



RWANDA DOMESTIC MEDIA MONITOR REPORT FOR THE WEEK OF: JULY 6TH-JULY 11TH, 2011



By Paula Cook-Dinan, MIGS Monitor for Rwanda

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A. RWANDA'S FEMALE PARLIAMENTARIAN RATIO COMMENDED BY UN

ORINFOR—7 July: *Rwanda women on top again—UN (state-owned source)*

In the latest report released by the UN on gender equality in politics, Rwanda ranked highest for the percentage of female parliamentarians, at 51% of its legislature. According to the report, women parliamentarians have spearheaded legal reforms to improve women's prosperity and inheritance rights, as well as laws to protect women from domestic violence, including marital rape. Rwanda's Gender Monitoring Office welcomed the report, stating that it will reinforce the country's commitment to the development of the country. The report was based on data collected from 139 countries, although the article did not name specific countries or regions included.

The New Times website—7 July: *Rwanda leads in women participation, UN Report (privately-owned, pro-government source)*

The recent UN report released in New York once again rated Rwanda as the country with the highest representation of women in politics and participation in the development of their country. At 51% of parliamentarians, Rwanda has the highest level of women's representation in the world. The report stressed the success of this development, highlighting that in such instances where a critical mass is reached, laws and policies that advance women's rights have followed. UN Under-Secretary-General of UN Women, Michelle Bachelet noted, however, that more has to be done in this area, calling the report a "call to action" to ensure that justice and equality becomes a reality for all women. The report acknowledges some of the advances made in promoting women's rights in recent years, such as the adoption of criminal charges for marital rape in 52 countries.

B. GENOCIDE SUSPECT CONVICTED BY DUTCH COURT

ORINFOR—8 July: *Dutch court sentences Mpambara to life in prison (state-owned source)*

The Court of First Instance in The Hague, Netherlands sentenced a Rwandan man to life in prison for crimes committed during the Rwandan Genocide of 1994. He was found guilty of killing dozens of Tutsis who fled the Seventh-Day Adventists Church in Mugonero, the rape of four women, and ordering the murder of several Tutsi women and children. He was originally sentenced to 20 years in prison in 2009, a decision that was immediately appealed; in the last two years, however, new testimonies of 30 witnesses

helped to crush the appeal.

Hirondelle—9 July: Joseph Mpambara sentenced to life in jail in Netherlands (privately-owned source based in Lausanne)

On 7 June, Joseph Mpambara, determined to be a member of the Interahamwe militia, was convicted by an appeal court in The Hague of crimes of war committed during the 1994 Genocide. The convicted was first sentenced to a 20-year term in March 2009 for hatching a “geoncidaire plan” to attack a church, as well as for killing two mothers and their four children in April 1994. Mpambara fled to the Netherlands in 1998 and was arrested in 2006; his brother is also serving 25 years in prison for crimes against humanity.

The New Times website—9 July 2011: (editorial, author unknown) Dutch Court Decision on genocide suspect should be emulated (privately-owned, pro-government source)

The recent decision by the Appeals Court in The Hague to sentence Joseph Mpambara to life in prison for crimes committed in the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi should send a warning signal to other genocide fugitives. The presiding judge ruled Mpambara was guilty of acting in a genocidal manner and was therefore deserving of the maximum sentence for his crimes.

The ruling by the Dutch court is, without a doubt, a positive step in the continuous struggle to bring to justice the perpetrators of the Genocide. Pursuing such international cases is certainly lengthy and costly; however, it is every country’s responsibility to bring to justice those who seek refuge in foreign countries.

C. REPATRIATION OF RWANDAN REFUGEES

The New Times website—9 July: 130 Refugees return from DR Congo (privately-owned, pro-government source)

In the most recent wave of repatriation, 130 Rwandan refugees returned to the country from the DR Congo this week, according to the Ministry of Disaster Management and Refugee Affairs. The refugees arrived through the Nkamira and Nyagatare transit camps in Western Province. The returnees said they had been reluctant until now to return home due to misinformation, including the threat that the government would suppress and kill them. According to Jean Claude Rwahama, Director of Refugee Affairs, more than 5,000 refugees have returned since the beginning of the year.

D. MISCELLANEOUS

The New Times website—10 July: U.S. academics ‘amazed’ at nation’s transformation (private, pro-government source)

A visiting group of American academics and researchers announced their surprise and pleasure at the transformation of Rwanda following the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi. According to Julie Kennedy, research fellow at the Social Equity Venture Fund (SEVEN), said that the country’s progress over the past 17 years offered important lessons to the rest of the world.

The New Times website—8 July: Security Council reiterates call to arrest top genocide fugitives (privately-owned, pro-government source)

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) adopted on Wednesday a resolution that calls all states from the Great Lakes Region to increase their efforts to track down and bring to justice wanted genocide

fugitives, including the alleged financier of the 1994 tragedy, Felicien Kabuga.

Currently, nine international fugitives remain at large, including Augustin Bizimana, former Minister of Defense. President Khalida Rachid Khan, in her presentation of the six-month report, reiterated that it was due to the cooperation of member states that led to the arrest of past fugitives. According to ICTR sources, the most wanted of these fugitives, Kabuga, is carrying out commercial activities in Kenya.