



U.S. DEPARTMENT of STATE

Press Statement

Tom Casey, Deputy Spokesman

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U.S. Supports Return Peace Negotiations in Burundi and the Return of FNL Chairman Agathon Rwasa

The United States welcomes the agreement signed May 26 between the Government of Burundi and the Palipehutu-FNL pledging an immediate cessation of hostilities. We commend their commitment to implementing the provisions of the cease-fire agreement and pursuing a final and lasting peace, and stand ready to assist in the continuing efforts to secure a lasting peace in the Great Lakes Region.

We are encouraged by the return of Palipehutu-FNL chairman Agathon Rwasa to Burundi. We urge the leadership of the Government of Burundi and the Palipehutu-FNL to take full advantage of this opportunity to quickly conclude a comprehensive peace agreement and peaceful democratic resolution of all differences, for the benefit of the Burundian people.

We commend the African Regional Initiative, the South African Facilitation team and the Political Directorate for their work to promote the negotiation process, and reiterate our continued support for these and other existing processes working to bring stability to Burundi and the region.

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