

Rwanda Domestic Media Report (Jan 18-24th, 2011)
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State-Owned Media Sources

Radio France Internationale—24 January 2011: Rwandan leader's former allies deny forming rebel group in eastern DR Congo

- Two former presidential aides accused of recruiting militias with the aim of carrying out subversive activities against Rwanda, have publicly denied the accusations. The two men, Kayumba Nyamwasa and Patrick Karegeya, were convicted of forming a terrorist group, threatening state security, undermining public order, promoting ethnic divisions and insulting the President of the Republic by a Kigali court on 14 January 2011. Each has been handed heavy prison terms in absentia.
- The fugitives are believed to be in exile in South Africa (see articles below for more details).

Privately-Owned Media Sources

The New Times website—19 January 2011: Rwanda issues international arrest warrants against ex-presidential aides

- The Rwandan police chief issued a statement on the role of the Rwandan police and the international community in catching four convicted fugitives, Kayumba Nyamwasa, Theogene Rudasingwa, Patrick Karegeya, and Gerald Gahima.
- The verdict, handed down on 14 January 2011, found the four men guilty of disturbing public order, threatening State security, sectarianism, and criminal conspiracy; if caught, each faces at minimum 20 years of imprisonment.
- The verdict was diffused to 188 INTERPOL member countries requesting them to arrest the four fugitives on sight and extradite them to Rwanda.
- Vital information relating to the fugitives' suspected location were transmitted throughout INTERPOL member states, as well as details of the wanted persons including travel documents, photographs and fingerprints.

The New Times website—19 January 2011: Trial of Rwanda genocide suspect kicks off at UN court

- The trial of former military officer, Ildephonse Nizeyimana, began on January 17th at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR).
- Nizeyimana is accused of planning, ordering, and instigating the murder thousands of Tutsis during the 1994 Genocide.
- Among those allegedly murdered includes Queen Rosalie Gicanda, the widow of King Mutara Rudahigwa III. According to Senior Trial Attorney Drew White, the murder sites included the Butare Hospital and Butare University, in the Southern Province town of Butare.
- Nizeyimana was arrested in 2009 in Uganda as a result of joint efforts between Ugandan police and INTERPOL.

The Daily Monitor website—19 January 2011: Exiled ex-Rwandan army chief rejects stripping of rank-Ugandan paper

- Former Rwandan chief of staff Lt-Gen Kayumba Nyamwasa, who currently faces an international arrest warrant, has said in an interview with the Daily Monitor that he will not let go of his military rank.
- “To say the military tribunal has stripped me of my military rank is a big joke...I fought for it,” said Nyamwasa.
- The exiled Rwandan is wanted on charges including, terrorism, creation of a criminal organization, treason, defamation of the president. If caught and convicted, he faces 24 years in prison and will be stripped of his military title.
- According to Nyamwasa, the judge who handed down the ruling (John-Peter Bagabo) is a lowering ranking member of the army, and therefore the sentence is invalid as it contradicts military law in Rwanda.

The New Times website—20 January 2011: Burundi, Rwanda, DR Congo defense chiefs discuss cooperation

- Top defense and security officials of Rwanda, Burundi, and the DR Congo met today to discuss the security situation in each of the three nations. Together they comprise what is known as the Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries (CPGL).
- According to Rwandan Lt Col and army spokesperson Jill Rutaremara, the meeting will explore the possibility of establishing a protocol binding member states to cooperate in defense and security.
- The meeting was attended by chiefs of defense forces, chiefs of police, chiefs of intelligence and security services personnel, heads of immigration services and heads of military and police intelligence from all three member-nations.

**In a related article run by The New Times on 22 January, the minutes of the meeting reveal that security chiefs believe Rwandan fugitives Kayumba Nyamwasa and Patrick Karegeya to have formed an armed group based in DR Congo with the aim of destabilizing the region. The group, they believe, is based in Nord Kivu, has a membership of approximately 200, and is actively recruiting inside Rwanda in conglomeration with the FDLR. It was also revealed that the Kayumba-Karegeya group has entered into alliances with existing rebel groups in eastern DRC, including the Mai Mai Cheka, the Ex-FAR, and the Interahamwe militia. Kayumba and Karegeya were first linked to the FDLR and other groups in the DRC by a UN Security Council Group of Experts’ report last year.*

The New Times website—21 January 2011: Rwandan government company refuses to print for private newspaper

- ORINFOR, the sole printer in the country, has refused to print the tabloid, Umusingi, after it was banned from doing so by the head of the government broadcaster.
- According to Umusingi owner, Nelson Gatsimbazi, ORINFOR informed him that the ban is due to an interview with Patrick Karegeya, one of the four fugitives wanted by the Rwandan government and INTERPOL (see above article dated 19 January).
- Speaking on behalf of ORINFOR, Willy Rukundo defended the decision: “Karegeya is a fugitive wanted by the judiciary of Rwanda (and) is wanted for his links with the FDLR. Can a US government printer print a newspaper with an interview from Al Qaeda?”

- ORINFOR is owned and controlled by the government of Rwanda, and is the only legal printer in the country. Other newspapers available in Rwanda have been printing from Uganda.
- This is the first case in recent years where local printers have refused to print a newspaper based on content.

The New Times website—22 January 2011: Stakeholders call for revision of some articles in Rwanda's media law

- Various actors and institutions of the Rwandan media have called for the amendment of about 10 articles in the current law governing the media in the country.
- The conference was organized by the Rwanda Governance Advisory Council (RGAC) in partnership with the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) and the Ministry of Information.
- Among the recommendations formulated at the conference was the RGAC request to decriminalize defamation, as well as the review of Article 5, which governs the requirements to obtain a press card.
- One of the speakers at the forum, Professor Anastase Shyaka, highlighted the importance of a vibrant and responsible media to democracy, and stated that “reviewing some of the articles which are a hindrance to independence and free expression is very important towards promoting democracy and good governance.”
- A second meeting is planned wherein media stakeholders will make a final analysis of the above recommendations