

Rwanda Domestic Media Report (December 7-12th, 2010)

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State-owned Media Sources

Rwandan Radio—8 December 2010: Rwandans value nationality over ethnic divisions

- According to a National Unity and Reconciliation Commission report, 60% of Rwandans value nationality more than ethnic identity, and blame colonialism for ethnic tensions in country's recent history.
- An article published by the Rwandan News Agency (8 December) also cites the report, highlighting that ethnic identification was a mechanism used by interahamwe militias to isolate and target Tutsis during the Genocide. Since 1994, however, such ethnic identification has been outlawed.

Privately owned Media Sources

The New Times website—7 December 2010: Rwanda applauds ICTR life sentence for former military officer

- The government of Rwanda has publicly approved the decision made by the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda to sentence former Rwandan military officer, Ildephonse Hategekimana, to life in prison. He was found guilty of ordering the genocide of Tutsi refugees who had sought refuge at the Ngoma church in 1994.
- The verdict of the trial—which began on 16 March 2009—was hailed by many as being welcome and long overdue. According to the spokesperson of the National Public Prosecution Authority, Augustin Nkusi, the life sentence prescribed to Hategekimana was not nearly as devastating as the crimes committed by the latter.

The New Times website—8 December 2010: Wikileaks confirms French Judge Bruguiere's indictments were nothing but a "smear" campaign

- A leaked cable by the whistle blowing website, Wikileaks, has confirmed that French judge Jean-Louis Bruguiere had conferred with the government of France—including then-President Jacques Chirac—on his issuance of arrest warrants against top RPF (Rwanda Patriotic Force) officials, and that they were "politically motivated."
- The arrest warrants, issued in November 2006, were made against nine former senior RPF officials, on the basis that they assassinated former President Habyarimana, the event that precipitated the outbreak of the 1994 Genocide.
- The leaks reveal that Bruguiere presented his case in a manner that made clear his personal desire to see the Rwandan government isolated, and that his ultimate ambition was to become France's Minister of Justice. Bruguiere was allegedly doubtful that the ICTR would take the indictments seriously, which turned out to be true; the international community has indeed concluded that they were nothing but a "smear job."

Rwanda News Agency (RNA)—8 December 2010: Rwanda hot topic at EU summit meeting

- European countries remained divided over the issue of continuing aid to Rwanda at the annual European Development Days, held in Brussels and attended by Rwandan President Paul Kagame.
- Protests denouncing Kagame's regime characterized the proceedings, despite EU member governments touting Rwanda's progress regarding equality and ethnicity since the 1994 Genocide.
- The conference ended with the Netherlands opting out of sending financial aid to Rwanda in 2011, as national political parties battle have failed to reach an agreement over the issue.

Rwanda News Agency (RNA)—10 December 2010: Rwanda launches genocide information digital centre

- A new centre has been launched at the Kigali memorial centre that will house 25,000 recordings, documents and photos relating to the genocide.
- The centre will be maintained and secured by British group the Aegis Trust, with data collected largely by the University of Texas Libraries.
- The location is home to some 300,000 victims of the Genocide.