



NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR DEMOCRACY IN RWANDA (NCDR)

Press Release – Official Launch

Washington DC | May 29, 2026

The National Council for Democracy in Rwanda (NCDR) officially announces its launch, following a consultative process that brought together more than thirty Rwandan opposition political parties and civil society organizations, united around a shared vision: to advance a democratic, republican, united, and reconciled Rwanda.

This process was formally consolidated through the adoption, on March 15, 2026, of a founding declaration, which constitutes the political, normative, and strategic framework of the NCDR. This declaration sets out the guiding principles of collective action, grounded in the universal values of democracy, equality, non-discrimination, political pluralism, separation of powers, the rule of law, and full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The NCDR's initiative is rooted in a rigorous assessment of Rwanda's political reality, characterized by prolonged concentration of power, continued restriction of political and civic space, and the absence of genuine democratic competition. The repression of political actors and civil society, violations of fundamental freedoms, enforced disappearances, and restrictions on independent media point to a deeply concerning erosion of the rule of law.

Beyond national borders, these dynamics contribute to persistent instability in the Great Lakes region, particularly in Eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, and exacerbate ongoing humanitarian and security crises.

In response to these challenges, the NCDR positions itself as a credible, structured, and responsible political alternative to the current system, bringing together a unified coalition committed to democratic change. It promotes a vision based on inclusive governance, independent justice, meaningful citizen participation, and sustainable national reconciliation.

The NCDR affirms that the establishment of a peaceful, inclusive, and structured democratic transition is an urgent necessity.

NCDR Key Demands

In this regard, the NCDR calls for:

- The immediate and unconditional release of all political prisoners;
- The effective opening of political space, ensuring full political pluralism and participation;
- The full respect of fundamental freedoms, including freedom of expression, opinion, association, and the press;
- The establishment of independent, credible, and transparent investigations into enforced disappearances and serious human rights violations, along with accountability and justice mechanisms;

- The effective protection of Rwandan refugees, full respect for their rights, and an end to any form of intimidation, persecution, or threats against them;
- The protection and rights of former Rwandan detainees of the ICTR, particularly those who have completed their sentences, including their right to live in safety and reunite with their families with dignity;
- The withdrawal of the Rwanda Defence Forces (RDF) from the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo;
- The cessation of all support to armed groups operating in the DRC, Burundi, and across the region;
- A verifiable commitment to peace, security, and stability in the Great Lakes region.

The NCDR calls upon the international community to adopt a principled and consistent approach by conditioning partnerships and cooperation on measurable progress in democratic governance, human rights, and the rule of law.

The NCDR stands ready to engage constructively with national, regional, and international partners in advancing a future grounded in human dignity, justice, democracy, and lasting peace.

All united for our people.

Chris Coleman

Rev. Christine COLEMAN
Spokesperson
Email : ncdr@tutamail.com