



Friends of Victoire

# Creation of FoV

- ❖ **Founded : 1<sup>st</sup> February 2014**
- ❖ 16 founding members met in Leeds, Yorkshire, UK and signed the creation of the organisation and elected provisional committee members.
- ❖ There had been two earlier consultation meetings prior to the creation of the Organisation.



# Friends of Victoire Philosophy

Friends of Victoire recognise Victoire Ingabire as:

- ✓ Members of Friends of Victoire share the belief that prisoner Victoire Ingabire is innocent and victim of injustice and must be released.
- ✓ The Female Mandela, the icon for the struggle of freedom and democracy – a woman of exceptional courage.
- ✓ Friends of Victoire aspire to become an effective platform for those who share the same belief and values about Victoire Ingabire's struggle.

Friends of Victoire are inspired by Victoire Ingabire's non-violence approach



# Friends of Victoire as a movement:



- ❖ No political party's affiliation

Friends of Victoire is independent, not in competition, not an extension, not in opposition to any political party.

- ❖ An international movement beyond the Rwandan community

FoV aims to be a platform where any one, regardless of nationality, age, race or other background, can join to further the organisation's aim.

- ❖ A membership association and a grassroots movement

FoV depends on voluntary participations and contributions of members who give their time and talents to support the organisation.

- ❖ Youth-oriented and Women-friendly association



*“Joining Friends of Victoire was the best way to show my gratitude to her, for sacrificing all the comfort she had just to speak for me”*

# Victoire Ingabire — 17th Jan 2010

*“I am a girl who is going back home, I am going to work together with others to eradicate a culture of fear, a yoke of threat, oppression, discrimination, and a yoke of injustice that has befallen Rwandans from all regions.”*



The day Victoire set a foot back in Rwanda she became a hero.

*“If we don't understand that this woman is hope for Africa, if we don't understand that we as a people, as Congolese, Rwandans, Ugandans, we should support this woman and ask to set her free, is that we don't understand the essence of the heart of Africa that beats in that woman's body.”*

*“The day Victoire set a foot back in Rwanda she became a hero and we should celebrate our African heroes when they are still alive. FREE VICTOIRE #INGABIRE!”*

*By BK KUMBI, Swiss Congolese Historian, Author and Activist.*

*(Facebook, 14<sup>th</sup> December 2013)*

# Friends of Victoire Strategy:

- To be an international solidarity movement.
- Aims to attract support from Volunteers, Students, Youth, Women, partner organisations and civil society to campaign for the release of Victoire and other prisoners of conscience.
- Victoire Ingabire's case to be the symbol that represents other prisoners of conscience and all victims of injustice in Rwanda.



# Friends of Victoire Today

- ❖ UK Membership

Members in many cities: Leeds, Bradford, Huddersfield, Manchester, London, Norwich, Cardiff

- ❖ International presence

UK, Canada, Norway, Belgium, France, Netherlands, Malawi, Rwanda

- ❖ Campaigns and Fundraising

Mugs, T-Shirts, Leaflets, Online campaigns

- ❖ Friends of Victoire Events

Meetings, Networking Events, Family Picnics, Online Conferences.





# Join Friends of Victoire

Become a member of Friends of Victoire and volunteer your time supporting a host of projects aimed at campaigning for the release of Victoire Ingabire Umuhoza and other prisoners of conscience:

Email us: [info@friendsofvictoire.org](mailto:info@friendsofvictoire.org)

Visit: [www.FriendsofVictoire.org](http://www.FriendsofVictoire.org)

Call us on : + 44 79 383 80 383

