

Rwanda Domestic Media Report (October 27-November 2, 2010)  
*By Paula Cook-Dinan, MIGS Monitor for Rwanda*

State-Owned Media Sources

*Radio France Internationale – 28 October 2010: **French court rejects Rwanda rebel leader's bail application***

- Rwandan rebel leader Callixte Mbarushimana was denied release from prison this week; the former FDLR member is suspected by the ICC of war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in the DR Congo.

*Radio France Internationale – 3 November 2010: **ICC calls for transfer of FDLR rebel leader from France to The Hague***

- The International Criminal Court (ICC) has applied to a French court to transfer Callixte Mbarushimana, executive-secretary of the FDLR—wanted by the ICC for war crimes and crimes against humanity—to The Hague.
- The crimes were said to have been committed by the rebel leader's troops in eastern DR Congo; the date of ruling on the transfer of Mbarushimana was not released.

*Radio France Internationale – 3 November 2010: **Party of jailed opposition leader accuses Rwanda regime of coercion***

- The party of imprisoned politician Victoire Ingabire, the FDU-Inkingi, has publicly accused President Paul Kagame's government of pressuring party members to bear false witness against Ingabire.

Privately-Owned Media Sources

*The New Times website – 27 October 2010: **Rwandan court rejects opposition leader's bail application***

- Victoire Ingabire Umuhoza, the leader of the unregistered FDU-Inkingi political party, has been denied bail, according to the ruling made by the Basabo Intermediate Court.
- Ingabire is charged—along with former EX-FAR commander Maj. Vital Uwumuremyi—with forming the Coalition of Democratic Forces (CDF), a proposed military wing of the FDU-Inkingi party.
- According to Prosecutor General Martin Ngoga, the case is one with “regional and international dimensions”, since evidence was collected in various African and European countries, and the fact that the FDLR—to which she is reported to have links—is a rogue organization subject to over 15 Security Council resolutions.
- Burundi, the DR Congo, Holland, and the US have or are scheduled to provide evidence of Ingabire's coordinated activities in those countries.
- Paul Rusesabagina is also being investigated by the Criminal Investigations Department under the same case on suspicion of financing subversive activities,

including sending funds through Western Union to top FDLR commanders in order to recruit new members for the CDF.

*The New Times website— 28 October 2010: **Rwanda accuses “Hotel Rwanda” manager of funding terrorism***

- The Rwandan government is investigating Paul Rusesabagina as part of a case against opposition leader Victoire Umuhoza Ingabire, and four other FDLR commanders; the five individuals are being charged with attempting to form a terrorist organization and threatening state security.
- Rusesabagina is accused of wiring money through Western Union to two top commanders of the FDLR with the aim of recruiting fighters for a new terrorist organization known as the Coalition of Democratic Forces (CDF).
- Rwandan authorities have requested evidence from the government of the United States—where Rusesabagina is currently living—that will be used in the prosecution.

*RNA (Rwanda News Agency) – 28 October 2010: **French radio returns to Rwanda airwaves after four-year ban***

- French radio station RFI (Radio France Internationale) has returned to the FM frequency in Rwanda.
- RFI was initially banned in November 2006 following the controversial indictments from a French judge against nine top officials over alleged links to the assassination of ex-president Juvenal Habyarimana. At the time, French diplomats were expelled from the country, as well as other French affiliates including schools and a cultural centre.
- The return of RFI is predicted to contribute to the return of normalized relations between Kigali and Paris.

*The New Times website – 30 October 2010: **Website calls for expedition of Information Act in Rwanda***

- Addressing an issue that has received substantial attention in Rwandan news as of late, the Media High Council (MHC) has launched a national campaign to encourage government agencies to improve relations with the media.
- The Council recognizes the challenges journalists are facing in their effort to access information in many public offices within the government.
- “Leaders, right from the senior levels of Government to the grassroots, need to understand that they have an obligation to communicate to the people what they are doing; and this can only be done through the media, since not every citizen can be able to personally solicit that information.”
- The article calls upon the government to expedite the proposed Access to Information Act, which will go a long way in curbing the lack of transparency in the journalistic process.

*RNA (Rwanda News Agency) – 1 November 2010: **UN court jails former Rwandan businessman for genocide***

- The International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) has sentenced Gaspard Kanyarukiga, former Rwandan businessman, to 30 years imprisonment after being convicted of genocide and extermination.
- Kanyarukiga was found guilty of demolishing the Nyange Church in Kivumu commune (western Rwanda), where around 2,000 Tutsis had taken refuge, with “genocidal intent”.
- Established in November 1994, the ICTR has convicted 40 persons of crimes relating to genocide.

*RNA (Rwanda News Agency) – 3 November 2010: **Slow demand for Rwandan exports, fuel prices hike of concern, IMF report***

- According to a review released by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Rwanda’s economic performance has been “satisfactory”, enjoying a recovery from the global recession more rapidly than anticipated.
- The IMF assessment reported that GDP growth is expected to reach about 6 per cent in 2010, driven mainly by growth in services (telecom), construction, and exports; this figure is up from 4.1 per cent in 2009. Inflation remained below 5 per cent for the first time in many years.
- The IMF cautioned, however, that demand for Rwandan exports would remain sluggish amid a timid global economic recovery; domestic credit has also resisted expansion, and global food and fuel prices remain uncertain.
- Speaking to the government, the IMF advised greater exchange rate flexibility to enhance monetary policy effectiveness.

*RNA (Rwanda News Agency) – 3 November 2010: **Rwanda arrests opposition members over “military trench”***

- A convoy of police officers discovered an “unusual trench” in the compound of jailed opposition leader Ingabire Victoire, following a search initiated by a tip from a witness who allegedly saw Ingabire dig the trench.
- Five meters deep by two meters wide and L-shaped, investigators have identified the trench as having been dug for military purposes; it was covered with timber and disguised by grass planted overtop. Prosecutors have not confirmed the military status of the trench.
- At the time of the search, four people were taken into custody including FDU-Inkingi (the unofficial party headed by Ingabire) secretary general. They were, at the time of press, being held for interrogation.

*UN Integrated Regional Information Network (Nairobi) – 4 November 2010:*

***Repatriation of Uganda Rwandans said to go on despite claims of forced returns***

- Rwandan officials have announced that the country will increase the rate of repatriation of refugees and asylum seekers living in Uganda.
- According to Chris Dolan, director of the Refugee Law Project (RLP), “there has been great fear among refugees after the last round of deportation (in July) of being sent back...these people should not be forced to return home because such repatriation exposes them to serious risks and violates obligations under domestic

and international law.” Rwanda’s minister for refugees and disaster preparedness, Gen Marcel Gatsinzi, insists that the returns are not forced.

- According to the RLP, less than a third of the Rwandan refugees in Uganda have chosen to return home since the current repatriation commenced.