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A. TRIAL OF FORMER FDLR LEADER GETS UNDERWAY

ORINFOR—15 September: Mbarushimana to appear before ICC Friday (author N/A) **(state-owned source)**

The pre-trial proceedings involving Callixte Mbarushimana is set to begin Thursday in the chambers of the International Criminal Court (ICC). Rwandan-born Mbarushimana, thought to have operated as Executive Secretary of the FDLR since July 2007, is being accused of murder, rape, and organizing the killing of civilians in the Kivu regions of the Democratic Republic of Congo in 2009.

According to the ICC Pre-Trial Chamber I, there are ‘reasonable grounds’ to suspect that Mbarushimana orchestrated an offensive targeting the civilian population in order to extort political concessions for the rebels in their dealings with Kigali. His campaign was allegedly executed using international and local media outlets. In the four-day hearing, the prosecution hopes to persuade judges that enough evidence exists to support the allegations in a trial against the 48-year old Mbarushimana.

Radio Netherlands Worldwide—17 September: ICC accuses rebel leader of war crimes (author N/A) **(publicly-owned, international source)**

According to Deputy Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda, Callixte Mbarushimana—currently awaiting trial on 13 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity—was the “linchpin” in the worst crimes committed in the Kivu regions of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) in 2009. The prosecution presented its case to a panel of three judges, in which it framed Mbarushimana as the “respectable face” in an FDLR plan to murder and rape Congolese citizens, with the aim of gaining political leverage in Kigali. His aim, prosecutors maintain, was to mobilize the Hutu rebels living in the jungles of the DRC to plunder and rape citizens of the DRC to force the international community to pressure Rwanda to deal with the exiled movement.

Mbarushimana, a former UN computer technician, continues to deny his involvement with the FDLR; he is also wanted in Rwanda for his supposed role in the 1994 Genocide. Hearings will continue for four days, at which time the panel of judges will determine whether the case has strength enough to go to trial.

B. TRIAL OF VICTOIRE INGABIRE: UPDATE

The New Times website—14 September: Ingabire liked to grenade attacks in Kigali (author N/A) **(privately-owned, pro-government source)**

Recent evidence provided in the ongoing trial against Victoire Ingabire has attributed the sequence of grenade bombings in Kigali last year to the Coalition des Forces Democratique (CDF), the military wing of her FDU-Inkingi party. Prosecutors presented an email sent to her co-conspirator, Major Vital

Uwumuremyi by the operations commander of the group (using the pseudo-name, “Jackie Chan”) discussing the possibility of smuggling grenades into the country, citing previous successful grenade attacks in various other Kigali neighborhoods.

This evidence is the newest in a slew of documents presented linking Ingabire to the activities of what the government has labeled a terrorist group; four of Ingabire’s co-conspirators have already pleaded guilty and have testified as to their working relationship with her. Ingabire continues to deny its existence. The trial continues this week.

The New Times website—20 September: Defense takes the floor in Ingabire’s trial (privately-owned, pro-government source)

In the third week of the trial against Victoire Ingabire, the defense team is preparing to lay out their case. Four of Ingabire’s co-conspirators, all of whom have already pleaded guilty to charges complicity in acts of terrorism and conspiracy against the government by use of war and terrorism, were also permitted to explain their roles in the crimes. In his plea, Lt. Col. Tharcisse Nditurde agreed “with all that [prosecutors] said concerning my role in all the three crimes, and I ask for forgiveness because I am aware that what I did is against the law.” The prosecution, however, protested that the defendant’s plea should be more detailed and describe the crimes for which he is seeking forgiveness in more depth. By law, in the case of a guilty plea, the defendant has to clearly explain his participation in the crimes. To this effect, Nditurde will be expected to restate his involvement in the crimes in detail.

The New Times website—15 September: Ingabire’s family gives up bid to block Dutch evidence (privately-owned, pro-government source)

According to prosecutors, an attempt by Victoire Ingabire’s family to prevent the transfer of evidence found in her home in Holland to the Rwandan High Court has failed. According to prosecutor, Bonaventure Ruberwa, the Dutch Embassy informed the prosecution that the appeal by Ingabire’s family was blocked, and that the evidence should be sent from Holland by the end of September. Allegedly, the evidence includes several documents found in Ingabire’s house proving subversive activities; namely, telephone records showing communications with militia commanders of the FDLR. The prosecution had requested to halt the trial on September 5th in anticipation of the documents.

C. ANOTHER PUBLICATION HITTING RWANDAN NEWSSTANDS?

*Kigali Wire—19 September: Isonga: A new newspaper spotted in Rwanda?** (privately-owned source)

According to its sources, *Kigali Wire* has reported the appearance of a new publication circulating around Kigali. The Kinyarwanda-language newspaper, entitled *Isonga*, contains advertising predominantly from government-affiliated businesses and organizations, suggesting state ownership.**

*Kigali Wire is a news blog produced by Reuters Foreign Correspondent Graham Holliday

**For a photo of the publication, please visit <http://www.flickr.com/photos/kigaliwire/6162465695/>

D. MISCELLANEOUS

The New Times website—16 September: Reconciliation forums trained in conflict management (author N/A) (privately-owned, pro-government source)

Rwanda’s District Reconciliation Forums engaged in a three-day training workshop this week on the subject of peacefully managing community conflicts. The exercise was organized and hosted by Search For Common Ground (SCG), an international non-governmental organization (NGO). According to SCG’s National Programme Manager, Narcisse Kalisa, “leaders of the forums must be able to analyze internal and external community conflicts. Conflicts are normal in society but a peaceful end is always the challenge.

Conflict solving should not be adversarial.” Kalisa noted, however, that Rwanda was “doing well” in terms of the reconciliation process, but that it must now focus on cementing long term unity among its citizens.

The legacy of the genocide is of course an underlying theme of the forums; according to one of the system’s founders, Zahara Nyirabarambe, the failure to compensate genocide survivors was a challenge to the reconciliation process in Rwanda. Over 30 leaders attended the conference.

Rwanda News Agency (RNA)—19 September: Scientists discover new way of preventing future genocide
(author N/A) (**privately-owned source**)

Much research has been done on the causes of genocide; now, a group of American researchers have alleged a new scientific method of detecting the preparations for genocide: a population’s health and its provisions for prenatal care.

The study was executed by examining remains of Bosnian Muslims from the Srebrenica massacre—in which 8,000 males were killed in 1995—as well as WHO data on the health of refugees from Rwanda. According to researcher Dr. Ann Ross, “these conditions are good indicators of genocide risk because they illustrate the population’s marginalized status.” The findings of the study will be published in an upcoming issue of *Forensic Science Policy and Management Journal*.