



RWANDA DOMESTIC MEDIA MONITOR REPORT FOR THE WEEK OF: JUNE 21ST-28TH, 2011



By Paula Cook-Dinan, MIGS Monitor for Rwanda

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

CONTENT

- A. UN COURT CONVICTS FIRST RWANDAN WOMAN OF GENOCIDE
 - B. SIX ARRESTED FOR PLANNING TERRORIST ATTACKS
 - C. RUSESABAGINA QUESTIONED BY BELGIAN COURT
 - D. CESSATION CLAUSE ON REFUGEES NEARS IMPLEMENTATION
 - E. MISCELLANEOUS
-

A. UN COURT CONVICTS FIRST RWANDAN WOMAN OF GENOCIDE

Rwandan News Agency (RNA)—24 June: UN Court for Rwanda hands life sentence to ex-minister, son (privately-owned source)

The UN International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) has convicted former minister for Family and Women Affairs, Pauline Nyiramasuhuko, for genocide, conspiracy to commit genocide, crimes against humanity, rape and persecution, and war crimes. Nyiramasuhuko, aged 65, is the first woman ever indicted by the ICTR for genocide and crimes against humanity. She and her son, Arsene Shalom Ntahobali—also convicted for his role in the genocide against the Tutsi—both received life sentences.

According to Judge William Sekule, both individuals not only engaged in killings and rapes themselves, but Nyiramasuhuko was also charged with aiding and abetting rapes committed by members of the Interhamwe militia. Three other convicts were given life sentences in what is now known as the “Butare Trial”.

The judgment comes ten years after the trial’s commencement in June 2001. Nyiramasuhuko and the other convicts will be given credit for their time already spent in prison.

B. SIX ARRESTED FOR PLANNING TERRORIST ATTACK

ORINFOR—22 June: Six arrested over working with terrorist network (state-owned source)

Five men and one woman, members of what is being called a terror network, have been arrested in Kigali. The six individuals were allegedly planning on launching terror attacks on behalf of a group known as the Rwanda Nationalist Front for Democracy and Reconciliation, or FRONADER. The faction, formed in 2009, is composed of former FDLR members and is based in the north Kivu province. In a statement by one of the prisoners, Colonel Norbert Ndererimana, the group is funded by fugitives including Paul Rusesabagina, Emmanuel Habyarimana, and aided by their associates in Uganda and DR Congo. Ndererimana also confessed to the planning of shipments of military equipment in October, establishing fuel storage facilities and transport vehicles in order to execute terrorist activities in highly populated areas.

The New Times website—23 June: Terror Suspects Implicate Kayumba (private, pro-government source)

Suspected terrorists arrested in Kigali have disclosed that they received financial support from Kayumba Nyamwasa and Emmanuel Habyarimana—both linked to the Rwanda National Congress (RNC) and Convention National des Republicains (CNR)—through Western Union and MoneyGram transfer services. One of the suspects, Ramathan Sibomana, said that his fellow suspect Norbert Ndererimana (alias Sabin Gaheza) communicated directly with Kayumba, Habyarimana and Paul Rusesabagina via telephone. All suspects allegedly planned to commit terror acts targeting diplomats, government officials and fuel storage facilities.

C. RUSESABAGINA QUESTIONED BY BELGIAN COURT

ORINFOR—22 June: Rusesabagina questioned over involvement with FDLR (state-owned source)

Paul Rusesabagina, wanted by the Rwandan government for his involvement with the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR), was questioned in Belgium, where he lives, by local authorities in the presence of Rwandan officials. According to prosecution spokesperson Alain Mukurarinda, the questioning will help advance the case file against Rusesabagina. This type of interrogation is permitted under Rwandan law even when the questioned party is out of the country.

D. CESSATION CLAUSE ON REFUGEES NEARS IMPLEMENTATION

The New Times website—25 June: Media urged to play role as Cessation Clause nears (privately-owned, pro-government source)

The United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) has urged the Rwandan media to focus on their role in aiding the repatriation of refugees before the deadline of the Cessation Clause. Addressing a media workshop in the country, Rwanda's representative of the UNHCR, Neimah Warsame stated, "the more we do to facilitate factual information, the higher will be the repatriation. Help the refugees to make a well informed decision about their return." According to the UNHCR, such tools as video documentaries and radio interviews featuring returnees talking about the success of their integration will help refugees decide to either be repatriated to Rwanda or to naturalize in their host country.

The Cessation Clause does not allow for claims for refugee status after verification by the UNHCR that there are no conditions in the country of origin that qualify for UN protection.

E. MISCELLANEOUS

The New Times website—24 June: Judiciary sacks 12 over corruption (privately-owned, pro-government source)

The Rwandan judiciary has terminated 12 of its employees over serious misconduct including corruption—specifically, bribes and misuse of government funds—and desertion. The terminated include two Presidents of Primary courts, registrars of both the Intermediate and High Courts of Kigali, and several judges. Judicial Spokesperson, Charles Kaliwabo, confirmed the report, stating, "we have networks of establishing such corrupt officials...the public should know that they are not supposed to buy their rights."

Rwandan News Agency RNA—28 June: Kayumba Nyamwasa shooting suspects appear in SA court (privately-owned source)

The trial of three Rwandans and three Tanzanians charged with the attempted assassination attempt of

exiled ex-army chief Lieutenant General Faustin Kayumba Nyamwasa began Tuesday in South Africa. The attempted shooting of the General took place on June 29 of last year, and led to a diplomatic fallout between Kigali and Pretoria after Kayumba's wife publicly accused the Rwandan government with planning the assassination attempt. One of the Rwandan suspects, Pascal Kanyadekwe, allegedly bribed South African police officers \$1 million USD if they let him go.