

Rwanda Domestic Media Report (Jan 10th-17th, 2011)
By Paula Cook-Dinan, MIGS Monitor for Rwanda

State-Owned Media Sources

No articles from state-owned media sources to report on this week

Privately-Owned Media Sources

The New Times website—11 January 2011: US Africa Command hails Rwandan army's role in region

- On a visit to Rwanda this week, commander of AFRICOM (US-Africa Command), General William E. Ward, congratulated Rwanda for its successes in the advancement of human rights but stressed the necessity of cooperation between the two countries in order to promote peace and stability.
- “The example that Rwanda sets for its neighbors and the global community is one that we respect and are very thankful for,” General Ward said. He also reiterated the importance of remembering those dead in the 1994 Genocide, as the memory can help prevent its reoccurrence.
- General Ward toured the Genocide Memorial centre at Gisozi, and had a private meeting with Rwandan Defense Minister, General James Kabarebe, as well as the Chief of Defense, Lieutenant General Charles Kayonga.
- AFRICOM is the coalition responsible for US military operations and its relations with Africa nations; it has worked with the Rwandan army on issues including peacekeeping and military professionalism.
- Rwandan Lieutenant Colonel Jill Rutaremara assured General Ward during his visit that Rwanda was ready and willing to provide additional aid to the ongoing peacekeeping mission in Sudan. Currently, Rwanda has four battalions serving under the AU-UN operation in Darfur (UNAMID).

Radio Okapi website (UN-sponsored)—12 January 2011: Rwandna Congolese in western border town reportedly decry new immigration rules

- Rwandan Immigration Services has begun to enforce revised laws regulating the stay of foreigners in the country. Specifically, the laws require foreigners to apply for a visa, residence permit or pass, and must be prepared to produce his or her CV, or work permit to officials.
- The laws apply to the over 4000 Congolese foreigners living on Rwandan soil in the town of Gisenyi. Some of these residents fear the implementation of these laws will lead to unemployment for themselves and their children.
- The Rwandan government insists that the new measures are not new, and that the only change is the fact that they're being implemented. According to immigration officials, all foreigners will be allowed a grace period in order to produce the documents necessary to comply with the new law.

The New Times website—12 January 2011: Rwandan officer says former army chief working with rebels

- A former commander of the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR) terrorist organization has confirmed that two Rwandan fugitives have joined the FDLR to merge rebel efforts at destabilization in the region.
- Colonel Bizimana, who defected from the FDLR last week, stated that “for almost a year now, Kayumba Nyamwasa and Patrick Karegeya have sustained contact and high level meetings with senior FDLR leaders and this has led to the merging of resources and efforts between the two sides.”
- Both Nyamwasa and Karegeya were identified in a UN Security Council report released last year—the purpose of which was to investigate rebel activities in the DR Congo—as being linked to the FDLR.
- The UN report alleged that the FRF (Federal Republican Forces, a rebel group in the DRC) joined the coalition of the FPLC (Forces Patriotiques pour la Liberation du Congo), a merger that was, according to independent sources, facilitated by Kayumba Nyamwasa.
- As a result of last year’s report, the two fugitives have been indicted on various charges including forming a terrorist group, ethnic divisionism, and threatening national security.
- Bizimana, however, reported that the recent arrests and defections within the FDLR have severely weakened the rebel group, along with the “unbearable” nature of jungle life.