

State Owned Media Sources

ORINFOR website (Rwanda Bureau of Information and Broadcasting)—3 May 2011: FDLR leaders to appear in court tomorrow

- The trial of former FDLR leaders Ignance Murwanashyaka and Straton Musoni is set to begin on 4 May, in Stuttgart, Germany.
- The former president and vice president of the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR), Murwanashyaka and Musoni are charged with belonging to a terrorist group, 26 counts of crimes against humanity and 39 counts of war crimes allegedly committed by the troops under their command. The crimes were allegedly committed during the period between January 2008 and November 2009 in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.
- Both men were arrested in Germany in November 2009, where they had been residing for several years. The trial will be carried out by German judges under the German Code of Crimes Against International Law (CCAIL). German law allows the prosecution of foreigners for crimes committed against humanity and war crimes committed elsewhere.
- Despite their absence from the country during the period the crimes were allegedly committed, both men are known to have, at the time, been in close communication with the FDLR militia, ordering the latter's operations from abroad.
- Since the arrests of Murwanashyaka and Musoni, Callixte Mbarushimana had taken up the position of FDLR leader, until his arrest in Paris last October.

*ORINFOR is Rwanda's state owned media house; they produce Radio Rwanda, Rwanda Television, and two national newspapers (Imvaho Nshya and La Nouvelle Releve).

Privately Owned Media Sources

The New Times website—6 May 2011: Journalists Accuse RSF of Prejudice

- Rwandan journalists have strongly condemned the most recent publication by the Paris-based *Reporters Without Borders* (RSF), which ranks Rwanda as the 9th worst country for press freedom in the world.
- The 2010 Freedom Index places Rwanda 169th out of 178 countries, eight places below Somalia.
- Many Rwandan journalists, however, have denounced the results, arguing that the methodology used by the media freedom watchdog is unfair and inaccurate. According to Faith Mbabazi, acting director of Radio Rwanda, "it is failing to distinguish between self-censorship or press predation. They mix up press freedoms with the assumed absence of political freedom in Rwanda and they automatically come up with the view that there are no press freedoms in Rwanda—which I think is not good."
- Among the claims against the RSF report is that it fails to use tangible evidence to support its findings, as well as the lack of RSF investigation "on the ground". According to Hamza Ndagiza, political reporter with Contact FM, "they don't look at the context of Rwanda considering the role the media played in the Genocide." He went on to state that he has covered controversial issues in the past and has never encountered any intimidation or torture.

Rwanda News Agency (RNA)—5 May 2011: Tension rises between Kagame and Alain Juppe (translated from French)

- Tensions have been rising between French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe and Rwandan President Paul Kagame, a feud centering around a 2008 report on the 1994 Genocide in Rwanda.
- On 4 May 2011, Juppe denounced the report as containing nothing but “lies and inventions” about France’s role in the Genocide, during which time he held the position of Foreign Minister in the French National Assembly.
- President Kagame had declared in the weekly publication, *Jeune Afrique*, that Rwandans were “insulted” by Juppe’s return to politics, and that the latter was no longer welcome in Rwanda.

AFP (French news agency)—4 May 2011: France angered by Rwandan leader’s slighting of its foreign minister

- France has expressed its anger toward Rwanda after Paul Kagame criticized its Foreign Minister, Alain Juppe, after the latter strongly condemned a 2008 report about France’s involvement in the 1994 Genocide.
- According to Juppe, “Mr. Kagame said I was not welcome in Rwanda. I told him I had no intention of going there as long as [that] report was in circulation.”
- The report portrays then-President Francois Mitterand and other French officials as having “taken part” in the 1994 Genocide, and was a response to the judicial examination conducted in France. Kigali has accused France on more than one occasion of “complicity” with those responsible for genocide, saying they enjoyed a degree of protection from the French “Turquoise” troops.