

State Owned Media Sources

Anatolia (Turkish semi-official news agency)—26 February 2011: Turkey brings to Istanbul 21 Rwandans stranded in Libya

- Due to joint efforts by the Rwandan government and the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 21 Rwandan nationals were evacuated from Libya to Turkey, due to the eruption of violence between anti-Gadhafi protestors and the country's military and government supporters. The citizens of Rwanda are expected to arrive back in Kigali on 28 February.

Privately Owned Media Sources

The New Times website—22 February 2011: Rwandan Geology and Mines Authority seeks extension for mineral export tagging

- The Rwandan Geology and Mines Authority (OGMR) has written to the US government requesting a delay for tagging all mineral exports (including tin, gold, and tungsten tantalum), stating that they are unable to comply with the set deadline of April 1, 2011.
- The requirement involves disclosing all companies who use minerals from the DRC or neighboring countries, and was established President Obama's July 2010 Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act. It involves companies sourcing minerals to submit an annual report the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) detailing measures taken to exercise due diligence in their supply chain.
- According to Dr. Michael Biryabarema, Director General of OGMR, the mining sector in Rwanda is the country's highest export earner (30% of total exports), and that imposing purchasing limitations as of April 2011 would be a major setback to the program, affecting "not only the balance of payments but would also result in the loss of tax revenue." There are more than 30,000 small miners in the Rwandan mineral industry, which makes the transition lengthier; the OGMR is requesting a new deadline to be set at the end of 2012.
- Dr. Biryabarema added that although the purpose of the "conflict minerals" legislation is not intended as a trade embargo, it might have a similar outcome if the two countries cannot reach a 'workable solution'.

The New Times website—24 February 2011: Over 93% turned out for local council elections (NEC)

- According to the National Electoral Commission (NEC), 93.6% of registered voters in Rwanda took part in last week's local elections (out of a total of 5,411,740 voters).
- Kigali City recorded the lowest turnout, with 91% of registered voters.
- 14 polling agents were arrested in the districts of Nyagatare and Kirehe, for allegedly attempting to rig the elections there.

The New Times website—25 February 2011: Rwandan preparing evacuation of nationals from Libya

- The government of Rwanda is currently in talks with Turkey to secure the evacuation of Rwandan citizens living in Libya, following unrest which has been spreading through North Africa, including Tunisia and Egypt.

- According to Robert Masozera, Rwandan ambassador designate to Belgium, “our government is committed to evacuate them and we are in touch with Turkey and other countries which have access to Tripoli to help us.”
- It is estimated that there are 30 nationals in Libya, 18 of whom are students at Tripoli University. Officials are in communication with the students using social media networks including Facebook and Twitter.
- See above article from *Anatolia* for further developments on this issue.

The New Times website—27 February 2011: UN agency, experts from Congo, Rwanda meet over return of Rwandan refugees

- Refugee experts from Congo-Brazzaville, the UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), and the Rwandan government met yesterday in Kigali to discuss various strategies for the repatriation of Rwandan refugees in Congo.
- It is estimated that over 1,789 Rwandan refugees reside in refugee camps in various parts of Congo-Brazzaville. The meeting follows a campaign launched in the region in January to urge the repatriation of refugees back to Rwanda.
- According to Col. Pierre Mongo, the head of the Congolese delegation, “the number of refugees returning home has reduced since 1994, and it’s due to a lack of information about the current situation in Rwanda.”
- The UNHCR deputy representative, Cristina Planas, asserted that the organization is committed to providing more financial support to all refugees who return from exile. Currently, the UNHCR provides \$100 to every adult and \$50 per child repatriated, as well as plane tickets for those who return by air.