

Rwanda Domestic Media Report (May 16<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>, 2011)

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

State Owned Media Sources

*ORINFOR (Rwanda Bureau of Information and Broadcasting)—18 May 2011: Former Rwanda Army Chief handed 30 years*

- Former army chief, Augustin Bizimungu, has been sentenced by the International Criminal Tribunal For Rwanda (ICTR) to 30 years in prison for his involvement in the 1994 Genocide.
- Bizimungu was found guilty by the Trial Chamber of the ICTR on six counts of genocide, crimes against humanity, murder, rape, humiliating treatment, and extermination.
- The trial also saw the conviction of former paramilitary police chief and Chief of Staff of the Gendarmerie Nationale, Augustin Ndindiliyimana, on four counts of genocide, crimes against humanity, murder, and extermination. Sentenced to 11 years in prison, he was released because he had already been held behind bars since 2000.
- Two other former military officers, Major Francois-Xavier Nzuwonemeye and Captain Innocent Sagahutu, were sentenced, as part of the long-running case known as the Military II trial. Both men were found guilty of ordering the killing of Prime Minister Agathe Uwingiliyimana and being criminally responsible for the highly publicized killing of the Belgian UNAMIR soldiers during the 1994 Genocide.\*
- In a statement made following the trial, President of the IBUKA (an organization for genocide survivors in Rwanda), Jean Pierre Dusingizimana, criticized the sentences as too short, and that the ICTR did not give sufficient consideration to the crimes committed.

*\*Additional information retrieved from article entitled "Former army chief gets 30 years for Genocide" from the New Times website on 18 May.*

*ORINFOR—20 May 2011: FDLR Major defects group*

- A former FDLR major defected from the terrorist group on 19 May. Barandaganiye Jean Baptiste, was head of the group's human resources section and lived in the DR Congo forests for 17 years.
- Known as Mongo Smith, Baptiste said that he made the decision after realizing that he could channel his efforts away from destabilizing Rwanda's security and towards rebuilding it.

Privately Owned Media Sources

*The New Times website—17 May 2011: Ingabire case adjourned to June*

- The trial of opposition leader Victoire Ingabire has been postponed until next month. This follows a series of delays in the case, which was supposed to begin in February 2011.
- According to Ingabire, she "did not get enough time to study [her] file"; she appeared in the High Court without her lawyers. She also blames the delay on the fact that some members of her defense team are foreigners.
- Ingabire's legal team requested the trial be pushed to September 12, 2011; however, presiding judge, Angelline Rutazana, ruled that one month would be sufficient and that the trial would therefore resume on June 20.

*The New Times website—21 May 2011: UK Allegations “unfounded”-government”*

- The government of Rwanda has dismissed allegations made in several western media outlets claiming that the former was “hunting down” two dissidents in the UK with the aim of assassinating them.
- In a statement released on 20 May, the government called the accusations “baseless”, and that “the government of Rwanda does not threaten the lives of its citizens, wherever they live.”
- The two men in question are Rene Mgenzi, a survivor of the 1994 Genocide, and Jonathan Musonera, a former member of the Rwanda Patriotic Front and now the founding member of the Rwandan National Conference (a new political party opposed to President Kagame).
- The allegations were made in the British publication, *The Independent*, who interviewed both men at their residences in London. The assertion of an assassination plot was based on information gathered by the newspaper that M15 (the UK’s Secret Service) had warned the Rwandan High Commission to halt alleged harassment against critics of Mr. Kagame living in the UK.\*
- An article released by ORINFOR on 23 May details the statement released by the Rwandan government, stating “the Government of Rwanda welcomes requests by UK members of Parliament to shed light on this whole affair, and should these allegations be shown to be false, the Government of Rwanda would expect the Metropolitan Police to make a full and public retraction of their previous statements.”

\*The article in the UK’s *The Independent*, can be found here:

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/rwandan-assassin-sent-to-kill-dissidents-in-uk-2286712.html>

*Rwanda News Agency (RNA)—23 May 2011: Zimbabwe gives ultimatum to Rwandan refugees*

- The Zimbabwean government released a warning to Rwandan refugees that come December, they will be forced out of the country.
- There are approximately 750 Rwandans staying in Zimbabwe as refugees, the majority of whom live in Tongogara Refugee camp in the southwestern part of the country.
- Refugees have cited concerns over security as their main reason for not having returned to Rwanda; Harare is hopeful that a recent meeting between Rwandan and Zimbabwean officials will help to convince the refugees that the situation in Rwanda is now peaceful.
- By January 2012, no Rwandans will be called refugees if the UN decides to invoke the cessation clause of Rwandan refugees contained in the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR). The clause stipulates that no Rwandan living outside the country’s borders will qualify for refugee status after December 31, 2011.
- Because most refugees are unaware of the clause, the visiting delegation, headed by Disaster management and Refugee Affairs Minister, Gen. Marcel Gatsinzi, is aiming to sensitize the refugees on this issue.
- Refugees fear persecution if they return home especially after last year’s incident involving Ugandan refugees—who were forcefully transported and repatriated back to the country by Ugandan security forces.