

(Signature tune for the radio news)

25.9 min

Speaker: Unidentified

...another in English. In their interview, *Préfet* Renzaho condemned members of the population and soldiers who indulged in acts of looting. *Préfet* Renzaho asked the population to apprehend these gangsters and recover their looted property or else report them to the authorities.

Préfet Renzaho also issued a warning to persons manning roadblocks who assault people and traders bringing supplies to Kigali city. "Those too are collaborating with the Inyenzi; we should castigate them," he said. Let us listen to that interview.

26.6 min

Speaker: Colonel Tharcisse Renzaho, *Préfet* of P.V.K. (Kigali city).

Thank you, Radio Rwanda, for once more giving me the occasion to address the population. Dear members of the population of Kigali city *préfecture*, I would like to greet you and thank you for the courage you have continued to show. As you know, the war continues; but, in view of the courage shown by the population by supporting their armed forces, you have learnt and noticed that the enemy is continually breached and pushed even further away. We nurse the hope that if you maintain this determination, we will in a very short time kick the enemy out of Kigali city. Thus members of the population who are living in makeshift shelters, or wandering everywhere on the hills, will have the chance to return to their properties. In fact, nobody would like to die of hunger whereas he has tilled his farms and it is harvest time.

We are therefore proud of your courage. We also thank the youths who have shown that they are willing to push back the enemy during the attacks which took place in the last few days, especially in the attack of yesterday in Nyamirambo. I came to welcome those youths this morning and I saw them coming with booty. They came to show me the weapons which they took from the enemy and I congratulated them. I take this opportunity to inform you that, in tandem with other authorities, we have put in place a service to take charge of such acts. It will be necessary to write reports on such important deeds of bravery by members of the population. These reports could be sent to the higher authorities so that these brave deeds should be commended and rewarded, and this will serve as an example for other compatriots, who would thus mobilise so that we can push back the enemy and free our country.

28.6 min

Meanwhile, we should blame the cowardly because it has been noticed that there is a small number of people who continue to flee instead of defending their fatherland. Such persons only think of looting, stealing or safeguarding the things they have stolen.

Now that all Rwandans have understood that this disastrous war has reached all regions of the country, we ask everybody to look for soldiers and other persons hiding in the midst of the population, particularly those who are peddling rumours in order to discourage others, but above all to find out those who can support them in their wrongdoing. They are hiding

in your midst and are in possession of looted property. Some soldiers whom the country sent to the front to defend it think that their mission is to loot. They should be despised and members of the population should help us to find them and to make life difficult for them because, normally, a deserter, like any other black sheep, should be blamed by the community. Right now we ask you to do so.

Even if these acts of looting have diminished in the city, people have been noticed of recent stealing vehicles or breaking and entering to loot the property in houses. But, of what use is the material to them if they are not concerned about freeing their country? Where would they go with such property considering that no airplane accepts to carry refrigerators or VCRs, even if you were to find an airplane? Those thieves should understand that they are also Inyenzi because they keep helping the enemy to harm us and this discourages their comrades who are devoting themselves to their duty to defend the country. We must condemn these looters, and I ask members of the population to help us to punish them. They should find them so that they should be punished.

31.1 min.

SIDE B**0.2 min****Speaker: Colonel Tharcisse Renzaho, *Préfet* of P.V.K. (Kigali city)**

...many reasons. As you know, this city had supplies from several regions; but we notice that in some places the roads are not passable. Meanwhile, we can overcome difficulties if we all work together. It is true that there is shortage of fuel; but those who have fuel are the very ones who have looted it and who are selling it at cutthroat prices. You cannot understand how a jerry can of petrol is sold at 12000 francs. It is through stealing that they acquired this fuel, even if they call this "liberation", it is outright theft because grabbing other people's property can only amount to theft. If this property were taken in order to serve the interests of the population in general, one could understand this; but the situation is different when it means serving personal interests.

If, for example, the government requisitions vehicles and gives them to government departments, these departments should use them for the interests of members of the population. You cannot characterise this act as looting and tell yourself that if the State is doing it, you too have the right to do it. When the State does something, it is in the general interest of the population. But if you take others' property for your personal interest, this is called theft because you have taken something that does not belong to you.

Moreover, we should understand each other well. All that the State has requisitioned may be considered as a debt it has contracted because it has to pay later on. To whom will the looters pay for the property they have stolen? When will they pay? How will they pay for it? Let those people not think that it is all right for them to do anything. I am thus reiterating the request I made a while ago: it is necessary for these people to be punished.

As for the business people, we have done everything to facilitate things for them; they should in return understand us. If we issue them documents and other equipment, it is to help them act promptly.

I should, however, warn those who are at certain roadblocks that they have set up by themselves. Official roadblocks are known; members of the population thus have no right to set up others as they see fit. Those who do so have no purpose other than to hold to ransom those passing through and to commit theft and other criminal acts. There is in fact a businessman who told me yesterday that he passed through a given roadblock and that he was asked to pay 50000 francs. But where do they think somebody with a Toyota pick-up loaded with foodstuffs will find fifty thousand francs? Even the load in the pick-up is not worth that amount!

2.5 min

Those at the roadblocks ought to facilitate things for the business people, who are already complaining. The business people of Ngororero say this for instance: "We will not continue because we have just spent too much money. This means that we have worked for nothing; we cannot continue because we are not gaining anything." It can thus be seen that they are complaining because of the poor treatment they receive at these roadblocks.

We ask the people manning the roadblocks to show tolerance and to understand that the city needs supplies; they should facilitate things for the business people who supply foodstuffs to the city. You cannot ask a driver carrying potatoes to unload his cargo at a roadblock, particularly if you know that he has to do this every 50 metres! That is not possible. At this rate, the city will never have supplies. We therefore ask them to show understanding and to make things easier for the business people passing through these roadblocks. In normal circumstances, they should ensure that the drivers have the requisite documents issued by the authorities, and then allow these vehicles through to take supplies to the city. The population needs these foodstuffs for us to continue to fight our enemy who is not giving us any respite.

Speaker: Charles Semivumbi, journalist from Radio Rwanda

Still on this point, Mr. *Préfet*, members of the population have been complaining lately about the very high price of Primus beer. As you know, beer raises spirits, especially among the soldiers at this time of war. I should like you to say something to beer vendors. A bottle of beer, for example, costs 700 francs in Kigali.

Speaker: *Préfet* Renzaho

It is indeed the conduct of the people manning the roadblocks that is the source of this problem. If a lorry leaves Gisenyi loaded with crates of beer, and on the way, one crate is removed here, and another there, it will reach Kigali city almost empty. That is why the business people no longer want to carry beer. Moreover, BRALIRWA has informed me that their daily production has reduced considerably. This therefore is a problem; but when you look for the cause, you discover that it is because of the existence of those roadblocks we have mentioned where the people posted there are only out for their personal interests and prevent the business people from continuing to bring supplies to the city. This therefore poses a problem that is difficult for us to resolve.

In other words, those manning roadblocks should show tolerance and let all vehicles supplying foodstuffs and drinks to the city go through. Furthermore, we ask business people not to go after exorbitant profits. It is indeed hard to understand how a bottle of beer can cost 700 francs whereas a box of beer costs 800 francs in Gisenyi. It is true that when you buy a box of beer at BRALIRWA, you pay about 800 francs. If a single bottle of beer brought to Kigali should cost 750 francs, the situation is really difficult, I would even say unbearable! We ask business people who supply the city to show devotedness; this too is a way of sacrificing for the country.

During the war people carry out various activities; but everyone is working towards the same goal: defeating the enemy. Each in his or her field makes a contribution. Business people should also look for foodstuffs so that people can eat and have the strength to fight the enemy. And, as you say, concerning the beer issue, it is difficult, especially during this dry period, for someone to spend much time at the front without drinking a little beer.

5.9 min

That is why these business people should support us by supplying beer. But we insist once more that those manning the roadblocks should make things easy for the business people

when they are supplying beer to the city. People will thus be able to buy beer at an affordable price; and, through the cooperation of everybody in his or her own sphere, we will have enough strength to fight the enemy.

In continuation, I will now address another subject, namely the organisation of civil defence. As you know, our youths are currently fighting fiercely in their respective *secteurs*. It has even been noticed that they are attacking the enemy, dislodging him from his positions and even succeeding in bringing back booty. I have already mentioned the case of Nyamirambo; but I would not like to be silent on what happened in Rugenge and Gikondo *secteurs*, and on what happened this morning in Kacyiru, Gatsata or on Gisozi hill.

Our people have the courage and the will needed; and, in my opinion, this is the very basis of our victory against the enemy. That is what I think. I tell myself that, if all the youths from all the *préfectures* (which have been abandoned by the population and which the Inkotanyi claim to have taken, whereas they cannot have enough people to occupy them—Kibungo, Kigali, Byumba) were to stand up like one man and help members of the population to return to their homes, the enemy would not continue to taunt us. In fact, when you consider what the enemy is doing against us, you can only conclude that he is taunting us.

8.0 min

What I want in the final analysis is that civil defence, which has been in existence for some time now, should be organised. We know the situation that prevails in Kigali city; consequently, we know how we must prepare ourselves and put things in order. We actually want to prepare ourselves during the meeting we have convened. But we think that at the *cellule* level, there must be a group of youths who have been trained and who have the experience of fighting. This group ought to have a leader. These groups ought to have coordinators and their assistants at the *secteur* level. We think in reality that the *secteur* should be at the basis of civil defence.

8.9 min

We are currently looking for people who can devote themselves to this work and who have the confidence of the population. We will need to find upright persons who can lead the youths. The persons will be chosen from among their current leaders, but what is important is that the person should have the confidence of the population. These persons will take care of problems about weapons, training to be followed and the material they may need. Furthermore, there should be a management body for cooperation with the other security services, the Rwandan Army, the Gendarmerie and the other higher authorities of the administration.

9.7 min

There will be a prefectoral body over and above these groups operating in the *secteurs* and the communes. This body will especially have in its set-up an intervention unit, which may be called to help by the lower authorities and thus resolve certain problems. Meanwhile, all of this will be done as part of our assistance to the army. In other words, no action may be

undertaken without prior consultation with the armed forces. If we work together in this way, we will be able to push back and defeat the enemy.

Speaker: Journalist

Mr. *Préfet*, on this subject there is a point that is of concern to people. In fact, the youth have done their best to support the armed forces in the fight against the enemy and their activities are known to all; they should keep this up. But there is a problem. Young people are seen in military uniform with soldiers' berets, such that one can no longer tell the difference between these young people and members of the armed forces. Have you any comments on this subject?

Speaker: *Préfet* Renzaho

All I need do is to echo the communiqué of the Minister of Defence published a few days ago in which he declared that these young people did not have to wear military uniforms. It is true; but if you ask the commanding officers how these uniforms were distributed to the young people, they cannot tell you. That is why it is difficult to ask them to return these uniforms because there is no distribution list for the uniforms.

In fact, it is the young people themselves who managed to receive the material from their friends in the military. Moreover, some of them are saying: "We were used to working with the soldiers in some operations, and when it was cold at night or when we passed through unhealthy places, we had nothing else to use." What we still have to know is whether withdrawal of these uniforms will not create other problems.

12.0 min

Speaker: Journalist

Don't you think that that could have unfortunate consequences?

Speaker: *Préfet* Renzaho

I think that people know one another. The structure that we want to put in place will help people to know one another. We are therefore afraid that someone from outside might infiltrate these young people on the pretext that he is from Kimisagara, Nyakabanda, or Nyamirambo, whereas that is not true. But, since those people already know one another, we ask them to maintain a control structure among themselves for fear that someone from outside might mingle with them. I think that that is the most important point.

For the rest, such a person [wearing military clothes], is different from a soldier because a soldier has a service card and he is deployed in an army or gendarmerie unit, which knows him well. It is difficult to mistake these people for soldiers because, in fact, they do not wear a complete gendarme's uniform as required by the regulations, or a military uniform as I am wearing right now.

13.1 min

We should certainly avoid having infiltrations. I should like to inform the youth at this point that we have heard that some acts at the roadblocks are carried out by youths passing off as the *Interahamwe*, who say they are members of the JDR. These are rather infiltrators

who have come to cause disorder; at some places, they kill and steal, and, after investigation, it is noticed that the leaders of these youths do not know these trouble-makers.

Vigilant people should be deployed at such places to carry out checks in order to avoid infiltration by spies and trouble-makers sent by our adversaries, who, as you know, use all the familiar tricks. Checks should be carried out to send away those who are undisciplined and to continue to maintain discipline, to work in transparency and in absolute discipline. Indeed, you cannot work in disorder and claim to be a saviour. That is not possible. Those who are saviours work according to a programme; no operation is carried out without having been prepared and accepted by all the parties taking part in it.

14.4 min

I want this to be well understood. We want to put this efficient structure in place to prevent undisciplined persons from coming to perturb our activities, which have in fact been well prepared.

Speaker: The journalist

Before you continue, Mr. *Préfet*, let us go back a little to the issue of acts of looting, which you condemned. Has the *préfecture* of Kigali city done anything to recover those vehicles and the material whose owners are no longer alive so as not to deprive the State of any possible enjoyment of it?

Speaker: *Préfet* Renzaho

That is true. We came to an agreement with the Rwandan Army Headquarters, and the Headquarters put in place a unit in charge of looking for stolen property, especially at the level of the roadblocks. The looters carry such property to *préfectures* within the country. At the roadblocks, there are members of the military police who stop stolen vehicles and confiscate property leaving [the city] without documents permitting them to leave. But some looters hide their booty and I think that it is those whom we should continue to look for. A unit in charge of fighting looters has been put in place. As you know, if we had not taken these measures, this city would have been completely destroyed. Some people have been killed in the course of these operations, including soldiers, gendarmes and civilians.

15.9

Here in the city, some people who wanted to loot shops were shot dead; but this movement has diminished. We have noticed, however, that these trouble-makers have invented another trick, namely to burn down the shops. For instance, they have just burnt three shops and I have asked that this problem be resolved today. I have requested a report on the setting up of roadblocks and on the persons charged with protecting the shops in the business district, so that, in case of an incident, such persons will be the ones to give explanations. It was noticed that there were some people who moved in every direction without having any leader. We asked that that should be ended. We think that the burning of shops is in fact a trick.

Indeed, this is a trick they are using. They shoot at the door of a shop. Once the door is open, the goods are no longer in security. The looters then enter and help themselves. Not

only is this burglary; it is malice as well. There is a place where it was noticed that the person who set fire to a shop must have been an Inyenzi who had just passed that way some time before. But this does not cancel the fact that, even if he was an Inyenzi, he carried out this act in order to be able to loot.

You will thus realise that we put in place measures to fight these people....

All that we ask of the leaders [of *cellule* committees] and of *conseillers* [of *secteurs*] is that they provide us with information when they hear that thieves are preparing to commit such acts, so that we can have these units intervene and come to their aid and take the necessary measures.

We ask that, instead of waiting for these thieves to go into action, you look for information on them so as to apprehend them before they commit their acts. Prevention is better than cure. We will place them in the hands of justice, which will take care of them.

We ask the security committees in the *secteurs* to please play their role. I have told you that there is no difference between a looter, a killer, a traitor and an Inyenzi. We treat them in the same manner. Members of the population need security, and this cannot be provided by criminals. People who commit such acts are criminals, enemies of peace and enemies of members of the population. Measures should be taken against them.

18.7

I also ask you to look for stolen property. This property should be found because it is hidden somewhere. It is the youths who collaborate with some soldiers, gendarmes or police men to indulge in looting. They then stock their booty somewhere and sell it off in hiding, but for their own benefit. This property should therefore be sought and, once it is discovered, it should be handed over to the State. If need be, the State could distribute it to starving members of the population or to soldiers at the front. People should thus not benefit from it unduly. Stolen property still hidden in the *secteurs* and the neighbourhoods should be sought; the perpetrators should be reported to us so that measures should be taken against them. These looters should not think that crime pays.

We know that our country is going through a troubled period and that such incidents are commonplace in a country at war; but we are in the process of putting things in order. Killers and enemies will be punished and honest citizens will be protected.

20.0

We are also fighting all the bloodthirsty people, who often act in a spirit of vengeance or to harm those who do not share their views or those who have problems with them. This state of affairs should be fought with much energy. These criminals are in no way different from the Inyenzi. We ask the security committees to do this work, to resolve similar problems which crop up in the *secteurs*.

I should like to end on an issue which concerns health care for members of the population.

It is obvious that the enemy who has attacked us; that is, the Inkotanyi, came with the objective of destroying the infrastructure that is important for members of the population. This is the case particularly of hospitals. They have destroyed Kigali hospital and have even bombed the buildings that the International Committee of the Red Cross used for providing emergency care to members of the population. They have destroyed pharmacies and health centres, telephone installations, in short, everything of public interest. But we must obviously cater for the interests of members of the population.

I thank the regional health department of Kigali for its devotedness and its determination to seek the ways and means to treat those who are wounded by these bombs. For instance, yesterday in Nyamirambo, they [the Inkotanyi] spent the whole night and the whole day launching bombs. There were many wounded and many dead. But we should have a place to keep medicines and to treat the wounded. In cooperation with the Kigali health region, we continue to look for several places where members of the population can receive medical care.

I am informing members of the population that we held a meeting yesterday with benefactors who have started to return little by little, for example, the association of Doctors Without Borders, and other humanitarian organisations which can help us. During that meeting they promised us that not long from now, they will bring us medicines which will be distributed to the *makeshifi health centres* that we will set up in the neighbourhoods close to the population.

We wish to reassure members of the population that, when these medicines will be available, they will be able to have themselves treated. We will continue to cooperate with the other bodies in the *secteurs*, with the youths wherever this is possible, in order to transport the wounded to places where they can be treated. We are helping members of the population as far as our means can permit, and we will continue to do so regardless of our limited means. We will continue to submit our requests [to the humanitarian organisations].

The problem we will encounter is that of fuel. We ask the higher authorities to examine this problem so that we can have fuel and evacuate the wounded to these centres to be treated.

23.3

This problem of health care is of concern to us, but it is about to be resolved. We will therefore continue to cooperate with the appropriate bodies for members of the population not to feel left to their own devices and for them to benefit from primary health care.

In conclusion, I would like to ask all those who can help members of the population, to sacrifice without reserve: business people, civil servants, soldiers at the front and members of the population themselves who want to protect their property. We should sacrifice for this country because we cannot count on anyone else. We should only count on our own forces and on our determination to liberate our country. It is through our efforts that members of the population will have peace. We ask them, wherever they may be, not only here in Kigali city *préfecture*, but also, and above all, in the regions under Inkotanyi

control, to understand that their compatriots have not abandoned them and that we are begging for aid for them. They should not lose courage because the time will come when they will all meet again.

25.0

Speaker: Journalist

Mr. *Préfet* of Kigali city *préfecture*, members of the population have fled the fighting in large numbers from this city and are leading a difficult life in their place of refuge. As *préfet* of this city, do you think that security has been sufficiently restored for those who wish to return to do so?

Speaker: *Préfet* Renzaho:

Thank you for that question. I would indeed like to inform members of the population who fled this city to return because the *secteurs* where fighting is going on are known; we have mentioned them to you. We ask the *conseillers* of *secteurs* to pay a visit to these citizens and to describe to them the prevailing situation here in the city. In our opinion, however, instead of continuing to stay away from their *secteurs*, they ought to settle in neighbouring *secteurs* to theirs. If you are from Kicukiro, settle in Gikondo; we can provisionally house you in an abandoned house instead of you spending nights in the open air.

I thank members of the population who have heeded our advice and have returned in great numbers. Hence, as we continue to strengthen ourselves, we will chase the enemy and ask people to return to their property. I should therefore like to ask them not to continue wandering any longer but to come back; we will give them unoccupied houses where they can live before returning to their own houses as soon as the neighbourhoods are liberated. Hence, little by little, we can contain and push back the Inkotanyi, and then return to our properties in our respective neighbourhoods. I believe that this is the ideal solution, which can also enable us to look for aid for these members of the population. The aid is still insufficient; the little we have is distributed to the people manning roadblocks.

27.0

I ask those who are manning the roadblocks to show proof of greater discipline and to make things easier for the people bringing supplies here to the city. Their situation is of great concern to us and our services will, this week-end, look for the ways and means to channel the few foodstuffs we have to those who have not yet received anything.

If these people were nearer to us, it would be easier to take care of them because they are scattered all over where they are at the moment, and it is difficult to reach them, particularly in view of the fuel problems we are experiencing. I would ask them to return and to follow the advice of their *conseillers* of *secteurs*. These *conseillers* are familiar with the whole situation because we discuss it. Men, and especially young men, should return and help the others to liberate the neighbourhoods which are possibly still occupied by the Inkotanyi. They may subsequently be able to recover their property. Moreover, it would be easy for us to help them.

28.1

Speaker: Journalist

As you have just stated, the thorniest problem for members of the population who have chosen to remain in Kigali city concerns foodstuffs. Can Kigali city *préfecture* not organise itself and find vehicles which will go to the countryside to bring foodstuffs since business people are afraid to come here to Kigali? Can the state not send vehicles to Gisenyi to bring beer, for example, to supply beer and foodstuffs to the city?

28.6

Speaker: *Préfet Renzaho*

I would like to call on the BRALIRWA management, particularly in connection with drinks, to give priority to the many inhabitants of Kigali city, for example, the military camps, which are directly facing the enemy.

As for the business people, there are some who are available to supply drinks to the city, and, moreover, this was the subject of our meeting of the day before yesterday. There were business people who did it, including Gatarama and others. But we should all cooperate. BRALIRWA should make things easy for us even if production has dropped; it should examine its distribution policy and see the ways and means of reserving some drinks for Kigali city.

29.7

We should all cooperate; those manning roadblocks everywhere in all the *préfectures* should not delay vehicles taking supplies to Kigali city; they should allow them to pass without any other conditions. I also ask the business people bringing supplies to the city to show some patience. This is my most ardent wish.

OPROVIA was helping us in this problem of supplies; but I think that the recent attack against Kabgayi has destabilised it a little. Supplies however resumed yesterday or Monday. We ask them to continue to supply us and to bring us not only maize, but cabbages, carrots and other foodstuffs produced mostly in the northern region of the country as well.

Members of the population should be able to have foodstuffs at an affordable price, considering that they have limited means, especially as the banks are no longer operating in the city. We therefore ask these banks to try to return and serve members of the population. We have provisionally accepted the solution they adopted for working in Gitarama; but they should come back as and when the situation here in Kigali returns to normal.

It seems that even in Gitarama, they have shut their counters and left that locality. We ask them to do everything possible to return to enable members of the population who have a little amount of money in their accounts to withdraw it; this applies mostly to government civil servants who are paid through banks.

31.3

END OF TAPE