Rwanda.

- **In Niger** — persons acquitted by international justice have been confined in a safe house in Niamey since December 2021, with no legal status or freedom of movement. This situation has already cost lives: Three members of the group have died while waiting for a solution. The Mechanism's financial support is due to end on 31 December 2026 (IRMCT judge's decision, November 2025). The June 2026 Security Council session is the last realistic opportunity to act. Under Resolution 2740 (2024), paragraph 7, their objections to transfer to Rwanda must be taken into account ; they have formally and categorically opposed.
- **In Benin and Senegal** — 23 persons awaiting completion of the sentences would be in danger if transferred to Rwanda. Average age: 71; oldest: 87. Several have been detained for more than 25 years and are in deteriorating health. They have formally expressed in writing their refusal of such a transfer, to the President of the Security Council (6 April 2026, Benin; 26 November 2025, Senegal), the IRMCT President (20 April 2026) and the UN Secretary-General.

Why transfer to Rwanda places them in danger:

- transferring the persons to a country where they would risk treatment contrary to their fundamental rights breaches the principle of non-refoulement;
- The oppression of persons held in Rwanda is documented; to the point that Supreme courts in Europe have refused transfers to that country;
- deaths in custody of critics, or persons perceived as such, have been reported, including very recently and on the very day of a scheduled release (Aimable Karasira, May 2026; HRW, CPJ and Media Defence call for an independent investigation)



STAND FOR OUR PARENTS

ASSOCIATION

- Rwandan repression is described as transnational: it can reach relatives even abroad, including families settled in Europe, many of whom hold recognised international protection.

What SFOP calls for

- no transfer to Rwanda, under any circumstances;
- a durable, dignified solution — the association is open to any lawful option other than Rwanda (remaining in host States, a third State, etc.);
- for Niger, a concrete solution without delay: The UN continuing responsibility must be called upon, and whatever the case, the funding issue cannot justify the UN abdication of responsibility, even to the point of abandoning people without legal statute and without any protection.

Verifiable elements (a journalist can cross-check)

- **Niger judicial decision** — IRMCT Single Judge Decision, MICT-22-124, 21 November 2025 (public document): orders financial support to end 31 December 2026; confirms no relocation State found. Three members of the group have since died.
- **Press** — Reporters Without Borders ranks Rwanda 139th of 180 (2026 Index), in the “very serious” category; among the worst jailers of journalists in sub-Saharan Africa per CPJ.
- **Death in custody** — the academic Aimable Karasira died in custody in May 2026, on the day of his scheduled release; HRW, CPJ and Media Defence call for an independent investigation (the authorities cite an overdose).
- **Repression** — Freedom House ranks Rwanda among the leading perpetrators of transnational repression; Forbidden Stories’ “Rwanda Classified” (2024) brought together some fifty journalists.
- **Justice & monitoring** — the UK Supreme Court (2023) and the Dutch Supreme Court (June 2023) refused transfers to Rwanda; an independent monitoring report (ICJ Kenya) records a monitor being denied access.

FAQ

Is SFOP against justice? No. Its relatives were tried, convicted or acquitted by an international court; the association is advocating for the international justice decisions to be respected.

Why not personalise the debate? SFOP focus on issues of law and dignity, within the diplomatic framework, and to the verifiable facts.

What does SFOP ask from a journalist? To make the situation known ahead of UN SC Resolution of June 2026 The spokesperson is available for interview: contact@standforourparents.org · www.standforourparents.org

Press contact

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The following documents are available on request: (i) SFOP open letter to the UN Secretary-General, 8 May 2026; (ii) Open letter from international defence counsel to the UN Security Council, 26 May 2026 (signed by ten lawyers representing ICTR/IRMCT detainees, opposing transfer and calling for a lawful alternative); (iii) Legal Memorandum on the risks to detainees transferred to Rwandan custody, 27 May 2026 (35 pages, public version). All documents are available at www.standforourparents.org or on request from the press contact.