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## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4607

September 3, 2020

The Honorable Michael Pompeo  
Secretary of State  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street NW  
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I write to share my concerns regarding the arrest of Paul Rusesabagina earlier this week by the Government of Rwanda. As you know, Mr. Rusesabagina is a lawful permanent resident of the United States who has been internationally recognized for helping to save over 1,200 lives during the 1994 Rwandan genocide. Mr. Rusesabagina is a recipient of both the Presidential Medal of Freedom and the Lantos Foundation for Human Rights and Justice's annual award for achievement in international human rights.

While the circumstances surrounding the arrest are currently unclear, what is certain is the Government of Rwanda's mistreatment of its political opponents, like Mr. Rusesabagina. Rwanda has been frequently cited by the Department of State, Human Rights Watch, and other human rights organizations for arbitrary detention, torture, repression of political opponents, and unexplained deaths of individuals held in custody.

I ask that the Department of State communicate to the Government of Rwanda that the safety of Mr. Rusesabagina must be guaranteed while he is in custody. The United States should also insist that any charges brought forward against Mr. Rusesabagina be presented in an open and transparent manner and any trial be conducted fairly. Rwanda's treatment of Mr. Rusesabagina will be a measure of its own commitment to justice, the rule of law, and the democratic principles the country has sought to emulate since the 1994 genocide.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Tim Kaine