

Rwanda Domestic Media Report (October 6 –October 12, 2010)

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State-Owned Media Sources

*The New Vision website, 9 October 2010: **Rwanda to charge two Ugandans with “subversion”***

- Simpson Mpirirwe and Dadas Ndamiye, the two individuals who were arrested last month at the Cyanika border post, are being formally charged by the Rwandan government with subversion. The news was communicated to the Ugandan embassy by Rwanda’s Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, James Mugume.
- The formal announcement of charges levied against the pair mean that they are now allowed to receive legal counsel from Uganda.
- The Ugandan consular—along with the accuseds’ families—have been allowed to visit the two individuals, who are allegedly in good health.

Privately-Owned Media Sources

*The New Times website, 5 October 2010: **Citizens in Canada spell out dangers of latest UN Report***

- Rwanda’s High Commissioner to Canada, Edda Mukabagwiza denounced the UN report as “flawed...dangerous and irresponsible” in a press conference aired on Canal Vox television broadcast.
- Aimable Rwamucyo, an official based in Canada of the Rwanda Diaspora Global Network (RDGN) voice similar concerns, stating that the Report omits key facts regarding Rwanda’s positive involvement in Zaire (now DR Congo) at the time, such as the repatriation and reintegration of 1.5 million Hutu refugees between 1994 and 2003.
- Rwandans from four major Canadian cities (Toronto, Montreal, Ottawa, Quebec city) protested on October 8<sup>th</sup> in the capital against the UN Report.

*Rwanda News Agency, 6 October 2010: **Rwanda rebel chief accused of gang rape in eastern DR Congo flees arrest***

- Commander Colonel Serafim of the FDLR, accused by the UN of raping some 500 women, men, and babies, has fled authorities during the joint MONUSCO-Congolese army operation aimed at stabilizing the Walikale region of the country.
- The operation was, however, successful in capturing chief of staff Lieutenant Colonel Sadoke Kikonda Mayele who is accused, along with Colonel Serafim, of leading a coalition of Mai-Mai and FDLR rebel forces in an attack on Walikale between 30 July-2 August of this year.
- The two leaders’ alleged crimes are detailed in a UN report released last month; it also accuses the rebel forces of looting, forced labor, and abduction.

- UN envoy for Sexual Violence in Conflict, Margot Wallstrom, told a session of the UN Human Rights Council on 17 September that the former has compiled a list of names of FDLR and Mai Mai rebels that were responsible for the crimes outlined in the Report.
- This development comes amid preparations by President Joseph Kabila to launch a military offensive to “bring order to the east”, including suspending all mining in North and South Kivu provinces (a source of wealth for the rebel forces operating there).

*The New Times websit, 12 October 2010: **Rwanda welcomes arrest of rebel leader in France***

- French police arrested Callixte Mbarushimana, a top commander of the FDLR, on an arrest warrant for war crimes and crimes against humanity issued by the International Criminal Court.
- The government in Kigali hailed this arrest as a “positive step” for Rwanda and its efforts to prosecute those responsible for leading the massive wave of sexual assault crimes committed in the DR Congo.