

Burundi (19)

Dansk Flygtningehjælp

Borgergade 10, 3. sal, Postboks 53, 1002 København K



Telefon: 33 73 50 00
Telefax: 33 32 84 48

E-Mail: drc@drc.dk
Webster: www.drc.dk

Giro: 400-0005
Giro til bilag: 481-2020

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Flygtningeævn
St. Kongensgade 1-3
1264 København K / *Courtesy Kesit*
Att.: Lone Bundgaard

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Kære Lone Bundgaard,

Som aftalt sender jeg hermed supplerende baggrundsmateriale vedrørende situationen i Burundi, således som den har udviklet sig de sidste fire måneder – altså stort set siden

Udlændingestyrelsens sidste fact-finding mission. Da der eksisterer relativt meget detaljeret nyhedsmateriale, har vedlægger jeg alene et udvalg, der synes at give et relativt dækkende billede af situationen (herunder vedr. de tilgængende kampe mellem rebeller og regeringsstyrker siden juli/august, tvangsforflytninger af hutter, bevåbning af civile, flygtningesituationen – herunder stop for reparationer, forværring af menneskerettighedssituationen, det regionale perspektiv og Arusha-fredsprocessen).

- *Refugees Daily* – udgives af UNHCR og indeholder et sammendrag relevante nyheder fra offentlige tilgængelige medier, og giver et relativt godt overblik over situationen.
- *IRIN* – Integrated Regional Information Network, UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. Der udgives løbende såkaldte *updates* og *Focus* rapporter. Jeg vedlægger en – ikke udtømmende – liste med overskrifter, samt enkelte af de heri nævnte rapporter.
- BBC – enkelte rapporter (ligger i kronologisk orden sammen med IRIN rapporter)
- *Amnesty International* – sidste rapporter.
- *Human Rights Watch* – World Report 2000 – Burundi

Med venlig hilsen

Nina Lassen
Nina Lassen
Asylafdelingen

Tlf: 33735270 - Email: nmlc@drc.dk

Et samarbejde omfattende: ADRA Danmark - Amnesty International - Arbejdsgivervejleders Internationale Forum - ASF-Danmark - Folkekirken - CARPE Danmark - Caritas Danmark - Dansk Arbejdsgiverforening - Dansk Ungdoms Fællesråd - Kvindesådet - Det Menneskelige Troessamarbejde - FN-Fortbundet - Folkekræftens Nødhjælp - HK, Handels- og Konforfunktionærernes Forbund i Danmark - Ibis - IND-aaam, De Etniske Mindretalls Sammenslutning - Landsforeningen for Bæsser og Lesbiske - LO, Landsorganisationen i Danmark - Mestermestergig Samvirket - Red Barnet - SIO, Specialarbejderforbundet i Danmark - Ungdomsrådet - UNICEF Danmark



NEWS

Refugee NewsNet

Welcome to UNHCR's newest news service: Refugee NewsNet.

Refugee NewsNet is a searchable archive of 1999 UNHCR news sources. Entering a term in the search box below will generate a page listing all news items in which that search term appears, sorted by date, most recent first. The result is instant, accurate and reliable tracking of refugee-related news stories as they develop day by day.

This is a plain text search, so no ANDs or ORs for the moment. The * wildcard may be used at the beginning or end of words, e.g. *Mexic** will retrieve both *Mexico* and *Mexican*, while *gates will retrieve both *Bill Gates* (yes, he's there) and *delegates*. Judicious use of leading and trailing spaces will help to narrow searches.

Display options:

- Checking "titles only" will generate a page containing just the source, date and title of matches, with a "retrieve" button for the relevant text. Useful for winnowing general thematic searches (e.g. *resettlement*, *IDP*) or when the search term has homonyms (e.g. *Shon*, *Liberation*)
- Checking "all stories" will display source, date, title and text of all matches. Use this when you're likely to want to see all matches for a term (e.g. *Clinton*, *Kurd*). For country-specific searches we recommend the links in the relevant Country Profile; these are specifically designed to catch e.g. *Denmark* and *Danish*, or *Netherlands* and *Dutch*, in one pass.

Borundi	Display Options	
	☒ All stories	☐ Titles only

We believe that the combination of UNHCR's respected primary sources and the unique range and depth of *Refugees Daily* will make our hitherto popular external newswire service seem clumsy and imprecise by comparison. For the moment we've left it in so you can decide for yourself.

The UNHCR (external) Newswire Service

Each of the logos in the listing below is a link to a newswire service – sites which post updates to breaking news stories as they happen. The UNHCR newswire service can be used in one of two ways:

- EITHER** by clicking on the newswire service's logo, you will automatically call up a listing of current news stories relating to refugees, asylum and/or UNHCR.
- OR** by entering a subject in the search box, you can search that newswire for current news stories on the topic of your choice.

These are links to external sites – UNHCR therefore controls neither the content nor the appearance of the resulting pages. Similarly, UNHCR cannot be held responsible if the chosen site is out of operation for any reason. However, it does sometimes happen that if a site does not respond within 30 seconds or so, or if it returns a server error of some kind, a retry will often do the trick. Alternatively,

<http://www.unhcr.ch/news/newswire/newswire.htm>

Current Shur

- **Press Releases:** off UNHCR documents.
- **Press Briefing Note** record of the twice-weekly briefings given by UN spokespeople to the press corps at the UN Nations.
- **Situation-specific U** currently UNHCR's **U** **Timing Emergency U**
- **Refugees Daily:** a **Summary of coverage** prepared by UNHCR publicly available from sources. Does not reflect the views of UNHCR or the accuracy of the comprehensiveness information provided.

move on to another source and try the original one again later.

Newswires (updated throughout the day):

ASSOCIATED PRESS
(washingtonpost.com)

clear format, accurate results

YAHOO!

NEWS

results from many sources, recent Reuters & AP



NewsTracker

multiple sources can be sorted by date, publication or relevance; occasionally slow

Refugee NewsNet

Current search: burundi

Source:	Refugees Daily
Date:	Wednesday 8 December 1999
Title:	AFRICA: CRISIS WORSENING WITH CONFLICTS
Text:	UNHCR officials gathered in Johannesburg yesterday to examine the causes of a crisis that has left Africa with a third of the world's displaced people, reports <i>Reuters</i>. On the 30th anniversary of the Organisation of African Unity refugee convention, Africa has 10 times more asylum seekers than then. It now has seven million. "The relevance of the OAU's convention is as valid today as it was 30 years ago," Nicolas Bwakira, UNHCR's Africa director told reporters at the seminar. "But the refugee situation will continue as it is or even get worse if it is not handled correctly." Fighting or unrest in Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Eritrea, Ethiopia and now Burundi have caused more than two million people to flee across borders, straining UNHCR's diminishing budget. Of the US\$160m it needs, UNHCR has so far received US\$125m for these crises. Africa's political unrest is a catalyst for refugee movement, but many countries' services are also ill-equipped to handle the inflows. Bwakira said African governments needed to muster greater political will, and pursue democracy and conflict resolution to solve the problem. AFP quotes Jody Kollapen of the South African Human Rights Commission saying: "An assessment of how we have done must come to the conclusion that we have failed dismally." She added, the "generosity of spirit of the 1960s had dissipated," dampening the will to deal with the refugee crisis. [Conflict deepening Africa's refugee crisis: UNHCR - www.reuters.com; Africa failing to contain spiralling refugee crisis - www.afp.com]

Source:	Refugees Daily
Date:	Tuesday 7 December 1999
Title:	CONGO REPUBLIC: RWANDAN HUTUS RESETTLED, SUSPECTED
Text:	UNHCR said yesterday it was resettling some 5,000 Hutu refugees, including possible perpetrators of Rwanda's 1994 genocide, in the Republic of Congo, reports <i>AP</i>. The refugees also included an unsuspected minority of Burundian Hutus. Up to 11,000 Rwandan refugees who fled Rwanda in 1994 fearing retribution arrived in Congo Republic. "These people don't want to return to Rwanda," UNHCR spokesman Paul Stromberg said in Nairobi, Kenya. "If they don't want to go back, we can't force them." Stromberg declined to speculate whether any genocide suspects were among them, saying only that they include many children, women and elderly people. However, some are widely believed to be former members of the militant Hutu group that carried out Rwanda's pogrom. Stromberg said the first group of 345 Rwandan settlers had left Loukoela refugee camp in northern Republic of Congo on a river barge to be integrated into the villages of Boleko and Bokouango II, some 500km north of Brazzaville. The refugees were expected to become self-sufficient, productive members of society. UNHCR said in a statement. UNHCR had provided the refugees with kits to build basic temporary shelters and would be assisting the villages that accept them to improve basic infrastructure. The rest of the 5,000 refugees were being integrated into various communities over the coming weeks and months. [Rwandan genocide suspects likely among refugees resettled by UN - www.ap.org]

Source:	Refugees Daily
Date:	Monday 6 December 1999
Title:	TANZANIA: BURUNDIANS SAY THEIR ESCAPE BLOCKED
Text:	Hutu refugees arriving in northwestern Tanzania from Burundi say the government is arming Tutsi civilians with crude weapons to attack Hutus, UNHCR said Friday, reports AP. The refugees offering the accounts to UNHCR workers in the Tanzanian border town of Ngara came from villages stretching across much of northern Burundi, said spokesman Paul Stromberg. "Most refugees arriving in Ngara say they have either witnessed or heard of arms being distributed to parts of the population," he said. Refugees arriving in camps elsewhere in Tanzania have also alleged the Burundian army was planting land mines on roads leading outside the country and detaining people in an effort to keep them from fleeing, Stromberg said. The number of refugees arriving at camps in Kigoma, Kibondo and Kasulu dropped in the last two weeks of November, apparently because of the army crackdown, he said. "People are wearing several sets of clothing because if they are caught by the military carrying bags and other belongings, the military ... will detain them," Stromberg added. Meanwhile Xinhua reports UNHCR has assured it would take legal actions with the Tanzanian government against refugees who break laws. [Burundi government arming Tutsi civilians – www.ap.org; UNHCR to Assist Tanzania Punish Refugee Outlaws – www.xinhua.org]

Source:	Refugees Daily
Date:	Thursday 3 December 1999
Title:	TANZANIA: 'FED-UP' PRESIDENT DENIES BURUNDIANS ARE ARMED
Text:	President Benjamin Mkapa has dismissed as "baseless" accusations that Tanzania had been training and arming Burundi refugees, reports PAMA. He said he was "fed up" with persistent allegations by the government of Burundi that some refugees in Tanzanian camps were armed. "We are also certainly fed up with endless but baseless accusations that we allow refugees in Tanzania to train, equip and launch attacks on Burundi from our territory. That has never, never been our policy towards refugees," he told a summit of the Great Lakes region Wednesday in Arusha. In an apparent direct message to Burundian President Pierre Buyoya, who was at the summit, Mkapa added: "Please make it unnecessary for your citizens to flee their country." The summit endorsed former South African President Nelson Mandela as the new facilitator of the Burundi peace process. [Tanzania Denies Harboring Armed Burundi Refugees – www.africanews.org]

Source:	Refugees Daily
Date:	Thursday 3 December 1999
Title:	TANZANIA: UNHCR EXPECTS MORE BURUNDIANS, CONGOLESE
Text:	The influx of refugees to Tanzania is likely to continue despite peace developments in both Burundi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), a UNHCR report said yesterday, reports Xinhua. According to the report, 75,358 Congolese and 43,874 Burundian refugees arrived in Tanzania from January to November 1999. Arrivals from Burundi were particularly high in October and November due to the prevailing insecurity. Tanzania currently hosts 399,474 refugees from neighbouring countries, it said. Refugees predominantly from Burundi (289,843), the DRC (97,401), Rwanda (7,707) and Somalia (3,300) are now staying in 12 designated locations. Xinhua also quotes President Benjamin Mkapa as saying in yesterday's <i>Daily News</i> newspaper: "The influx of refugees into Tanzania has more than doubled. With already more than 800,000 refugees, Tanzania finds it difficult to cope with this new development. . . . We earnestly ask those countries that generate refugees to get their act together quickly, taking

advantage the tremendous support for peaceful negotiations." AP adds UNHCR yesterday reported refugees fleeing Burundi saying Tutsi civilians were being armed with machetes, axes and hoes to attack Hutus. [More Refugees Expected to Reach Tanzania + Tanzanian President Dismisses Burundi Accusations - www.xinhua.org; Representatives to Burundi peace talks welcome Mandela appointment - www.ap.org]

Source:	Refugees Daily
Date:	Wednesday 24 November 1999
Title:	NOTES
Text:	AFP reports police said a group of 64 young Tibetans including four women have been arrested at a Nepal checkpoint near Mount Everest while fleeing their Chinese-ruled homeland. AP reports Israel has agreed to release six Israelis arrested after they crossed illegally into the country to request asylum, and who have since been held without trial - some for almost six years. AP reports in a joint UN appeal yesterday UNHCR chief Sadako Ogata highlighted refugee crises this year in Burundi and Republic of Congo, calling for governments to make "predictable and flexible funding decisions."

Source:	Refugees Daily
Date:	Tuesday 23 November 1999
Title:	TANZANIA: MORE BURUNDIANS FLEEING FIGHTING - UNHCR
Text:	At least 3,500 Burundians are fleeing each week to northwestern Tanzania as fighting intensifies between the Burundian army and rebels, UNHCR said yesterday, reports AP. "The situation has deteriorated dramatically in the last two months. Up to last week, at least 500 people a day were crossing the border," said UNHCR spokesman Paul Stromberg in Kenya. The Guardian newspaper in Dar es Salaam yesterday put the figure at 1,000 a week, quoting sources in the Ngara district on the Burundi border. "We have a battle for human beings," Stromberg said. "The rebels are telling the people to leave because there will be more fighting, and the army wants to regroup the people in the camps, fearing the young men might be recruited by the rebels." The Guardian said fierce fighting in Burundi's Rutana, Makamba and Rural Bujumbura provinces was causing people to flee and that some of the refugees were also crossing into Tanzania to avoid forced resettlement by the Tutsi-dominated army. A Reuters analysis says Burundi is locked in an intractable civil war after six years of fighting, with nearly 20% of the population displaced and 200,000 people dead. [Burundi Refugees Flee to Tanzania - www.ap.org ; Burundi locked in intractable civil war - www.reuters.com]

Source:	Refugees Daily
Date:	Tuesday 23 November 1999
Title:	TANZANIA: REBEL BASES IN BURUNDIAN CAMPS?
Text:	Burundi has accused Tanzania of allowing refugee camps on its soil to be used as bases for ethnic Hutu rebels as both countries accused each other of lax security along their border, reports Reuters. Around 300,000 Burundian Hutu civilians live in the UN-run camps and thousands more are arriving. But Burundi says Tanzania is not doing enough to police the camps, which have become a breeding ground for the rebellion. "When your neighbour's house is burning, you don't help it to burn down, you help to put the fire out, or at the end of the day the fire will attack your house," said Burundi's army spokesman Longin Miminzi. He said the Hutu rebels who killed two UN workers last month had crossed over from Tanzania and returned there after the attack. But that claim has infuriated Tanzania's government, which denied any involvement in or responsibility for the attack and cautioned Burundi to

improve its own security operations. Hutu rebels claim Burundi has deployed thousands of soldiers near the border to prepare for an assault on the refugee camps around the Tanzanian town of Kigoma, and that troops from Rwanda were also in place to join the attack. [Burundi says Tanzania camps breed rebellion - www.reuters.com]

Source:	Refugees Daily
Date:	Tuesday 23 November 1999
Title:	GLOBAL: UN AGENCIES LAUNCHING JOINT APPEAL
Text:	UN Secretary General Kofi Annan today will help UN humanitarian agencies launch a global plea for US\$2.4bn to aid the populations of the world's poorest countries, reports AFP. For the second straight year, UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, WHO and UNDP are collaborating to raise money. The agencies are seeking money for next year. For the Balkans the agencies are asking for US\$659.8m. In Albania and Macedonia the aid is for Kosovan refugees and their host families. In Bosnia and Croatia it is to provide shelter and rehabilitation for returnees. Aid for Yugoslavia is destined for displaced people and establishing basic services. In each country the largest sum required is for food aid. For Angola US\$258.5m includes US\$214.1m just for food aid. The UN pointed out that of a population of 12.6 million, a million had lost their homes through war and a total of 3.7 million needed help. For Afghanistan, the UN wants US\$220.7m. Some 2.6 million Afghans are refugees, it said. It also estimated that Africa's Great Lakes region and central Africa needed US\$162.9m to help refugees in Tanzania, who have come from Burundi, Rwanda, Somalia and the Democratic Republic of Congo. The UN agencies are also calling for US\$199m for 650,000 displaced people in East Timor. BBC News also reports. [UN humanitarian agencies set to launch worldwide fund drive for 2000 - www.afp.com; Appeal for 'forgotten emergencies' - http://news.bbc.co.uk]

Source:	Refugees Daily
Date:	Friday 19 November 1999
Title:	NOTES
Text:	Reuters reports Tunisia's envoy to the UN in Geneva and long-standing former UNHCR worker, Kamel Morjane, has been appointed as the UN special representative in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. AP reports Tanzanian Prime Minister Frederick Sumaye has again rejected allegations that his country was sheltering active Burundian Hutu rebels at refugee camps. AFP reports Thailand said yesterday that a first group of 100 Myanmar exiles now staying in a tense border camp would be resettled in the United States next month.

Source:	Refugees Daily
Date:	Wednesday 17 November 1999
Title:	TANZANIA: MORE BURUNDIANS ARRIVING AFTER EVICTIONS
Text:	About 500 Burundi refugees fleeing fighting between government troops and Hutu rebels are arriving in Tanzania each day, UNHCR's spokesman said yesterday, reports AFP. More than 7,000 people have left Burundi for Tanzania since the beginning of the month said Kris Janowski, adding that more than 275,000 Burundi refugees are already in camps in Tanzania. Many of those arriving in Ngara province spoke of being forcibly moved from their homes to government-organised "regroupment centres" - to prevent them from being recruited by rebels. They spoke of warnings by the Burundi army against trying to cross the border, and arrests of those seen carrying their belongings. Some said they had left on the advice of Hutu rebels. Most had to flee at night and some were malnourished, he added. Refugees arriving in Ngara were being transferred to a camp at Lukole, where a further 75,000 people

could be accommodated, he said. People in the Kigoma region were being taken to a camp in Mtendeli, he added. Janowski said work was under way to improve road access and the water system at another site, Kanembwa, in the area of Kasulu, because the Mtendeli camp would be full in a few weeks at this rate. UNHCR staff were also negotiating with the local authorities on the expansion of other sites. [500 Burundi refugees arriving daily in Tanzania: UNHCR -- www.aip.com]

Source:	UNHCR Press Briefing Note
Date:	Tuesday 15 November 1999
Title:	BURUNDI: UNHCR PREPARES FOR MAJOR INFLUX TO TANZANIA
Text:	UNHCR in Tanzania is making contingency plans for a major refugee influx from Burundi as refugees continue to stream across the border. As the security situation in Burundi worsens, refugees are arriving in Tanzania at a rate of about 500 people a day. Burundi refugees arriving in Tanzania's Ngara Province speak of forced movement of families from their homes to government-organized "regroupment centers." Many refugees arrive with no possessions and wearing two or three layers of clothing. They say that the Burundi army has warned the population against trying to cross the border, and that people are arrested if they are spotted carrying belongings. Most refugees say they fled at night or had to lie about where they were going when questioned by the authorities. They show signs of fatigue and some are malnourished. Some say they are leaving on the advice of Burundi's Hutu rebels who predict an intensification of fighting. Since the beginning of November, more than 7,000 Burundi have fled to Tanzania, almost as many as in the entire month of October. Refugees arriving in the Ngara region are transferred to Lukole camp, where two existing sites can accommodate another 75,000 people. In the Kigoma region, the present camp destination is Mtendeli. But at the current rate of arrival, Mtendeli camp will be full in a few weeks. Work to improve access roads and the water system is underway at another existing site, Kanembwa in the area of Kasulu, while UNHCR is negotiating with local authorities on the expansion of other sites. Refugee camps in Tanzania are already hosting more than 275,000 Burundi refugees.

Source:	Refugees Daily
Date:	Monday 15 November 1999
Title:	MALAWI: PLAN TO ALLOW WORK, STUDY AND BUSINESS
Text:	Malawi is planning to change its laws to allow refugees to work, attend public schools and do business, reports PANA. The country's current laws bar refugees from being employed, attending public schools and engaging in business. Deputy Minister Chenda Mkandawire, responsible for relief and rehabilitation, said the government decided to review the laws so as to be able to use several professionals among the refugees. "For instance, among the refugees we have recently learned there was one experienced pilot and a medical doctor," he said. Malawi hosted over a million refugees from neighbouring Mozambique during that country's civil war. A fresh influx of refugees flocked to the country in the early 1990s from Somalia, Sudan, Burundi, Uganda, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Liberia and Sierra Leone. [Malawi Seeks To Change Refugee Laws - www.africanews.org]

Source:	Refugees Daily
Date:	Friday 12 November 1999
Title:	TANZANIA: UNHCR PLANS FOR GROWING BURUNDIAN INFLUX
Text:	At least 10,000 Burundian refugees have fled into Tanzania this month, escaping a dramatic intensification of Burundi's ethnic civil war, aid officials said yesterday, reports <i>Reuters</i>. Around 6,000 arrived in the whole of October, but UNHCR said it was now making contingency plans for between 50,000 and 100,000 more refugees in addition to the 200,000 already in camps in western Tanzania. "What is interesting is that we are receiving refugees from provinces in Burundi that were traditionally quiet" said Patrick Tigere, UNHCR protection officer in Ngara. Another local aid officer said the refugees, mainly ethnic Hutus, said they were fleeing because the Tutsi-dominated military was arming Tutsi civilians and forcing Hutus into regroupment camps. Amnesty International warned yesterday that Burundi was on the verge of a humanitarian crisis, and said conditions in the regroupment camps were "appalling," with many people lacking access to food and water. <i>Deutsche Presse-Agentur</i> adds the UN said thousands of Burundians have fled their home amid heavy fighting and persecution of civilians. [Thousands flee to Tanzania as Burundi war intensifies - www.reuters.com; Thousands of Burundians flee fighting and persecution in Burundi - www.dpa.com]

Source:	Refugees Daily
Date:	Thursday 11 November 1999
Title:	TANZANIA: HUNDREDS OF BURUNDIANS ARRIVING DAILY
Text:	Burundi refugees fleeing violence in the country's southern provinces are arriving in western Tanzania at the rate of more than 400 people a day, UNHCR said yesterday, report <i>IRIN</i>. A UNHCR spokesman said that from November 1-8, UNHCR staff registered 2,650 new arrivals in the districts of Kigoma, Kasulu and Kibondo and 1,500 in Ngara. During October, more than 7,000 Burundi refugees had crossed to the same areas, the spokesman said. Refugees said they were fleeing ongoing fighting between rebels and government forces, he said, adding that the new arrivals also said the government has stepped up efforts to "regroup" civilians in makeshift sites without adequate shelter or supplies. According to UNHCR, Tanzania now hosts some 275,000 Burundi refugees. <i>Xinhua</i> also reports this. <i>Reuters</i> reports The <i>African</i> newspaper says UN officials in Ngara said over 10,000 Burundi refugees have reportedly trekked into the Ngara region in the last two weeks. [Refugee influx increases- www.reliefweb.int/IRIN; Burundi Refugees Continue to Flee to Tanzania, UNHCR Says - www.xinhua.org]

Source:	UNHCR Press Briefing Note
Date:	Tuesday 9 November 1999
Title:	BURUNDI: 400 PER DAY ARRIVING IN TANZANIA
Text:	More Burundi refugees are fleeing violence and forced displacement in the southern provinces of Burundi and are now arriving in western Tanzania at the rate of more than 400 people a day. Between 1 and 8 November, UNHCR staff registered 2,650 new arrivals in the districts of Kigoma, Kasulu and Kibondo and 1,500 in Ngara. During the month of October, more than 7,000 Burundi refugees crossed to the same areas. Refugees are coming from the provinces of Makamba, Rutana, Gitega and Kirundo and report they are fleeing continuing fighting between rebels and government forces. They have also told UNHCR staff that

the government has stepped up efforts to "regroup" civilians in makeshift sites without adequate shelter or supplies.

Tanzania hosts around 275,000 Burundi refugees.

Source:	Refugees Daily
Date:	Tuesday 9 November 1999
Title:	TANZANIA: BURUNDIANS FLEE RISING INSECURITY - UNHCR
Text:	Impelled by rising insecurity at home, more than 8,000 Burundian refugees fled to Tanzania last month, more than three times the number in September, UNHCR said today, reports AP. UNHCR registered 8,202 Burundians in Tanzania in October, compared with 2,328 the previous month, said spokesman Vincent Kwezi Parker. Most of the refugees arrived from Burundi's southeastern Makamba and Rutana provinces near the border, following an escalation in attacks by Hutu rebels and clashes with the Tutsi-dominated army in the last month, he said. "The killing of UN aid workers, clashes between government forces and rebels, as well as deteriorating security conditions are factors attributed to the rise in the number of Burundians fleeing," Parker said. "We've had to stop repatriation of refugees from Tanzania because there is no way we can monitor the welfare of returnees in the countryside," he added. Under the repatriation programme, more than 9,000 Burundians had returned home between January and September. Parker said there were now 280,000 Burundian refugees in camps in northwestern Tanzania. [Number of Burundian refugees triples in October - www.ap.org]

Source:	Refugees Daily
Date:	Monday 8 November 1999
Title:	BURUNDI: MANY MORE DISPLACED, COULD STARVE - FAO
Text:	Hundreds of thousands of people in Burundi have been displaced and risk starvation following an upsurge in violence there, FAO said Friday, reports Reuters. The Food and Agriculture Organisation said escalating fighting in rural areas over the last two months had displaced some 300,000 people, taking the total number living in refugee camps to more than 800,000. Last month, the UN suspended humanitarian assistance outside Bujumbura after the murder of two aid workers. "Living conditions in these sites are reported to be extremely poor, with no clean water, shelter and sanitary facilities," FAO said in a statement. "If security is not restored quickly to allow a resumption of humanitarian assistance, there is a serious threat of starvation among the regrouped population." Displacement and unusually dry weather had prevented many farmers from sowing their fields, thus increasing the risk of a poor harvest next summer and famine. AP adds FAO said upheaval is worst in Bujumbura Rural province, where 73% of the population has been displaced. [Thousands displaced by fresh Burundi violence - www.reuters.com, Hundreds of thousands of new refugees; starvation threatens - www.ap.org]

Source:	Refugees Daily
Date:	Thursday 4 November 1999
Title:	TANZANIA: BURUNDIAN RETURNS HALTED - UNHCR

Text:	Violence in Burundi has stopped the organised repatriation of Burundian refugees from neighbouring countries, UNHCR said in its latest Africa fact sheet, reports <i>IRIN</i>. The suspension of Burundian refugees repatriating from Tanzania follows the October killing of two UN aid workers in Burundi. Prior to that, an average of 200 Burundians were voluntarily returning home from Tanzania every week over the past 10 months, it said. "The number of returnees had quietly topped 8,000 people, going chiefly to the provinces of Muyinga and Ruyigi," it said. The outlook for some 275,000 Burundian refugees in Tanzania has now become more uncertain, complicated by doubts about the future of Burundi peace talks, it added. UNHCR staff are on the watch for another refugee influx and a "political radicalisation" of the Tanzanian camps, it said. The voluntary repatriation of refugees in the Democratic Republic of Congo has been postponed because of violence in Burundi. <i>Reuters</i> adds Pope John Paul, reiterating his appeal for peace in Burundi, yesterday called for refugees to be allowed home and for humanitarian groups to be given access across the country to distribute aid to all. [GREAT LAKES: Burundi violence affects refugee repatriation – www.reliefweb.int/IRIN; Pope tells Burundi future not built on abuse, war – www.reuters.com]
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Source:	UNHCR Africa Fact Sheet
Date:	Wednesday 3 November 1999
Title:	THE GREAT LAKES REGION
Text:	Following the killing of two U.N. aid workers on 12 October in Burundi's Rutana province, non-essential operations outside the capital, Bujumbura, were immediately stopped. The UNICEF and WFP staff members were killed as the joint assessment mission they were on arrived at a displaced persons' site near the Tanzanian border. The incident and resulting suspension came two months after the situation in Burundi took a marked downturn: at least 300,000 civilians have been 'regrouped' in makeshift camps while the army has attempted to put down a surge in rebel activity. Although UNHCR and other agencies have visited some of the regroupement sites near Bujumbura, some are much more remote, up to two-and-a-half hours on foot from the nearest road, and most are in the troubled southern provinces. As in 1997 when the government asked the U.N. to assist the sites, agencies have told the government that to do so would mean endorsing the involuntary displacement. UNHCR and others have given limited, life-sustaining aid to people on the sites. One of the programs suspended in Burundi was the repatriation from Tanzania. For the past 10 months and at the same time as other civilians were forced to flee into exile from the southern provinces, an average of 200 Burundi per week were voluntarily returning home from Tanzania. The number of returns had quietly topped 8,000 people, going chiefly to the provinces of Muyinga and Ruyigi, where UNHCR maintained offices. UNHCR staff in Kasulu district, Tanzania, saw the number of Burundi refugees jump at the end of September. The new arrivals said that battles between the Burundi army and rebels had intensified over control of the civilian population, with rebels trying to thwart the army's regroupement policy. Almost 5,000 Burundi were transferred to Ndula camp in October. With the freeze on repatriation and doubts about the future of multi-party peace talks due to facilitator Julius Nyerere's death, the outlook for the 275,000 Burundi refugees in Tanzania has become more uncertain. Staff are on the watch for another refugee influx and a political radicalization of the camps. Along the shore of Lake Tanganyika, the boats that arrived each day for almost a year packed with families seeking relief from the war in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) suddenly stopped coming in August. Between July and August the count of arrivals in Kipoma dropped from an average of 3,300 per week to just 100. At the end of

October, the total number of Congolese refugees from the rebellion that began in August 1998 stood just shy of 97,000. Rare new arrivals say that the embattled South Kivu area from which the majority of the refugees have fled is now firmly under the control of anti-Kinshasa rebel forces.

In government-controlled portions of the DRC, the rebellion and encroaching violence has made the need for longer-term solutions for refugees of several nationalities more acute. During September, UNHCR staff and a partner NGO were able to reunite 52 Rwandan and Burundi unaccompanied minors with their families in Mbuji-Mayi. But the voluntary repatriation of other Burundi refugees there, including over 130 unaccompanied children for whom tracing efforts have been fruitless, had to be postponed because of violence in Burundi.

Near the Angolan border, UNHCR is working urgently on new sources of water for 43,000 Angolan refugees in Kisenge, where eight of 18 water holes have recently dried up. UNHCR has previously had to make local food purchases to supply the remote sites. And in the northern town of Mbandaka, staff from Kinshasa are currently evaluating a project where a small group of Rwandans and Burundi who have chosen not to repatriate are given agricultural tools, shelter material and food in place of continued assistance. The program could be extended to other isolated locations.

The civil wars in neighboring Republic of Congo and Angola have created an almost continuous cycle of population movements in the DRC's western Bas-Congo province. While only a few hundred Congolese crossed into Bas-Congo during October, humanitarian conditions in Congo's Pool region, southwest of Brazzaville, are dire and more arrivals are likely. Mortality among the newest refugees exceeds six per 10,000/day – half that level is considered catastrophic. Congolese refugees are also at risk because DRC authorities suspect that members of the Congolese Ninja militia (who support the former prime minister) are slipping in with refugees. UNHCR protection staff have intervened on numerous occasions to ensure proper treatment of Congolese nationals.

With the economic strains caused by the continuing civil war in the DRC and the concern that fighters from the civil wars to the north and south will lead to insecurity in the Bas-Congo, populations are also leaving the area. An operation begun in April after UNHCR was petitioned by refugees to help them repatriate by bypassing the dangerous Pool region has to date assisted more than 40,000 Congolese return to Brazzaville. In early October, UNHCR staff in the DRC operated two repatriation convoys carrying 700 returnees to the Angolan territory of Cabinda.

During September, a U.N. inter-agency mission was able for the first time to travel to the Republic of Congo's Pool region by road. As many as 300,000 Congolese were estimated to be displaced in the area, many in a life-threatening state of malnutrition.

In Brazzaville itself, UNHCR and government officials have selected host villages and completed preparations for the local integration of up to 7,000 Rwandan and Burundi refugees who reached Congo in mid-1997 after walking across the DRC. The final phase of a local settlement program is scheduled to get underway in November after the process is explained to refugees and host communities. UNHCR aid will go to both individual refugees and the villages.

Villages along Gabon's border with the Republic of Congo have been bracing for a large influx of people fleeing the Congolese civil war since several thousand refugees first arrived in Gabon in June. UNHCR registered more than 10,000 Congolese who have come forward for aid in the border provinces of Haut Ogooue and Nyanga and in the capital, Libreville. Local officials say the number of Congolese who have crossed the forested border is probably much higher.

UNHCR and partners are digging wells and latrines and improving temporary shelters in several rural locations. Food has been purchased locally for refugees. In Libreville, UNHCR is ensuring that the 3,000 Congolese who have made their way to the city have proper

Identification cards and access to medical care.

Source:	UNHCR Africa Fact Sheet
Date:	Wednesday 3 November 1999
Title:	OAU HEADS OF STATE SUMMIT
Text:	High Commissioner Sadako Ogata travelled to Algiers in July for the 35th Organization of African Unity Summit where she met with heads of state from key countries to advocate on behalf of refugees and to press for political solutions. Ogata held discussions with the presidents of Burundi, the DRC, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Tanzania and Zambia on regional conflicts which continue today to create refugees. She urged them to renew their commitment to "Africa's neediest," its millions of refugees and displaced people. Her call for political settlements echoed the message Ogata carried to Rwanda, Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo during an eight-day mission in June. Promising UNHCR will continue to press for more solidarity with Africa, she cautioned that little support would come before successful conflict resolution. "Solutions for the millions of uprooted Africans have to be part of a new commitment to peace and reconciliation. Answers can be found in the provisions of the OAU Refugee Convention - one of the cornerstones of the organization itself - and in the will of the continent's leaders," Ogata said. Ogata hailed the creation of an OAU award for distinguished service to refugees and displaced people, awarded to Tanzania and Côte d'Ivoire in Africa.

Source:	Refugees Daily
Date:	Wednesday 3 November 1999
Title:	NOTES
Text:	Reuters reports The People (Nairobi) says some 4,700 Kenyan refugees are stranded in no-man's land after the government refused to allow them to return from Ethiopia "for technical reasons." Reuters reports <i>Telindima</i> (Maputo) says refugees from Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo are fleeing into Mozambique; police say 150 are in Niassa but there could be many more. Reuters reports <i>Die Standaard</i> says Belgium has resumed forced extradition of refugees with 2,500 asylum seekers and illegals awaiting repatriation. Reuters reports the NATO-led force in Bosnia will be reduced to 20,000 by next April, due to more refugees returning and other factors, said its commander.

Source:	Refugees Daily
Date:	Tuesday 2 November 1999
Title:	TANZANIA: BURUNDIANS 'TERRORISE' LOCALS
Text:	Thousands of refugees from Burundi, some of them armed, are unleashing a spate of violent attacks on locals in the western Tanzanian region of Kigoma, reports PANA. Locals have appealed to the authorities to either repatriate the refugees immediately or beef up security in the region. Unconfirmed reports say scores of villagers have either been killed or hurt in cases that went unreported. According to the government, the refugees will, however, be repatriated only when peace is restored in their country. Home Affairs Minister Ali Ameli Mohamed told parliament in July that the exercise would depend on the outcome of the Burundi peace process. He said there were more

than 450,000 refugees nationwide who were not residing in camps or settlements, promising action to relocate them. There have also been instances when some refugees married locals in a bid to move out of the camps to live in villages. Tanzania is home to over 800,000 refugees from Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan, Rwanda and Uganda. [Burundian Refugees Terrorise Hosts - www.africanews.org]

Source:	Refugees Daily
Date:	Tuesday 2 November 1999
Title:	CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC: CONGOLESE REPATRIATION TO BEGIN
Text:	UNHCR was expected to start repatriating to Kinshasa 1,800 Congolese refugees from Bangui yesterday, official sources said, reports <i>PANA</i>. The transportation of refugees from Bangui to Kinshasa was to be carried out by a private company, Congo Airlines, at the rate of 150 people a trip, the sources said. Returnees will be taken on arrival to Saint-Joseph Catholic Church in Kinshasa, where each will receive a basic three-month reintegration "kit" made up of maize, soap, kitchen utensils, a blanket and travel allowance. Several hundreds of Congolese coming from Zongo and other border towns took refuge in the CAR after fleeing the DRC war. Meanwhile <i>IRIN</i> reports UNHCR and CONCERN last week delivered a six-week food supply to a camp of Congolese refugees in Burundi's northwest Cibitoke province, said UNHCR. [Congolese Refugees Leave Bangui For Home Monday - www.africanews.org, Refugee camp resupplied - www.reliefweb.int/IRIN/]

Source:	UNHCR Press Briefing Note
Date:	Friday 29 October 1999
Title:	BURUNDI: CONGOLESE CAMP RESUPPLIED
Text:	UNHCR and the NGO Concern yesterday, Thursday, delivered a six-week food supply to a camp of Congolese refugees in Cibitoke, in north-western Cibitoke province. The convoy travelled under military escort and returned safely to the capital, Bujumbura, during the same day. U.N. humanitarian operations in the country are still limited to emergency activities, with almost all projects outside Bujumbura suspended since the killing of two U.N. staff on 12 October. The camp of 300 Congolese has no other means of supply. UNHCR is temporarily relocating some of its 23 international staff in the country to other offices in the region. There has been an upsurge in arrivals of Burundi refugees in western Tanzania since late September.

Source:	Refugees Daily
Date:	Tuesday 26 October 1999
Title:	BURUNDI: RAPPORTEUR'S CONCERNS
Text:	The UN's special rapporteur for human rights in Burundi, Marie-Therese Keita, charged yesterday that massacres and arbitrary executions were rampant in the country, reports <i>AFP</i>. "There have been massacres, numerous assassinations, arbitrary executions, and forced displacement to supposedly protected areas," she said on her return from Burundi. Keita expressed her concern for the fate of the 314,000 people in refugee camps who have received no humanitarian assistance from international organisations since October 12. "Eighty percent of the people in the camps are women and children living in desperate conditions. The government has allowed them to work their land for two days a week, but in the hospital I saw people from the

camps in terrible states of malnutrition, including a seven-month-old month baby which weighed only seven kilograms," she said. [UN issues report on human rights violations in Burundi - www.afp.com]

Source:	Refugees Daily
Date:	Tuesday 26 October 1999
Title:	NOTES
Text:	AP reports Congolese rebel leader Emile Ilunga wants President Laurent Kabila charged with crimes against humanity, accusing him of trying to crush the ethnic Tutsis, both native and refugees from Rwanda and Burundi. AP reports Bosnian writer and journalist Mladen Vukсанovic, who chronicled the rise of Bosnian Serb ultranationalism and the beginning of Serb expulsions of Muslims and Croats, died of heart failure in exile in Croatia, his publisher said yesterday. Reuters reports <i>Poffiken</i> newspaper says the number of asylum seekers in Denmark rose to 4,628 in June-September from the same 1998 period's 3,960, about half the number in neighbouring Sweden and considerably less than in Norway.

Source:	Refugees Daily
Date:	Friday 22 October 1999
Title:	BURUNDI: THOUSANDS EVICTED FROM CAMPS
Text:	An estimated 11,000 people are being forcibly moved by the Burundian army from a camp run by an American missionary in Bujumbura, reports <i>BBC News</i>. Johnson's Camp was a haven for many people displaced by the country's ethnic-based conflict. Early yesterday, troops and police ordered that homes be dismantled. Streams of people left the camp carrying their possessions, while armed paramilitary police and troops stood by. The Tutsi-led Burundian government alleges that Johnson's Camp has been harbouring Hutu rebels. Burundi has faced considerable international criticism because of the mass movement of people into "re-grouppment camps" around the capital, while the military conduct operations against rebels. The UN has just been given updated figures from the government, saying that 304,000 are in such camps and in need of assistance. AP reports the army told inhabitants of the Johnson's and Legentil camps to go home, saying the evictions were necessary for security reasons. A military source said the military yesterday evicted 8,000 displaced people from the two camps after Hutu rebels killed two soldiers in a nearby army outpost. [Mass expulsion from Burundi camp - http://news.bbc.co.uk; Burundian army evicts 8,000 displaced people from camps - www.ap.org]

Source:	Refugees Daily
Date:	Thursday 21 October 1999
Title:	BURUNDI: JOHNSON CAMP
Text:	Carl and Eleanor Johnson, Americans who went to Burundi as missionaries 50 years ago, have become inadvertent hosts of a camp filled with 5,000 refugees who have fled the ethnic terror that threatens to tear the nation apart, reports the <i>Los Angeles Times</i>. The camp simply sprang up six years ago, as frightened civilians fled to what used to be a missionary station in Bujumbura. As patrons of the refuge, the Johnsons have unintentionally found themselves embroiled in the conflict. As insecurity mounts, Johnson Camp as it has come to be known has been flooded with primarily Hutu civilians fleeing fighting that has uprooted families from their land. The couple's presence has also helped the camp to remain in place, despite the wish of many Tutsis that it be levelled and the people sent back home. Burundian officials worry that the camp might be infiltrated by the Hutu rebels. [Missionaries Become Hosts of Refugee Camp - www.latimes.com]

Source:	UNHCR Press Briefing Note
Date:	Friday 15 October 1999
Title:	BURUNDI
Text:	Along with other U.N. agencies in Burundi, UNHCR has cut back its work outside the capital, Bujumbura, in the wake of the killing of two U.N. staff in southeastern Rutana province on Tuesday. UNHCR international and most local staff have returned to Bujumbura from three field offices in Gitega, Muyinga and Ruyigi. Some of the 23 international staff will be moved to Nairobi temporarily until a decision is taken by the security coordinator to restart activities. UNHCR's staff welfare officer has arrived in Bujumbura to speak with survivors of the attack. The Burundi office works chiefly on returnee reintegration and monitoring. Over the past 10 months an average of 200 Burundi have returned each week – mainly to the north-eastern provinces of Muyinga, Ruyigi, Karuzi and Cankuzo – from refugee camps in Tanzania, even as fighting between rebels and the army to the south drives more people into exile. The repatriation has been stopped. There are currently around 265,000 Burundi refugees in Tanzania. The High Commissioner has sent letters of condolence to Carol Bellamy, Executive Director of UNICEF, and to Catherine Bertini, Executive Director of WFP, on the assassination of two valued colleagues. Five years ago this August, Jose Lopez Herrera, a UNHCR field officer, was shot dead in northern Burundi.

Source:	Refugees Daily
Date:	Friday 15 October 1999
Title:	TANZANIA: NYERERE DIES, PRAISED FOR INTAKES
Text:	The main rebel group in Burundi, the Forces for the Defence of Democracy (FDD), declared a 48-hour unilateral ceasefire out of respect for Tanzania's first President Julius Nyerere, who died yesterday, reports <i>Reuters</i>. "He did so much for Burundians, mainly by accepting up to a million refugees into Tanzania, and the fact that he was a major force in the embargo imposed on the military junta," said spokesman Jerome Ndiho from Brussels. Around 300,000 Burundians remain in refugee camps along the border in Tanzania, and Burundi's government has often complained that those camps are used as bases for the rebels. <i>AFP</i> adds World Bank president James Wolfensohn yesterday hailed Nyerere as a founder of modern Africa, and praised his decision to receive hundreds of thousands of refugees in western Tanzania who were fleeing political turmoil in central Africa. [Burundi rebels declare 48-hour truce for Nyerere – www.reuters.com; Wolfensohn mourns passing of Julius Nyerere – www.afp.com]

Source:	Refugees Daily
Date:	Thursday 14 October 1999
Title:	BURUNDI: MURDERS, AID SUSPENDED, REBEL DENIAL
Text:	The UN yesterday said it had suspended all Burundi aid operations outside Bujumbura at least until tomorrow following the murder of two staff members at a refugee camp by ethnic Hutu rebels, reports <i>Reuters</i>. Some rebel groups have objected to what they see as international support for "concentration camps." But <i>Reuters</i> also reports the most powerful rebel group in Burundi today denied any responsibility for the killings, and instead blamed a faction of the army. Jerome Ndiho, spokesman for the rebel Forces for the Defence of Democracy, said there was no way the rebels could have infiltrated such a closely guarded camp. "The concentration camp in Muzye is surrounded by Tutsi soldiers, and there are also Tutsi soldiers in the

camp," he said in Brussels. AP reports army spokesman Longin Mwirani said the attackers had crossed into Burundi from bases in Tanzania, where hundreds of thousands of Burundian Hutu refugees are living in UN-run camps. Le Monde adds UNHCR and WFP have warned that a large-scale humanitarian crisis was unfolding in the camps without water, supplies, shelters and latrines. [Burundi rebels blame army for killing of UN staff + UN suspends Burundi operations after killings – www.reuters.com; U.N. operations in Burundi on hold after slayings – www.ap.org; Deux représentants des Nations unies ont été assassinés au Burundi – www.lemonde.fr]

Source:	Refugees Daily
Date:	Wednesday 13 October 1999
Title:	BURUNDI: UN OFFICIALS SHOT DEAD IN CAMP
Text:	Two UN relief officials were shot dead in cold blood by ethnic Hutu rebels in southern Burundi yesterday, UN officials said, reports Reuters. Luis Zuniga, a 52-year-old Chilean who headed UNICEF's Burundi operation, and 34-year-old WFP logistics officer Saskia Von Meijerfeldt, from the Netherlands, were killed during a visit to Muzye displaced persons' camp, south of Rulana. WFP's Michele Quintaglie said the six members of a UN team had been put against a wall shortly after arriving at the camp and robbed by the rebels, who then walked away. Quintaglie said the rebel infiltrators had killed four government soldiers from the convoy's military escort before turning on the UN officials. In the last month, the army has forcibly herded hundreds of thousands of civilians into camps like Muzye in an effort to deny food and support to the rebels. The UN group had gone to the camp to assess needs before going on to an area near the Tanzanian border where rebel infiltrations from Tanzania had displaced many more people. The Independent adds a WFP spokesman said UNHCR's representative in Burundi was in the UN team. The Washington Post also reports. [Burundi rebels kill U.N. staff in cold blood – www.reuters.com ; Burundi rebels ambush humanitarian convoy – www.independent.co.uk ; U.N. Relief Workers Killed in Burundi Ambush – www.washingtonpost.com]

Source:	Refugees Daily
Date:	Monday 11 October 1999
Title:	BURUNDI: GROWING CONCERNS FOR DISPLACED
Text:	The European Union has said it is very concerned by the rising number of displaced people in Burundi and urged the government to stop herding villagers into camps in their bid to hunt down rebel forces, reports AFP. UN groups in Geneva said thousands of Burundians were fleeing into Tanzania to escape the government's forced resettlement and attacks by rebel forces. More than 4,000 refugees had arrived in Kasulu in western Tanzania in the last four weeks, said UNHCR spokesman Kris Janowski. They had been taken to a camp in Nduta that is already massively overcrowded with more than 40,000 refugees. Janowski said the numbers fleeing Burundi were expected to increase dramatically. According to the new refugees, the government was "trying to move civilians into camps so that young males are not pressed into the rebel ranks." "Rebels are reported to be harassing the population in an effort to drive people out of the same areas and into exile," Janowski said. BBC News adds the Burundi government has apologised for an incident in which a soldier shot dead six civilians at a camp on Friday evening. [EU slams Burundi for forced relocation of civilians – www.afp.com ; Burundian soldier shoots six civilians – http://news.bbc.co.uk]

Source:	UNHCR Press Briefing Note
Date:	Friday 8 October 1999
Title:	THOUSANDS OF BURUNDI REFUGEES ARRIVE IN TANZANIA
Text:	Four thousand new Burundi refugees have been registered by UNHCR in Kasulu, in western Tanzania, during the past two weeks. The new arrivals from Burundi's Makamba province say they are fleeing heavy fighting between government forces and rebels around the village of Susunwa. According to the refugees, government troops are trying to move civilians forcibly into camps so that young males are not pressed into the rebel ranks. Rebels are reported to be harassing the population in an effort to drive people out of the same areas and into exile. Refugees have told UNHCR that in the process many homes are being burned. UNHCR field offices in western Tanzania have been helping Burundi fleeing battles in Makamba in the past months, but until the end of September arrivals have totalled a few hundred refugees per month. The recent arrivals are crossing at four points near the town of Kasulu, where they are screened before being taken to Nduta camp. Space around the camp, with a population of 40,000 before the influx, is being urgently identified to accommodate the increase. Refugees say they expect many more Burundi civilians to cross into Tanzania.

Source:	Refugees Daily
Date:	Thursday 7 October 1999
Title:	CENTRAL AFRICA: CRITICAL PROBLEMS GROW - OGATA
Text:	Refugee problems have been particularly critical in the Great Lakes region, as the Congolese conflict spawns violent sub-conflicts likely to cause further displacement, UNHCR chief Sadako Ogata told EXCOM on Tuesday, reports <i>IRIN</i>. UNHCR has "little or no presence," in parts of the Democratic republic of Congo, a particular worry for the agency charged with "the protection of refugees and the search for solutions to their problems," Ogata added. Central African conflicts continued to be connected and interlinked, due to their geographical proximity, but also through coalitions of defeated or disbanded armed groups, often complicating the protection task by moving along with refugees, said Ogata. Refugee flows from the DRC conflict into Gabon and the Central African Republic marked "a progressive widening of the spiral of refugee crises" and – in spite of the Lusaka Agreement – UNHCR was concerned at the possibility of fresh and sudden refugee movements in DRC, the Republic of Congo and Burundi, she added. [interlinked conflicts cause critical refugee problems – www.reliefweb.int/IRIN/]

Source:	Refugees Daily
Date:	Friday 1 October 1999
Title:	TANZANIA: MORE CONGOLESE, BURUNDIANS EXPECTED
Text:	Given the current political and security climate in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Burundi, "substantial numbers of Congolese and Burundi refugees will continue to arrive in Tanzania," says UNHCR's mid-year report, reports <i>IRIN</i>. UNHCR has amended its plans for this year to include between 278,000 and 300,000 Burundian refugees and some 160,000 Congolese. The report said, while US\$2.4m had been approved from its emergency fund, "the activation of contingency sites and the costs related to any new arrivals will require additional funding." UNHCR had hoped to promote the voluntary repatriation of Burundian refugees this year. But an upsurge in rebel attacks in Burundi had created outflows of refugees outnumbering the few Burundians repatriated to relatively stable areas. Most of the refugees are waiting for a peace agreement from talks in Arusha before

they return, it added [Continued upsurge in refugee numbers expected – www.reliefweb.int/IRIN]

Source:	Refugees Daily
Date:	Friday 1 October 1999
Title:	RWANDA: CONGOLESE WOMEN ASSAULTED
Text:	UNHCR has approached the Rwandan authorities to improve safety in and around Gihembe and Kiziba refugee camps which house some 32,000 Congolese, after disturbing reports of assault on women and girls, according to UNHCR's mid-year progress report, reports <i>IRIN</i>. "Recent reports of protection incidents (sexual violence against refugee women and the abduction of young girls) led UNHCR to intervene with both civilian and military authorities to advocate for improved security," it stated. UNHCR has also reported some difficulty in assuring suitable living conditions for about 600 Burundi refugees in Kigeme camp. [Security concern in refugee camps – www.reliefweb.int/IRIN]

Source:	Refugees Daily
Date:	Thursday 30 September 1999
Title:	BURUNDI: HUNDREDS FLEE, FEARING MASSACRE
Text:	Hundreds of civilians were reported yesterday to be fleeing villages near Bujumbura for fear of a further massacre after 30 people were killed Sunday in a church, reports <i>Deutsche Presse-Agentur</i>. The refugees were being housed in camps set up by the government where some 200,000 have already been resettled by the Burundi army, said a BBC report. The missionary news agency <i>MISNA</i> said militiamen attacked a church Sunday in Nyarubuye village, 90km from Bujumbura, randomly shooting mainly Hutu worshippers. Meanwhile <i>BBC News</i> reports UN officials say the army has forcibly moved 260,000 civilians into makeshift camps in the past fortnight to clear the way for operations against rebels. But reports say the displaced villagers face appalling conditions and people are dying every day. One priest described the sites as "concentration camps" and warned people would start "dying like flies" unless there was immediate help. The army says it is simply trying to protect the civilians from the violence or from getting caught in crossfire. But it is widely believed that the real motive is to prevent them from feeding or sheltering the rebels. WFP says it is worried by reports that people are being prevented from leaving the camps. <i>Le Monde</i> reports OCHA was asked to assist the camp populations and has sent teams to assess their needs. [Hundreds reported fleeing for fear of fresh Burundi massacre – www.dpa.com; Burundi army rounds up civilians – http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/arnée/burundaise a regroupe plus de 320 000 Hutus dans des camps – www.lemonde.fr]



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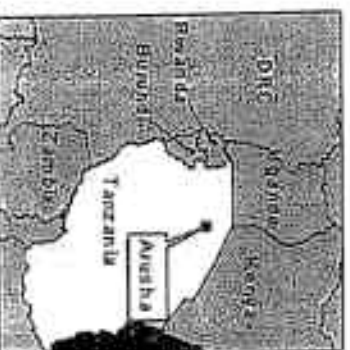
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BURUNDI: Arusha peace negotiations resume

NAIROBI, 8 December (IRIN) - The Burundi peace talks resumed in Arusha, Tanzania, on Monday, with three of four committees continuing deliberations on their particular areas of concern, the Myerere Foundation spokesman Hashim Mbita confirmed to IRIN on Wednesday.

He said the committees looking at the causes of the crisis, democratisation and governance issues, and peace and security were in progress. "Committee four, on social and economic reconstruction, is not meeting this time because it has to wait for the outcome and findings of the other three committees," he added.

Mbita said the delegates were "serious" in their deliberations and had received the new talks facilitator Nelson Mandela "gladly". The Foundation is awaiting the return of one of its top officials, Judge Mark Boman, who went to confer with Mandela on the talks itinerary. Mbita added.

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BURUNDI: IRIN Focus on Mandela mediation

ARUSHA, 7 December (IRIN) - Former South African president Nelson Mandela, who was appointed last week as the new mediator in the Burundi peace process by a regional summit in Arusha, has called for including all sides to the conflict in the talks.

"We can't sideline anybody who can create instability in the country," he told the South African Broadcasting Corporation in an interview over the weekend. "We cannot ignore them." Analysts believe his comments may give new impetus to the stalled process.



UN DPI Photo

Mandela - "We can't sideline anybody who can create instability in the country"

A sticking point to the progress of the peace talks under the mediation of the late Julius Nyerere had been the exclusion of armed rebel factions, including the main CNDP-FDD rebel group.

Regional leaders, analysts and most sides to the conflict agree the mediation role needed someone of Mandela's stature. "Every Burundian knows Mandela is a strong political man in Africa and international affairs," former Burundian president and opposition FRODEBU member Sylvestre Ntibantunganya told IRIN. He believes Mandela epitomises the "voice of reason". "We need someone who is bold and who will help us accept ourselves and the real problems," he added.

Leonce Ndarubagye, spokesman for the Conseil national pour la defense de la democratie (CND) faction of Leonard Nyangoma, while claiming South Africa was not a neutral country, conceded that Mandela "is not a bad choice". "We are ready to support him," Ndarubagye told IRIN.

"Every Burundian knows Mandela is a strong political man in Africa and international affairs"

Nyerere Foundation spokesman Hasim Mbita pointed out that the facilitation would be led by Mandela, and not by South Africa. "We are ready to give him all the support he needs," Mbita said.

Expectations are high. Eastern and Southern African leaders at the eighth Great Lakes regional summit on Burundi in Arusha, Tanzania, last week expressed a strong desire to have the process concluded. Calling for a speedy resolution to the conflict, they acknowledged that the outcome would depend on Burundians themselves.

Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni, who chairs the regional initiative, decried the "adverse effects" of prolonging the peace talks. Besides extending the suffering of Burundians, it had led to unnecessary spending and a "disproportionate claim" on the time of regional leaders, he told journalists.

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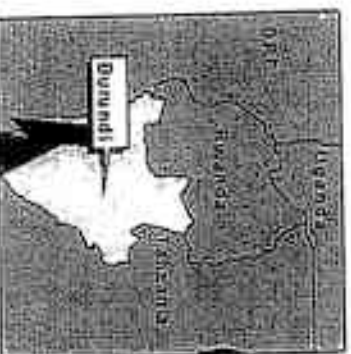
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Burundian President Pierre Buyoya, for his part, said his government was committed to finding a peaceful solution to the current problems. Since Mandela was acceptable to all Burundians, there were high hopes the talks would be concluded, he said.

Regional analysts are cautiously optimistic. "We are only a little concerned about Mandela's health, but because he took the job he is definitely up to it," a senior researcher at the South Africa-based Institute for Security Studies, Jackie Polgier, told IRIN.

"The only threat would be if there are influences from outside." "The Burundians must make not just a political change, but a psychological mind shift and learn to live with each other, work together and know they belong to one nation," he added.



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IRIN-CEA Update 817 for the Great Lakes (Tuesday 7 December 1999)

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BURUNDI: UN bids for "safe quarter" for relief work

An initiative is underway to bring together the leaders of the major armed rebel groups in one place, sometime in the next two to three months, to discuss humanitarian activities, the UN Humanitarian Coordinator for Burundi, Kathleen Cravero-Kristofferson said. The purpose was "to talk about a safe quarter for humanitarian work and to ensure that all parties to the Burundian conflict understood the non-partisan nature of humanitarian assistance," she told a press conference in New York at the weekend. However, "an active effort was underway to allow the resumption of suspended activities" and there were plans to send an inter-agency mission to Burundi, probably in January. The mission would look at security arrangements and ascertain whether the UN could increase its operations. On the Rutana attack of 12 October, in which two UN workers died, there were many theories regarding "who was waiting for whom", but a UN security investigation had concluded that the definitive answer would probably never be known, Cravero-Kristofferson said.

BURUNDI: "Hope in short supply"

While increased security measures since the Rutana killings had "greatly hampered" UN operations in the country, there remained an urgent need for the international community to respond fully to the increasing humanitarian needs of Burundians, Cravero-Kristofferson reported. "Hope is in short supply in Burundi these days", she said, noting forced regroupments, deteriorating security, increasing food needs and a worrying health situation. In addition, one of the worst droughts in Burundi's

recent history had led the FAO to predict that as many as three million people might need assistance, she added.

BURUNDI: Number of regrouped people rising

Humanitarian sources say the number of people in regroupment sites in Bujumbura Rural is on the rise. An estimated 330,000 people are now in the camps, and the number is expected to increase, the sources told IRIN. NGOs, which have expressed concern over the health situation in some sites, are to begin nutritional surveys in 21 camps.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO: Kinshasa flooding "major threat" but manageable

A joint humanitarian meeting to evaluate the flooding that has displaced 15,000 to 20,000 people in Kinshasa concluded that while it was "a major threat" and would require continuous vigilance until at least mid-January, its "current dimension" was considered manageable with the existing human and financial resources. International relief agencies decided that the WFP should coordinate food responses; the Red Cross movement, medical and sanitation interventions; WHO, anti-epidemic prevention; and the UNDP and OCHA, contingency planning for worst-case scenarios, a UN press release stated on Monday. The Red Cross was already strengthening its health centres, providing clean water to the cholera section of the general hospital, carrying out emergency sanitation work and tracking disease. However there were continued dangers in relation to drinking water supplies, the possible contamination of groundwater, and the potential for epidemics and food shortages. [situation report at <http://www.reliefweb.int/>]

DRC: Greater access reveals countless numbers in need of relief

Aid agencies are beginning to get more access to people displaced by the war in both government- and rebel-held areas of DRC, but there are "countless others" in remote areas without access to humanitarian relief, the WFP reported on Monday. The agency visited Kinshasa, Lubumbashi, Pweto, Goma, Bukavu and Bunia over the past three weeks to gather more information on the plight of internally-displaced people (IDPs), it said. "What we're finding is that, in some cases, whole villages have shifted to distant areas... and have brought with them virtually nothing to survive on. What worries us even more is that we're just seeing a fraction of the displaced people out there," said WFP Country Director Kees Tuinenburg in a press statement. "Our biggest problem at the moment is that we don't have enough food to fully support even the limited numbers of displaced we can get access to at the moment. Even worse, if we don't receive substantial new pledges in the coming weeks, we'll completely run out of food by April," said Tuinenburg.

DRC: Army accused of summary executions

The DRC human rights group ASADHO has expressed concern over summary executions and harassment by the Congolese army in villages near the town of Basankusu in Equateur province. In the report, issued before the rebel Mouvement de liberation du Congo (MLC) captured Basankusu from the army, ASADHO said the atrocities were committed in July and September in villages such as Pimui, Djombo and Kodoro after Congolese troops were repulsed by the MLC. On their retreat towards the Maringa river, the soldiers "killed in cold blood" people who tried to escape the onslaught,

apparently seeking out the Ngombe people whom they accused of collaborating with the rebels. ASADHO also accused some MLC rebels of cannibalism. It cited witnesses who said a man and two children in Djombo had their throats slit by members of the MLC, who then ate them.

Meanwhile, MLC leader Jean-Pierre Bemba has moved his operational headquarters from Gbadolite to Basankusu after his troops captured the town last week, AFP reported. Gbadolite would remain the administrative centre of the MLC, Bemba said.

DRC: Report on ethnic conflict in Ituri

In a separate report, ASADHO said the inter-ethnic conflict in the northeast Ituri district between the Lendu and Hema people is due in part to a lack of protection and confidence in the state. In a report issued this month on the conflict that has been raging in the district for several months, ASADHO also said the situation was aggravated by the "partisan attitude" of Ugandan troops in the area towards the Hema people. Noting that the two ethnic groups have traditionally been opposed for years over land issues, ASADHO said the current conflict had left 1,200 people dead by the beginning of September, but believed the number to be far greater. By mid-November, tens of thousands of people were displaced. ASADHO urged Ugandan troops and rebels of the Rassemblement congolais pour la democratie-mouvement de liberation (RCD-ML), who control the area, to guarantee security impartially for all inhabitants of the region.

DRC: No UN observers without new mediator, says Holbrooke

The US envoy to the UN, Richard Holbrooke, said in South Africa on Monday that the UN would focus particularly on the DRC conflict when the US assumes the rotating presidency of the Security Council in January. However, Washington would not support the deployment of 500 UN military observers to the DRC until all sides agreed to a special mediator to revitalise the Lusaka agreement. The international community could not be expected to intervene in the DRC unless all sides stopped the renewed fighting and adhered to the ceasefire, the BBC quoted him as saying. "The renewed fighting threatens to leave the Lusaka agreement in tatters. ... If the parties in the Congo really want the international community's involvement and support, such violations of these commitments are simply unacceptable," Holbrooke added.

DRC: Kinshasa claims "double standards" over ceasefire violations

President Laurent-Désiré Kabila's aide de camp Colonel Eddy Kapend at the weekend denounced what he called the "double standards of the international community, in particular the USA". "The fronts are not stable because they are attacked by the aggressors on a regular basis," Kapend said over state radio. He added that the rebels had captured localities in Kasai and Equateur Provinces, including Basankusu, last week, since the ceasefire agreement. "The international community scandalously did not say a single word" on these, yet complains of ceasefire violations when the government "repulses the enemy forces from an unjustly-occupied locality", Kapend claimed.

UGANDA: Minister says ADF surrender would bring Congo withdrawal

Minister of State for Security Muriuli Mutukasa said on Monday the Uganda People's Defence Forces (UPDF) would withdraw from the DRC if the rebel

Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), who are active in western Uganda from bases in eastern DRC, were to surrender. The government welcomed negotiations between Kasese District politicians and the ADF. Radio Uganda quoted Mukusa as saying: Speaking in the context of a rebel amnesty bill being debated in parliament, Mukusa said the authorities were "willing to forgive and accept the ADF if they surrender".

Nairobi, 7 December 1999, 13:20 gmt

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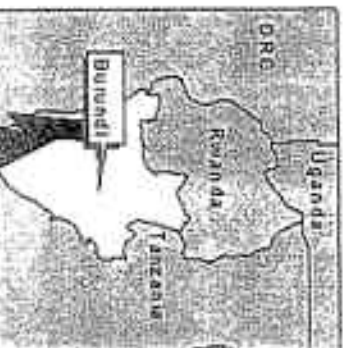
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BURUNDI: NGOs told to "stop meddling"

NAIROBI, 6 December (IRIN) - The Burundi government has asked NGOs in the country to "stop meddling" in internal politics, the PANA news agency reported. It quoted Foreign Minister Severin Ntahomukye, who met NGO representatives in Bujumbura on Friday, as saying political and security issues were the sole responsibility of the government and Burundians.

PANA said he criticised the "dishonesty" of some NGOs who were no longer distributing humanitarian aid on the pretext that some of the regroupment sites were not easily accessible. "If you cannot reach these distressed people, give us the food and drugs, and we will go and distribute them ourselves," he said.

Security Council halts Mandela appointment

The UN Security Council has welcomed the appointment of former South African president Nelson Mandela to mediate in the Burundi peace process, in a press statement, the Council urged all sides to show flexibility and to cooperate fully with the new facilitator. It commended Burundian parties and the government which had demonstrated their commitment to continuing negotiations and urged sides that remained outside the process to cease hostilities.

No-one will be sidelined, Mandela says

Mandela, meanwhile, has called for resuming the peace talks in February. In an interview with the South African Broadcasting Corporation he said nobody should be sidelined in the negotiations. "We can't sideline anybody who can create instability in the country, so we must find a way of accommodating them in these discussions - either by inviting them to join or addressing them separately, but you can't ignore them," he said.



UN DPI Photo

Mandela - "We can't sideline anybody who can create instability in the country"

Mandela added that "in every ethnic group there are those who feel that violence, tension and hatred are not in the best interests of Burundi as a country". Acknowledging there were "a lot of rough times" ahead, Mandela said "we have to use the good and the evil to create harmony and understanding between the parties".

The four working commissions began work in Arusha and are expected to continue for 10 days, the Tanzanian daily 'Guardian' reported on Monday.

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New alliance created

Nine political personalities have joined together to create the Alliance nationale pour le changement (ANAC), aimed at ending impunity and violence in the country.

The private Netpress news agency named the members as Domilien Ndayizeye FRODEBU (external) secretary-general, Severin Ndikumugongo vice-president of the Parti du peuple, Cyrille Barancira vice-president of PARENA, Jean Baptiste Mukuri secretary-general of ABASA, Philippe Nzobonamba secretary-general of the RPB party, Andre Bitwa an MP, Antole Kanyenkiko former prime minister, Pierre Claver Rurekema of SOJEDEM and MP Terence Nahimana.



ANAC said its aims were to promote a common vision for change and to refuse to accept the status quo. Netpress described the creation of ANAC as a "response" the establishment in October of the Convergence nationale pour la paix et la reconciliation (CNPR) bringing together the internal wing of FRODEBU and mainly Tutsi parties.

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Ndikurungenge

The major

challenge is to

bring about a

ceasefire

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Burundi urged to close internment camps



Regional leaders in East and Southern Africa have urged the Burundian Government to close the camps it has set up for civilians in areas where there is fighting.

The authorities in Burundi have forced hundreds of thousands of civilians into so-called regroupment sites, to clear the way for offensives against the rebels.

The government says people are being moved into the sites for their own protection.

- War in Burundi
- Six years of fighting
- 200,000 dead
- 800,000 interned

UN estimates

But rebels call the sites "concentration camps", and believe they have been created to prevent civilians from helping the rebels.

The United Nations estimated there were more than 800,000 people - 12% of the population - in these sites, following a major relocation exercise near the capital, Bujumbura, in September.

The UN, reluctant to collaborate in the relocation policy, has maintained a policy of providing only life-sustaining aid to the inmates.

Briefing for Mandela

On Wednesday, retired South African President Nelson Mandela was named as the new mediator in peace talks to try to end the civil war in Burundi, which has cost hundreds of



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cost hundreds of thousands of lives over six years.



Burundi has endured six years of civil war

Judge Mark Bomanj, a key figure in the Burundi peace process, is to travel to South Africa to brief Mr Mandela over the weekend.

Judge Bomanj worked closely with Burundi's former mediator, Tanzanian ex-President Julius Nyerere, who died in October.

A spokeswoman for Mr Mandela said he was pleased to take on the job.

The appointment has been welcomed by the Burundian Government and main opposition parties.

Leaders in the region hope that someone with the international standing of Mr Mandela will be able to breathe new life into the Burundi peace process.

Talks to try to end six years of civil war between the Tutsi-led government and Hutu rebels began more than one year ago.

So far, they have failed to stop the fighting and the past few months have seen an increase in attacks by Hutu rebels around the capital, Bujumbura.

More than 200,000 people are estimated to have died in the war, the majority of them civilians.

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Tel: +254 2 622147
Fax: +254 2 622129
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Central and Eastern Africa: IRIN-CEA Weekly Round-up 48 covering the period
29 November-3 December 1999

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BURUNDI: Mandela succeeds Nyerere as peace facilitator

Eastern and southern African leaders meeting at the eighth Great Lakes summit on Burundi on Wednesday nominated former South African President Nelson Mandela as facilitator of the Burundi peace process. The heads of state said in a statement that "they realised the importance of having a new facilitator to provide political leadership" for the Burundi process and had therefore designated Mandela, after due consultation with the OAU and UN.

South African President Thabo Mbeki thanked the summit leaders for their confidence in Mandela, while his spokesman Parks Mankahana said Mandela had accepted the position. Hirondelle news agency reported. If he confirms his acceptance, Mandela will replace the late Julius Nyerere, former president of Tanzania, as talks facilitator. The summit also noted that the Burundi peace negotiation "have reached an advanced stage and substantial progress has been achieved" and decided to keep Arusha as the

main venue for the process.

BURUNDI: Summit calls for disbandment of regroupment camps

The regional leaders in Arusha also "noted with regret" that the political and security situation had not improved significantly in the country, and that Hutu rebels had stepped up attacks against the government. The summit "expressed its disappointment" at the government's continued use of camps to contain the civilian population - in spite of commitments to dismantle those in existence - and reiterated its call for Bujumbura "to immediately disband all regroupment camps."

DRC: 500 UN military observers to go on stand-by

The UN Security Council on Tuesday asked Secretary-General Kofi Annan "with immediate effect, to take the administrative steps necessary to equip up to 500 UN military observers with a view to facilitating future rapid UN deployment [in the DRC] as authorised by the Council." It underlined, however, that "the phased deployment of the UN military observers, with the necessary support and protection elements ... will be subject to its further decision" after it receives a technical assessment of security conditions in the country. The Council asked that Annan "report to it as soon as possible on the situation in the DRC and submit his recommendation on further deployment of UN personnel in the country, and on their security."

DRC: Multidisciplinary staff to support MONUC

Meanwhile, the Security Council resolution also authorised a multidisciplinary staff in the fields of "human rights, humanitarian affairs, public information, medical support, child protection, political affairs and administrative support personnel" to assist the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the DRC Kamel Morjane until 1 March 2000.

DRC: Rebels surrender Bokungu

The rebel Rassemblement congolais pour la democratie (RCD) said on Friday it had surrendered the key town of Bokungu in northwestern Equateur Province amid heavy bombardment on Thursday. Rebel forces could no longer resist helicopter and river assaults at Bokungu, but withdrew to a new defensive line where they could prevent government and Zimbabwian forces from gaining access to allied forces besieged at Ikela, the Associated Press (AP) quoted RCD spokesman Kin-Kley Mulumba as saying. There was "a massive attack" by the government alliance, involving three gunboats, four helicopters and Antonov bombers, Mulumba claimed. Serious clashes were reported in the northwestern province of Equateur throughout Monday and Tuesday.

DRC: Rebel RCD denies American mercenary support

Mulumba also rejected Zimbabwian accusations that US mercenaries were involved on the rebels' side in southern DRC. "I'm categorically denying that we have any mercenaries on our side - least of all Americans," Mulumba told AP. Zimbabwe's defence spokesman Colonel Charcellor Diye claimed on Monday that American mercenaries were active in central and eastern DRC, fighting alongside Congolese rebels.

"The presence of white mercenaries has been noticed. 15 at Lusambo and the same number at Kabalo. The mercenaries are American nationals manning communications equipment and artillery," Diya said. Lusambo and Kabalo are to the north and east respectively of the key Congolese diamond mining centre Mbuji Mayi.

DRC: MLC sceptical about rebel reconciliation bid

The rebel Mouvement de Liberation du Congo (MLC) has expressed "profound perplexity" at renewed attempts to reconcile and unite Congolese rebel groups. In a report received by IRIN, the MLC said the chances of rebel reconciliation were slim if the reasons that led to the clashes between the two factions of the Rassemblement congolais pour la democratie (RCD) - in Kisangani in August and more recently in Beni and Butembo - had not been resolved.

RCD-Goma last week said the three rebel groups would meet in the coming days in an effort to resolve their differences. While welcoming the initiative, the MLC would refuse to be associated with "any folkloric initiative...that would constitute a waste of time," the report said. It noted, however, that a common platform among the rebel movements would enable positions to be harmonised "with a view to the next elections."

DRC: New haemorrhagic fever cases suspected

Two new suspected cases of haemorrhagic fever were reported during the second week of November in Province Orientale, a WHO official told IRIN on Tuesday. Both victims, one in Durba and the other in Watsa, have died.

"They had signs and symptoms of haemorrhagic fever but we are waiting for laboratory confirmation," the official said. The development is a source of concern because of the time period that has elapsed since the last suspected cases were reported, the official said.

"These cases don't seem to be related to the previous outbreak," he said.

"We might be facing a new outbreak but we're not sure yet," he said. Some 60 people were estimated to have died of haemorrhagic fever, linked to the Marburg virus, in the Durba area between November 1998 and May of this year.

DRC: "Nutritional crisis" in Bas-Congo

High levels of both acute and chronic malnutrition have been observed in a "nutritional crisis" in Luizi and M'angembo districts of Bas-Congo, western DRC, with the influx of refugees and returnees from the neighbouring Republic of Congo likely to have exacerbated the situation, Medical Emergency Relief International (Merlin) reported on Tuesday. A sample of over 900 children under five years between mid-September and mid-October, the traditional lean period at the end of the dry season, showed malnutrition figures "high enough to cause concern", even in the absence of comparative data for other periods, the agency reported.

"Malnutrition is part and parcel of the hungry season but in this instance global acute malnutrition among children aged between six and 59 months was found to be 26 percent," it added. Traditionally, Bas-Congo has substantial trade with the Republic of Congo but the closure of the border has "had a massive impact on the local economy and a severe knock-on effect on people's ability to feed their families," Merlin added.

RWANDA: Del Ponte formally appeals Barayagwiza release ruling

The Prosecutor of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) on Wednesday formally filed her brief requesting a review of the decision of the Appeals Chamber of the Tribunal to release genocide suspect Jean-Bosco Barayagwiza on technical legal grounds. UN Spokesman for the Secretary-General Fred Eckhard told journalists on Thursday. Del Ponte said she had new facts that she hoped would prompt a reversal of the decision; alternatively, she hoped the appeals court would remove its provision that the release should be "with prejudice" to the Prosecutor, thus allowing the ICTR to re-arrest Barayagwiza, the independent Hirondelle news agency reported. "There is no date set for the Chamber to make its decision," Eckhard stated on Thursday.

RWANDA: DRC food imports boost local supply

Market prices have remained relatively stable in areas affected by poor rainfall distribution, with the exception of Umutara where prices have risen sharply in the last two weeks, the latest monthly bulletin from USAID's Famine Early Warning System (FEWS) stated. It said recent assessments had found that imports of staple food from the DRC were helping to maintain market supplies in Rwanda. Overall,

dry conditions in October had harmed prospects for the 2000 season. A bean and maize crop in one-half of Rwanda, the report said. "Total crop loss is expected in some locations, and yields will be very low throughout the affected region," it said. An inter-agency assessment team in early November recommended that WFP double its food distributions in drought-affected areas - from 3,000 mt per month to 7,000 mt.

RWANDA: More ex-FAR reintegrated into army

About 1,500 ex-FAR soldiers and other former "infiltrators" on Saturday completed a two-month camp-based "sensitisation" programme, marking their reintegration into the army or civilian life, the Rwanda News Agency (RNA) reported. It quoted well-informed sources as saying some of the reintegrated ex-FAR soldiers had already joined the Rwandan Patriotic Army (RPA) and were fighting against the Kabila government in the DRC. According to a recent government policy paper, about 10,000 ex-FAR were absorbed into the army last year.

UGANDA: Parliament passes rebel amnesty bill

The Ugandan parliament on Tuesday passed a bill offering rebels a six-month amnesty in an attempt to end long-running insurgencies by the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) in the west of the country and Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) in the north. The rebels have six months from the date President Yoweri Museveni signs the bill into law to claim the amnesty by handing in their arms and giving themselves up. Reuters news agency reported on Wednesday.

The amnesty bill - which calls for the reintegration of the rebels into society and can be extended by the government without going back to parliament - represents a new, more diplomatic approach to rebellions which have displaced over 400,000 Ugandans after Museveni insisted for years that the rebels were common criminals and could only be subdued militarily. Reuters added.

SOMALIA: IGAD summit endorses Guelleh plan

At a summit held recently, Ethiopia, Kenya and Sudan endorsed a proposal by President Ismael Omar Guelleh for a new approach to the conflict in Somalia. Three member states of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) failed to attend the summit: Eritrea, Uganda and Somalia. Eritrea refused to attend, claiming Djibouti backs Ethiopia in their conflict, while the semi-official 'New Vision' reported that Uganda's unpaid dues to the sub-regional grouping would have disqualified it from speaking. Somalia's seat at IGAD has been vacant since the collapse of 1991. According to AFP, Guelleh said neither Eritrea nor Uganda had offered a "convincing reason" for not taking part.

The summit called for a "bottom-up approach in which the role of warlords is contained and that of Civil Society is enhanced." The summit's declaration welcomed moves by "Somaliland", "Puntland" and "the region of Bay and Bakool" to promote peace in their regions. Diplomatic sources told IRIN the IGAD Standing Committee on Somalia, chaired by Ethiopia will meet in Nairobi on December 15 to decide an implementation plan.

Full IGAD statements: <http://www.igad.org>.

SOMALIA-ETHIOPIA: Aideed shuts down Oromo Liberation Front in Mogadishu

Somali faction leader Hussein Aideed has disbanded a group of Ethiopian Oromo Liberation Front (OLF) members living in Mogadishu. The move came as a result of meetings in Addis Ababa in October between Aideed and Ethiopian authorities, a spokesman for Aideed told IRIN.

The OLF is an Ethiopian rebel group, formed in 1974, which had been allied to Aideed and has used Somali territory as a rear base. Representatives of Libya and Egypt monitored the disarmament and handover of about 100 weapons. Aideed spokesman Abdulatif Atiub said, Ethiopian government spokesperson Hailekiros Gessesse told IRIN that nothing was promised in return from the Ethiopian side. "He [Aideed] should clean his house... he should think of his own people", Hailekiros said, repeating denials that Ethiopia had troops based in Somalia.

KENYA: Oromo Liberation Front accuses Kenya government

OLF radio also complained of a change of heart on the part of the Kenyan government, with whom there had been "some understanding" - falling short of direct support - in the past. The OLF broadcast, monitored by the BBC last week, accused Kenya of "declaring war" on the OLF and of detentions, killings and torture of Oromos in Kenya. A statement from the OLF website announced last week that Dawud Issa Ayana had taken over the leadership of the organisation, after the resignation of former chairman Galasa Dilho due to ill health.

SUDAN: WFP concern over US food for rebels law

WFP has expressed concern about a new American law which provides authority for the use of food aid for rebel fighters in southern Sudan. Meanwhile, Khartoum has condemned the possible move to provide food aid to the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) as a declaration of war. "The declaration of (US President) Bill Clinton to give food aid to the rebel movement represents an irresponsible American behaviour," news agencies quoted government spokesman Ghazi Salehuddin as saying on Wednesday. WFP,

which is one of the main organisations involved in the distribution of food to the Sudanese people, previously said it was worried that the safety of all food providers might be jeopardised if some were seen to be partisan.

The controversial provision is contained in a US foreign operations bill, part of the US budget, which Clinton signed into law on Monday. WFP is concerned about the impact any one-sided food distribution might have on the credibility of Operation Lifeline Sudan (OLS), an inter-agency effort which is currently feeding two million people every month. UN spokesman Fred Eckhard said WFP was worried the US move, if implemented, could "potentially jeopardise their logistics operations in the air and on the ground. They fear they could become military targets if their planes were confused with any new aircraft delivering US food."

SUDAN: Minister warns food aid could be arms

These fears appeared to be justified on Wednesday when a junior Sudanese foreign minister, Gabriel Rorec, was quoted as saying he feared the US food aid could turn out to be Parliament Deputy Speaker said the decision was a reaction to a recent reconciliation accord in Djibouti between Khartoum and the opposition Umma party.

SUDAN: Rubin condemns deal with Umma

US State Department spokesman James Rubin told reporters that the agreement signed on Friday in Djibouti between Khartoum and the opposition Umma party was merely indicative of Khartoum's intransigence, as it did not "address the main concern that we've all had (concerning) Sudan's crackdown on human rights, its deliberate policies of deprivation, and its refusal to approach peace seriously." The agreement was described by its signatories as "a declaration of principles" and contemplated a four-year transition period, to be followed by a referendum in southern Sudan on whether to confirm unity with the north or to secede.

Nairobi, 3 December 1999, 15:00 gmt

[ENDS]

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Tel: +254 2 622147
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IIRIN-CEA Update 814 for the Great Lakes (Thursday 2 December 1999)

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BURUNDI: Mandela widely welcomed as facilitator

The government and one faction of the main opposition party FRODEBU have welcomed Wednesday's designation by eastern and southern African leaders of former South African president Nelson Mandela as facilitator of the Burundi peace negotiations in Arusha. "Mandela can help us in this negotiation process. He's a man of international stature ... very experienced in resolution of conflicts and, I think, acceptable to the majority of Burundians. We are glad he has been chosen to lead this process." Hirondele news agency quoted Burundi President Pierre Buyoya as saying. Jean Minani, leader of the external wing of the opposition Hutu party FRODEBU, said it was very happy to hear Mandela had been chosen as mediator because he was "someone of the highest stature" who had fought all his life against oppression, the agency added.

Buyoya also said "the question of the venue, who should assist (and) who should not assist" were for the new facilitator to decide, and he denied that the government had ever said it was against Arusha as a talks venue, Hirondele reported.

BURUNDI: Annan hopes Mandela can "reinvigorate the process"

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan also welcomed Mandela's designation as facilitator of the Burundi peace talks, and expressed the hope that Mandela's prestige and authority would "reinvigorate the process." Calling the appointment a timely decision, in light of the unstable political and

security situation prevailing in Burundi. Annan called on all the Burundi parties "to extend maximum cooperation to the new facilitator towards the successful and urgent conclusion of the peace negotiations." The UN Secretary-General also reiterated his view that "there is no alternative to a negotiated settlement to the Burundi conflict."

BURUNDI: Hutu rebel coalition rejects South African involvement

The Union pour la libération nationale (ULIN) - an umbrella grouping of minor Hutu rebel factions - said, however, it "strongly opposed" Mandela's nomination, and "would never participate in the talks of hypocrites".

"South Africa has joined Rwanda and Uganda to assist Dictator Buyoya militarily, as well as ammunition (sic) to conduct killings of innocent Hutus in the concentration camps whereby hundreds of Hutus are being slaughtered daily," a press release from ULIN and the president of the Parti pour la libération du peuple hutu - Forces nationales de libération (PALIPEHUTU-FNL), received by IRIN, stated.

Some other Hutu representatives, including from the main rebel group CNDD (Conseil national pour la défense de la démocratie), who attended the Arusha summit said in private they would have preferred the choice of former Botswana president Ketumile Masire because they do not accept that South Africa is neutral in Burundi or the Great Lakes region, Hirondele reported.

BURUNDI: Buyoya says civilian camps an internal issue

President Pierre Buyoya on Wednesday rejected the criticism by regional leaders at the Arusha summit of Burundi's civilian regroupment camps, and their call that the camps be disbanded immediately. He told a press conference in Arusha the camps were "a problem of management of the situation in the country... not to be discussed in the peace process." The government has forced hundreds of thousands of civilians into regroupment camps, in which humanitarian conditions are reported to be deplorable and which have drawn strong condemnation from the international community.

BURUNDI: 10 reported killed in army-rebel clash

Ten rebels were killed and two soldiers wounded during clashes on Tuesday night in Gihuro, Kamenge zone, north of Bujumbura, news organisations reported on Wednesday. The fighting occurred when a group of soldiers happened upon the rebels during its return from military operations in Bujumbura Rural. Radio Burundi quoted military sources as saying, At least 43 people have been killed in three separate attacks by ethnic Hutu rebels around the country since Saturday, according to military and government officials cited by Reuters news agency on Wednesday. The dead included 22 civilians, 19 rebels and two soldiers, they added.

TANZANIA: Mkapa "fed up" with Burundi accusations

President Benjamin Mkapa on Wednesday reiterated his government's denial that it has allowed Burundi refugees to train, equip themselves and launch attacks on Burundi from within Tanzania, and added that his government was "fed up with endless but baseless accusations" when that has never been its policy. Tanzania was finding it ever more difficult to cope with the number of refugees and earnestly asked "those countries that generate refugees... to create that political dispensation and those security guarantees that will stop their citizens from looking for sanctuary in

other countries," the Tanzanian 'Daily News' reported Mkapa as saying. "We do not want to be a scapegoat for procrastination in the negotiations, and we abhor even the perception that Tanzania is an obstacle to the speedy resolution of the Burundi conflict," Mkapa added, in a speech that analysts considered evidence of severely strained relations between the neighbouring countries.

DRC: Inter-Congolese dialogue to be funded by the EC

The European Community has said it will finance the inter-Congolese dialogue, scheduled to take place in the DRC under the Lusaka ceasefire, if leaders agree on a timetable and the peace agreement holds. "We are waiting to get information on the ground before committing the funds," the German press agency on Wednesday quoted Finnish diplomat Leo Oksavirta as saying. Finland currently holds the presidency of the EC.

DRC: Bemba claims capture of 120 government troops

The Mouvement du liberation congolais (MLC), led by Jean-Pierre Bemba, on Thursday claimed to have captured 120 government soldiers during "Kabila's continuing offensive" in Equateur Province in the northwest of the country. Kinshasa had "vainly tried to retake the town of Bongardanga so as to continue their offensive to Lissala" but had 120 prisoners of war taken in the clashes, according to an MLC statement quoted by Agence France Presse (AFP). Meanwhile, the Rassemblement congolais pour la democratie (RCD) claimed to have retaken during heavy fighting on Wednesday positions at Bokungu, Equateur Province, that were lost to Zimbabwean forces on Tuesday.

DRC: Kabila allies allege new rebel ceasefire violations

The armies of three southern African states: Namibia, Zimbabwe and Angola, who are supporting President Laurent-Desire Kabila against Ugandan- and Rwandan-backed Congolese rebels in the DRC conflict, on Wednesday alleged that their bases in Ikela, northeastern Equateur, and also in the provinces of East and West Kasai in central DRC, had come under rebel attack in violation of the Lusaka ceasefire.

DRC: Minister calls for action to avert a catastrophe

The government on Wednesday warned that the floods engulfing Kinshasa as a result of the River Congo having burst its banks had already caused great distress and risked becoming a disaster if timely action were not taken. The Congo, fed by unusually heavy rains, made an estimated 10,000 homeless when it burst its banks and flooded 15 of 24 districts in the capital Kinshasa, Congolese media quoted government officials as saying. "The situation is very worrying. We must take precautions to avoid this turning into a catastrophe," said Health Minister Mashako Mamba, who appealed to the donor community for relief funds.

UGANDA: World Bank approves funding for projects

The World Bank has approved a total of \$114.9 million for two development programmes it is supporting in Uganda: the Local Government Development Programme and the Second Economic and Financial Management Programme. The \$80.9 million equivalent Local Government Development Programme will support the government of Uganda's national development strategy, contained in its Poverty Eradication Action Plan (1997). The plan is

designed to ensure that the benefits of development are widely spread throughout the population. The objective of the \$34 million equivalent Second Economic and Financial Management Project is to improve the effectiveness of public expenditure management, such as government planning, budgeting, financial management, monitoring and evaluation.

Nairobi, 2 December 1999, 15:00 gmt

[ENDS]

[Feedback: irin@ocha.unon.org UN IRIN-CEA Tel: +254 2 622123
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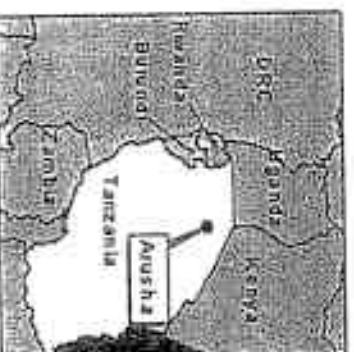
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BURUNDI: 18 killed in Kanyanza

NAIROBI, 29 November (IRIN) - Eighteen people have been massacred at a displaced people's camp in the northern province of Kanyanza, according to Burundi radio. It said "genocidal terrorists" entered the Nyanusenda camp on Friday night and "chose their victims carefully". A further 16 people were wounded.

Regional leaders gather in Arusha

Regional heads of state are gathering in Arusha, Tanzania, ahead of the 1 December summit aimed at choosing a new mediator for the Burundi peace process. Sources close to the peace talks told IRIN the summit will also discuss the current state of play regarding negotiations.



From 2-5 December, a meeting is scheduled between the new mediator and heads of delegations, and from 6-15 December the four negotiating commissions are due to meet the new mediator.

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 Emne: BURUNDI: IRIN Focus on the Arusha summit [19991127]

BURUNDI: IRIN Focus on the Arusha summit

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NAIROBI, 26 November (IRIN) - When regional leaders meet in Arusha, Tanzania, next week to thrash out the future of the Burundi peace mediation, they may well be embarking on a last chance to salvage the peace process and stop a wider regional conflict.

In his latest report, Burundi analyst Jan van Eck of the South Africa-based Centre for Conflict Resolution, says the choice of a suitable mediator to succeed the late Julius Nyerere is crucial. "The decision... will determine whether Burundians will be able to continue to try and find a peaceful-negotiated settlement or continue with their violent conflict."

In the void created by the delay in appointing a new mediator, Burundi has been wracked by increasing violence and extremism. Van Eck says the new mediation "will have to be such that the negotiations option will become a much more attractive option than war, resulting in parties virtually being 'seduced' into the mediation/negotiations option".

"Merely making marginal and cosmetic changes to the present mediation process will most definitely not achieve this," he warns.

The Arusha summit, slated for 1 December - bringing together representatives of Uganda, Tanzania, Kenya, Rwanda, Burundi, Ethiopia, DRC, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe under the chairmanship of Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni - has a difficult task ahead in choosing a replacement for Nyerere acceptable to everyone. However there are signs that the different parties' views may be converging.

Burundi's Peace Process Minister Ambroise Nyonsaba told IRIN he was optimistic that a solution favourable to all sides would be reached in Arusha. He confirmed that South Africa had been approached, and said the "stature" of former president Nelson Mandela would be a fitting succession to Nyerere.

Burundi's Permanent Representative to the UN, Marc Nteturuye, took a harder line. "It is unthinkable that a mediator unacceptable to Burundi can be chosen," he told IRIN. The new mediator should "suit all the parties involved". Otherwise, the government would "block" the process, he said.

Van Eck says the region cannot disregard the opinion of the Burundi government. "If the government is to be part of the solution to Burundi's crisis - and without it there can be no solution - then the new mediation to be decided upon will have to be such that the government can stay in the process."

Representatives of Burundi's influential Convergence nationale pour la paix et la réconciliation (CNPR), which groups together 10 parties within

the country including the main FRODEBU and UPRONA parties, have been travelling in the region ahead of the summit to explain their position on the mediation and their support for a team of three facilitators, headed by Mandela.

FRODEBU leader Augustin Nzobiwami, who is also president of the CNPR, told IRIN he believed they had the support of the sub-region, although he pointed out they had only visited Uganda, Rwanda and Kenya, whereas the summit would group 10 countries. "But it is difficult to turn down Mandela," he said.

Nzobiwami believes the various sides will "harmonise" their positions when they meet in Arusha, but acknowledged that if the outcome of the summit is unacceptable to the Burundian people the process will have to "start again". The CNPR's vice-president Libere Barananyeretsa of the UPRONA party stressed that the Arusha process was not starting from scratch. He said Nyerere had succeeded in pushing the process forward, but some "readjustments" were necessary.

The CNPR appeared to rule out another frontrunner for the mediation, former Botswanaan president Ketumile Masire. Nzobiwami pointed out he was not well-known in Burundi, and was currently involved in the eminent persons' panel probing the Rwanda genocide which could entail a "conflict of interests".

Many observers agree the new mediation will be drawn from a team of facilitators - a sort of "compromise" solution, and one also acceptable to both the authorities in Burundi and the main rebel group, Conseil national pour la defense de la democratie-Forces de defense pour la democratie (CNDD-FDD) of Jean-Bosco Ndayikengurukye. Sources close to the peace process told IRIN that Leonard Nyangoma, who leads the other CNDD faction, had also expressed agreement.

However CNDD-FDD spokesman Jerome Ndirho said there must not be a dominant person in the team - which, for the rebels, would appear to rule out Mandela. In addition, each mediator must be neutral "with no hidden agenda". Ndirho told IRIN his group had not expressed an opinion either way on mediation by South Africa. But CNDD-FDD was adamant that any mediating country should not have the same ethnic make-up as Burundi and that the process should be held outside Tanzania.

While acknowledging that the region will take the final decision, Ndirho expressed reservations over the way the new mediation was progressing. CNDD-FDD's acceptance of the region's decision would not necessarily depend on the choice itself, but on whether the group had been consulted. "So far, the region has not consulted us," he remarked. "It has not got off to a very good start. The people invited by Museveni to Arusha are the same as under Nyerere's mediation, nothing has changed."

The Brussels-based think tank, International Crisis Group (ICG), believes the summit is an opportunity that should not be wasted. "It is a unique chance to change the methodology and the approach of the mediation," an ICG spokesperson told IRIN. There was now an opportunity for the talks to be all-inclusive, which meant bringing in armed rebel factions previously excluded from the process. The Burundi government has consistently called for including CNDD-FDD.

The "new mediation" is also an opportunity to make the region more

accountable for resolving conflict, and to involve the international community, ICG said. Analysts say that previously, the international community "unquestioningly" allowed Nyerere to handle the Burundi peace process and appeared to disregard the Burundi government's reservations towards the former Tanzanian president.

The peace process is not just an issue for Burundi, but for the region at large. With peace in neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) looking very shaky and increasing reports on the movement of rebel militias - Burundian FDD and Rwandan Interahamwe and ex-FAR - into Burundi and Tanzania, the stage is set for a wider regional showdown.

Minister Amutsoise Niyonsaba denies that the current tense relations between his country and Tanzania are an obstacle to the peace process. "We are working to improve relations," he said, adding there had recently been "excellent" high-level visits between the two countries. "Choosing the mediator is the most important issue. If he has no problem working out of Arusha, then we are not opposed either," Niyonsaba said.

But Van Eck warns of the very real possibility of war between Burundi and Tanzania, if the issue of Burundian rebels operating out of Tanzania is not addressed.

"A potential flashpoint as serious as this one cannot just be allowed to continue to fester if we want to remove all situations that could negatively affect or even derail the peace process," he stresses. "The region, the continent and the rest of the international community are indeed faced with a crucial 'make-or-break' decision that will have a major impact on the long-term future both of Burundi and the Great Lakes region."

[ENDS]

[Feedback: irin@ocha.unon.org UN IRIN-CEA Tel: +254 2 622123
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DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO: Kabila accused of rearming

Rwandan Vice-President Paul Kagame on Wednesday accused DRC President Laurent-Desire Kabila of taking advantage of delays in the implementation of the Lusaka ceasefire by rearming his forces. "Kabila is rearming. He has been purchasing a lot of military equipment, he has been reorganising his forces," Reuters reported Kagame as saying. Ugandan security sources and Congolese rebels have claimed that Kabila received two shipments of arms and equipment from China, India and an unknown Arab country, as well as buying six modified Mig-21 fighter jets, the semi-official Ugandan 'New Vision' newspaper reported on Wednesday.

DRC: Iran denies supplying Kinshasa with Scud missiles

The Iranian government on Wednesday denied a 'Washington Times' report on Monday that it had sold Scud missiles to the DRC government. "The matter is categorically denied," AFP quoted an Iranian embassy spokesman in South Africa as saying. Kinshasa has also denied the report. The acquisition of Scuds for use in a bush war like that in the DRC was considered "unlikely" by defence analysts quoted by AFP. "In a rebellion in Congo, it is a totally ludicrous weapon," it quoted Jackie Polgeier of the Institute for Security Studies in South Africa as saying.

DRC: Rebels report battle for northwest town

The rebel Rassemblement congolais pour la democratie (RCD-Goma) on Wednesday said it had recaptured the town of Hiemo, some 60 kms from Bokungu in northwest Equateur province. "For the past two days there has been fierce fighting" AFP quoted RCD-Goma spokesman Kin Kley Mulumba as saying. "Kabila's soldiers captured the city from us but we took it back yesterday [Tuesday]," he said. There was no independent confirmation of the claim. Meanwhile, Mulumba acknowledged that Kabila now had a "certain military advantage over us", AFP reported.

DRC: Mandela's Middle East involvement precludes DRC role

Former South African President Nelson Mandela said on Wednesday he would consider mediating in the DRC conflict and was keen to lend his assistance, but only when his involvement in the Middle East peace process was no longer required. "I was approached and we are considering the matter," but it would be unwise to take on any other mediation role while he was involved in the Middle East peace process, AFP quoted Mandela as saying.

DRC: Resolution would "equip" 500 UN observers

A draft resolution to "equip" 500 military observers for the DRC was circulated by some members of the UN Security Council at an informal meeting on Wednesday, UN spokesman Fred Eckhard said. The resolution would authorise UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan to equip the observers "with a view to future deployment," the spokesman said. "I believe the members are trying to come up with something that would be acceptable to all of them and keep the United Nations role in the Congo moving forward, the next step being the deployment of these 500," he told journalists in New York. Meanwhile, Eckhard confirmed that four UN Military Liaison Officers (MLOs) arrived in rebel-held Gbadolite on Wednesday afternoon, and another MLO team was scheduled to travel to government-held Kananga on Thursday.

DRC: Namibia ready to withdraw once UN peacekeepers are in place

Namibia said on Thursday it would withdraw its military intervention force from the DRC as soon as UN peacekeepers were deployed. "We would withdraw from DRC now if UN peacekeepers were in place. We shall withdraw tomorrow, if they come," Permanent Secretary at the Namibian foreign ministry, Veicco Nghiwela, told IRIN. He also accused the UN of "dragging its heels" over implementation of the Lusaka ceasefire in a way it had not over East Timor [see IRIN-SA item headlined 'Namibia will withdraw troops, once UN peacekeepers are in place']

DRC: Government relaxes Kinshasa curfew

Interior Minister Gaetan Kakudi on Wednesday announced the relaxation of a night curfew in Kinshasa, introduced on 13 November, in order to ease residents' problems that were compounded by a city transport crisis. Kakudi said the curfew would begin one hour later, at 10 p.m. local time, and end an hour earlier, at 5 a.m., Reuters reported.

DRC: UN agencies request \$71 million

The international community's inadequate and "less than generous" response to the "appalling" humanitarian conditions in the DRC has bred resentment

among the local population, the UN Consolidated Appeal for the DRC for the year 2000 stated, "Many feel betrayed by the world's inattention to their grievances," it said. The appeal, launched on Tuesday, requests a total of US \$71.3 million to provide primarily life-saving and life-sustaining assistance to some six million war-affected people, which represents about 40 percent of the needy population. The appeal noted that towns on both sides of the ceasefire line had been depleted, harvests lost and traditional social safety nets "trayed to the point of rupture" in a "humanitarian drama that continues to be widely ignored by the international community as it grows in size and virulence."

DRC: Humanitarian action "indispensable" for peace

In addition to military considerations, DRC peace efforts must also address the humanitarian problems resulting from the war and the cumulative effect of three decades of corrupt inaction, the UN appeal stated. For example, the return and reintegration of over one million displaced persons and refugees and efforts aimed at promoting ethnic cohabitation were "indispensable parts of the peace architecture", it said. In spite of endemic violence and persisting inter-ethnic tensions, several community-driven reconciliation initiatives were underway, most notably in South Kivu, it said. Although the Lusaka peace process faced many difficulties, it represented "the only hope for sparing the region from protracted chaos and instability, the appeal added.

BURUNDI: UN urged to review security phase

Burundi's Permanent Representative to the UN, Marc Ntaturuye, has said the UN "is not taking reality into account" by imposing security phase 4 on Burundi. He called for a review of the decision, stressing there was a great need for humanitarian assistance to the country, particularly the regroupment camps. Local authorities were present, but an international effort was also necessary, he told IRIN on Wednesday. He stressed the camps had been set up because rebels were targeting Bujumbura. "The security of the capital cannot be neglected," Ntaturuye said. He added that the government was also ensuring that no revenge attacks were carried out in the capital.

BURUNDI: Infiltrators from Tanzania, Rutana governor says

The main security problem in southeastern Rutana Province was "rebel infiltrations from Tanzania," Burundi news agency ABP on Wednesday quoted Governor Leonidas Hakizimana as saying. With an increased number of government troops in the area, the rebels had retreated into Tanzania, "certainly to reorganise," he said, adding that "the army should track down the assailants" and young people should be trained in self-defence. Hakizimana said the population of Rutana was "slowly recovering" from the Muzuye massacre of 12 October in which 9 people, including two UN staff members, were murdered.

BURUNDI: Makamba youths undergoing civic training by the military

Meanwhile, more than 3,000 youths from six communes in the southern province of Makamba were undergoing "civic training", planned and implemented by the Fifth Military Command, to allow them assist the security forces maintain peace and security in the country, ABP reported on Wednesday. "Participation has not yet picked up" because rebels and their supporters were "calling on the youth not to take part in that type

of training," it added.

RWANDA: Three genocide convicts sentenced to death

A court in Cyangugu has sentenced three people to death after their conviction on genocide charges, AFP reported on Wednesday, citing Rwandan radio. Ten more convicts were sentenced to life imprisonment and an unstated number to jail terms ranging from 12 to 20 years, while eight other accused were acquitted for lack of evidence, it added.

UGANDA: Army hunting Ikondere killers

State Minister for Defence Steven Kavuma on Tuesday said the Uganda People's Defence Forces (UPDF) was searching for those responsible for the 14 November killing in eastern DRC of Lieutenant Colonel Reuben Ikondere. "We are hunting for them inside Congo and we will bring them to book," the 'New Vision' quoted Kavuma as saying. "But this does not mean the UPDF should pull out of Congo because a person has been killed, we are in Congo because of our security concerns," he told the parliamentary committee on defence and internal security. "It is very easy to fly from Gbadolite and bomb Kasese, we have to protect those areas," he added.

Nairobi, 25 November 1999, 15:30 gmt

[ENDS]

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World

'Eleven die' in Burundi attack



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A report from Burundi says 11 people were killed in a rebel attack in the capital, Bujumbura, earlier this week.

Burundi radio said the bodies of the victims -- ten men and a woman -- were found on Wednesday.

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They had been killed with knives.

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A district official blamed guerrillas for the killings.

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He did not elaborate.

The attackers escaped.

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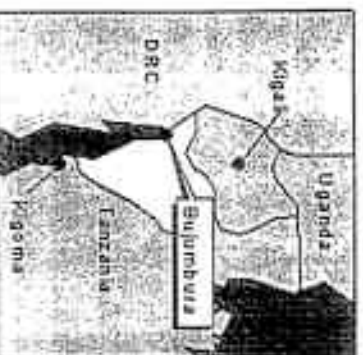
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BURUNDI: Three dead in grenade attack on Bujumbura market

NAIROBI, 23 November (IRIN) - At least three people were killed in a grenade attack in Bujumbura's central market on Tuesday. Burundi army spokesman Colonel Longin Minani told IRIN the attack occurred around midday, and about 20 more people were wounded.

An unidentified man threw two grenades into the teeming market, and in the ensuing panic he was able to run away. Only one grenade exploded. Minani said the authorities did not yet know who was responsible, but an investigation was underway. Regional analysts point out this type of attack was fairly widespread during the violence of 1994 and 1995.

Rebel attack repulsed in Bujumbura Rural

Minani also said about 15 rebels were killed when they attempted to stage an attack on two army posts in Bujumbura Rural earlier on Tuesday. However, the army was aware of the impending assault and managed to repulse the attackers, he added. One Burundian army soldier was killed and two injured. Minani told IRIN security in the volatile province was improving, but was unable to give a timetable for the return of regrouped people to their homes.

Choice of new mediator critical, report warns

Burundi analyst Jan van Eck of the South Africa-based Centre for Conflict Resolution (CCR) has warned that unless a "genuinely new and acceptable" mediation for the Burundi peace process is agreed upon at a regional summit later this month, the prospects for durable peace will be extremely remote.

In his latest report, received by IRIN on Tuesday, van Eck said the choice of mediator was critical and the wishes of the Burundian government must be taken into account. He noted increasing opposition among President Pierre Buyoya's support base to continuing the Arusha process in view of the fact it had produced few results, particularly in the field of security and economic development.

"Unless the new mediation is seen as more non-partisan and produces results in these areas - especially security - this opposition is likely to intensify and will eventually leave the government with no choice but to withdraw from the mediation process," the report warned.

"The option of finding a solution through

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negotiations is in permanent competition with the 'alternative' of finding a solution through military means," the report pointed out, stressing that the new mediation would have to ensure the negotiations option became "much more attractive" than war.

"Merely making marginal and cosmetic changes to the present mediation process will most definitely not achieve this," the report said.

With uncertainty hanging over the DRC peace process, the report also expressed concern over the "spectre of new regional war" looming in the Great Lakes, specifically targeting Burundi and Rwanda with the reported movement of ex-FAR, Interahamwe and FDD rebels into Burundi and northwest Tanzania. This "resurrects" the option of removing the Buyoya government by force and could undermine the commitment to finding a negotiated settlement, the report warned.

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Burundi Refugees Flee to Tanzania

The Associated Press
Monday, Nov. 22, 1999, 10:17 a.m. EST

DAR ES SALAAM, Tanzania — At least 3,500 Burundians are fleeing each week to northwestern Tanzania as fighting intensifies between the Burundian army and rebels, the U.N. refugee agency said Monday.

"Basically, the situation has deteriorated dramatically in the last two months. Up to last week, at least 500 people a day were crossing the border," said Paul Stromberg, regional spokesman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees in neighboring Kenya.

The independent daily Guardian in Dar es Salaam Monday put the figure at 1,000 a week, quoting sources in northwestern Ngara district on the Burundi border.

"We have a battle for human beings," Stromberg said. "The rebels are telling the people to leave because there will be more fighting, and the army wants to regroup the people in the camps, fearing the young men might be recruited by the rebels."

The Guardian said fierce fighting in Burundi's Rutana, Makamba and Rural Bujumbura provinces was causing people to flee and that some of the refugees were also crossing into Tanzania to avoid forced resettlement by the Tutsi-dominated army.

Rebel attacks in and around Burundi's capital, Bujumbura, have risen sharply since the beginning of the year, prompting the minority Tutsi government to force tens of thousands of people, most of them majority Hutus, into camps to allow the army to sweep the area for rebels. Critics say the forced movement into camps is also to deprive rebels of access to relief food and other support.

The upsurge of Burundian refugees to Tanzania comes as regional leaders prepare to meet next week in Arusha to appoint a new mediator for the stalemated, yearlong Burundi peace talks.

The talks have been on hold since the Oct. 14 death of the original mediator, former Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere.

Earlier this month, Vicent Kwesi Parker, UNHCR spokesman in Tanzania, said there were more than 280,000 Burundian refugees in the Tanzanian camps.

More than 200,000 Burundians have died in rebel attacks and army counterattacks since 1993 when Tutsi paratroopers assassinated the country's first democratically-elected president, a Hutu.

On Friday, Tanzanian authorities denied Burundi government claims that the rebels who killed seven people, including two senior U.N. staff, on Oct. 12 in Rutana province were based in Tanzania.



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Saturday, November 20, 1999 Published at 03:03 GMT

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UN to return to Burundi

The United Nations says it intends to resume distributing food aid in Burundi five weeks after it suspended operations there.

The UN halted its work in Burundi after a World Food Programme official and a director of the UN's Children Fund were shot dead while visiting a refugee camp in the south of the country.

The Burundi government blamed rebels for the attack.

The UN said it had now reached agreement with private aid organisations to distribute food supplies at government camps.

The UN said it was waiting for sufficient security guarantees before a full-scale return to Burundi.

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BURUNDI: MSF suspends activities in Bujumbura Rural camps

NAIROBI, 19 November (IRIN) - Medecins sans frontieres (MSF) has suspended its activities in the regroupment camps of Bujumbura Rural province, saying its intervention is having little impact on improving camp conditions. In a press release issued on Friday, MSF said it had been assisting 54,000 people in three camps - Ruyaga, Buhonga and Ruziba.

"After two months of relief activities, MSF has found that conditions in these three camps are still falling short of the vital minimum," the statement said. "Within this context, MSF's intervention can have little impact on the improvement of the condition of the regrouped people."

It added that the conditions of regroupment itself "deprive the population of its most basic human rights, and are therefore in direct contravention of the principles of the MSF charter". However, MSF would maintain other programmes in Burundi and remained "prepared to intervene" in the camps.

"After two months of relief activities, MSF has found that conditions in these three camps are still falling short of the vital minimum"

Regional summit slated for December

A regional summit aimed at choosing the new mediator for the peace process will be held in Arusha, Tanzania, on 1 December, according to the Ugandan foreign ministry. The interviews agency quoted a foreign ministry official as saying the date was set by President Yoweri Museveni, coordinator of the regional initiative, after consultations with other leaders. Nyerere Foundation spokesman General Hashim Mbita told interviews he had no information on the summit date.

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Burundi camps 'too dire' to help



The camps are based around the capital Bujumbura

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The aid organisation Medecins Sans Frontieres has pulled out of the government "regroupment" camps in Burundi because conditions are so poor.

The organisation, which has been providing medical relief to more than 50,000 civilians in three camps for the past two months, says it has been unable to make any headway in improving their situation.

However, the United Nations World Food Programme is to resume food distribution in the camps following a five-week halt.

The MSF moved in after about 300,000 mostly-Hutu civilians were forced from their villages into about 50 resettlement camps around the capital Bujumbura in September.

The Tutsi-dominated government said the move, enforced by the army, was part of its efforts to crack down on attacks by Hutu rebels.

MSF - Doctors Without Borders - agreed to provide emergency relief, but on Friday said conditions still fell below the "vital minimum" to prevent disease and malnutrition.

Lack of water and shelter

MSF said people in the camps had little access to healthcare and could not go to work in their fields. The camps were overcrowded, with insufficient drinking water and shelter, even though the rainy season was beginning.

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MSF also said that the regroupment camps had deprived the people of their most basic human rights, and were therefore "in complete opposition with the principles of the MSF charter".

It also said fighting between rebels and government forces had prevented aid workers from travelling to the more remote camps.

But it said it would continue its activities elsewhere in Burundi and would be prepared to intervene "in case of epidemic emergencies".

Aid workers shot dead

The UN WFP handouts were halted after two aid workers were shot dead while visiting a regroupment camp in Rutana, 90 miles southeast of the capital.

WFP said that although it opposed the regroupment of civilians, the food was urgently needed.

It has made new arrangements with other organisations to provide the aid, pending a full lifting of the suspension of UN activities in Burundi.

At least 250,000 people have died in Burundi since 1993, in fighting between the army and the rebels.

Hutus make up the vast majority of Burundi's population of 6.5m, but Tutsis dominate the government and army.

The authorities established the regroupment camps in the belief that the rebels, who recently stepped up their attacks in and around the capital, use the villages to hide behind

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The UN is calling on Burundi to close camps

By Chris Simpson in Kigali

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World: Africa

UN alarmed over Burundi camps

The United Nations Security Council has warned of a serious humanitarian crisis in Burundi.

At a meeting in New York, the Security Council highlighted the food and health problems experienced by hundreds of thousands of villagers forced into recruitment camps as part of a government counter-insurgency campaign.

The Security Council said that the Burundian Government had to stop its policy of "forced regroupment", arguing that the dozens of camps set up in the west of the country should be dismantled and their residents allowed to return home.

'Deplorable'

The UN Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Ibrahim Fall, described the health and food situation inside the camps as "deplorable". He said relief organisations now had no access to the more than 300,000 people re-settled by the government.

The Burundian Government is highly unlikely to comply with the UN's request. Both ministers and military commanders remain adamant that the camps are there to protect the population from raids and attacks by Hutu militia groups engaged in a long-running guerrilla war against the government.

A military spokesman in Burundi said that the international community should be condemning rebel groups which had a genocidal agenda, rather than criticising a government trying to look after its people.

The spokesman added that the rebels posed no serious threat, with the government's military position stronger than ever before.

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Peace settlement unlikely

As the war continues, the chance of a peace settlement seems increasingly remote.

The death of former Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere has robbed the Burundian peace process of its main mediator.



Julius Nyerere: a force for peace
obvious willing candidate has so far emerged.

Various other African elder statesmen have been mentioned as possible peace brokers but no

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Congo Brazzaville defends peace initiative.

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IRIN-CEA Update 796 for the Great Lakes (Monday 8 November 1999)

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DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO: Bemba declares ceasefire "null and void"

Leader of the rebel Mouvement de liberation congolais (MLC) Jean-Pierre Bemba has described the Lusaka ceasefire accord as "null and void", following alleged attacks by government forces. The Ugandan 'New Vision' daily quoted Bemba as saying government troops attacked his forces at Dongo on the border with the Central African Republic, but were "easily repulsed". "Now the ceasefire is null and void," he said. Bemba added that this was the second attack on Dongo in a week. He said that since he signed the Lusaka agreement on 1 August, his troops had been attacked in Gbadolite, Mikanza and Libanda.

DRC: Ugandan troops on "full alert"

Meanwhile, Ugandan troops are reportedly on full alert ahead of a possible resumption of the war, the 'New Vision' reported on Monday. It said hundreds of Ugandan and Congolese rebel soldiers were rushed to frontline positions at the weekend in northwestern DRC after the alleged attacks at Dongo and Mikanza. The paper quoted Ugandan military sources as saying the government "stands by the Lusaka accord but cannot stand by when attacked". "We have our troops on full alert," the sources said.

DRC: JMC chief says accord not dead

The chairman of the Joint Military Commission (JMC), Algerian General Rachid Lailai, said on Monday he had not been officially informed of any renunciation of the Lusaka ceasefire agreement by Bemba at the weekend, but that, if true, it would not mean the end of the peace process. Lailai told IRIN he had heard allegations of ceasefire violations but these would be dealt with when the OAU deployed some 30 military observers to the DRC to begin the ceasefire verification process. "By the weekend, we will have the means to be present in the field - to investigate, to check and to monitor these ceasefire violations... We need to start working, we need to start being present in the field," Lailai told IRIN.

DRC: UN military officers extended

The UN Security Council on Friday extended the mandate of 90 UN Military Liaison Officers (MLOs) to help implement the Lusaka ceasefire accord, but it did not authorise the proposed deployment of 500 military observers. The mandate of the MLOs, whose deployment to the DRC and regional capitals was initially authorised in mid-August for a three-month period, was extended until 15 January 2000, a UN statement said. UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan had recommended last week that the Council also give prior authorisation for the deployment of a 500-member UN observer mission to the DRC as part of the second phase of UN involvement in the peace process.

DRC: "Wobbly" commitment to peace accord

Annan's spokesman, Fred Eckhard, told journalists after Friday's Council meeting that there was "no mention of moving to the second phase, at least not now". He noted that the deployment of the initial 90 MLOs had not yet been completed, and it was proving difficult to overcome the "deep suspicions" of the UN within the DRC. "As to the parties to the peace agreement, we're trying to hold everyone's feet to the fire as far as their commitment to the agreement, but that's quite wobbly," Eckhard said. Meanwhile, Zambia's Secretary for Defence Brigadier-General Timothy Kazembe told Reuters on Friday that the fielding of UN observers would "probably come after three to four months" because the regional JMC would need time to put in place a secure environment for the deployment of foreign troops.

DRC: Rebel faction reportedly seeks Uganda's backing

Rebels of the Goma-based Rassemblement congolais pour la democratie (RCD) have reportedly sought Uganda's backing amid the "emerging leadership crisis in the faction and dwindling support from Rwanda", the weekly 'EastAfrican' newspaper reported on Monday. It quoted sources as saying the faction's second vice president Moise Nyanugabo and chief of intelligence Bizima Karaha's surprise visit to Kampala last weekend followed days of "intense infighting" among members of the RCD general assembly.

Meanwhile, the Ugandan authorities said on Monday they were not aware of the details or reasons for the RCD officials' visit. Uganda's senior presidential media adviser, John Ntagenda, told IRIN that as Uganda was a signatory to the Lusaka accord, it was keen to follow the agreement to the letter. "We will have to be sure that our interests are safeguarded and that our border is safe," he said. "The accord stipulates that the

Interahamwe also be dismantled to ensure security in Rwanda," Ndagenda added. "To this end we will work together, but for this particular approach by RCD leaders I do not have the details."

DRC: UNITA rebels accused of infiltration

The DRC government has expressed indignation over the alleged "infiltration" into the eastern part of the country by UNITA rebels from Angola. DRC state television quoted Foreign Affairs Minister Yerodia Abdoulaye Ndombasi as saying the soldiers had entered the country in large numbers and settled in territories occupied by the "aggressors" and their rebel allies. He said they had been seen over the last few days crossing into Katemie and Moba in the east, as well as Gbadolite and Ikela in the northwest. "We have seen these people arrive in the country but the observers have failed to spot them because they are not in these areas," Yerodia said.

DRC: New Gecamines boss

According to a DRC presidential decree, Billy Rautenbach, the Zimbabwean chairman of DRC's state mining company, Gecamines, has been replaced by a Belgian businessman, Georges-Arthur Forrest, the 'Zimbabwe Standard' reported on Sunday. Forrest, who was born in Congo, is well-known in the country's business circles and heads Forrest International, a mining and civil engineering company which has been operating in Katanga province for decades. Rautenbach's controversial appointment was announced by President Laurent-Desire Kabila last November, but according to the newspaper he has been accused of failing to turn around Gecamines which, as a result, has been facing mounting debt. However, his offshore company Ridgepoint, owns the rights to vast mineral exploitations in Katanga province.

RWANDA: Cooperation with ICTR suspended

The Rwandan government has temporarily suspended its cooperation with the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) after the court freed a genocide suspect. Rwandan radio reported. A cabinet meeting, chaired by Vice-President Paul Kagame, on Friday strongly condemned the move, saying the ICTR's reasons for freeing the suspect could be used by other detainees. Former foreign ministry official and a founding member of extremist RTLM radio, Jean-Bosco Barayagwiza, was ordered released after the ICTR appeals chamber upheld his protest that his human rights had been violated.

RWANDA: "Deplorable precedent", prosecutor says

Describing the decision as a "deplorable precedent", Rwanda's Chief Prosecutor Gerald Gahima said it "not only illustrates the court's utter ignorance of what happened in this country but also betrays a worrying misunderstanding... of the whole purpose of the existence of the tribunal". "It was not established to provide redress for individuals, per se," Gahima stressed. "We do not feel that the interests of justice are served by penalising the people of Rwanda over the shortcomings of a UN prosecutor over whom we have no control."

RWANDA: Released suspect wants to choose his country

Meanwhile, Barayagwiza has asked that he be allowed to go to a host country of his choice, the Hirondele news agency reported on Saturday. A

letter from his lawyer stated Barayagwiza's family no longer lived in Cameroon - where he was originally detained - and that his client would have problems in settling down there.

RWANDA: Ugandan fish, milk banned

Rwanda has banned the importation of fish, milk and green bananas from Uganda, news agencies reported over the weekend. The Ugandan minister in charge of the presidency, Ruhakana Rugunda, told Radio Uganda on Saturday that the ban was a "very serious" matter which required urgent attention. It had "greatly affected business" in border areas, particularly in Kabale, Kisoro and Rukungiri, Rugunda said, adding that a ministerial-level delegation was scheduled to travel to Kigali to try to get the ban lifted. Rugunda said the reason for the ban remained unclear, the radio reported. Since the end of the war in 1994, fish imports from Uganda have provided an important source of protein especially to urban consumers, USAID's Famine Early Warning System (FEWS) has said.

BURUNDI: More rebel groups opposed to South African mediation

The rebel umbrella organisation ULINZA has added its voice to rebel opposition to South African mediation of the Burundi peace process. In a statement, received by IRIN on Monday, the Union pour la libération nationale (ULINZA) claimed South Africa was "biased" and alleged there was military cooperation between Burundi and South Africa. It warned opposition politicians that if they took part in negotiations mediated by South Africa "they will be responsible to the Burundian people for all the consequences of their opportunistic attitude and imprudent judgement". Last week, the CNDD faction of Leonard Nyangoma - which does not come under the ULINZA umbrella - also expressed its opposition to South Africa's mediation.

BURUNDI: Mkapa urges sides to continue talks

Tanzanian President Benjamin Mkapa has urged all the sides in the Burundi conflict to maintain peace while another mediator is appointed. Tanzanian radio reported. During talks on Saturday with visiting Burundi Foreign Minister Severin Ntahonvikiye, he warned that further fighting could sabotage the entire peace initiative. Peaceful dialogue should continue, even without an international mediator, Mkapa added.

BURUNDI: Soldier sentenced to death

A soldier who killed six people at a displaced people's camp in Ruyaga, near Bujumbura, last month, has been sentenced to death by a military council, Burundi radio reported. It said Private Claude Ndayisaba did not contest the crime. At the time, the incident was blamed on "confusion". The soldier reportedly opened fire after a camp resident refused to show him his identity papers. The military council also sentenced three other soldiers to death, two of them for "premeditated murder after desertion", and a further two received prison sentences.

Nairobi, 8 November 1999, 15:00 gmt

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World: Africa

New violence in Burundi

The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation says hundreds of thousands of people in Burundi are at risk of starvation following an upsurge of violence there.

The organisation said renewed fighting in rural areas in the past two months had displaced three-hundred thousand people.

The UN body said eight-hundred thousand people were now living in refugee camps run by the government, and that camp conditions were extremely poor.

Last month, the UN suspended almost all aid to areas outside the Burundian capital, Bujumbura, after two aid workers were killed.

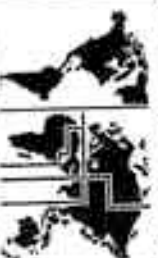
Rebels from the Hutu majority have been fighting the Tutsi-led government and army in Burundi for the past six years.

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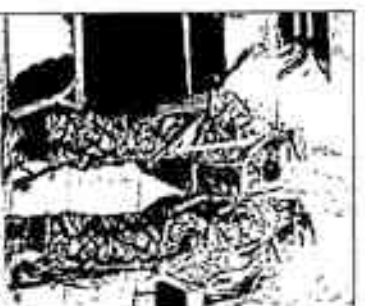
Burundi's deadly deadlock



Six years of violence and uncertainty for Burundi's people

Following the death of Julius Nyerere - the main mediator in peace talks for Burundi - senior United Nations official Kieran Prendergast is touring eight African countries to discuss the future of the troubled country. Africa reporter Virginia Gidley-Kitchin examines the history of the conflict in Burundi.

Burundi's current troubles date back to 1993. A former Belgian trust territory with a population of six million, Burundi seemed poised to enter a new era with the holding of its first, and so far, only democratic elections since independence in 1961.



A coup attempt followed President Ndadaye's death in 1993

After decades of domination by the Tutsi minority, Burundians chose their first Hutu head of state, Melchior Ndadaye, and a parliament dominated by the mainly Hutu Frodebu party.

But within months, President Ndadaye was assassinated by army paratroopers, and the scene was set for years of often violent confrontation between the Hutu and Tutsi political classes.

Many members of the Tutsi elite, particularly in the armed forces, feared they would be swamped by a full-scale democracy. Some felt that only a power-sharing agreement with Hutus could protect them, while others simply didn't want to surrender power.

Wave of violence

Many Hutu politicians felt cheated because they had won the elections and their ethnic group represented an estimated 85 % of the population. However it was the ordinary people in the countryside, Tutsis as well as Hutus, who bore the brunt of the violence which has taken on the proportions of an undeclared civil war.



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Cyprien Ntaryamira: Death in plane crash renewed crisis

The coup attempt that followed President Ndadaye's assassination failed, but it set off a wave of ethnic violence, in which tens of thousands were killed and more displaced.

The political crisis lasted until early 1994 when parliament elected another Hutu as president, Cyprien Ntaryamira. However President Ntaryamira was killed in a plane crash in April 1994 - the same one that killed the president of neighbouring Rwanda, sparking off the genocide of Tutsis and moderate Hutus there.

In Burundi, however, violence was contained. Amid general agreement that the security situation ruled out further elections, the main political parties began negotiations on how to choose a successor to President Ndadaye and on a power-sharing agreement for government. Another so-called moderate Hutu, Sylvestre Ntibunganya, was eventually appointed president and took over officially in October 1994.

Tutsis allege discrimination



Sylvestre Ntibunganya: "Moderate" Hutu accused of discrimination

But within months there was trouble again: the mainly Tutsi Uprona party, which had governed Burundi for almost all the period since independence, withdrew from the government and parliament over allegations of pro-Hutu bias.

By the time it returned, the confrontation had sparked off a new wave of ethnic violence. In early 1996,

rogue elements of the Tutsi-led armed forces and extremist Hutu groups such as Palipehutu and the

Forces for the Defence of Democracy (FDD) were reported to be carrying out atrocities against civilians almost daily.

International initiative

By this time, the international community felt it could stand aside no longer. In November 1995, meeting at the UN secretary-general's request, Burundi and its neighbours agreed on a sub-regional peace initiative, including mediation by the former Tanzanian President, Julius Nyerere. Mr Nyerere's role was later endorsed by the Organisation of African Unity.

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Pierre Buyoya: Seized power in bloodless coup

But the first two rounds of peace talks appeared to exacerbate the political tensions, with Uprona accusing Hutu parties of trying to overturn the power-sharing agreement. In July 1996 President Ntandunganya went into hiding and Major Pierre Buyoya seized power - for the second time - in a bloodless coup.

In a rare show of resolve, Burundi's regional neighbours immediately

imposed economic sanctions on the country in an effort to persuade Major Buyoya to restore democracy. The sanctions have now been suspended, but Burundi has remained something of a parish state because of the political deadlock.

Major Buyoya has co-opted the main Hutu party, Frodebu, into government in an attempt to give the impression that he is liberalising his rule. But successive rounds of peace talks among the Burundian political parties in the Tanzanian town of Arusha have foundered over the issue of the Burundian army's role.

'Concentration camps'



Julius Nyerere: Mediator's death left problems unresolved

Meanwhile, security inside the country has steadily deteriorated. Frustrated at its inability to prevent rebel attacks, the army has since 1996 embarked on a controversial policy of forcing Hutu civilians out of their homes into so-called regroupment sites, to clear the way for offensives against the rebels.

The government says this is for the civilians' own protection - the Hutu rebels say it is to stop the civilians from helping them. In September 1999, after a major relocation exercise near the capital, Bujumbura, the United Nations estimated there were more than 800,000 people - 12% of the population - in these sites which the rebels call concentration camps.

The UN, reluctant to collaborate in the relocation policy but equally unwilling to let people die for lack of help, has maintained a policy of providing only life-sustaining aid to the inmates.

'Rebel bases'

A further 300,000 Burundians are in refugee camps in Tanzania, which the Burundian Government says are used as bases by some of the rebels.

Mr Nyerere's death in October raises questions about the future of the Burundi peace talks. They appear to have had little effect in stemming the violence, perhaps because the FDD rebels (represented by their political wing, the Council for the Defence of Democracy) responsible for most of the attacks are excluded.

The Burundian government had accused Mr Nyerere of bias in favour of the Hutu opposition. But it remains to be seen whether any other mediator will be more successful at breaking the logjam in a conflict estimated to have cost more 200,000 lives since 1993.

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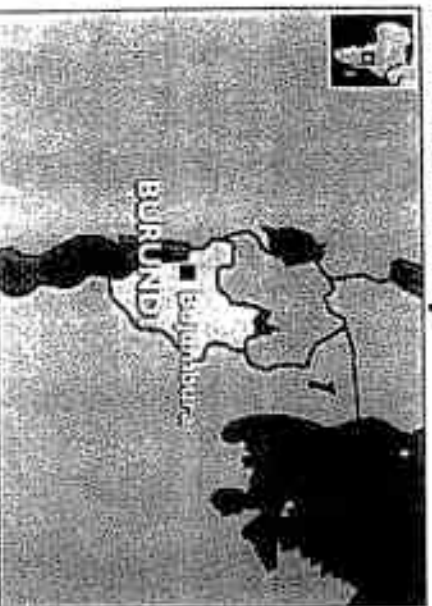
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World

World: Africa

Mass expulsion from Burundi camp



By the BBC's East Africa correspondent, Martin Dawes

An estimated 11,000 people are being forcibly moved by the Burundian army from a camp run by an American missionary in the capital, Bujumbura.

Johnson's Camp was a haven for many people displaced by the country's ethnic-based conflict.

Early on Thursday, troops and police ordered that homes be dismantled and from all around came harsh metallic sounds as corrugated iron sheets were salvaged from homes and thrown on to the ground.

Streams of people carrying their possessions as best they could left the camp, while armed paramilitary police and troops stood by.

One woman said they had been told to "go back to the place they had come from".

She herself had been in Johnson's Camp for five years ever since, she said, the trouble started.

International criticism

The Tutsi-led Burundian government has alleged that Johnson's Camp has been harbouring Hutu rebels.

It's thought that the army brought forward a planned evacuation of Johnson's Camp because of shooings close to the capital over the past two nights.

The minister of defence, Colonel Alfred Nkurunziza, said that people from the camp would be going to prepared areas where their homes would have water and electricity.

Burundi has faced considerable international criticism because of the mass movement of people into what are called re-groupment camps around the capital, while the military conduct operations against rebels.



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The UN has just been given updated figures from the government, saying that 304,000 are in such camps and in need of assistance.

But after the murder of two UN personnel and seven local staff last week, aid operations have been suspended and all but the most essential UN staff are being withdrawn.

On Thursday, as he surveyed the wreckage of 30 years work in Burundi, the elderly American missionary Carl Johnson was too upset to speak.

The six-year civil war in Burundi has pitted the mainly Tutsi-dominated army against Hutu rebel groups operating from bases in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Tanzania.

More than 200,000 people - most of them civilians - have died in the conflict.

Several Hutu rebel organisations are trying to oust the government of President Pierre Buyoya - a continuation of a cycle of violence that erupted after the assassination of the country's first Hutu president, Melchior Ndadaye.

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BURUNDI: IRIN Focus on impact of Nyerere death

NAIROBI, 14 October (IRIN) - The death on Thursday of former Tanzanian president and Burundi peace talks facilitator, Julius Nyerere, leaves the Arusha process hanging in the balance, according to Burundi analysts.



UN DPA Photo

Nyerere, known as Mwajimu (teacher), died in London, aged 77. He had been diagnosed with leukaemia and suffered a massive stroke. Announcing his death over state radio, Tanzanian President Benjamin Mkapa said:

Former Tanzanian president Julius Nyerere died in London on Thursday, aged 77

"There are many who fear that national unity will disintegrate, the union will falter and our relations with our neighbours will deteriorate following the passing of Nyerere. But Nyerere has built a sustainable foundation for national unity, the union and relations with our neighbours."

One of Tanzania's most problematic relationships has been that with neighbouring Burundi. The authorities in Bujumbura have accused Tanzania of harbouring Hutu rebels on its territory who then infiltrate Burundi to carry out attacks. The Burundi government also had bitter exchanges with Nyerere over his mediation of the external Arusha peace process, claiming he was biased.

"Burundians will continue to negotiate, with or without Nyerere"

Burundi's ambassador to Kenya, Stanislas Ntakaha, told IRIN that while Burundi was saddened by the death of Nyerere, the Arusha process must continue. "Burundians will continue to negotiate, with or without Nyerere," he said. There may be a "momentary hesitation" in the process, but the external talks were as important as the internal process. "We must not lose the momentum", he added.

Analysts say Nyerere's passing can only strengthen the position of beleaguered Burundi President Pierre Buyoya who has suffered setbacks recently because of his perceived "soft" approach by many Tutsis towards Hutu rebels attacking the capital Bujumbura.

"Buyoya is now well placed to consolidate the internal peace process," a Burundian journalist told IRIN. "He will take advantage of the current void in Arusha."

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Buyoya's "paternalist" with the national assembly and opposition FRODEBU politicians had been faltering because of his reduced status at home, but observers point out that the vacuum in Arusha "gives him a stronger hand to crush the rebellion". "The Arusha process was very much based on Nyerere's personality," the journalist said. "Buyoya was seen to be acknowledging the Hutu parties which caused a lot of opposition among the Tutsis. Now that Nyerere has gone, Buyoya can bow to the army's demand that the rebellion be decisively crushed."



UN Gen Pado

"Buyoya is now well placed to consolidate the internal peace process"

A US-based academic and Burundi specialist told IRIN Nyerere had been a "restraining influence" and his death was likely to encourage extremists still further. "The time has now come to make overtures to the extremists", he remarked. Arusha, he said, "had not worked for three main reasons. Firstly, it was difficult to get 18 sides to reach agreement. Secondly, the four negotiating committees were "arenas for further tension" and new issues frequently popped with no order of priority. Thirdly, the committee chairmen were foreigners "unfamiliar with the country". Donors were also "guilty of looking the other way", he added.

Observers say the donors, some of whom have been expressing concern over the length and cost of the Arusha process, may now resume economic cooperation directly with the country. Tuesday's incident in Rutana province in which rebels killed nine people - including two UN expatriates - may also sway donors in favour of Buyoya.

Other recent Burundi reports:

IRIN - UN suspends missions after staff killed, 13 Oct 1999

IRIN - Rebels taking advantage of fluid situation, 13 Oct 1999

Burundi - UN Country Team Press Statement On the Deaths of Two UN Staff Members in Rutana Province, 12 Oct 1999

but were put back due to Nyerere's illness.

In the meantime, top officials of the Nyerere Foundation are touring the region to discuss the Arusha process with regional leaders. A Burundi analyst noted however that many uncertainties now loom over the process "such as the timetable, the facilitator, and future funding". "Without the donors it cannot continue and the donors are very unsure," he said.

[ENDS]

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BURUNDI: IRIN Focus on rebel movements

This IRIN report does not necessarily reflect the views of the UN

NAIROBI, 13 October (IRIN) -

Tuesday's killing of nine people in Burundi's southeast Rutana province again highlights the uncertain nature of the country's Hutu rebel groups who have become increasingly active in recent months.



FDD Photo

The Burundi authorities have pinned the murder of seven Burundians and two international UN workers on rebels from the Forces pour la défense de la démocratie (FDD), the armed wing of the Conseil national pour la défense de la démocratie (CNDD).

Burundi authorities have pinned the murder of seven Burundians and two international UN workers on rebels from the Forces pour la défense de la démocratie (FDD)

However, it is noteworthy to point out that two other rebel groups - whose activities often overlap - are active in Burundi: the Front pour la libération nationale (FROLINA) and the Part pour la libération du peuple hutu (PALIPEHUTU), which says it is responsible for stepping up attacks against the capital Bujumbura. The rebel groups have issued periodic warning statements to foreigners.

The recent upsurge in armed attacks against the capital drew attention away from the violence in the rest of the country, but observers note that with the prospect of implementation of the Lusaka ceasefire accord in neighbouring DRC, Burundian rebels - accompanied by Rwandan Interahamwe militia and ex-FAR - have been filtering back into Burundi. Unrest is reported to be creeping back in the northern provinces of Cibitoke and Bubanza, bordering DRC, while the southern and eastern provinces of Rutana, Ruyigi, Myeza Lac and Makamba have always been volatile due to rebel infiltrations from Tanzania and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The regroupment policy "is creating chaos and pushing more and more people into the arms of the extremists"

CNDD-FDD - which has split from the main CNDD faction - has denied responsibility for the Rutana killings. Its spokesman Jerome Ndiru told the BBC Kigali service on Tuesday the FDD "cannot openly attack places where there are civilians". However on 1 October, the group issued a statement condemning the government's policy of regrouping people in Bujumbura Rural. "Our movement issues a warning to any person assisting the mono-ethnic Tutsi army in its genocide against the population of Bujumbura Rural and elsewhere, whether physically or morally," the statement said. "CNDD-FDD requests NGOs not to give in to the duplicity of Major Buyoya," it added. An expert on Burundi told IRIN regrouping people into protection sites made sense strategically as the "army is happier with the rebels on the battlefield". However, poor conditions in many of the camps meant the policy "is creating chaos and pushing more and

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IRIN Weekly Regional Summaries, 02 - 08 Oct 1999

UNHCR Annual Humanitarian Situation Report, 26 Sep - 01 Oct 1999

UNCT Senegal Monitor, 14 Sep - 01 Oct 1999

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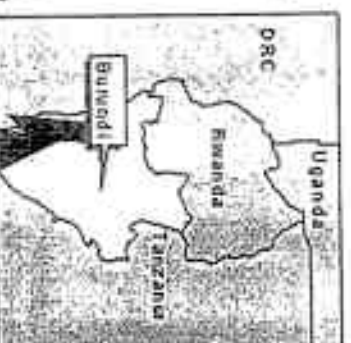
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more people into the arms of the extremists".

Meanwhile in June, PALIPEHUTU issued a statement warning that its armed wing - the Forces nationales de liberation (FNL) - was poised to attack Bujumbura. The statement, signed by PALIPEHUTU leader Cossan Kabura, said FNL forces "are now well-prepared to finalise the task of restoring peace in Burundi by invading Bujumbura" and warned foreigners to leave the country "as soon as possible". In another statement, received by IRIN in July, PALIPEHUTU repeated its warning to foreigners saying "it would not be responsible for any incident" that happened to them.

Earlier this month, diplomatic missions in Burundi were alerted to threats against foreigners, particularly those of European descent. Observers attributed this to a rebel attempt to drive away foreigners and provoke economic collapse in the country. "If there is any rationale [to rebel activity]... it's to keep outsiders out," one Burundi analyst told IRIN. On Tuesday, IRIN received another statement from PALIPEHUTU in which it said would "continue and intensify the armed struggle until the political demands of the majority are met".



Despite the apparently common aim of bringing down the government and particularly the army, PALIPEHUTU and FROLINA are quick to distance themselves from CNDD-FDD. In June, a PALIPEHUTU statement strongly denied the FNL was fighting alongside FDD troops and accused the latter of "trying to take credit" for combating the Burundian army in the provinces of Cibitoke, Bujumbura Rural and Ruyigi.

"There are no negotiations or collaborations between PALIPEHUTU and CNDD-FDD," the statement stressed. "It [CNDD-FDD] should stop claiming other people's successes as its own."

In the same statement, PALIPEHUTU, which forms part of a rebel umbrella group Union nationale de liberation (ULINA), announced the formation of a "single fighting movement", the Forces de liberation nationale (FALINA).



UN DPA Photo

"The Rutana incident may sway donors to be more favourable towards Buyoya"

Affiliation to the rebel groups goes beyond ethnicity and tends to be founded on family and geography. PALIPEHUTU and FROLINA are long-established rebel groups opposed to "Tutsi domination". Dating from the 1970s, they derive their support from the plain area along Lake Tanganyika and the central Muramvya region. CNDD was established in 1994 following the assassination of Hutu president Melchior Ndadaye the previous year, and its political wing is largely made up of Hutu intellectuals from the southern Bururi area. However, many of its fighters come from other parts of the country which led to the split within the group.

The intensification of rebel activity is due in part to the exclusion of the armed factions from the Arusha peace process. Analysts say that with the facilitator Julius Nyerere, all sides in Burundi are trying to take advantage of the fluid situation. While the government and rebels have expressed conditional willingness for direct talks, President Pierre Buyoya is trying to consolidate the internal peace process and the rebel groups are stepping up attempts to destabilise the country.

"The Rutana incident may sway donors to be more favourable towards Buyoya," one analyst observed.

[ENDS]

See also: [IRIN Glossary of main rebel groups in the Great Lakes region and BURUNDI](#); [IRIN Focus on security and the peace process](#)

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World: Africa

EU concern about Burundi

Saturday, October 8, 1999 Published at 01:30 GMT 02:30 UK

The European Union has added its voice to international concern over the plight of more than two-hundred-thousand people in Burundi, forced into specially created camps by the government as part of its fight against rebel groups.

The Burundian government says the camps will protect the civilian population while its security forces go on the offensive against the rebels.

But a BBC Correspondent in Bujumbura says relief agencies there are worrying about serious health problems ahead.

Our correspondent says they fear epidemics of diseases such as cholera or meningitis, especially in the more remote camps, with the onset of the rainy season likely to complicate relief efforts.

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World: Africa

UN worried about Burundi fighting

The United Nations Security Council has expressed concern at the fighting in Burundi and the forced relocation of a quarter of a million people last month.

It called for a revival of the peace talks, which have been postponed because of the illness of the mediator, the former President of Tanzania, Julius Nyerere.

The BBC Africa reporter says the UN is clearly not happy with the army's methods in trying to put down the rebellion by Hutu militants.

The army says people have been moved for their own protection, but the rebels say civilians have been put in concentration camps to prevent them giving food and shelter to the rebels.

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BURUNDI: IRIN Focus on security and the peace process

[This IRIN report does not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations.]

NAIROBI, 30 September (IRIN) - "The rot is setting in. Violence is being reactivated and extremists are playing on that." This is the gloomy prediction by some regional analysts of the current situation in Burundi.

"The rot is setting in. Violence is being reactivated and extremists are playing on that"

For months now, the situation has been on a steady downward spiral as the Anusha peace process flounders and Hutu rebels target the capital Bujumbura and its environs, creating tension and panic. The sixth and latest round of talks in the northern Tanzanian town of Anusha ended on 18 September, with factions appearing within the 18 negotiating sides and threatened walk-outs. Discussion of a ceasefire did not appear on the agenda and major issues such as the future of the rebellion and the transition have not been resolved.

Rebels from the PALIPEHUTU and CNDD-FDD groups, who have been warning for some time they would step up their attacks if they continued to be excluded from the Arusha process, carried out their threat and brought the civil war to Butumbura.

President Pierre Buyoya, who was returned to power by a military coup in 1996, is beleaguered. His initial success in continuing the Arusha process, while kickstarting an internal peace process or "partial" - which saw some reconciliation with the national assembly and opposition FRODEBU party as well as the marginalisation of extremist groups - now appears to be fragmenting around him.

The International Crisis Group (ICG), a think tank which monitors the situation in the Great Lakes region, told IRIN Burya needs to complete the peace process very quickly in order to retain legitimacy. "Arusha is becoming his last political card," ICG said. "His is isolated within his own group, losing part of his Tutsi political base and criticised by the Hutus for not doing enough."

ICG says the Arusha process has been successful in demystifying some issues, but with a December deadline - set by Buyoya - for an accord approaching, the pressure on all sides is great and the "ethnic card" is again being played by extremists.

Buyoya is also under intense pressure from powerful army commanders and the Tutsi inhabitants of Bujumbura city and Bujumbura Rural who feel he is not doing enough to counter the rebel attacks in which hundreds of people have been killed. Sources close to the government told IRIN the recent decision by the authorities to regroup some 260,000 people of Bujumbura Rural into protection sites was taken under pressure from top military leaders who want the army to flush the rebels



LEADER Photo

The peace process is now reportedly fragmenting around Burnini's beleaguered President Pierre Buyoya.

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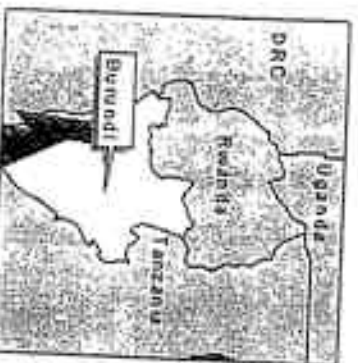
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out of the province and reduce the threat to Bujumbura city.

Propaganda is flourishing. Accusations and counter-accusations of army massacres and allegations of foreign troops entering Burundi are picked up by international media organisations. Regional experts point out much of the propaganda is aimed at "isolating Tutsis" in the Great Lakes region, and this has led to a rapprochement between Rwanda and Burundi.

The international community has not resumed aid to Burundi, making this conditional on the signing of a peace deal in Arusha. Regional analysts have pointed out that this condition would lead to the quick signing of a meaningless, superficial accord which would not stop the violence.



In the meantime, economic observers predict dire consequences for the economy. The Economist Intelligence Unit noted that so far donors have not even promised balance-of-payments support, leading to a probable increase in unemployment. Lack of foreign exchange will continue to have a negative impact on industrial production, the EIU said. While the parastatals will probably survive, private operations - which are already struggling - are likely to go bankrupt. Furthermore, bad weather and insecurity look set to impede agricultural production, EIU added.

Burundi's prominent human rights group, Ligue ITEKA, has drawn attention to the parallels existing between Burundi today and pre-genocide Rwanda in 1994: "Negotiations in Arusha forced to proceed on the basis of ethno-centric passions, increasing violence as the talks reach a conclusion (in Bujumbura, as in Kigali before), divisions in the main political parties and the emergence of radical wings, the rapid deterioration of living conditions, the feeling of imminent chaos... and the powerlessness and/or inertia of national and international actors," it said in a recent appeal to international human rights groups.

"Despite three decades of cyclical violence, five years of civil war and a year of talks in Arusha, Burundi today is still under the explosive pressure of antagonistic, sectarian and fanatical forces," Ligue ITEKA said. Observers point out that if the Burundi situation is allowed to escalate out of control, the entire Great Lakes cauldron again risks boiling over. "If massive violence erupts again in Burundi, we are back to square one," ICG warned.

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GLOSSARY OF MAIN REBEL GROUPS OPERATING IN THE GREAT LAKES REGION

EASTERN DRC

Rassemblement congolais pour la démocratie (RCD):



Main rebel group fighting to overthrow President Laurent Desiré Kabila. Reportedly split into two factions, with RCD-Kisangani led by the movement's former president Ernest Wamba dia Wamba, and the mainstream RCD-Goma led by the new president Emile Ilunga. The former is said to be backed by Uganda, the latter by Rwanda.

Mouvement de libération congolais (MLC):

Led by businessman Jean-Pierre Bemba, its also aims to overthrow Kabila, but has been at odds with RCD-Goma. Also supported by Uganda. Particularly active in the Equateur region, where Bemba is based at Lisala.

Mayi-Mayi:

Main militia groups active in the Kivus, opposed to "Tutsi domination" and the RCD, but seemingly without any clear objective and frequently change allegiances. No homogeneity exists between the various Mayi-Mayi groups. The names of various commanders such as Loueticha, Padiri and Dunia frequently come up. The 'Alliance pour la résistance démocratique' (ARD), based in the Fizi region, is believed to be a Mayi-Mayi front.

Les mongoles:

Another militia group active in the Kivus and opposed to the RCD. Mostly commits acts of banditry.

Front contre l'occupation tutsie (FLOT):

Active in the Bukavu region, particularly last year. The group has a political wing, the 'Union des forces vivres pour la libération et la démocratie en RDC-Zaire' (UFLD), and is thought to be behind hate radio broadcasts in the Bukavu region last year and in 1997.



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RWANDA

Interahamwe militia/ex-FAR (Forces armées rwandaïses):

Remnants of the Hutu militias and former Rwandan armed forces responsible for the 1994 genocide. Thousands have laid down their

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arms and returned to Rwanda for "re-education", but thousands more are still in the DRC, many of them fighting alongside the Mayi-Mayi and Kabila's forces. Often link up with Congolese Hutu fighters.

PALIR/ALIR:

The 'Peuple en armes pour la libération du Rwanda' (PALIR), and its armed wing 'Armée pour la libération du Rwanda' (ALIR), is an attempt by the Interahamwe to form a political organisation. Reports say PALIR has been weakened by the recent return of ex-Interahamwe fighters to Rwanda, but the group has claimed responsibility for the kidnapping of foreign tourists.

BURUNDI

CNDD/FDD:



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'Conseil national pour la défense de la démocratie (CNDD)/Forces pour la défense de la démocratie (FDD). The main Hutu rebel group, now split into two factions between the CNDD of Leonard Nyangoma and the CNDD/FDD of Jean-Bosco Ndayikengurukye. When Kabila came to power, FDD lost most of its rear bases in eastern DRC and the rebels moved en masse to western Tanzania where many of them operate from in and around the refugee camps. However, since the 1998 war, the FDD have again found rear bases in eastern Congo in return for helping Kabila's troops against the RCD.

Parti pour la libération du peuple hutu (PALIPEHUTU):

The longest-established Hutu rebel group, it regularly states its complete independence from CNDD/FDD. Regional rivalries also exist between the two groups, with many CNDD members coming from the southern Bururi region and PALIPEHUTU originating from the central Muramvya area. PALIPEHUTU, led by Cossien Kabura, has recently claimed successes in fighting around Bujumbura. Its armed wing is the 'Forces nationales de libération' (FNL).

Front pour la libération nationale (FROLINA):

Another Hutu rebel group, closely linked to PALIPEHUTU. Its armed wing is the 'Forces armées du peuple' (FAP).

ULINA/FALINA:

'Union pour la libération nationale' (ULINA) and its armed wing 'Forces de libération nationale' (FALINA) - an umbrella group bringing together Hutu rebel groups with the exception of CNDD/FDD. PALIPEHUTU has recently issued statements urging all anti-government forces to join the movement.

UGANDA

Allied Democratic Forces (ADF):

UCAN - Armed Liberation Front
IRIN report on anti-RCD rebel activities in eastern DRC, 30 Jun 1996
IRIN - Glossary of main rebel groups operating in the Great Lakes region, 30 Jun 1996
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Based in the Rwenzori mountains of western Uganda, the ADF is a combination of fundamentalist Tablig Muslim rebels and remnants of another rebel group, the National Army for the Liberation of Uganda (NALU). It has claimed responsibility for a string of bomb blasts that have rocked the country, particularly Kampala, this year. It also frequently links up with the ex-FAR/Interahamwe militias operating in the region and is particularly active in the Bundibugyo area of western Uganda.

Lord's Resistance Army (LRA):

More concerned with destabilising northern Uganda from bases in Sudan, but has linked up with Interahamwe and anti-RCD rebels around the Bunia area. Likewise, the now largely-defunct West Nile Bank Front (WNBFF).

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World: Africa Burundi army rounds up civilians



Hundreds of thousands of people have been displaced by the violence.

The army in Burundi has forcibly moved 260,000 civilians into makeshift camps in the past fortnight to clear the way for operations against rebels, according to United Nations officials.

But reports say the displaced villagers face appalling conditions and people are dying every day.

One priest described the sites as "concentration camps" and warned people would start "dying like flies" unless there was immediate help.

<<

The BBC's Virginia Girdley Kitchin. The UN is worried about the next harvest.

The camps are all in the farming province which surrounds the capital, Bujumbura. Many have little or no water, few if any latrines and little shelter.

The army says moving people to camps will help it track down Hutu rebels who in recent months have stepped up their attacks on the city.

It says it is simply trying to protect the civilians from the violence or from getting caught in crossfire.

But correspondents say it is widely believed that the real motive is to prevent them from feeding or sheltering the rebels.

Harvest fears

The UN's World Food Programme (WFP) says it is worried by reports indicating people are being prevented from leaving the camps.

It is particularly alarmed that people may be denied access to their fields during what is now planting season for the next harvest.

A priest at one camp site told the French news agency AFP he had seen thousands of people arrive over the last week.

"They are living in inhuman conditions, with no water or

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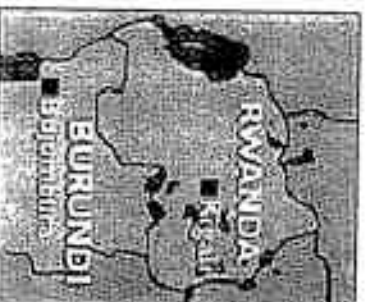
medicine and with nothing to eat. At least five people die every day," he said.

Burundi's civil war, which has claimed around 150,000 lives, pits an army dominated by the Tutsi minority against several Hutu rebel movements.

Most of those who have been "regrouped" are Hutus, who represent some 85% of the total population.

Church massacre

Details of the crisis follow reports of an attack on a church on Sunday in which 30 Catholics were said to have been massacred by uniformed men.



The gunmen opened fire on worshippers in Nyambye, 55 miles (90km) from Bujumbura, according to the Rome-based missionary news service Misna.

The government of Burundi has denied that any of its troops were involved.

The government blames the recent upsurge in violence on Rwandan militia groups which it says are working

alongside Hutu rebel organisations.

The war began after the break down of a power-sharing agreement set up following the assassination of the democratically elected Hutu president Melchior Ndadaye.

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Amnesty International - News Release - AFR 16/29/99
11 November 1999
BURUNDI
On the threshold of disaster

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News Service: 211/99

AI INDEX: AFR 16/29/99

11 November 1999

Burundi

On the threshold of disaster

Burundi is on the verge of a humanitarian and human rights crisis Amnesty International warned today, in response to the escalation of the internal conflict over the past few weeks.

"Failure to take immediate meaningful steps to protect the civilian population could have catastrophic repercussions on the human rights situation in the country," Amnesty International said.

"With the peace talks due to resume shortly, all parties to the conflict have an opportunity to prevent a further slide into disaster," the human rights organization added. "The search for a new facilitator should be used as an opportunity to revitalize and strengthen the peace process."

Reports of "disappearances" and incidents of torture in the capital, Bujumbura have increased in recent weeks and serious human rights violations, including extrajudicial executions, have been reported in the regroupment camps. Members of the armed forces claim that armed opposition groups have infiltrated the camps, which, if true, further endangers the lives of civilians. Armed opposition groups have also stepped up their attacks against civilians in many provinces of the country.

Furthermore, a number of parties in Bujumbura, angry at the perceived failure of the government and security forces to adequately protect the capital, are deliberately inciting ethnic tension and making veiled calls for violence.

During three weeks in September, the predominantly Tutsi army forcibly relocated more than 320,000 people, mainly Hutus, from the province around the capital into around 50 temporary sites or camps, some of which are still inaccessible to humanitarian organizations. Conditions are appalling and many have no access to shelter or water. In the first week of the regroupment at least 30 people, mostly women and children, are reported to have died as a result primarily of dehydration.

The killing of two expatriate UN workers in Rutana province on 12 October has further exacerbated the situation in the camps as international organizations have withdrawn most personnel.

"The government has claimed that the operation to forcibly relocate civilians into camps was carried out to protect the lives of the civilian population, but in reality it has exposed them to famine, disease, fear and human rights violations."

Reports indicate that up to 36 people, including 22 women, may have been executed by members of the armed forces near the Kibembe regroupment camp, Rural Bujumbura province on 29 October. The soldiers were apparently angry that the civilians had complained about the conditions in the camps. The government claims that those killed were members of the armed opposition.

Repeated attacks on Bujumbura, by Hutu dominated armed opposition groups, resulting in hundreds of deaths, have led to a security crackdown by the government. Scores of people have been arrested, many arbitrarily, and accused of collaboration with armed opposition groups. Dozens of people have "disappeared" in recent weeks in Bujumbura.

Juvénal Niyonzima and Michel Manirambona "disappeared" following their reported arrest by soldiers in the Cibitoke area of the capital, Bujumbura, on 26 September. Léovin Nzeyimana, who "disappeared" on 19 September, was extrajudicially executed by soldiers and buried in a secret grave in the Kamenge district of Bujumbura. At least 15 other bodies are reported to be buried in the immediate vicinity.

Amnesty International is concerned at increasing reports of torture. Déo Nzeyimana was arrested by soldiers on 22 September 1999 and tortured while detained at the Brigade spéciale de recherche (BSR), Special Investigation Unit, in Bujumbura. He is reportedly accused of threatening security and passing information on human rights violations and the population displacement in the area around the capital to the international media.

At night screams of pain, groaning and cries can be heard coming from the headquarters of a military intervention squad Bujumbura, groupement d'intervention de Bujumbura, which appears to be used as a secret detention centre. All access to the building is denied to independent observers, and no one knows how many people are held there.

Armed opposition groups also committing serious human rights abuses. While the province around the capital has been particularly affected by conflict, there are recent reports of renewed activity by the armed opposition in the northern provinces of Cibitoke and Kanyanza and along the Burundi-Tanzania border.

On 6 October, a regroupment camp in Mubimbi commune was attacked by an armed opposition group and reportedly killed ten civilians and injured three others. Six people were killed including two soldiers in an ambush on an aid vehicle in Kabezi zone, Bujumbura rural south, on 10 October, reportedly by members of the armed opposition wearing military uniforms. On 20 October, over 25 people killed by members of the armed opposition on Busimba colline, Muramvya province.

"The international community must ensure that all parties to the conflict take all necessary measures to ensure the safety of the civilian population and prevent yet another human rights disaster in Burundi," Amnesty International concluded.

Source: *Amnesty International, International Secretariat, 1 Easton Street, WC1X 8DJ, London, United Kingdom*

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Amnesty International - News Release - AFR 16/27/99
21 October 1999
BURUNDI
Appeal to protect civilians in Burundi

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News Service: 199/99

AI INDEX: AFR 16/27/99

21 October 1999

Media Advisory

Appeal to protect civilians in Burundi

Amnesty International is releasing today, on Africa Human Rights Day, the enclosed public appeal to protect the civilian population in Burundi.

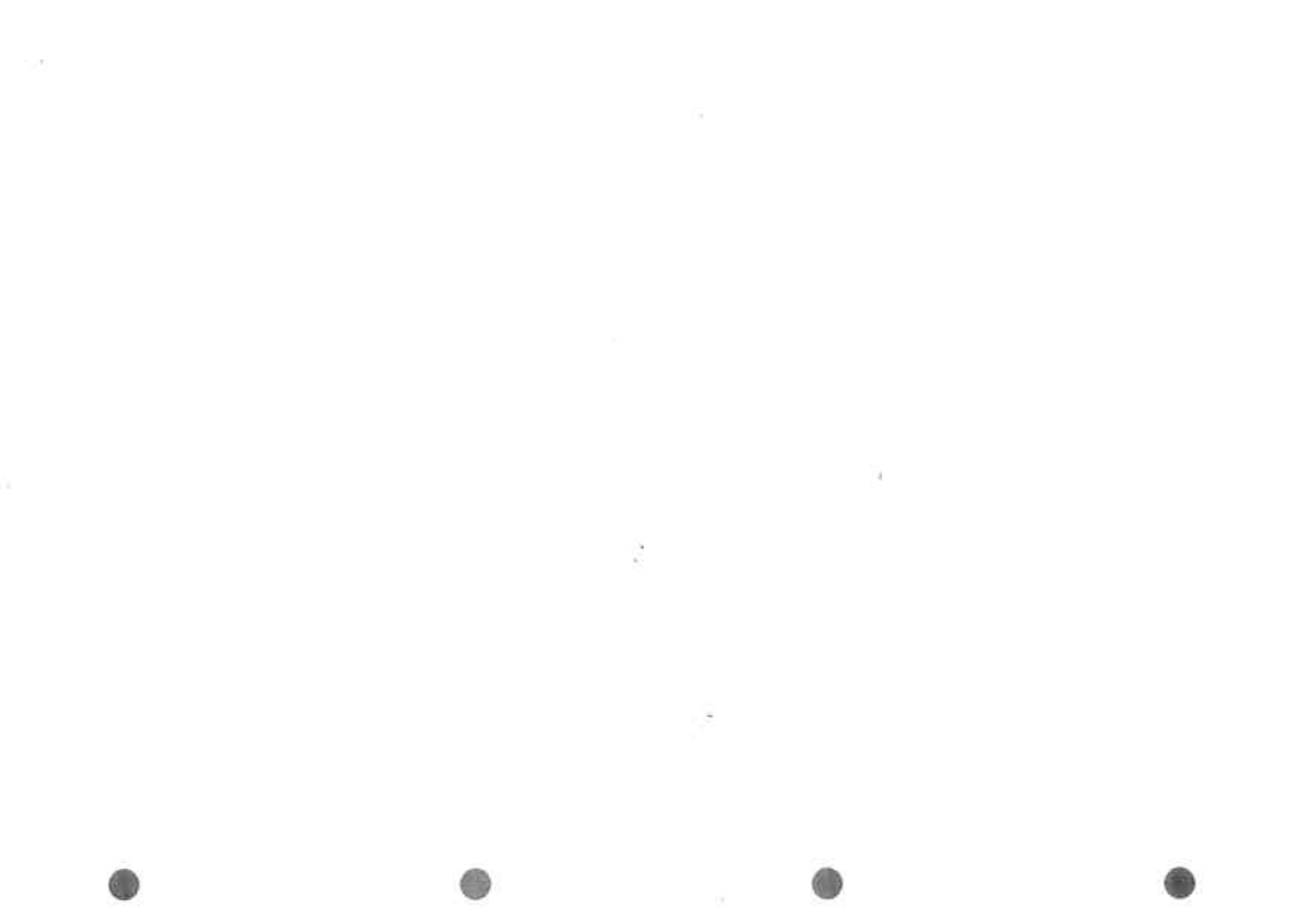
In the three-page document, Amnesty International is appealing to the military leaders of the government security forces and all the Burundian armed opposition groups to "urgently meet in a neutral environment to discuss ways of protecting the lives of civilians."

This appeal is also directed to the international community to assist "in providing greater protection for civilians and in sending a strong message to military leaders on all sides that they can and will be held accountable for human rights abuses."

This document is sent on the 6th anniversary of the assassination of President Melchior Ndadaye, Burundi's first and only democratically-elected head of state, which triggered the massive human rights crisis and cycle of violence from which Burundi has yet to emerge.

Source: *Amnesty International, International Secretariat, 1 Easton Street, WC1X 8DJ, London, United Kingdom*

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Amnesty International - News Release - AFR 16/21/99
30 September 1999
BURUNDI
**Civilians dying around the capital while hundreds
of thousands are forcibly moved**

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News Service: 184/1999

AI INDEX: AFR 16/21/99

30 September 1999

Burundi

Civilians dying around the capital while hundreds of thousands are forcibly moved

Amnesty International today expressed concern for the safety of the hundreds of thousands of Burundians who have recently been moved from their homes by the military in the area around the capital, Bujumbura.

Virtually the whole population of Rural Bujumbura has been forcibly moved from their homes as a counter-insurgency measure, the human rights organization said.

Since November 1998, there has been intense activity by armed opposition groups in Burundi, particularly in the province of Rural Bujumbura and the southern provinces of Makamba and Bururi.

Reprisals by the armed forces have been brutal and indiscriminate. Hundreds of unarmed civilians are reported to have been killed by the armed forces in Rural Bujumbura rural as a result. In the last few weeks, the capital has also been frequently attacked by armed opposition groups, who have deliberately and arbitrarily killed civilians.

Some reports claim that as many as 260,000 people have now been moved into sites, many since mid-September. At least 30 people, mainly women and children, are reported to have died since then because of the harsh conditions and the lack of humanitarian aid.

Some of the sites are also reported to be in isolated areas aggravating existing poor conditions of living; some sites are far from water points or health centres. People at one site in Kanyosha are reported to have been denied access to clean water even though it was available. Furthermore, the sites may be vulnerable to attacks by both the security forces or armed opposition groups.

We are concerned that the authorities have not taken the necessary precautions to ensure the protection of these displaced people. According to information we have received, people living in these areas were given very little time to leave and were therefore unable to collect some basic belongings. Amnesty International said. We are also investigating reports of people being ill-treated in the camps.

In addition to the failure to provide for basic humanitarian needs, there are reports that non-governmental organizations may have been prevented in some cases and unnecessarily delayed in others from giving aid or having access to sites. Unless these issues are addressed urgently further deaths are likely to occur.

The government has frequently employed the technique of clearing areas during counter-insurgency operations, effectively creating war zones. The practice has, on numerous occasions, led to the killing of hundreds of unarmed civilians by members of the armed forces.

Government officials have openly stated in the past that civilians found in areas which are supposed to have been evacuated will be considered to be military targets.

This has been interpreted as a licence to kill with impunity and has resulted in the deaths of unarmed men, women and children, in circumstances where it is clear they presented no threat. We are very concerned that the army may be carrying out killings of unarmed civilians in these areas with complete impunity and disregard for human rights, the human rights organization added.

Amnesty International is appealing to the government to take the necessary steps to allow humanitarian aid to be given to displaced populations and to protect them from human rights violations.

It is also appealing to the government to issue strict orders to its troops involved in counter-insurgency operations to refrain from extrajudicial executions and to make every effort to distinguish non combatants from combatants, and to investigate and prosecute those who fail to do so, and as a matter of urgency to take measures to prevent a further escalation of violence.

Amnesty International is also appealing once again to members of the armed opposition^{ff} and their leaders to refrain from attacks on unarmed civilians, including the displaced population and to take action against their own members who violate human rights.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The situation in Bujumbura is reportedly to be extremely tense, with rumours of attacks or infiltration by Hutu-dominated armed opposition groups. On the night of 28 September, a number of homes were attacked in the capital, in the areas of Gasenyi and Mutanga Nord, and at least 5 civilians, including three children were killed. The killings are reported to have been carried out by armed Tutsi gangs - in retaliation for attacks by Hutu armed opposition groups or as a form of intimidation in the escalation of violence.

Amnesty International is also investigating reports that over 30 people were killed on 26 September by government soldiers. Those killed had been attending mass in a chapel in Nyarubuye. Soldiers are reported to have shot people as they fled from the chapel. The reason for the killings is not clear. The people attending mass had come from nearby displaced camps.

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Amnesty International - News Release - AFR 16/16/99
17 August 1999
BURUNDI
The cycle of killings continues

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News Service: 152/99

AI INDEX: AFR 16/16/99

17 August 1999

Burundi

The cycle of killings continues

Hundreds of unarmed civilians are still being killed in Burundi with almost complete impunity, Amnesty International said today in a new report (Burundi: No Respite without Justice AI Index: AFR 16/012/99) .

"Burundi's human rights crisis will continue unless both the military and armed opposition groups are held to account for their abuses and learn to respect human rights," the human rights organization added.

Following an Amnesty International mission to Burundi earlier this year, the report, "Burundi: No Respite without Justice", cites hundreds of examples of the killings of unarmed civilians, between November 1998 to March 1999.

"In one province only -- Rural Bujuumbura -- over 600, and possibly many more, unarmed civilians were deliberately killed by members of the armed forces, during this period. Scores of others were killed in other provinces still experiencing conflict," the organisation said.

The army's prime response to activity by Hutu-dominated armed opposition groups appears to be indiscriminate reprisal killings against a population which they regard as suspect. Attempts to protect civilians are clearly ineffective, non existent or undermined by suspicion or revenge.

While much of the report looks at violations carried out, or attributed to members of the armed forces, and at the response -- or lack of it -- of government and military officials, the document also details abuses by armed opposition groups - and at their response to these abuses. During this same period, armed opposition groups have also been responsible for high numbers of human rights abuses, particularly killings of civilians. Soldiers too have been arrested and summarily executed.

At least 36 civilians, including nine children, were killed by the FDD, Front pour la défense de la démocratie, Front for the Defence of Democracy, in Mbandara and Kibago communes on 13 and 14 January. Armed opposition groups have also been responsible for the summary executions of soldiers who are hors de combat. Young children have been recruited into the armed opposition.

The CNDD-FDD, the Comité national pour la défense de la démocratie - Front pour la défense de la démocratie, National Committee for the Defence of Democracy - Front for the Defence of Democracy, responded to Amnesty International's enquiries regarding certain abuses. However, there was no indication that any of the abuses had been investigated.

"The existing mechanisms for bringing soldiers accused of human rights violations to justice are seriously weak. Although the government has proposed a number of reforms designed to address some of the fundamental flaws in military justice system, they do not go far enough," Amnesty International added.

There are several causes for such abuses:

- Years of contempt by the armed forces for the system of justice.
- Poor quality of trials. Judges are not adequately trained, nor are they independent. In the majority of cases they are still subject to military hierarchy.
- Poor knowledge of procedures and even the law. Immaculée Nindorera was sentenced to 20 years imprisonment by Bujumbura military court in 1995, although, as she was aged 15 at the time of the offence, the maximum penalty she should have incurred through law was 10 years. Tried without a lawyer, she did not appeal against her sentence. She now has no recourse.
- Many allegations of human rights abuses are simply dismissed, not investigated. Despite substantive evidence of the involvement of soldiers in the killing of 14 men on 4 March in Kabezi, Rural Bujumbura, no one has been prosecuted. Soldiers who had forced the men to accompany them, returned and told the waiting women to begin mourning. They were later told by a delegation of soldiers and members of parliament, that in the interests of reconciliation, they should forget the past.

Since the period covered by the report, killings by both the armed opposition and armed forces have continued and no one has been brought to justice.

On 25 May 1999, 11 people were extrajudicially executed in Ruziba, Bujumbura rural. Four of those killed were reportedly children under the age of four who were pulled out of their houses at night, stood against a wall and shot in the head at close range. The killings occurred when a group of soldiers came to the area with the local administrative official looking for a man who was accused of collaboration with the armed opposition. Not finding him, they identified people with a family link to him, taking them out of their houses and killing them. Four women and three men are reported to have been extrajudicially executed.

In July, on day after his trial by Bujumbura military court, Corporal Bonaventure Ndikumana was summarily executed, in contravention of Burundian legal procedures. Corporal Ndikumana, who was represented by the head of the Burundian Bar, had submitted an appeal against his sentence. It was not heard.

In late June and July 1999, armed opposition groups are reported to have killed at least 30 civilians - often summarily executed after ambushes. Over 10 people were killed in an ambush on a bus in Rutana province in July.

"Unless all parties to the conflict introduce accountability there will be no peace, and the right to life will be continually denied," Amnesty International concluded.

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Amnesty International - News Release - AFR 16/13/99
29 July 1999
BURUNDI
Illegal execution in military camp

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News Service: 144/99

AI INDEX: AFR 16/13/99

29 July 1999

PUBLIC STATEMENT

Burundi

Illegal execution in military camp

Amnesty International is shocked and concerned at reports of the execution of Corporal Bonaventure Ndikumana this morning in Mabanda military camp, southern Burundi.

The human rights organization is concerned that this execution took place outside the due process of Burundian law and international standards for fair trials, and considers it to be an extrajudicial execution. The organization fears that unless the government of Burundi publicly and strongly condemns the incident and those responsible are held accountable, further illegal executions may occur.

Corporal Ndikumana was reportedly executed the day after being sentenced to death by Bujumbura military court on 28 July after his conviction on 21 July of the murder of a military officer in Mabanda military camp. It is unclear why Corporal Ndikumana was tried by Bujumbura military court and not the military court in Mabanda.

Under Burundian law, Corporal Ndikumana had the right to appeal to the Military Court of Appeal, and then to the Cassation Chamber of the Supreme Court. He also had the right to appeal for clemency to the head of state. All these rights were denied him. Corporal Ndikumana's lawyer had apparently submitted an appeal yesterday against the conviction and sentence to the Military Court of Appeal.

Amnesty International is appealing for immediate steps to be taken to protect the rights of all those under sentence of death.

The human rights organization is also concerned about unfair trials by military courts in Burundi. Few judges have received adequate legal training and their knowledge of applicable legal procedures is often flawed. In addition, judges are subject to military discipline and are not independent of their military superiors. These concerns will be explored in more detail in an Amnesty International report to be published in August 1999.

Background

The execution of Corporal Ndikumana is the first known official execution to have taken place in Burundi since July 1997 when six civilians were executed after grossly unfair trials. Over 260 people are currently under sentence of death in Burundi. The majority were sentenced after unfair trials by civilian courts. Two other soldiers, tried by military courts, are currently under sentence

of death.

Amnesty International is unconditionally opposed to the death penalty in all circumstances, because it is a state-sanctioned violation of the right to life and the right not to be subjected to cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment. The violation is of special concern when people are sentenced to death after unfair trials.

Source: *Amnesty International, International Secretariat, 1 Easton Street, WC1X 8DJ, London, United Kingdom*

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BURUNDI

Human Rights Developments

Negotiations among parties to the civil war in Burundi initially spurred hopes that the six-year-old conflict might end, but, by late October 1999, the discussions had yielded little and both rebels and the Burundian army stepped up military action around Bujumbura, the capital, and in the southeast. As in previous years, all parties to the war massacred civilians, adding several thousand more to a toll that now exceeds one hundred thousand victims. Combatants maimed, raped, or otherwise injured thousands of others and drove tens of thousands from homes which were destroyed. In an effort to deprive rebels of local support, Burundian authorities ordered more than 300,000 people into regroupment camps where they suffered from lack of food, water, and medical attention. Rebels, aiming to end foreign assistance to the local population, warned foreigners to leave Burundi. In early October, rebels killed two U.N. aid workers, along with seven Burundians, thus causing the U.N. to halt activities outside of Bujumbura and withdraw all nonessential staff from Burundi. During the year, the war in Burundi became more closely linked to conflicts in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), where Burundians fought on both sides, and in Rwanda. Rebels against the Rwandan government reportedly joined Burundian rebels in their attacks on Bujumbura and elsewhere.

The Tutsi minority, dominant for centuries, had rebuffed efforts by the Hutu majority to participate more fully in power, whether through political means or by force. In the worst such case in 1972, the Tutsi-dominated army massacred as many as 200,000 Hutu following Hutu attacks on Tutsi.

In 1993, Burundians elected their first Hutu president, Melchior Ndadaye. In what appeared a model transition, the Tutsi Major Pierre Buyoya ceded power, but in October 1993, Tutsi soldiers murdered Ndadaye and other high officials. Hutu in many communities, sometimes directed by local officials, massacred thousands of Tutsi. The army slaughtered thousands of Hutu, sometimes in places where no Tutsi had been killed.

Under heavy international pressure, the military restored civilian rule, but the government failed to counter violence by Tutsi militia in the city and attacks by predominantly Hutu opposition groups in the countryside. In 1996, Buyoya took power again, pledging to restore order. The surrounding nations imposed an embargo on Burundi, seeking to force Buyoya to restore constitutional government and to negotiate with insurgents. With a "partnership" established between Buyoya and elements of the internal opposition and with negotiations under way, organizers of the embargo ended the restriction on trade at the start of 1999, but the badly damaged economy failed to revive.

Under Buyoya's direction, authorities forced hundreds of thousands into "regroupment" camps in late 1996 and 1997. After strong international protests, they dispersed most of the camps by late 1998, but with the increased combat in mid-1999, authorities once again insisted on regroupment in regions surrounding the capital and in the southeast. Similarly, in September 1999, they called for increased reliance on local self-defense forces, in operation for several years, and they stepped up the distribution of firearms to civilians, mostly Tutsi civilians.

The two strongest groups of insurgents, the National Council for the Defense of Democracy-Forces for the Defense of Democracy (CNDD-FDD) and the Party for the Liberation of the Hutu People (PALIPEHUTU), have slain thousands of civilians, both Tutsi and other Hutu in struggles with each other as well as with government forces. Originally based largely in the DRC, many rebels left following disruption of their bases during the Congo war and resumed attacks from new bases in Tanzania.

Throughout the year, soldiers attacked civilians in reprisal for attacks by rebels. In early November 1998, government troops killed at least 101 and perhaps many more in Mutambu commune, province of Bujumbura-murale, after rebels had killed five persons in the area. Soon after, government soldiers killed dozens of civilians at Muresi in Makamba province and at Mubone in Kabezi commune in January.

Several weeks later, rebels struck in the province of Bubanza, killing twenty-four and wounding twenty, and soon after killed twenty-five persons in a displaced persons camp at Rumonge, south of Bujumbura. Rebels also increased their attacks in the southern provinces of Bururi and Makamba. In mid-January 1999, rebels killed at least twenty-two civilians and burned more than 400 houses in Kibago and Mabanda communes.

Attacks diminished in late January and February, but resumed in late March, with new violence in the east, particularly in the province of Ruyigi. In June and July, rebels killed civilians more frequently on the roads around the capital. In one incident, eighteen civilians perished after a bus was attacked and burned, reportedly by PALIPEHUTU insurgents. Rebels also hit a military barracks near Buyoya's residence, thus demonstrating the potential to strike at crucial targets.

In mid-August, government soldiers killed 147 civilians in one place and seventy-four soon after in another location, both in Bujumbura-murale. At the end of August, rebels killed thirty-eight civilians and the army retaliated by slaying twenty others. The next week, rebels killed another fifteen people south of the capital and soon after killed thirteen more in Makamba, in southeastern Burundi.

Divisions among the contenders, sometimes due to policy differences, sometimes due to personal rivalries, produced the unwieldy number of eighteen different parties to the peace negotiations. Factions of the important Front for Democracy in Burundi (FRODEBU) and Party for Union, Progress and Nation (UPRONA) disapproved of the talks and a number of small radical Tutsi parties challenged concessions made by the government in the process. The wings of CNDD-FDD and PALIPEHUTU political party with the greatest military strength did not participate in the negotiations, although the government engaged in less formal exchanges with them. Foreign donors, who had paid more than \$2 million for the talks, as well as many Burundians were disappointed at the lack of progress by year's end. They criticized politicians for delays which gave them additional per diem payments while costing victims their lives. The death in October of former Tanzanian president Julius Nyerere, who had moderated the talks, further clouded prospects for a negotiated settlement.

Most Burundians had suffered from some kind of ethnically-motivated attack or had family members who had so suffered. Extremists on each side were quick to assign guilt to everyone in the other ethnic group, accusing them of genocide, a term charged with special importance since the 1994 genocide in neighboring Rwanda. Some 10,000 Burundians were in jail, most of them accused of or convicted of crimes against Tutsi in 1993 or since. The judicial system was heavily dominated by Tutsi, which helped to explain why few Tutsi had been arrested for crimes against Hutu and why Hutu did not expect justice in the current situation. Approximately five hundred persons were tried in the last year, reducing somewhat the backlog of cases that had overwhelmed the judicial system, but 75 percent of detainees had yet to be tried.

Prisoners were housed in facilities meant to accommodate only about one third the number of present occupants. In addition to severe overcrowding, prisoners suffered from ill-treatment and lack of food and medical care, such that imprisonment could in many cases be described as inhumane and life-threatening.

In the past, most trials fell short of international standards of due process. But the presence of U.N. human rights observers at some 60 percent of the trials and the more frequent appearance of witnesses, organized with the help of the human rights group Itaka, improved the quality of the proceedings. The nongovernmental organization Avocats sans Frontières provided foreign attorneys to assist the small number of Burundian lawyers available to defend the accused.

In the most publicized case of inadequate justice this year, a court in May acquitted thirty-eight persons of charges of having participated in the murder of President Ndadaye. Those acquitted were all important persons or high ranking officers, while five junior officers and soldiers were found guilty and sentenced to death. Seventy-two other persons were condemned to between one and twenty years in prison. In light of the substantial evidence against some of those acquitted, the prosecutor announced that he would appeal the decision.

In June, the legislature adopted changes to the penal code permitting lawyers to consult with detained persons before their first appearance in court and imposing new measures to prevent ill-treatment of detainees as well as lengthy and arbitrary detentions.

Under international pressure, military authorities investigated a few of the worst massacres reportedly committed by soldiers, but apparently in only one case were two soldiers arrested. They had not been brought to trial. In another case, a soldier was arrested for killing at least six and perhaps as many as thirteen civilians at a displaced camp in October.

Authorities kept tight control over the press. In June they arrested the director of the independent news agency Azania and they detained the head of New Press for twelve days. In September, the defense minister reportedly told soldiers to consider journalists as enemies who were supporting the rebels. After international protest, he denied having made the statement.

Defending Human Rights

Local human rights organizations continued to operate without apparent obstruction. Itaka, the oldest and best established, published information on military abuses, criticized proposed legislation to limit the freedom of association, and alerted the international community to the danger of imminent and large-scale violence after the increase of combat in July and August. The Burundian Association for the Defense of Prisoners continued effective work on improving prison conditions.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights maintained a small group of observers to assist the judiciary and visit prisons. They also monitored violations of international humanitarian law by parties to the conflict.

The Role of the International Community

The international community provided continuing humanitarian assistance to Burundi as well as diplomatic and financial support for the negotiations. Most donors cut all development assistance at the time of the embargo and promised its resumption only after negotiations had been successfully concluded, a position reiterated in September. In October, however, France announced a grant of about \$3 million for reconstruction in war-torn areas and for programs for human rights and justice. Soon after the World Bank pledged \$12 million to further reconstruction. During the year, the U.S. and other donor governments, the E.U., and Secretary-General Kofi Annan denounced violence against civilians and the regroupment policy and called for investigations into the worst massacres. In September, the E.U. urged the U.N. human rights operation to assist in investigating the August massacres reportedly perpetrated by Burundian soldiers and the U.S. called on the Burundian government to permit investigations by local and international human rights investigators into these killings.

