

Rwanda Domestic Media Report (September 29 –October 5, 2010)

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State-Owned Media Sources

Radio France Internationale (retrieved from BBC Monitoring) – 29 September 2010:

DR Congo military offensive continues

- Congolese troops are realizing significant gains in their offensive launched last week against the Mai-Mai and FDLR militias in the volatile eastern region of the country.
- The coltan (columbite-tantalite, a material used in cell phones) mines surrounding Walikale have been recaptured, and the two rebel forces appear to have scattered into the jungle rather than engage in fighting with the DR Congo armed forces.

*Radio Rwanda (retrieved from BBC Monitoring) – 2 October 2010: **Program Summary***

- The Rwandan government says it has a right to take legal action if “UN report on killings in DR Congo leads to its conclusion.”

Privately-Owned Media Sources

The New Times website (retrieved from BBC Monitoring) –29 September 2010:

Defector reveals FDLR “engulfed” by internal conflict

- The latest rebel officer to defect from the FDLR in the DR Congo, Lt-Col Eli Mutarambirwa, revealed that internal fighting and defections to the national army had weakened the rebel group to the point that they “had lost the purpose of fighting”.
- Mutarambirwa was repatriated to Rwanda on Monday, 27 September. He observed that the country is “good and welcoming”, and called upon current FDLR members in the DR Congo to follow his lead.

The Daily Monitor website (retrieved from BBC Monitoring) – 29 September 2010:

Ugandan nationals detained in Rwanda “on suspicion of spying”

- Two Ugandan citizens were arrested at the Cyanika border post in Rwanda by the Rwandan military 10 days ago; they are being held on suspicions of subversion (subversion refers to “an attempt to overthrow the established order of a society or state, its structures of power and authority.”)
- Officials at the embassy of Uganda in Rwanda have demanded that the matter be tabled before parliament and to produce the accused in a court of law to explain the circumstances surrounding their arrest.
- The commission general of Rwanda prisons service told the media in Kampala that her detention centers have not yet received the two persons in question.
- Relations between the two countries have been strained in the past due to the clashes between the two countries’ armies in the DR Congo; they have,

however, improved since Rwanda joined the Commonwealth and the East African Community with support from Uganda.

*The New Times website (retrieved from allafrica.com, also covered on BBC Monitoring) – 1 October 2010: **UN Report threatens Rwandan security, says government***

- The Rwandan government has warned that the UN report released on 1 October recounting mass atrocities committed by Rwandan forces against Hutu refugees in the Congo is “flawed and full of manipulations”.
- The government provided the UN with a list of objections regarding the Report. The list condemns the report for its ignorance of historical context, flawed methodology, contradictions between UN assertions and those of other NGOs and the UNSC, and over reliance on anonymous sources and sources lacking in credibility.
- Louise Mushikiwabo, Minister of Foreign Affairs, warned in a statement addressed to the UN that the report threatens the very stability that it was aiming to achieve.
- Rwandans across the country have taken to the streets to protest the report.

*RFI (retrieved from allafrica.com) – 1 October 2010: **Rwandan, Ugandan, Burundi forces furious over UN-DR Congo Report***

- Burundi states that the Report is an attempt to destabilize the region; they deny involvement in the alleged crimes in the DR Congo, stating that they were “concentrating on the raging Burundi conflict” at the time.
- Uganda threatened to re-evaluate its peacekeeping deployment in Somalia as a result of the Report; the government has called the Report “a compendium of rumors, deeply flawed in methodology, sourcing and standard of proof.”
- Conversely, the DRC has had a more positive reaction; they support achieving justice for the alleged victims. They have promised to consider the UN’s recommendation to set up a judicial court that includes foreign as well as Congolese judges.

*Breakdown of the UN mapping report and comments by the DR Congo Government: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201010010784.html>

*The New Times website (retrieved from BBC Monitoring) – 2 October 2010: **Rwandan Diaspora demonstrates in Scandinavian countries over UN Report***

- The UN-DR Congo Report has sparked an international response as Rwandans in Northern Europe (as well as North America) have taken to the streets in protest. Demonstrations were also held in Stockholm, Oslo, and Copenhagen.
- Protestors’ letters sent to the UN High Commission for Human Rights and the UN Secretary General accuse the UN, in turn, of failure to stop the 1994 Genocide.
- In North America, protests occurred in Washington, New York, and Boston. The statements compiled by the protestors there were presented to the UN Information Centre.

- The protestors in Europe and the US denounce the UN's failure to "recognize Rwanda's extensive and coordinated efforts to repatriate, resettle and reintegrate 3.2 million refugees from Zaire (now DR Congo) at that time, an effort the UN itself supported and participated in."

*The New times website (retrieved from allafrica.com) – 2 October 2010: **EU officials commend progress***

- Rwanda's progress regarding socioeconomic development was commended by an EU delegation including the Belgian Minister for Development Cooperation and the EU Commissioner for Development.
- According to the delegation, Rwanda is on track to meet 5-6 of the 8 Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015; they have also realized significant gains in the fight against corruption and have maintained a focus on sustainable development.

*The New Times website (retrieved from BBC Monitoring) – 4 October 2010: **Rwandan MPs to discuss response to UN report on DR Congo***

- Rwandan Members of Parliament have spoken out against the UN-DR Congo Report, condemning it as an attempt by the UN to cover up their own missteps in responding to the 1994 Genocide.
- MP Abbas Mukama revealed that the parliament will soon meet to review the report and recommend a course of action.
- MPs urge the government to continue to engage the UN until "all false elements are withdrawn from this document." They have accused the report of creating mistrust between Rwanda and the UN, and that "the damage is already done even if they adjust the report."

*story also covered on allafrica.com

*The New Times website (retrieved from BBC Monitoring) – 4 October 2010: **Editorial: UN-DR Congo Report to threaten regional security***

- Excerpts from the editorial:
 - "this flawed report not only attempts to rewrite Rwanda's history, but poses a threat to regional security"
 - "...elements of manipulation, contradiction, omissions and the overall flawed methodology are some of the issues that serve as proof that the report lacks credibility."
 - "The Rwandan people have lived through hell, but still emerged to reconstruct their country to internationally acclaimed levels."