

Rwanda Domestic Media Report (November 30-December 6th, 2010)

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State-Owned Media Sources

*Rwandan Radio—4 December 2010: **Rwandan parliament to set up radio station next year***

- The Rwandan parliament has announced that it is currently in the process of establishing its own radio station, which should be in operation by early 2011.
- According to the president of the Senate, Dr. Vincent Biruta, the process has been slow but that, once implemented, the station will be a “tool for the people of Rwanda to monitor various activities of the two chambers of Parliament.”

Privately-Owned Media Sources

*Rwandan News Agency (RNA)—30 November 2010: **Rwandan rebels holding unsold uranium; UN probe report***

- According to a report released by UN investigators, FDLR (Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda) rebels are in possession of hundreds of kilograms of uranium, which is used to build atomic weapons.
- Operating out of the Walikale region of the DR Congo, the mineral was found in the region after FDLR members were informed of its whereabouts by local chiefs. The uranium, along with other precious metals, was allegedly found in 2008 in a vault hidden at the time of Belgian colonization.

*AFP News Agency (Paris)—2 December 2010: **Rwandan rebel leader loses bail appeal in French court***

- The criminal chamber of the Paris Appeal Court has denied the latest bail request for Callixte Mbarushimana, the Hutu rebel—and Executive Secretary of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR)—suspected of war crimes and crimes against humanity in the DR Congo last year.
- Mbarushimana was arrested in Paris on 11 October after a secret arrest warrant was issued by the International Criminal Court. The Paris Appeal Court was delayed in returning Mbarushimana to the ICC by this latest appeal drawn up by the lawyers of the detained Rwandan.

*The New Times website—6 December 2010: **Rwanda not surprised by UN report on fugitive activities***

- A report submitted by a UN Security Council Committee concluded that Rwandan fugitives, Faustin Kayumba Nyamwasa and Patrick Karegeya, have been linked to rebel activities in the DRC. The Committee concluded that “independent sources” informed them that certain rebel coalitions—

including the Forces Patriotiques pour la Liberation du Congo—were facilitated by Nyamwasa.

- The report confirms that a group of experts from the UN Committee actually witnessed a conversation between Karegeya and former CNDP (National Congress for the Defence of the People, now reintegrated into the DRC national army) officers, during which Karegeya may have sent an emissary to meet with FDLR and Mai Mai leaders in February.
- Formal charges to date against the two men include forming a terrorist group, ethnic divisionism, threatening national security, undermining state authority, and spreading harmful propaganda.
- According to Lt-Col Jill Rutaremara, the Rwandan government was “not surprised by the UN report,” adding “the information we have is that they are involved in criminal activities and they are busy forming alliances with criminal groups.”