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A. TRIAL OF EXILED OPPOSITION LEADER BEGINS

Rwanda News Agency—4 September: Ingabire Victoire Trial Begins Monday (author N/A) (**privately-owned source**)

The long-awaited trial of Rwandan opposition leader Victoire Ingabire is finally set to begin on Monday, 5 September. Ingabire—head of the unrecognized Unified Democratic Forces (UDF) party—was arrested last year on charges of financing a terrorist group and planning to cause state insecurity and divisionism; prosecutors allege that she ordered financial transfers to the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR) who are currently operating out of the DRC. The trial, initially supposed to start on 16 May, was delayed because Ingabire’s British lawyers had to translate approximately 2,500 pages in her case file from Rwanda’s native Kinyarwanda to English. Despite this setback and Ingabire’s ongoing health problems, however, defense lawyer Gatera Gashabana told French news agency *AFP*, “everything is ready for the trial”.

According to a UDF spokesperson, Ingabire is being unfairly prosecuted based on evidence fabricated by the Rwandan government, “because she is seen as a political enemy of the ruling party and its state machinery that operate the tribunals.”

Official Website of the Republic of Rwanda—5 September: Victoire Ingabire’s links to FDLR are revealed as High Court trial begins (author N/A) (**state-owned source**)

Today, as the trial of Victoire Ingabire began in Kigali, the National Public Prosecuting Authority (NPPA) described the opposition leader’s links to the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR), the terrorist group responsible for the 1994 Genocide. Ingabire is charged with giving financial support to a terrorist group, planning to cause state insecurity, and ethnic divisionism. Evidence found by Dutch authorities in her Zevenhuizen, Netherlands residence includes a written statement where she confirms sending money to Vital Uwumuremyi, an FDLR Major. Another document reveals that Ingabire conspired with FDLR leaders to establish a military organization with the aim of destabilizing the government of Rwanda.

B. ISHEMA NEWSPAPER SUSPENDED

Reporters Without Borders—31 August: Bimonthly decides to suspend publication after receiving threats (author N/A) (**privately-owned, Paris-based source**)

After weeks of serious threats, the publisher of the bimonthly *Ishema*, Fidele Gakire, has decided to suspend publication for one month. The decision was made on 28 August after running an opinion piece in mid-July that called President Paul Kagame a “sociopath” garnered outrage from certain members of the public. According to Reporters Without Borders, “*Ishema*’s decision reflects the unease that independent publications often feel in Rwanda. After being taken to task by the pro-government Media High Council (MHC), the newspaper apologized...[Gakire] has nonetheless continued to be the target of threats and smear campaigns.” The article, condemned by the MHC as “libelous”, also caused the resignation of editor, Didas Niyifasha, as well as the suspension of Gakire by the Forum of Private Newspapers; despite issuing an entire edition dedicated to apologizing to the President, the threats continue.

The event has fueled the ongoing debate on media self-regulation in Rwanda, as a new media law is being discussed in Parliament. The potential modifications to the law would transfer responsibility for regulation of the industry from the MHC to a panel of independent journalists.

C. FRANCE EXTRADITES GENOCIDE SUSPECT TO BELGIUM

Hirondelle News Agency—31 August: France Extradites Fabien Neretse to Belgium (author N/A)
(privately-owned, Lausanne-based source)

Wanted genocide suspect, Fabien Neretse, has finally been arrested in France and will be handed over to Belgian officials as allowed under a European arrest warrant issued on 24 June. Neretse, originally from Ruhengeri, was charged by Belgian authorities with the murder of Claire Beckers, a Belgian citizen married to a Rwandan in April 1994; he is also wanted by the Rwandan judiciary for helping the Interhamwe militia by providing them with weapons, transportation, and funds to finance the massacres. According to *Hirondelle* sources, French judges agreed to hand Neretse over to Belgian officials as “the investigation is well on its way in Brussels.”

D. KAGAME TO VISIT FRANCE ON OFFICIAL STATE VISIT

The New Times website—31 August: Diaspora Eagerly Awaits Kagame’s Visit to France (author N/A)
(privately-owned, pro-government source)

Thousands of Rwandans living in Europe are eagerly awaiting President Paul Kagame’s visit to Paris, which will be the first visit of a Rwandan head of state to France since 1990. An estimated 5,000 Rwandans make up the European Diaspora, spread between Belgium, England, Sweden, Switzerland, the Netherlands, Italy and France. President Kagame will meet his host President Nicolas Sarkozy in Paris before meeting with the French business community; he will then address the French Institute of International Relations.

ORINFOR—1 September: Preparations in high gear for President Kagame’s visit to Paris by Faith Mbabazi **(state-owned source)**

On Wednesday, Rwandan President Paul Kagame will visit France on a trip aimed at cementing bilateral ties between Paris and Kigali. During the historic trip, President Kagame will hold talks with the business community in France, as well as visiting thousands of Rwandans from across Europe. Kagame’s visit follows President Nicolas Sarkozy’s trip to Rwanda in February of last year. Information about President Kagame’s trip to Paris can be found on Twitter, Facebook and YouTube. Diplomatic relations with France were renewed at the end of 2009.

E. MISCELLANEOUS

The East African—3 September: *Rwandan refugees in Uganda “want to stay on”* by Gaaki Kigambo
(privately-owned, Kenyan-based source)

Rwandan refugees living in Uganda may be forced to return home as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) advances with the plan to withdraw their status as refugees. The cessation clause—as it is formally known—is invoked when the UNHCR determines that a country has met certain criteria regarding the amelioration of security and stability. The UN agency had hoped to begin the process of defining exemption categories for refugees in August 2011, but due to unexplained delays, the exercise did not take off as scheduled. Currently, the agreed date of implementation of the clause is 31 December 2011.

The Rwandan government has long been demanding the return of its citizens, stressing that the security situation in the country has changed dramatically since 1994. According to the International Refugee Rights Initiative, however, the Rwandan refugees fear deportation and are not willing to return home. These fears, according to Dr. Barbara Harrell-Bond—a leading expert in the field of refugee studies—may not be unfounded: according to her research, Rwanda scores poorly on the conventional markers of enduring change, including democratic elections, repeal of oppressive laws, access to courts and fair trials, and sufficient means of livelihood.

For their part, the Ugandan government stresses that the cessation clause needs to be accompanied by comprehensive solutions to these issues. In an effort to assuage refugee fears, the Ugandan government has confirmed that it will not deport or expel anybody against their will.

Hirondelle News Agency—2 September: *ICTR/Govt will long awaited judgment of four ex-ministers* (author N/A) (privately-owned, Lausanne-based source)

A scheduling order released on Thursday has stated that the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) will deliver its judgment in the joint trial involving four former Rwandan ministers on 30 September. The four ministers include Casimir Bizimungu (Health), Prosper Mugiraneza (Public Service), Jerome Bicamumpaka (Foreign Affairs) and Justin Mugenzi (Trade)—they are charged with genocide, conspiracy to commit genocide, complicity in genocide, direct and public incitement to commit genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes.

The accused were arrested in 1999, with the verdict coming eight years after the commencement of the trial in 2003. The prosecution has requested a life sentence for each of the accused.

Hirondelle News Agency—31 August: *Busy Schedule at ICTR in September* (author N/A) (privately-owned, Lausanne-based source)

September is shaping up to be a busy month for the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, as it faces nine new cases, as well as four other cases before the Trials Chambers and three appeals before Appeals Chambers. Among the new cases is the deposition procedure of the most wanted genocide fugitive, Felicien Kabuga, considered the “financier” of the 1994 Rwandan Genocide. Other trials include those of former Rwandan military officer, Captain Ildephonse Nizeyimana, ex-Youth Minister Callixte Nzabonimana, former Planning Minister Augustin Ndirakobuca, and former Mayor Gregoire Ndashimimana.

The New Times website—30 August: *KIE students trained to fight genocide* (author N/A) (privately-owned, pro-government source)

The Kigali Institute of Education (KIE), in partnership with Britain’s University of Nottingham, has launched a course designed to fight genocide. The one-day forum entitled, “Teaching Genocide and Community Cohesion: From Theory to Practice” opened yesterday at the teacher training college. The seminar is being promoted as a platform for students and teachers to exchange views on the causes of the

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Genocide and other sensitive topics like the Holocaust, as well as ways such atrocities can be prevented in the future through the teaching profession. According to KIE student Francis Ntaganira, the project is enabling students to learn concrete ways to trace and eliminate genocide ideology in the communities in which they live. The program was instituted in 2009, with approximately 120 students taking part this year.