

State Owned Media Sources

There were no relevant news stories from state owned media sources for the week of March 1st-March 7th 2011.

Privately Owned Media Sources

The New Times website—1 March 2011: Rwandan Grenade attack suspects arraigned in court

- Twenty nine men were arraigned before the Nyarugenge Intermediate Court on 28 February, after being accused of perpetrating a series of grenade attacks around the country.
- Most of the plaintiffs admitted their involvement and/or prior knowledge of the attacks.
- Specifically, the men are being charged by the prosecution of recruiting and belonging to a terrorist group, and planning and executing activities aimed at causing state insecurity and mass murder.
- According to Prosecutor Michael Nshimiyimana, “we request the accused be remanded based on the gravity of the crimes, and the fact that the accused have no known physical addresses, they can also jeopardize investigations and continue executing terrorist acts.”
- The prosecution also revealed to the court that the accused are part of a network based in the DR Congo, acting specifically on behalf of the FDLR.
- In a follow-up article in *The New Times* from March 2, the 29 suspects were denied bail on the grounds that they constituted a “significant flight risk”, according to presiding judge, Harrison Mutabazi. The case has now been transferred to the Rwandan High Court, since it is one involving charges of terrorism.

The New Times website—2 March 2011: DR Congo army renegade colonel killed said linked to rebels

- Col. Emmanuel Nsengiyumva, a top Congolese army leader, was killed on 26 February during an operation in Nord-Kivu province.
- Col. Nsengiyumva was the leader of the Patriotic Front for the Liberation of Congo (FPLC), and was allegedly linked to the FDLR (which is composed of Ex-FAR and Interahamwe militia responsible for the 1994 Genocide).
- It is suspected that the colonel was killed by the Congolese military through their joint efforts with the UN Mission in DRC (MONUSCO) during operation Amani Leo.

The New Times website—3 March 2011: Rwanda says reappointment of French Foreign Minister a ‘bad surprise’

- The recent re-appointment of French foreign minister, Alain Juppe, is being condemned as a ‘bad surprise’ by some Rwandan officials.
- Juppe held the position between 1993 and 1995; according to the Mcoyo Commission—in charge of investigating the French government’s role in the 1994 Genocide—Juppe was a strong supporter of the forces that committed the Genocide.
- Relations between the two countries resumed only in November 2009, and according to Rwanda minister of foreign affairs, “for the quality of this relationship to be preserved, Mr. Juppe will have to do some work as a person who was deeply involved in the wrong done to the Rwandan people.”

- Officials in Rwanda and the French Diaspora are concerned about the consequences of the appointment, with observers worrying that Juppe might “antagonize the Rwandan government instead of further enhancing good relations.”

The New Times website—7 March 2011: Ex-Rwanda FDLR leaders to stand trial in Germany in May

- On March 4th, a German court ordered two FDLR military leaders to stand trial for crimes against humanity committed in the DR Congo.
- The hearing, scheduled to begin in May, will investigate the actions of Ignace Murwanashyaka and Straton Musoni, which the prosecution describes as “systematic crimes against civilian population”, including the rape of women and recruited child soldiers. The two men were arrested in November 2009 and indicted in December of last year.
- The Congolese Minister of Information welcomed the development, stating that “this is a very good achievement for the peace process in the great lakes region since the trial of these criminals will send a strong signal to those willing to go ahead with their diabolic projects in both the DRC and Rwanda.”
- Murwanashyaka and Musoni will be tried under Germany’s International Penal Code, introduced by the German government in 2002 to deal with crimes against humanity and terrorism. This code allows the trial in Germany of those who committed crimes outside the country’s borders.

The New Times website—7 March 2011: UK pledges 300 billion Rwf to country

- The United Kingdom this week pledged £330 million (approximately 317 billion Rwandan francs) in financial support to Rwanda for the next four years. The UK is the leading donor of financial aid to Rwanda.
- The UK funding is to focus on the areas of education, health, social protection and agriculture.