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**International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda  
Tribunal Pénal International pour le Rwanda**

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**The President  
Le Président**

8 July 2013  
ICTR/PRES/07/SG/13

Dear Mr. Secretary-General,

I refer to my letter dated 15 March 2013 in which I informed your Excellency, in accordance with Rule 16 of the ICTR Rules of Procedure and Evidence, of the resignation of Judge Andréia Vaz of Senegal with effect from 31 May 2013.

Judge Vaz's term of office as a permanent judge of the ICTR was due to expire on 31 December 2014 or upon completion of the cases to which she was assigned, if sooner, in accordance with Security Council Resolution 2080 (2012). As I recently explained to the Security Council Informal Working Group for International Tribunals, Judge Vaz sat on the benches of ten ICTR and ICTY appeals, and accordingly her departure constitutes a significant loss to the Appeals Chamber.

I would therefore be most grateful if your Excellency could take the appropriate action under Article 12 *bis* of the ICTR Statute for the appointment of a replacement judge to serve the remainder of the term of office of Judge Vaz so that the work of the Tribunal is not delayed by her resignation.

Finally, as you will appreciate, given the late stage in the life of the tribunals, it is of great importance to have a candidate who could be of immediate value in moving the work of the Appeals Chambers towards completion. Accordingly, I would request that your Excellency, when appointing a replacement for Judge Vaz, take into account that the tribunals would be best served by a judge who possesses not only the appropriate qualifications and experience but also, specifically, a deep knowledge of the jurisprudence of the ICTR and ICTY.

Please be assured, Mr. Secretary-General, of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

*Vagn Joensen*

Judge Vagn Joensen  
President

cc: Ms. Patricia O'Brien, Under Secretary-General for Legal Affairs, The Legal Counsel

H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon  
Secretary-General  
United Nations  
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