

### State-Owned Media Sources

*Radio Okapi (UN-sponsored)—7 February 2011: FDLR attacks villages in North Kivu*

- A faction of the Democratic Liberation Forces of Rwanda (FDLR)\* has reportedly executed a violent looting rampage in the Bwito area of DR Congo's North Kivu province from February 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup>. No one was killed in the nighttime attacks.
- The FDLR were reportedly aided by Mai-Mai rebels.
- In a similar attack by FDLR rebels in the South Kivu town of Mwenga, peacekeepers of the UN Mission in the DR Congo (MONUSCO) were able to apprehend the perpetrators and confiscate a large number of goods stolen from households.

*\*The FDLR is a terrorist group composed of ex-FAR members (individuals who were part of the former Rwandan army) as well as Interahamwe militia, both of who are accused of committing the 1994 Genocide against Rwandan Tutsi. After the Genocide, they fled to the jungles of the DR Congo.*

### Privately-Owned Media Sources

*The New Times website—5 February 2011: Rwanda to airlift citizens from Egypt*

- Rwandan nationals living in Cairo, Egypt, are to be airlifted out of the country following a week of anti-government protests, according to the Director General of the Diaspora Directorate in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Robert Masozera.
- The evacuation applies to approximately 61 Rwandans living in Cairo, the majority of them students.
- In a subsequent article from 8 February 2011, 44 students returned from Cairo aboard a government-chartered Rwandair flight. It is reported that 8 students remained in Cairo voluntarily. The total number of known Rwandans living in Egypt is 68, of whom 51 are students.

*The New Times website—5 February 2011: UN ethnic study has “no place in Rwanda”*

- According to Rwanda's Executive Secretary of the National Unity and Reconciliation Commission (NURC), Dr. Jean Baptiste Habyarimana, an upcoming UN study on the status of cooperation among ethnic groups in the country is “an exercise in futility”.
- In the last 16 years, there have been an unprecedented number of studies to evaluate the country's unity policies, and each one has demonstrated that the Rwandan people are in fact living harmoniously, the NURC stated.
- The NURC is, instead, focusing its efforts on educating representatives and officials from other post-conflict societies on how to recover from Genocide and other human rights abuses as successfully as Rwanda.
- The UN expert in charge of the study, Gay McDougall, said she will consult with government officials and various stakeholders on the legislation, policies, and practices in place to ensure equality and non-discrimination.
- The Rwandan Minister of Local Government, James Musoni, welcomed the project, but agreed with the NURC that social cohesion has made remarkable progress, quoting a recent NURC survey which reported 80 percent of Rwandans are “comfortable living alongside one another and look at themselves as Rwandans other than being defined along ethnic lines.”

*The New Times website—5 February 2011: Rwandan fugitive said raising armed force in Somalia*

- Patrick Karegyeya, a Rwandan fugitive wanted for several crimes including forming a terrorist group, is reported to be in communication with the Somali Transitional Federal Government (TFG), with the backing of the United Nations (UN).
- The claims were made by a regional publication, *The Independent*, which asserts that Karegyeya is raising an armed force to help the TFG, and that the UN is funding these “insurgent activities” against Rwanda.
- The UN official believed to be involved in the covert operation is Bruno Mpondo-Epo, who allegedly became close with Karegyeya during his time with UNESCO and UNICEF in Rwanda in the 1990s. According to one meeting disclosed by Karegyeya, “AU forces currently in Somalia are...hampered by a lack of equipment. The TFG needs to boost its military, police and security services capability in order to secure the government...there is currently no local ability to neutralize the above threats, hence there is a need to acquire this capacity from outside Somalia.” The funds, he proposed, would be provided by the Somali government and the UN.
- “Rwandan Ministry of Foreign Affairs officials were shocked when the UN was willing to go ahead and grant Karegyeya the lucrative contract in the face of their objections,” reported *The Independent*.
- Security sources say this operation is causing tension between the UN and the African Union (AU), since it is being carried out without the input or assent of the latter.

*\*Please see past Media Monitoring reports for more information on the warrant for and the criminal allegations against Patrick Karegyeya.*

*The New Times website—7 February 2011: Rwandan media body concerned about criminalization of defamation*

- The Media High Council (MHC) announced that it remains concerned by the continued criminalization of defamation under Rwandan law.
- The announcement comes after the conviction of two journalists of the weekly tabloid, *Umurabyo*, with defamation and inciting civil disobedience.
- “We strongly believe that defamation involves damage to an individual’s reputation as opposed to harm against public order. We therefore continue to call upon Rwandan lawmakers to amend this penal code provision so that in the future, those found guilty are not subjected to a prison sentence,” said the MHC.