



RWANDA DOMESTIC MEDIA MONITOR REPORT FOR THE WEEK OF: **AUGUST 11TH-15TH, 2011**



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A. SEXUAL DISCRIMINATION ON THE RISE IN RWANDA

Rwanda News Agency (RNA)—11 August: Study reports widespread “gender-based corruption” in Rwanda (privately-owned, pro-government source)

According to a major study released last week, Rwandan women seeking jobs face a high level of discrimination in the workplace, particularly in private sector institutions. The study, undertaken by Transparency Rwanda—an arm of Transparency International—concluded that 21% of Rwandan women believe their salary level and the chance of a promotion is directly related to their response to sexual advances made by company executives. Furthermore, only 5.6% of victims report such advances in the workplace to the police or their Ombudsman.

Marie Immaculée Ingabire, chairperson of Transparency Rwanda, called the figures “disturbing”, stating that despite progress in the promotion of gender equality in the country, employers need to implement more effective mechanisms to deal with sexual advances and discrimination in the workplace. In particular, the study recommends the government of Rwanda establish a specialized department within the Gender Monitoring Office where women can safely report such abuses; the report also calls for the modification of the corruption law to incorporate a clause specifically addressing discrimination in the workplace.

The New Times website—11 August: Districts urged to adopt gender responsive planning (privately-owned, pro-government source)

The Musanze district of Rwanda has embarked on a campaign geared at the empowerment and equal treatment of women in the agricultural sector. A training workshop was held for district coordinating committees—made up of agronomists and heads of cooperatives—, organized by the Gender Monitoring Office and with support from UN Women. According to deputy Chief Gender Monitor, Ramazani Barendayabo, “the agricultural sector is very crucial to national development and all stakeholders should be equally engaged. Research indicates that women’s incomes do not correspond to the amount of time invested.” Indeed, according to a 2008 survey, women perform the bulk of agricultural labor, yet they have no control over crop sale revenues, farm inputs, or rural development loans.

B. GENOCIDE SUSPECTS ON TRIAL

Hirondelle News Agency—12 August: Prosecution requests more cooperation from African countries (privately-owned, Lausanne-based source)

Rwandan General Prosecutor Martin Ngoga announced on Radio Rwanda last week his disappointment in the lack of cooperation from other African nations in the search for genocide suspects living within their borders. The announcement follows the sixth annual Africa Prosecutors Association conference, in which Ngoga stressed to his African counterparts the importance of taking seriously the hunt for outstanding genocide suspects. Presently, the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) is searching for nine suspects, while the Rwandan government has issued arrest warrants for dozens more.

The New Times website—13 August: Ex-Habyarimana aide acquitted of Genocide (privately-owned, pro-government source)

The Huye Intermediate Court handed down a controversial verdict last week, acquitting former advisor to President Juvenal Habyarimana, Dr. Runyinya Barabwiliza, of three counts of genocide including distributing arms to Interahamwe militia. Judge Francine Murekatete ruled that the prosecution failed to prove beyond a reasonable doubt its claim that Runyinya organized various meetings in 1993 and 1994 to mobilize Interahamwe militia to exterminate Tutsis. It was also alleged that Runyinya created a group of intellectuals, the “Groupe de Reflexion” which supposedly masterminded the Genocide and advised President Habyarimana to exterminate Tutsis. The head of the prosecution, John Museruka, contested the verdict and indicated his team would appeal.

Dr. Runyinya Barabwiliza lived in Belgium as a youth, where he received a PhD in Land Management from the University of Gembloux; he returned to Rwanda in 1985 and took up a teaching position in the faculty of Agriculture at the National University in Butare. He entered politics in 1993 as the chairman of the MRND party in the Butare Prefecture, and went on to serve as Foreign Affairs advisor to President Habyarimana. In 1994, Runyinya was living in Tanzania; however, the prosecution asserted that the Genocide was a direct result of his planning in the years preceding it.

The New Times website—12 August: Genocide fugitive arrested in France (privately-owned, pro-government source)

A joint effort between Interpol and French police forces has resulted in the arrest of wanted Rwandan fugitive Hyacinthe Nsengiyumva Rafiki (alias John Muhindo). Rafiki, co-founder of the FDLR and former Minister of Public Works, fled to the DR Congo after the Genocide but his indictment was quickly sent to Interpol after intelligence revealed he had relocated to France. According to head of the Genocide Fugitives Tracking Unit, John Bosco Siboyintore, the next step is for Rwanda’s Prosecutor General to request extradition back to the country; he did, however, note that if the request is denied, he is confident France will conduct a fair trial.

Rafiki is charged with commanding and arming a militia that killed Tutsi refugees hiding in a cathedral in the former Gisenyi Prefecture in 1994, and with founding the DR Congo-based FDLR in February 1999.

C. RWANDAN MAN TO BE DEPORTED FROM CANADA

ORINFOR—11 August: Rwandan man to be deported from Canada next week (state-owned source)

Genocide survivor Richard Uwimana has been denied asylum by the Canadian government and will therefore be forced to return to his native Rwanda. Uwimana, who witnessed the deaths of his parents and older brother during the 1994 Genocide, spent 14 years in an orphanage before being granted a travel visa

to speak at a conference in Los Angeles as a genocide survivor. He subsequently traveled to Canada and applied for refugee status. He was summoned this year by the Canada Border Services Agency to return to Rwanda. Uwimana fears for his life should he be forced to return.

Members of Toronto's Rwandan community are rallying to stop the deportation, scheduled for August 17th, arguing that Ottawa's real focus should be on rooting out several suspected perpetrators of the 1994 Genocide supposedly residing in Canada. Thirty of the latter are suspected to be hiding in the Toronto area.

*This story was also covered by several Canadian news sources. To read coverage by Toronto's *Sun Times*, visit <http://www.sunnewsnetwork.ca/sunnews/canada/archives/2011/08/20110810-203425.html>

D. MISCELLANEOUS

The New Times website—15 August: Gov't removes taxes on sugar (privately-owned, pro-government source)

In an attempt to battle rising food prices, the Rwandan government has suspended all taxes and tariffs on sugar imported from outside the East African Community (EAC). Member countries are also discussing the possibility of waiving taxes for the import of sugar within the EAC. The spike in food prices, especially sugar, is due to scarcity in the country, according to Rwandan Minister of Trade and Industry, Francois Kanimba. The sugar taxes, Kanimba announced in a press conference, were initially meant to protect sugar producers in the region but the latter are now failing to meet the country's growing demand.

Currently, the EAC allows member states to waive taxes on essential commodities in times of emergency until such time that a joint decision can be made. The present tax rate on sugar imported from outside the EAC is 25% plus a VAT of 18%. While the government does not have the authority to dictate price levels to sugar wholesalers—who are capitalizing on the scarce supply by raising prices—, Minister Kanimba is confident that the removal of the aforementioned taxes should help stabilize the market.

Rwanda faces a shortage of approximately 30,000 tons of sugar; the shortfall is currently being imported from Tanzania, Uganda, Kenya, Zambia, and Malawi.