



RWANDA DOMESTIC MEDIA MONITOR REPORT  
FOR THE WEEK OF: JUNE 14<sup>TH</sup>-20<sup>TH</sup>, 2011



By Paula Cook-Dinan, MIGS Monitor for Rwanda  
<http://migs.concordia.ca/Rwandaradioandnewssummaries.htm>

**CONTENT**

- A. RWANDA HOSTS AFRICAN COMMONWEALTH CONVENTION
- B. RWANDAN BAN OF DRC-ORIGIN MINERALS
- C. PRESS FREEDOMS/MEDIA LAW UPDATE
- D. DRCONGO-RWANDA TENSIONS UPDATE
- E. MISCELLANEOUS

*\*The New Times website, while technically a privately owned source, is pro-government; it may therefore be placed in the State-Owned section if no other such articles are found.*

A. RWANDA HOSTS AFRICAN COMMONWEALTH CONVENTION

**State-Owned Media Source**

*ORINFOR (La Nouvelle Releve)—20 June, 2011: CPA salutes Rwanda's efforts\**

Member nations of the Africa Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) have commended Rwanda on its progress in the last decade, at the annual CPA conference held this year in Kigali. This year also marks the official induction of the Rwandan Parliament into the CPA, an event commemorated by one minute of silence devoted to prayer, an unprecedented occurrence in the official proceedings.

Among the figures that spoke to the convention on behalf of the Rwandan Parliament was President of the Rwandan Senate, Dr. Vincent Biruta. President of the Ugandan Parliament, Hon. Rebecca Kadaga also spoke, commending Rwanda's post-1994 Genocide promotion of equal rights between men and women, in Parliament in particular. Rwandan President Paul Kagame also touched on this topic, stressing that gender equality is a necessary condition for economic growth and development.

All former British colonies are automatically members of the CPA; Rwanda, however, was colonized by Belgium, hence the necessity of its more formal induction.

**Privately-Owned Media Source**

*The New Times website (pro government)—17 June: Country becomes 19<sup>th</sup> member of Commonwealth Parliamentary body*

On 16 June 2011 Rwanda was officially admitted to the African Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) as its 19<sup>th</sup> member. Rwanda is playing host to the convention, entering its 42<sup>nd</sup> year, under the theme of "Consolidating Growth and Development". Hon. Rose Mukantabana, Speaker of the Rwandan Chamber of Deputies, was voted vice-president of the CPA for the year 2011/2012 in accordance with the latter's constitution.

The issues to be debated on this year's agenda include food security, democracy, gender, terrorism, and the challenges of Parliaments in mitigating the impact of genetically modified crops on poverty and security.

\*original article in French

**B. RWANDAN BAN OF DRC-ORIGIN MINERALS**

**State-Owned Media Source**

*This article was not covered by any state-owned media sources.*

**Privately-Owned Media Source**

*Rwandan News Agency (RNA)—15 June: Rwanda bans sale of illegal minerals from DR Congo on “its soil”*

Rwanda will never permit illegal minerals from neighboring countries—specifically, the DR Congo—, according to the Rwandan Geology and Mines Authority. According to Dr. Michael Biryaberema of the GMA, all minerals from Rwanda will also be certified before being exported, a process carried out by the GMA and the German Federal Institute of Geosciences and Natural Resources. These rules are in keeping with principles formed to regulate the Rwandan mines industry.

Last month alone, more than two tones of illegal minerals were confiscated in Rwanda in Gisenyi at the border with the DR Congo. The minerals included coltan, tungsten, and tin.

Note: this is but one of many steps taken internationally to stem the illegal mineral trade in DR Congo in recent years. Previous media monitoring reports herein have detailed the US Frank-Dodd Act in particular, which restricts American companies from using conflict minerals from the DR Congo anywhere in their supply chains. Previous Rwandan legislation following the passing of the Act in April 2011 outlawed the sale only of the minerals.

**C. PRESS FREEDOMS/MEDIA LAW UPDATE**

**State-Owned Media Source**

*The New Times website (pro-government)—18 June: C’wealth pledges to support media*

According to the secretary general of the Commonwealth Secretariat, Ransford Smith, the organization is committed to supporting the Rwandan media. The announcement was made when he met the Minister of Information and a group of Rwandan journalists who went on a Commonwealth-funded training program to India

**Privately-Owned Media Source**

*Rwandan News Agency—14 June: “New study details laws blocking free media in Rwanda”*

A local study released on 14 June has identified the Media Law, the Genocide Ideology Law, and the national Penal Code as the major legal obstacles to the development of press freedoms in Rwanda. The study—conducted by two local consultants—was commissioned by the Media High Council (MHC), and concludes that the 2009

last year. Smith also welcomed the recent government decision to empower the practitioners to regulate themselves, but cautioned that the local journalists must take the initiative to build a professional media association, one including self-regulation.

Smith is currently in Rwanda on a mission to observe the industry and come up with recommendations on ways assistance could be extended.

Media law—specifically articles 9,10,13, and 14—effectively curtail free expression. The capital requirements for a media outlet startup (i.e \$41,000 USD for newspapers) as “too high”, thereby acting as barriers to entry and subsequent lack of competition in the sector. Furthermore, the Penal Code makes Defamation of Character a criminal offense, which the study argues limits journalistic freedom; similar to the law on Genocide Ideology, which effectively bans the negation of the 1994 Genocide.

The study also criticizes the Media High Council itself, stating that it is accused of being a “burden” to the sector.

**D. DRCONGO-RWANDA TENSIONS UPDATE**

**State-Owned Media Source**

*ORINFOR website—Date n/a: Evidence of the massacre of at least 321 people in DR Congo*

The killing of 321 people in a remote part of northeastern DR Congo has been discovered to have taken place last December, allegedly at the hand of the Lord’s Resistance Army (FDLR). According to Human Rights Watch, it is one of the worst massacres carried out by the FDLR. The militia is said to have hacked their victims to death and looted the village. The terrorist group, initially formed to install a theocracy in Uganda based on the Biblical Ten Commandments, has been “sowing terror” in Sudan, Central African Republic, as well as the DR Congo.

**Privately-Owned Media Sources**

*Rwandan News Agency—15 June: East DR Congo town residents protest growing insecurity*

Marches were held in the Eastern DR Congo to protest the continued presence of Rwandan FDLR rebels in the region, with the demonstrators chanting slogans against the alleged raping, killing, torturing of civilians by the Interahamwe militia. A memorandum was given to the territorial authority demanding their removal, as well as the return and immediate deployment of Congolese soldiers to their positions to maintain peace.

**E. MISCELLANEOUS**

**State-Owned Media Source**

**Privately-Owned Media Source**

*The New Times website (pro government)—14 June: Parliament calls for population growth control*

The Rwandan Parliament has stressed the need to focus on better “hands-on” strategies for managing the country’s rapidly growing population. According to the Rwandan Network of Parliamentarians for Population and Development (RPRPD), achievements in health, food security, and education will be in vain if the issue of

population growth is not addressed. The RPRPD held a meeting with other family planning partner organizations, including the Ministry of Health, ISAD, UNFPA, and Family Health International. Participants urged parents to teach children about reproductive health; they also recommend the Ministry of Health partnering with local authorities to establish information and medical centers for Rwanda's youth. Currently, Rwanda has a population of over 11 million.