

Rwanda -

**TITLE 16/06/2000 - LAW N° 09/2000 OF 16/06/2000 ON THE ESTABLISHMENT, GENERAL ORGANISATION AND JURISDICTION OF THE NATIONAL POLICE**

(O.G. Special n° of 29/06/2000)

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**Title 5. USE OF FORCE AND FIRE ARMS**

**Article: 40**

In carrying out police duties, any police officer may use force in pursuance of a lawful objective that cannot otherwise be achieved. The use of force must be reasonable and not excessive relative to the objective being sought.

The use of force shall be preceded by warning unless the warning defeats the objectives of the police.

**Article: 41**

1° A Police officer may in case necessity use a firearm in the course of his duties: (i) in self-defence or defence of other persons being subjected to violence or assault ;

(ii) in case of failure to defend by all other possible means of property under their protection or their position of deployment. (iii) In apprehending clearly dangerous or mad persons.

2° Where police officers must disperse assemblies or suppress riots, firearms shall not be employed before other methods of persuasion have been tried, and wherever possible, before they are employed, appropriate administrative authority shall issue a warning in a language understood by the assembled persons. The warning shall call upon the assembled persons to disperse and clearly warn them that firearms will be used. If civil authorities cannot issue the warning, the most senior police officer shall do so. Under no circumstances shall the police employ use of fire arms without prior authorization by authorities vested with the powers.

3° However, officers of the National Police may use firearms without a requisition of the aforesaid authorities, where the persons forming the assembly or rioting commit acts of violence the purpose of which is murder, devastation or pillaging, or engage in destroying public buildings.

**Article: 42**

In all cases the Police shall do its utmost to perform its duties and functions without recourse to use of firearms. Before using firearms, Police shall wherever possible use the following equipment:

- (i) water spray ;
- (ii) batons ;
- (iii) tear gas canisters ;
- (iv) rubber bullets or any other relevant devices used in controlling riots