

Rwanda Domestic Media Report (February 16th-21st, 2011)

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

State Owned Media Sources

There are no relevant articles from state owned media sources for the week of February 16th-21st, 2011.

Privately Owned Media Sources

The New Times website—16 February 2011: UK military chief hails Rwandan army peacekeeping efforts

- The Chief of Defence Staff of the United Kingdom, General Sir David Richards, was in Rwanda on 16 February to discuss a range of issues with Rwandan President Paul Kagame.
- The two leaders discussed regional security, military cooperation between the two countries, and the relationship between aid, security, and wealth creation. Sir Richards hailed the Rwanda Defence Forces for their ability to maintain security at home, commending especially its peacekeeping efforts.
- According to the British General, “from such a very short period, Rwanda has gone from recovery from the genocide to having four or five battalions in peacekeeping.”

The New Times website—18 February 2011: The rise in exports a reflection of growing economy

- The Rwanda Development Board (RDB) announced yesterday that the country’s exports increased by 23.8% to USD\$454 million in 2010, compared to just \$366 million in 2009. This reflects steady growth in the trade and manufacturing sector.
- Tourism represents 44% of total exports, followed by mining and coffee, which contributed 14.9% and 12.3% respectively.
- According to the 2010 World Bank “Doing Business” report, Rwanda ranked 2nd out of 183 countries on a scale of success in implementing reform procedures.

The New Times website—20 February 2011: Rwandan editorial urges Western institutions to shun genocide revisionists (editorial entitled “It’s time to cut FDLR support”)

- According to an editorial by an unnamed individual in the *The New Times*, Rwandan fugitives “linked to terrorist activities” have been presenting a false historical account of the Genocide and its subsequent reconstruction to the international community.
- The editorial denounces specifically Paul Rusesabagina (whose name was made known in North America largely due to his depiction in the Hollywood film, *Hotel Rwanda*), the “Hollywood manufactured fraud, who presents himself as a hero...presenting a highly flawed narrative about Rwanda.”
- The editorial urges universities and other public institutions in western countries to carry out background research on these personalities before allowing them a public forum.

**In a preceding article on 19 February, The New Times reported that Paul Rusesabagina allegedly admitted his connection to the FDLR during a speech to the Student Union at the University of Central Florida in Orlando. Rusesabagina reportedly discussed his relationship with two other Rwandan fugitives (Kayumba Nyamwasa and Patrick Karegyeya) and their plans to overthrow the democratically elected government of Rwanda; he also alleged that the 1994 Genocide was the fault of the Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF).*

The New Times website—21 February 2011: Rwanda prepared for local polls

- On February 21st, 2011, a total of 5,422,740 voters are expected to go to the polls to vote in local government elections across Rwanda, according to the National Electoral Commission (NEC). The election is to choose councilors at the sector level.
- Overseeing the proceedings are 984 observers cleared by the NEC, whom the executive secretary, Charles Munyaneza, urged to abstain from getting involved in the voting process. According to Munyaneza, “polling officials should give observers due cooperation but the observers should desist from intervening in the officials’ duties.”
- “Campaigns are going well, we have not received many cases of misconduct except for (one).”
- At least 2,498 candidates across the country are vying for councillorship, of which 10,225 (41%) are women.