



RWANDA DOMESTIC MEDIA MONITOR REPORT FOR THE WEEK OF: **AUGUST 16TH-29TH, 2011**



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<http://migs.concordia.ca/Rwandaradioandnewssummaries.htm>

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A. REFUGEE AID CRISIS WORSENING IN RWANDA

Rwanda News Agency (RNA)—24 August: WFP plans to halve food aid to Congolese refugees in Rwanda (privately-owned source)

The World Food Program (WFP) has announced it will halve its food aid to Congolese seeking refuge in Rwanda as of September 1 due to lack of finances. The agency said reduced nutritional support to refugee camps will lead to increasing malnutrition rates among the refugee population, affecting in particular children, pregnant women, and nursing mothers. The WFP is calling on international actors to come to the rescue with donations to the tune of USD\$3.8 million.

**original article in French entitled, "Le PAM va réduire de moitié son aide alimentaire aux réfugiés congolais"*

The New Times website—16 August: Food crisis continues at Kiziba refugee camp (privately-owned, pro-government source)

Congolese refugees in the Kiziba camp in Rwanda's Karongi district are battling a severe food shortage that has lasted over a month. According to the camp's refugees' representative, Joseph Nkurikiyinka, the only foodstuffs available during the last month have been beans and cooking oil. Camp director Gozague Karagire announced that measures are being taken to alleviate the situation, which he says was a result of a poor agricultural season.

Kiziba refugee camp is home to 18,000 Congolese refugees displaced due to the insurgency in the neighboring DRC.

The New Times website—26 August: WFP appeals for support to feed refugees (privately-owned, pro-government source)

The United Nations Food Program (WFP) is calling for urgent intervention by donors to help ease what it calls a looming food crisis in the three main Congolese refugee camps in Rwanda. Combined, the camps—located in the Karongi, Gicumbi and Gatsibo districts—house approximately 54,000 refugees. The appeal follows the agency's announcement that, due to a shortage of funds, it will be forced to cut food rations to refugees if there is no additional aid from donors. According to WFP Country Director, Abdoulaye Balde,

the WFP “currently [does] not have sufficient funds to provide the full recommended daily allowance of 2,100 kilocalories to more than 54,000 Congolese refugees in Rwanda.” The commodities that will see the largest cut will be what is known as “super cereal”, a blend of maize, soy, and micronutrients designed for HIV patients and malnourished children.

The WFP estimates that it requires donor aid in the amount of 2,250 metric tones of assorted commodities, valued at USD\$3.8 million, to feed the refugees until the end of 2011. The deadline for donor contributions is September 1st, after which point the WFP will reduce rations by half.

B. OPPOSITION MOBILIZING AGAINST UPCOMING PM VISIT TO FRANCE

RFI (Radio France Internationale)—18 August 2011: Opposition to protest at Kagame’s visit to France (state-owned, France-based news source)

Despite improving relations between the governments in Paris and Kigali, other non-state actors have publicly condemned President Paul Kagame’s upcoming visit to France’s capital. Two exiled Rwandan opposition parties—the United Democratic Forces (UDF) and the Rwanda National Congress (RNC)—say they will demonstrate against Kagame’s visit on September 12-13th, and hope to mobilize exiles in France and Belgium to join them. The two parties—neither of which is recognized as legitimate by the Rwandan government—hope to convince entrepreneurs not to do business in Kagame-ruled Rwanda, alleging that the President sent death squads to hunt down opponents abroad.

The UDF is led by Victoire Ingabire, currently in prison in Rwanda on terrorism charges, while the RNC is composed of former Kagame allies, including former Chief of Staff Faustin Kayumba Nyamwasa, who escaped an assassination attempt in South Africa last year.

French-Rwandan relations have suffered since the 1994 Genocide, when Kagame’s RPF party accused France—fingering then-Foreign Affairs Minister Alain Juppe in particular—of complicity with the regime of Juvenla Habyaramina. In 2010 President Nicolas Sarkozy visited Rwanda in 2010, where he admitted that France had suffered from a “form of blindness” over the “genocidal dimension” of the Habyaramina regime.

C. GENOCIDE FUGITIVES/TRIALS UPDATE

The New Times website—23 August: Finnish Appeals court begins genocide trial (privately-owned, pro-government source)

The Rwandan government has pledged its full support to the Helsinki Court of Appeal in the trial of genocide suspect Francois Bazaramba that began this week. A former cleric in Southern Province, Bazaramba was convicted last June of two charges: intent to destroy the Tutsi population in Maraba, and spreading malicious propaganda against the Tutsi; he is currently serving a life sentence. In 2003 Bazaramba sought asylum in Finland and was arrested in 2007. The Finnish Appeals Court will travel to Rwanda and Zambia to question witnesses between now and November of this year.

Hirondelle News Agency—24 August: Genocide accused in Canada requests assistance from ICTR (privately-owned, Lausanne-based source)

Jacques Mungwarere, a Rwandan fugitive facing trial in Canada for his role in the 1994 Genocide, has requested access to two previous court proceedings from the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR), believing them to be relevant for his defense case. The convicts of the two cases in question—former Church Pastor Elizaphan Ntakirutimana and his son, Dr. Gerard Ntakirutimana—were both found guilty of genocide in 2003 and sentenced to 10 and 25 years imprisonment respectively. According to

Mungwarere's legal counsel, Philippe Larochelle, his client is being accused of participating in events that the two previous men had already been tried for before the UN Tribunal; the allegations against Mungwarere are also similar to those against the Ntakirutimana duo. Larochelle has asked for the disclosure of the relevant materials to his defense team.

Mungwarere is being prosecuted in Canada for genocide and crimes against humanity; specifically, attacks at Mugonero hospital in Kibuye prefecture in April 1994.

Rwanda News Agency (RNA)—26 August: *US drops all charges against Genocide suspect Kobagaya (privately-owned source)*

US government prosecutors have asked District Judge Monti Belot to dismiss all charges levied against a Rwandan man convicted of lying to US Immigration officials about his whereabouts during the 1994 Genocide. The accused, Lazare Kobagaya, was charged with visa fraud, lying during his citizenship application about his residency during the 1994 Genocide; he was convicted on the first count, but the second resulted in a hung jury. The US government, however, revealed to the court this week that it inadvertently failed to disclose certain information to the defense, and “based on the totality of circumstances in this case, including the substantial resources required to continue to litigate this matter and the jury’s verdict in the first trial, the Government has determined it would not seek to retry this case.” Among the information omitted from the court proceedings was information from a consular officer in Kenya (listed on Kobagaya’s immigration application) who stated that even if she had, in fact, known Kobagaya was in Rwanda in 1994, she would not have raised a red flag, as he was originally a Burundian national (as opposed to a Rwandan citizen).

The case allegedly cost the US government over USD \$1 million in an investigation that took attorneys to 11 different countries. The government’s motion would not only overturn the one guilty verdict, but also dismiss the entire indictment with prejudice—meaning Kobagaya couldn’t be indicted for the same offense in the future.

SW Radio Africa—24 August: *Govt finally agrees to help root out Rwandan Genocide suspect (privately-owned, independent Zimbabwean source)*

The Zimbabwean government has announced it will finally aid in the hunt for a Rwandan Genocide suspect, said to be hiding in Harare. The announcement comes after increased international pressure to honor an arrest warrant for Protais Mpiranya issued by the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR). Mpiranya is accused of crimes against humanity, war crimes, and conspiracy to commit genocide through his role as the commander of the notorious Presidential Guard during the 1994 Genocide; the US government currently has a US \$5 million bounty on his head. The Rwandan government has believed for some time that Mpiranya has been hiding in Zimbabwe, but until now the latter had made no commitment to tracking him down. According to Zimbabwean police officer, Innocent Chinembiri, a special CID taskforce has now been assigned to the case.

D. ECONOMIC UPDATE

East African Business Week—22 August: *Rwanda maintains lead in reforms (Ugandan-based source)*

For the second consecutive year, Rwanda has been the leading country in the implementation of economic reforms in the East African Community (EAC), according to the “Doing Business in the East African Community” report for 2011. The report, released by the World Bank, ranked Rwanda’s performance 58th out of 183 countries worldwide, but first in the EAC region.

E. MISCELLANEOUS

Rwanda News Agency (RNA)—25 August: UN driver of stolen Congo minerals fined US\$25,000 and jailed (privately-owned source)

The driver of a United Nations vehicle has been jailed and fined for transporting 1200 kg of stolen minerals in the DRC along the border with Rwanda. The driver, Julien Mukalaye, was fined USD \$25,000 and sentenced to three years in prison for transporting cassiterite; according to a MONUSCO spokesperson, Mukalaye had been stripped of his immunity as a UN employee to face trial.