

State Owned Media Sources

There were no relevant stories from state-owned media sources this week.

Privately Owned Media Sources

The New Times website—14 May 2011 Rwandan court denies bail to 19 suspected rebels

- The Mukamira Intermediate Court denied bail to 19 members of the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR) charged with causing national insecurity by means of arms.
- According to presiding judge Clementine Mukahirwa, the “grave nature of the allegations, the inconsistency in [their] statements, and insufficient evidence adduced” has warranted the denial of bail until after thirty days from their arrest. The suspects were found and detained earlier this month.
- The suspects are being held at Gisenyi Prison, and have a right to appeal the decision within the next five days. Under articles 151 to 164 of the constitution, the suspects face life imprisonment if found guilty.

Rwanda News Agency (RNA) 14 May 2011: Rwandan opposition holds rally in Brussels

- Belgian citizens gathered in front of the Rwandan embassy in Brussels on 16 May to oppose the Kigali government, in support of imprisoned opposition leader, Victoire Ingabire.
- The trial of Ingabire, head of the yet-unregistered FDU-Inkingi party, is scheduled to be held on Monday, 16 May; if she is found guilty, she could face life in prison.
- Ingabire was arrested in September 2010 and stands accused of creating a terrorist organization, promoting ethnic divisions, propagating the genocide ideology and trivializing the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi.
- The stated goal of the rally is to attract the attention of the Kigali government and western countries regarding what is lauded by many as the persecution of individuals on political grounds.

The New Times website—16 May 2011: Rwanda accuses opposition leader’s lawyers of seeking to delay trial

- The defense team of Victoire Ingabire has requested the delay of their client’s trial, citing their unpreparedness.
- According to Radio Netherlands Worldwide, Ian Edwards, member of the defense council announced that “the trial won’t be proceeding on Monday and the prosecution knows this! We told the court that the defense won’t be ready to start this Monday.”
- The prosecution, however, says that they will be in court on Monday morning. According to spokesperson, Alain Mukurarinda, “we have all the necessary evidence and are ready to begin the trial. If the defense is not ready, it is up to the court to decide.”
- The trial has already been delayed on several occasions; the president of the High Court of Rwanda has been waiting for Ingabire to file her defense since February.
- Ingabire’s lawyer, Gatera Gashabana, was unable to be reached for comment.