

**Report # 114**  
**BUSINESS AND POLITICS IN THE MUSLIM WORLD**  
**Central Africa**  
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**Weekly Report from 4 April to 10 April 2010**  
**Presentation: 14 April 2010**

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# **Summary**

## **1. Politics**

### **Congo-Kinshasa: A Stalled Democratic Agenda**

State building in the Democratic Republic of Congo is at risk of failing without a new momentum to support democratic consolidation in 2010. Although the things became improve but over all position is not good. After coming into power, Joseph Kabila won the presidency in elections hailed as a milestone in the peace process, power is being centralized at the presidential office, checks and balances barely exist, and civil liberties are regularly undermined, despite growing signs that the regime is unable to manage local conflicts. The Congo's partners must place democratization and institutional reform at the centre of their dialogue with Kabila's government.

### **Rwanda: Country Refused to Be Written Off; UK Envoy**

The Rwandan High Commissioner to the United Kingdom has said that his country refused to be written off as a failed state after being devastated by the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi. He was addressing a Genocide commemoration service at Southwark Cathedral in London, at the start of commemoration events around the United Kingdom. He added that the people and the government of Rwanda are determined to build a better society full of hope and opportunity for all. He said Rwanda is now an active member of both regional and international communities, following admission into the East African Community and the Commonwealth.

### **São Tomé gets ferry link with Cape Verde**

A high speed ferry between São Tomé and Cape Verde is planned for operations already in June this year, according to an announcement by the Cape Verdean government. The ferry plans were agreed by Cape Verdean entrepreneur Felisberto Furtado and São Toméan businessman Aurélio Martins in the presence of the prime ministers of the two countries. The two businessmen signed a memorandum of understanding to jointly establish the ferry company Expresso LDA, which is to operate the new maritime link.

### **Rwanda: Ingabire Ousted in Palace Coup**

Victoire Ingabire, the controversial leader of FDU-Inkingi, an exiled group trying to register as a political party, has been deposed in a well-orchestrated move by her European-based colleagues.

### **3. Peace keeping/ Conflict Resolution and Security matters**

#### **Congo-Kinshasa: Experts Present Suggestions to Move Country from International Conflict to Stability**

DR Congo must promote government capacity and institution building, according to Eric Kashambuzi. Kashambuzi was a member of an African Union (AU) team sent to DRC in January and February to study the issues hindering post-conflict reconstruction and make recommendations for the AU's Peace and Security Council.

He began with the historical context and said Mobutu Sese Seko took power in 1965 and with the support of western governments, including the United States, maintained dictatorial control until 1997. In 1997 Laurent Desire Kabila overthrew Mobutu's government with the support of Rwandan and Ugandan Tutsis. Numerous rebel factions have since sprung up and DRC's neighbors have invaded parts of the country to exploit the overabundance of natural resources including coltan (used in electronics), diamonds, gold, oil, and numerous minerals. In 2002 a peace deal was signed in Sun City South Africa, yet international groups continue to mine DRC's resources and militias continue to fight for control of various regions, particularly in the East and more recently in the Western region of Equateur. In 2006, DRC held elections to implement a transitional government with President Joseph Kabila at its head and a power sharing deal with two opposition parties. Kashambuzi suggested that the role of international community is very significant in this context, DR Congo must installed centralized government and then later after institution building they go for decentralized government.

#### **DR Congo: UN deplores resort to arms after deadly attack on provincial capital**

The top United Nations official in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has spoken deep concern at a deadly attack in a region cited by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon as showing the potential for local conflicts to rapidly escalate in the vast strife-torn country. In Sunday's attack, a couple of dozen of insurgents arrived by boat, first striking at the governor's mansion and national assembly before temporarily occupying the airport, from where they were dislodged in a joint operation by the army and peacekeepers from the UN mission in the DRC (MONUC). Beyond the continuing violence in the east MONUC has helped restore a measure of stability and democratic processes over the past decade to a country torn apart by years of civil war and revolts that resulted in the greatest human death toll since World War II – some 4 million people killed by the fighting and the attendant starvation and disease it produced.

## **Ban proposes drawdown of 2,000 UN peacekeepers from DR Congo by end of June**

Despite continued violence and human rights abuses by both rebels and the army, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has made sufficient progress over much of its vast territory for the 20,000-strong United Nations peacekeeping force to withdraw up to 2,000 troops by June. But the UN says it disagrees with the Congolese Government's proposed date of August 2011 for the final withdrawal of the 11-year-old force (known by the French acronym MONUC), which has helped restore a measure of stability and democratic process to a country torn apart by years of civil war and revolts that resulted in the greatest death toll. The tasks were identified and these tasks include successful completion of the ongoing military operations against rebel groups in the east, deployment of national army battalions adequately trained and equipped by bilateral partners to progressively take over MONUC's security role, and the establishment of State authority through the deployment of police, territorial administration, and rule of law institutions, in areas freed from armed groups. At the Government's request MONUC would train and equip 20 national police battalions over three years.

## **DRC Rebel Groups to Form Coalition**

VOA

In the Democratic Republic of Congo, the leader of the Mai Mai Kifuafua rebels says a new rebel coalition comprising over 17 different armed groups will be unveiled in the eastern part of the country. Didier Bitaki said the various armed groups decided to join forces after President Joseph Kabila's government failed to fully implement several peace accords. He said that what the government did was only to facilitate the former armed groups to know each other. Unfortunately the government did not take advantage of that opportunity so that they will bring peace to our region. And we said we cannot allow that peace accord to fail while we are here, and that is why we want to create something that will bring peace and maybe change our government.

Bitaki said the group, to be known as the Alliance for Maintaining the Peace Agreement of Goma, will ensure President Kabila's administration lives up to the promises made when it signed peace accords with the various armed groups. He said the rebel coalition includes Mai Mai Kifuafua, National Congress for People's Defense (CNDP), Pareko and Mai Mai Yakutumba, among other rebel groups.

## **5. Human Rights/ Social Issues**

### **Congo-Kinshasa: Half a Million Children at Risk of Malnutrition**

About 530,000 children younger than five and more than a million women need urgent nutritional support in the Democratic Republic of Congo, says the Ministry of Health. Officials are calling for more resources for prevention and treatment and for agricultural

production to be improved. At least 700 children under-five die each day in the five provinces where only 20 percent of children have a varied diet.

According to recent assessments, WFP said, 75 percent of the country is food insecure. Only the Kivu provinces have lower levels of malnutrition due to a large aid agency presence. According to Vu Thi, UNICEF spends at least \$11 million annually in malnutrition prevention and treatment in the DRC. WFP is also providing nutritional support to at least one million vulnerable people, including 27,000 pregnant and nursing mothers, 400,000 school-children and more than 177,000 malnourished children. At least 896,600 children could die if malnutrition is not eradicated by 2015.

### **Rwanda: People with Disabilities Left Out of Condom Campaign**

Rwanda's recent national condom awareness campaign failed to include messages designed for people with disabilities, something experts say is a mistake, as they are often equally at risk of HIV as the rest of the population. The three-month campaign, which mainly used radio and television spots as well as billboards and more than 200,000 posters to spread the word, ended in February, and according to government sources, was successful in raising awareness.

## **6. US-Africa**

### **Rwanda: We Are Inspired By Citizens - Obama**

US President, Barack Obama, said that his country is committed to its partnership with Rwanda and will continue supporting the country to achieve its development ambitions. In his message on the 16th Commemoration of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi, Obama said that the United States stands with the people of Rwanda during this painful time of commemorating the genocide. He further paid tribute to the victims and those who continue to live with the pain and trauma of their memories and loss.

### **Rwanda: Citizens in U.S. Hold 16th Commemoration**

Members of Diplomatic corps, officials from the US government and members of the civil society on Wednesday joined the Rwandan Community in Washington DC to commemorate the 16th anniversary of the 1994 genocide against Tutsi.

## **Genocide**

### **Rwanda: 'Never Again' - We Shall Not Be Silenced**

The world's attention is once again focused on Rwanda and the calamity she suffered 16 years ago, heads hang in shame, at the reminder of not having done enough to stop the massacre of innocent people - marked by ceremonial repetitions of the vow 'Never Again'. Statements and affirmations of the 'Never Again' vow reverberate throughout the world. Rwandans are reminded just for this part of the calendar that the world knows the injustice they suffered and perhaps - it cares.

### **Rwanda: ICTR Blames Country for Harboring Key Genocide Suspect**

The International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) has once again pointed fingers at Kenya for harboring key suspects of the 1994 mass slaughter in Rwanda. Hassan Bubacar Jallow, the Prosecutor of the Arusha-based United Nations Tribunal said Kenya must arrest and hand over the fugitives for prosecution for their role in the genocide. The most sought after fugitive among eleven remaining key suspects is Felicien Kabuga, the businessman who owned a radio station which is claimed to have fuelled the massacre of over 800,000.

### **Rwanda: UN was A "Serious failure" In Country, Chief of UN Inquiry Says**

Former Prime Minister of Sweden and Chairperson of the UN mandated Inquiry into the organization's actions during the 1994 Genocide, Ingvar Carlsson said that the UN betrayed Rwandans during some of the worst brutality humanity has ever seen. He was speaking at the 16th commemoration of the Genocide against the Tutsi hosted at the Swedish Parliament in Stockholm.

### **Rwanda: International Community Urged to Establish Laws to Combat Genocide Ideology**

The Rwandan Diaspora in the Netherlands, during a ceremony to commemorate the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi, urged the International community to enact laws that prevent and combat genocide ideology that is manifested through denial and negation. Speaking at the event that took place at the International Institute of Social Studies (ISS) in The Hague, Parfait Gahamanyi, the Charge d'Affaires a.i at The Rwandan Embassy in The Hague, urged the community to differentiate between those who participate and perpetuate Genocide or violence.

### **Rwanda: Gov't Unhappy With West's Failure to Arrest Genocide Suspects**

As the nation commemorates, for the 16th time, the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi, many western countries are still reluctant to pursue Genocide suspects living in their countries. Augustin Nkusi, the Spokesperson of the National Public Prosecution Authority (NPPA), listed six known and already indicted suspects who still roam free in the USA.

### **Rwanda: Remembering the Unforgettable**

The New Times

United Nations — Sixteen years after the genocide in Rwanda, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon vowed that the international community would never again sit by while mass atrocities are committed against innocent civilians. Together, let us pledge our determination to prevent genocide as the best way to remember those who lost their lives

so tragically in Rwanda," he said as the United Nation observed a global day of remembrance for the tragedy Tuesday. On Apr. 6, 1994, the presidential guard, the army, police, and prominent businessmen started calling for the death of Tutsis and moderate Hutus in Rwanda. During a period of less than 100 days, 800,000 people were killed with machetes, guns, clubs, and pure brute force.

After the genocide, Rwanda had among the highest proportions of child-headed families in the world - some 42,000 households struggling to raise an estimated 101,000 children. In Rwanda, an estimated 100,000 to 250,000 women were raped during the three months of genocide, and many were infected with HIV/AIDS.

### **Rwanda: The United Nations Should Walk the Talk**

In his message, on the occasion, the UN Secretary General reiterated the need to dispense justice, mainly in the interest of the survivors. This is a welcome gesture from the global top diplomat, given the fact that, the institution he heads failed the Rwandan people at their hour of need. The way UN walked out on Rwandans at the time they needed it most is well documented. What the survivors need today, as part of the healing process, is justice. It's true the United Nations instituted the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR), which has seen some of the key perpetrators of the Genocide tried and sentenced, most notably the notorious Theoneste Bagosora and the former Prime Minister Jean Kambanda. Needless to say, is the fact that 16 years down the road, they have failed to apprehend the most notorious genocidaire, Felicien Kabuga.

## **Details**

# 1. Politics

## Congo-Kinshasa: A Stalled Democratic Agenda

State building in the Democratic Republic of Congo is at risk of failing without a new impetus to support democratic consolidation in 2010.

Congo: A Stalled Democratic Agenda, the latest briefing from the International Crisis Group, examines the failure of the leaders elected in 2006 to radically change governance and to fulfill the democratic aspirations of their citizens. Nearly four years after Joseph Kabila won the presidency in elections hailed as a milestone in the peace process, power is being centralized at the presidential office, checks and balances barely exist, and civil liberties are regularly undermined, despite growing signs that the regime is unable to manage local conflicts. The Congo's partners must place democratization and institutional reform at the centre of their dialogue with Kabila's government.

“During the transition following the civil war, the former rivals formally agreed on a common vision for a democratic Congo that would bring lasting peace and development”, says Guillaume Lacaille, Crisis Group's Senior Analyst. “Under Kabila's watch, the purpose of this consensus is being forgotten. Unless the Congolese authorities put democracy on the agenda, they risk losing the gains already made toward long-term stability and wasting the international investment in the country's future”.

The democratic constitution adopted by referendum in 2005 called for fundamental institutional reforms, decentralization and the implementation of checks and balances. In 2006, the Congolese were finally able to choose their leaders through credible elections. Kabila won a five-year term by campaigning to rebuild the country and to further democratization, notably by implementing the constitution, respecting the rule of law and rapidly holding local elections. These promises have not been kept.

Instead the president's office has curtailed the powers of the government, parliament and the judiciary, taking advantage of the weakness of the opposition and the corruption prevailing among the elite. Preparations for local elections face major hurdles despite strong international support. The presidency has increased intimidation of dissenters, showing a clear authoritarian trend. Meanwhile, the international community has remained mostly silent.

Kabila is now contemplating amending the constitution. Invoking sovereignty, he has called for the UN Mission (MONUC) to withdraw by summer 2011 and has announced that the Congolese government will take charge of organizing the presidential elections scheduled for late 2011.

“Reversing current trends will require international donors to stop seeing state building as merely a technical process”, says Thierry Vircoulon, Crisis Group's Central Africa Project Director. “They must test Kabila's political will to follow up on his promises and link their development aid to real progress in democratic transformation”.

## **Rwanda: Country Refused to Be Written Off; UK Envoy**

The New Times

London — The Rwandan High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, Ernest Rwamucyo, has said that his country refused to be written off as a failed state after being devastated by the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi.

He was addressing a Genocide commemoration service at Southwark Cathedral in London on Wednesday April 7, at the start of commemoration events around the United Kingdom.

16 years after the most brutal and horrific Genocide in modern history, Rwamucyo said, there is total economic and social transformation underway in Rwanda, and the country symbolises the dawn of a bright future on the African continent.

The visibly saddened audience of over 500 people consisting of diplomats, members of UK's House of Lords and House of Commons, members of Rwandan Diaspora Community and friends of Rwanda, listened attentively as Rwanda's top diplomat in London painted a picture of a country that has defied all odds to emerge as a beacon of hope in an otherwise hopeless part of the world.

Rwamucyo gave the audience a graphic description of what happened to his country during 100 dark days 16 years ago; the indiscriminate killing of babies, the young, elderly and the weak; killed because they were born Tutsi - something they had no decision over at the time of their birth.

He added that the people and the government of Rwanda are determined to build a better society full of hope and opportunity for all. He said Rwanda is now an active member of both regional and international communities, following admission into the East African Community and the Commonwealth.

The High Commissioner condemned the international community "including the most powerful countries on the face of the earth" for abandoning Rwandans at their greatest hour of need, and saluted the men and women of Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) who single-handedly brought the killings to an end and established order in the country".

He called upon all nations to arrest and try

Genocide perpetrators who are still freely roaming the world, especially in Europe and North America, or send them to Rwanda for trial. Rwamucyo used the opportunity to commend the government of the United Kingdom for amending the Coroner's and Justice Act which came into effect on April 6 and has retrospective effect, allowing for the trial of Genocide fugitives in the UK, if they are not extradited to Rwanda. The commemoration service was conducted by The Very Reverend Colin Slee, Dean of

Southwark Cathedral, assisted by The Reverend Malachie Munyaneza and Bishop Jonathan Ruhumuriza.

In his sermon, Slee congratulated Rwanda on its admission to the Commonwealth late last year, revealing that a Genocide monument is to be erected at Southwark Square, to remember the victims and to 'cement the relationship between this church and Rwandan people'.

The service was also addressed by renowned Rwanda Genocide researcher and author Linda Melvern, who narrated how on the 7th of April 1994, the elite para-commando unit of the former Rwandan army was assigned certain areas in Kigali with orders to kill everyone who carried a Tutsi identity card.

She described the "total destruction of humans and infrastructure" throughout the country, giving numbers and locations of where Tutsi victims were killed.

After the commemoration service, the UK Rwanda Genocide Memorial Project was launched by its Chairperson the Rt. Hon. Baroness Linda Chalker of Wallasey and Reverend Colin Slee.

The project has among its patrons, Baroness Chalker, Archbishop Desmond Tutu President Paul Kagame, Dr Chai Patel of Bright Future Trust, Mmasekgoa Masire-Mwamba, Deputy Secretary General of the Commonwealth and many other prominent personalities.

The Genocide Commemoration events continue around the UK with services planned in Birmingham, Newcastle, Reading and Manchester.

## **São Tomé gets ferry link with Cape Verde**

Afrol news

Cape Verdean and São Toméan businessmen inking ferry agreement, with PMs Standing in the background.

A high speed ferry between São Tomé and Cape Verde is planned for operations already in June this year, according to an announcement by the Cape Verdean government.

The plans were revealed during the three-day visit of Cape Verdean Prime Minister José Maria Neves to São Tomé and Príncipe today. PM Neves headed a larger delegation of Cape Verdean ministers and businessmen to the fellow Portuguese speaking archipelago, agreeing to "assume a strategic partnership with São Tomé."

The ferry plans were agreed by Cape Verdean entrepreneur Felisberto Furtado and São Toméan businessman Aurélio Martins in the presence of the prime ministers of the two countries. The two businessmen signed a memorandum of understanding to jointly establish the ferry company Expresso LDA, which is to operate the new maritime link.

The vessel that is to ensure the ferry link is already on the Cape Verdean Island São Vicente. According to Mr Furtado, the vessel is "a fast boat, capable of making the trip in five days, while a normal vessel would use up to eight days."

Mr Furtado further explained that the ferry has a capacity of 800 passengers and about 400 beds, with cinema and garden and a playground for children. The vessel would focus on passenger traffic between the two popular holiday resort archipelagos.

According to the memorandum signed in the presence of the prime ministers of Cape Verde and São Tomé and Príncipe, the ship's inauguration trip on this route will start as early as June this year, "opening up great possibilities for relations and trade between the two countries."

While passenger freight is the main scope of the project, the speed boat also was to transport goods between the two island nations. Especially the government of São Tomé sees the new maritime connection as a great opportunity of increasing its tropical agricultural exports to Cape Verde and beyond.

The three-day visit of Prime Minister Neves also resulted in the signing of an agreement of a strategic partnership between the two nations, with a special aim of assisting São Tomé and Príncipe in its economic development.

Cape Verde, which is already a mid-income nation, is to assist the impoverished "brother country" São Tomé to develop several economic sectors, with a first main focus on the fisheries and agriculture. Also, the two countries would open full-fledged embassies in each other's capitals, PM Neves and his São Toméan counterpart Rafael Branco announced

## **Rwanda: Ingabire Ousted in Palace Coup**

The New Times

Kigali — Victoire Ingabire, the controversial leader of FDU-Inkingi, an exiled group trying to register as a political party, has been deposed in a well-orchestrated move by her European-based colleagues.

A statement published on their website yesterday announced the formation of Comité de Soutien aux FDU-INKINGI (FDU-Inkingi Support Committee) made up of the original FDU Executive Committee).

They appointed a coordination committee with Eugene Ndahayo as President. Ndahayo was vice president in Ingabire's former committee. Others named are; Dr. Nkiko Nsengimana (1st vice president), Dr. Jean Baptiste Mberabahizi (2nd vice president, and Benoit Ndagijimana as the new secretary general. Reliable sources say that cracks began to appear in the shaky alliance after Ingabire's Assistant, Joseph Ntawangundi, with whom she arrived in the country, was exposed as a Genocide fugitive. Ingabire and her organisation organised a spirited defence claiming that Ntawangundi was being framed. But when the fugitive confessed and sought forgiveness, the embarrassment was too much to bear.

Insiders allege that this latest move has been in the pipeline for the last two months. Europe-based FDU members wanted to ditch Ingabire because she was a political liability and her frequent controversies were tainting their image, especially in the eyes of their western backers.

## **2. Peace keeping/ Conflict Resolution and Security matters**

### **Congo-Kinshasa: Experts Present Suggestions to Move Country from International Conflict to Stability**

MediaGlobal (New York)

Democratic Republic of Congo has a long history of exploitation and conflict. To move past turmoil to a functioning state, it must promote government capacity and institution building, according to Eric Kashambuzi. Kashambuzi was a member of an African Union (AU) team sent to DRC in January and February to study the issues hindering post-conflict reconstruction and make recommendations for the AU's Peace and Security Council. The full report will be released in the next month.

Kashambuzi emphasized the historical context of DRC's conflicts. Since being taken over by King Leopold II of Belgium in 1885 the Congolese people have been trampled upon and forced to labor for external actors keen to access the country's vast natural resources. When the colony was transferred from Leopold's personal possession to a Belgian state colony, the regions were divided to facilitate easier governmental control. Congolese were also kept out of educational and state institutions, so when they gained independence in 1960 there was little capacity for Congolese to effectively run their country. Mobutu Sese Seko took power in 1965 and with the support of western governments, including the United States, maintained dictatorial control until 1997.

In 1997 Laurent Desire Kabila overthrew Mobutu's government with the support of Rwandan and Ugandan Tutsis. Numerous rebel factions have since sprung up and DRC's neighbors have invaded parts of the country to exploit the plethora of natural resources including coltan (used in electronics), diamonds, gold, oil, and numerous minerals. In 2002 a peace deal was signed in Sun City South Africa, yet international groups continue to mine DRC's resources and militias continue to fight for control of various regions, particularly in the East and more recently in the Western region of Equateur. As reported

in MediaGlobal the conflicts have had a dramatic traumatizing impact on the local population. Millions have died and been displaced, and women have been subjected to sexual violence as a tool of war.

Despite the continuing conflicts, DRC is considered to be in the post-conflict phase due to the signing of the peace treaty, the beginning of programs to disarm and reintegrate rebel militants, the beginning of state rebuilding, and the slow process of economic recovery and social integration. In 2006, DRC held elections to implement a transitional government with President Joseph Kabila at its head and a power sharing deal with two opposition parties. It was also in 2006 that the government adopted a poverty reduction and growth strategy paper as guidelines for a medium term economic and social recovery program to be implemented between 2007 and 2011.

Despite the elections and the creation of a development model, the government lacks the resources and coordination to make concrete progress toward reconstruction. Kashambuzi's suggestions therefore center on building government capacity to deal with the numerous challenges the country faces including lack of infrastructure, impunity in the court system, unemployment, malnutrition, food insecurity, lack of education and other social services leading to diminished human capacity and productivity.

Kashambuzi told MediaGlobal "Frankly speaking there is no state government that one can talk of in terms of the modern sense. There is a government, right, there is a president, there is a cabinet, there is parliament. But because this is a coalition of warring factions that was put together for the sake of bringing about peace, these are different groups with different perspectives, they still have their own interests and as a result there is not much that has been done on the ground."

To build human capacity within the country, Kashambuzi recommended the state incorporate the skills of Congolese both in the country and in the diaspora. Currently DRC has a mandatory retirement age of 55. Kashambuzi suggested that those state workers who are productive and willing to stay on should be allowed to continue to participate and avail their skills and expertise to the recovery process. DRC also has a highly skilled diaspora, who Kashambuzi believes should be encouraged to return to support the capacity building, even as short-term consultants. Kashambuzi emphasized the need for Congolese experts to direct the recovery process, as they are more culturally sensitive and able to focus on the specific needs of the Congolese people.

The government of DRC will also be in a better position to create effective social programs if it completes a census. The most recent census took place in 1984 so there are no reliable statistics or numbers available, and reported numbers are based on projections. In his contribution to the AU report, Kashambuzi calls on the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) to support the Congolese government to do a census in 2011.

The provinces outside of the central cities such as Kinshasa, Bukavu, and Goma face a significant lack of development and infrastructure. There are only 600 kilometers of road

in the entire country, many prisons have no doors or windows so prisoners can escape with impunity, and only half of children attend school. Nonetheless, due to the history of regional distrust and splintering, Kashambuzi emphasized the need to first create a strong central government, then implement decentralization of government decision making and service provision across the country. Kashambuzi told MediaGlobal: "Decentralization, in my view, will have to wait until strong central government institutions have been put in place, until a state has been created, until the different parts have been integrated into the whole. Without that, I am of the strong view that implementing decentralization will be a misguided policy." He emphasized that in his opinion decentralization should be done "cautiously, gradually and incrementally."

Yet DRC alone cannot solve its array of issues. Kashambuzi underlined the continuing role of the international community in the conflicts and instability. He said that international powers can influence the regional actors to stay out of DRC, with sufficient political will. However, due to the large number of foreign actors--both regional and global--Kashambuzi called on the UN Security Council to implement binding resolutions for the disengagement of foreign actors in DRC. Because the Security Council has global reach, a Security Council resolution would be more effective than attempts to individually engage each of the external actors.

It is also essential that the international donors and humanitarian organizations present in DRC coordinate with the government. Kashambuzi said that neither the local nor national government bodies know how many international experts, consultants or NGOs are present in the country, or what resources they are investing. Many of these actors take a supply-based approach, meaning they come to DRC with the resources they have and find the community and location they wish to engage with. With proper coordination and harmonization between government ministries and international partners a much more effective model of development and reconstruction could be implemented where effective communication ensures no overlap or gap in services.

DRC faces enormous challenges, and has not known long-term equality or peace for well over a century. However, Kashambuzi insists that with political will and international commitments DRC can turn around and the Congolese people can finally benefit from their own resources and labor.

### **DR Congo: UN deplures resort to arms after deadly attack on provincial capital**

UN News Service

6 April 2010 – The top United Nations official in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has voiced deep concern at a deadly attack in a region cited by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon as showing the potential for local conflicts to rapidly escalate in the vast strife-torn country.

A UN peacekeeper and two contractors in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) died when insurgents on Sunday attacked Mbandaka, the capital of the north-western

province of Equateur, at the other end of the country from the continuing violence in the east. “We can only deplore the resort to arms as a means of expression or furthering claims,” Mr. Ban’s Special Representative Alan Doss said in a statement. “We urge everybody to use dialogue, exchanges and other peaceful means to have their voice heard.”

While hundreds and possibly thousands of people have been killed in recent years and more than a million others driven from their homes in the DRC’s eastern Kivu provinces, where a conflict between a collection of rebel forces and the Government has prompted charges of human rights abuses – including mass rape – by all parties, Equateur had been relatively stable until last October when fighting erupted over fishing and farming rights.

Enyele militiamen launched deadly assaults on ethnic Munzayas in the Dongo area, driving over 100,000 people from their homes, and tensions have since expanded to most parts of Equateur, with the DRC army launching an offensive against the militia.

In Sunday’s attack, a couple of dozen of insurgents arrived by boat, first striking at the governor’s mansion and national assembly before temporarily occupying the airport, from where they were dislodged in a joint operation by the army and peacekeepers from the UN mission in the DRC (MONUC).

The attackers withdrew to the surrounding jungle around the airport and operations are continuing to neutralize them, MONUC said. Joint UN and Congolese units are also patrolling the streets to reassure residents of the town. “MONUC will continue to support efforts to protect the population and restore [peace and security in the city,” the mission said in a statement.

In his latest report on the DRC to the Security Council, released yesterday, Mr. Ban cited last year’s clashes in Equateur as showing that local conflicts can rapidly escalate if they are not quickly and effectively defused by the authorities.

Beyond the continuing violence in the east MONUC has helped restore a measure of stability and democratic processes over the past decade to a country torn apart by years of civil war and revolts that resulted in the greatest human death toll since World War II – some 4 million people killed by the fighting and the attendant starvation and disease it produced.

In his report Mr. Ban said the country had made sufficient progress over much of its vast territory for the 20,000-strong UN peacekeeping force to withdraw up to 2,000 troops by the end of June.

### **Ban proposes drawdown of 2,000 UN peacekeepers from DR Congo by end of June**

UN news service

5 April 2010 – Despite continued violence and human rights abuses by both rebels and the army, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has made sufficient progress

over much of its vast territory for the 20,000-strong United Nations peacekeeping force to withdraw up to 2,000 troops by June.

But the UN says it disagrees with the Congolese Government's proposed date of August 2011 for the final withdrawal of the 11-year-old force (known by the French acronym MONUC), which has helped restore a measure of stability and democratic process to a country torn apart by years of civil war and revolts that resulted in the greatest death toll since World War II – some 4 million people killed by the fighting and the attendant starvation and disease it produced.

“The Democratic Republic of the Congo has made notable progress, considering the formidable challenges it has overcome during the past 15 years,” Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon says in his latest report to the Security Council on MONUC, recommending that the mission be extended for another year from its current expiry date of 31 May.

“The country has come a long way, emerging from what was widely described as ‘Africa’s First World War,’ which involved nine foreign armies and numerous domestic and foreign armed groups fighting on its soil, and ending the balkanization that threatened its very existence,” he adds, proposing that the Council immediately authorize a drawdown of 2,000 troops by 30 June from the more stable, mainly western and central provinces.

But he highlights the “significant challenges” still facing the national Government, including continued fighting with rebels in the Kivu provinces in the east, where human rights violations are rife, weak Government institutions, the urgent need for training and reform in the national army and police, and socio-economic hardship in urban areas, compounded by the global financial crisis, that remains a source of potential instability, including in Kinshasa, the capital.

“I fully respect the Government’s vision regarding the full exercise of its sovereignty and the need to empower national institutions and build their capacity to assume responsibility for the tasks that MONUC is currently performing,” Mr. Ban writes of the Government’s proposal for total withdrawal of the peacekeeping forces by 30 August 2011.

“In this regard, however, a responsible exit strategy for the military component of the Mission must be anchored on building sustainable capacities for the rule of law and security institutions of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in particular to consolidate the full exercise of the country’s sovereignty.”

Under Mr. Ban’s proposal the June drawdown would cover eight provinces, with the remaining troops concentrated in North Kivu, South Kivu and Orientale provinces. At the same time joint reviews would be held with the Government, beginning in early September, on the modalities and timelines for the successive drawdown phases, including “essential” joint agreement on specific benchmarks for measuring progress towards accomplishing agreed urgent tasks.

These tasks include successful completion of the ongoing military operations against rebel groups in the east, deployment of national army battalions adequately trained and equipped by bilateral partners to progressively take over MONUC's security role, and the establishment of State authority through the deployment of police, territorial administration, and rule of law institutions, in areas freed from armed groups.

At the Government's request MONUC would train and equip 20 national police battalions over three years, with the forming of three battalions in the first year. Mr. Ban also proposes that MONUC and the Ministry of Defence develop a package for training and equipping three military police battalions, an essential link in the military penal justice system.

"I am convinced that it should be possible to devise a MONUC strategy and conduct a drawdown process in a manner that both advances the realization of the aspirations and vision of the Government and avoids the risk of reversals that could trigger renewed instability," he writes.

In reconfiguring MONUC's mandate, he recommends that "the protection of civilians remain at the top of the mission's priorities."

Reviewing the past year, Mr. Ban notes that the Hutu-dominated militia known as the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR) continued to conduct reprisal attacks against civilians, while elements of the national security institutions continued to be responsible for serious human rights violations.

Following charges last year of human rights abuses, including rape, by national army elements, MONUC screened and cleared the commanders of 18 battalions to participate in joint operations against rebels in the so-called Kivus and receive logistical support including air transportation, fuel, medical evacuation, and food rations.

In Orientale province, attacks against civilians by the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), a Ugandan rebel group, continued and military operations targeting LRA in the DRC made little progress.

But Mr. Ban also cites positive development, including the rapprochement between the DRC and Rwanda, the end of another rebellion by the National Congress for the Defence of the People (CNDP), the launch of military operations against FDLR and LRA, and the increased rate of voluntary disarmament and demobilization by some FDLR elements which "opened unique possibilities to address the presence of armed groups in the eastern part of the country."

At the same time he notes the significant challenges relating to the continued presence of FDLR and LRA – "large-scale humanitarian needs; the persistence of serious human rights violations, including sexual and gender-based violence by FDLR, LRA, and

elements of the Congolese Army, including some who have been recently integrated; the illegal exploitation of natural resources; [and] inter-communal tensions.”

### **3. Military/ Rebels/ Terrorism/ War on Terror**

#### **DRC Rebel Groups to Form Coalition**

VOA

In the Democratic Republic of Congo, the leader of the Mai Mai Kifuafua rebels says a new rebel coalition comprising over 17 different armed groups will be unveiled in the eastern part of the country Friday.

Didier Bitaki said the various armed groups decided to join forces after President Joseph Kabila’s government failed to fully implement several peace accords.

“What the government did was only to facilitate the former armed groups to know each other. Unfortunately the government did not take advantage of that opportunity so that they will bring peace to our region. And we said we cannot allow that peace accord to fail while we are here, and that is why ...we want to create something that will bring peace and maybe change our government,” he said.

Bitaki said the group, to be known as the Alliance for Maintaining the Peace Agreement of Goma, will ensure President Kabila’s administration lives up to the promises made when it signed peace accords with the various armed groups.

He said the rebel coalition includes Mai Mai Kifuafua, National Congress for People’s Defense (CNDP), Pareko and Mai Mai Yakutumba, among other rebel groups.

Analysts say the rebels felt cheated following President Kabila’s latest cabinet reshuffle which did not include members of the various armed groups it signed agreements with. The rebel groups accused the government of failing to live up to the peace accords which called for leaders of the armed groups to be politically integrated into the government. They had previously demanded four ministerial positions before President Kabila’s recent cabinet reshuffle.

Congo’s media recently quoted the prime minister’s office as saying there were no cabinet posts for the former rebels whose units have been integrated into the national army.

Bitaki said the new rebel coalition will put pressure on the government to abide by the various agreements it signed with rebel groups.

“This Friday we already decided together to bring peace by putting our efforts together on one movement and push the government to respect the accord,” Bitaki said.

He further said the rebels decided to bury their differences after coming to the realization that President Kabila's government will continue to deceive them by refusing to abide by the peace accords.

DRC information minister Lambert Mende has often urged the rebels to focus on forming a legitimate political party to participate in elections just like all other political parties.

### **3. Human Rights/ Social Issues**

#### **Congo-Kinshasa: Half a Million Children at Risk of Malnutrition**

The New Times

Kinshasa — about 530,000 children younger than five and more than a million women need urgent nutritional support in the Democratic Republic of Congo, says the Ministry of Health. Officials are calling for more resources for prevention and treatment and for agricultural production to be improved.

"At least 700 children under-five die each day in the five provinces where only 20 percent of children have a varied diet," Victor Makwenge, the Minister of Health, said.

An estimated one million women aged 15-49 are malnourished in Equateur, Orientale, Occidental, Katanga and Maniema provinces, Makwenge added.

A 2009 study by the national nutrition programme in the provinces, which represent about half the national population, found global acute malnutrition rates above the 15 percent emergency threshold in children under five in some regions.

The rate was highest at 16 percent in Orientale and Occidental provinces, 15 in Equateur and 14 and 11 in Katanga and Maniema, respectively. The study was funded by the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Food Programme (WFP).

In the Popokabaka territory of Bandundu Province at least 1,310 malnourished children have been registered at CARITAS Germany feeding centres. Of these, 982 are still malnourished and 12 have died, according to CARITAS.

Malnutrition remains a serious threat to the survival and development of children and women in the DRC, noted UNICEF's representative in the country, Pierrette Vu Thi.

"Studies have shown that the risk of death is four times higher for moderately malnourished children... the risk is eight times higher for those with severe acute malnutrition than in healthy children," said Vu Thi.

Years of conflict and instability in the east and northeast, as well as a financial crisis affecting the mining sector in central and southeast DRC, had adversely affected an already precarious household nutrition situation.

Vu Thi noted that limited access to healthcare and potable water, poor hygiene and feeding habits and the lack of agricultural inputs as well as the practice of monoculture, were also to blame.

Early marriages and the low socio-economic status of women were contributory factors, she added.

According to recent assessments, WFP said, 75 percent of the country is food insecure. Only the Kivu provinces have lower levels of malnutrition due to a large aid agency presence.

"We need an integrated multi-sectoral response. We should increase the health budget and review our nutrition policy," said Makwenge.

The government and other nutrition stakeholders are set to establish nutritional surveillance and rapid alert systems in the next year. In the medium and long term, they envisage the allocation of adequate resources to various health sectors, agriculture, water and sanitation, family planning and the ranking of nutrition as a priority in the national budget.

Inadequate funding has remained a significant barrier. In 2010, at least US\$6 million was allocated to the health sector; \$49 million is required in the short term and \$127 million in the long term, according to the health ministry.

According to Vu Thi, UNICEF spends at least \$11 million annually in malnutrition prevention and treatment in the DRC. WFP is also providing nutritional support to at least one million vulnerable people, including 27,000 pregnant and nursing mothers, 400,000 school-children and more than 177,000 malnourished children.

At least 896,600 children could die if malnutrition is not eradicated by 2015, warned Makwenge.

## **Rwanda: People with Disabilities Left Out of Condom Campaign**

IRIN plus news

Kigali — Rwanda's recent national condom awareness campaign failed to include messages designed for people with disabilities, something experts say is a mistake, as they are often equally at risk of HIV as the rest of the population.

"The fact that the mass mobilization campaign on condom use did not focus on blind and deaf persons would not only jeopardize efforts to combat HIV/AIDS but behaviour change among the general public," Jacques Sindayigaya, coordinator of the HIV programme for the NGO, Handicap International. "Many disabled people are sexually active and this situation does not exclude them from having unprotected sex."

The three-month campaign, which mainly used radio and television spots as well as billboards and more than 200,000 posters to spread the word, ended in February, and according to government sources, was successful in raising awareness. However, Sindayigaya noted that as long as some sections of the population were left out of such campaigns, behaviour change would be limited.

Cyriaque Kanimba, a 28-year-old blind artisan based in the capital, Kigali, said he missed out on the messages.

"I've been living with my blindness since birth; I used to listen to the radio programmes, but I also need someone to describe what condoms look like, how to use them," he said.

With the National AIDS Control Council (CNLS) and Handicap International, Rwanda's Umbrella of Persons with Disabilities in the Fight against HIV/AIDS (UPHLS) has been able to initiate some HIV sensitization activities specifically designed for people with disabilities, including training peer educators who are able to communicate in sign language.

However, according to the UPHLS, many challenges remain in addressing HIV among Rwanda's disabled population, including high illiteracy, no harmonized sign language and little knowledge of Braille, fear of double stigma as a result of being both HIV-positive and disabled, health workers who are unable to communicate effectively with sight- or hearing-impaired patients and lack of national data on HIV/AIDS and disability.

## **6. US-Africa**

### **Rwanda: We Are Inspired By Citizens - Obama**

US President, Barack Obama, on Wednesday said that his country is committed to its partnership with Rwanda and will continue supporting the country to achieve its development ambitions.

In his message on the 16th Commemoration of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi, Obama said that the United States stands with the people of Rwanda during this painful time of commemorating the genocide.

"On the 16th commemoration of the 1994 Genocide in Rwanda, we devote our thoughts to those who were lost and those who survived," Obama said in a statement.

He further paid tribute to the victims and those who continue to live with the pain and trauma of their memories and loss.

"We must renew our commitment and redouble our efforts to prevent mass atrocities and Genocide. We are inspired by the Spirit of the Rwandan people to move forward and we stand with the people of Rwanda and the international community in commemorating the Genocide," he said.

"The United States is committed to its partnership with Rwanda and will continue to support efforts to promote sustainable development," Obama said.

On behalf of Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, Johnnie Carson, and the American people, Susan D. Page, Deputy Assistant Secretary for African Affairs also expressed "deepest sympathies to all Rwandans who lost loved ones, friends, neighbours, and colleagues in the Genocide,"

"Rwanda bears the grave burden of this tragedy, but the international community has not forgotten and we will never forget.

"We live with the knowledge that we could have done more than we did. But, like you, we know that we must apply lessons learned from the past while looking to the future," the American official said.

Page observed that Rwandans are a people of remarkable determination and fortitude as shown in the heroic work towards rebuilding their lives and country.

"Survivors have pushed on creating a new Rwanda, while living with mental and physical scars. Many refugees and former combatants have returned home and are living and working together throughout the country. Rwanda's economy is growing steadily, attracting new investment and tourism.

"And to strengthen regional peace and security, we note that the Government of Rwanda has taken steps to rebuild its relationships with the Democratic Republic of the Congo and other states of the Great Lakes region,"

The officials also commended Rwanda's contribution to the peacekeeping efforts in Darfur, noting that is a powerful testament of a commitment to ensure that others will not be left to experience the pain and devastation that wreaked havoc upon Rwanda's people 16 years ago.

### **Rwanda: Citizens in U.S. Hold 16th Commemoration**

The New Times

Kigali — Members of Diplomatic corps, officials from the US government and members of the civil society on Wednesday joined the Rwandan Community in Washington DC to commemorate the 16th anniversary of the 1994 genocide against Tutsi.

The event, that was organized by the Rwanda embassy and the Academy for Educational Development (AED) took place at Global Theatre (AED-building).

In his welcome remarks, AED's President and CEO, Stephen F. Moseley, commended the current leadership in Rwanda for restoring peace and stability and highlighted that the progress in the country is encouraging.

He reaffirmed AED's commitment to work with Rwandan government on different social and economic projects.

In his remarks, Ambassador James Kimonyo, noted that April 7 is a day of mourning and another painful reminder of the day their lives were turned upside down.

"It brings back horrific memories of a period in time that Rwanda was literally being torn apart as the international community stood by and watched,"

These acts were not only circumspectly planned but they were systematically executed with precision and timeliness," Kimonyo said.

"We must acknowledge for the terrible failure by the entire International Community, by all of us, the human kind, it should not have happened the way it did. There is no justification, no excuse, nothing,"

He said that nobody should be reminded about the NEVER AGAIN paradigm, because the world knows how other genocides occurred and for that matter how the Holocaust took place.

"We must accept the fact that we did not learn any lessons from the past, and may be we are still far from learning any lessons," Kimonyo challenged the group.

He noted that despite these formidable and enormous challenges, Rwandans under the leadership of President Paul Kagame, have brilliantly demonstrated to the world that with dedicated and visionary leadership, genocide can be stopped, reconciliation can take place even in the most intricate of situations and a foundation for sustainable development could be built.

Speaking to the participants, Ambassador Donald Yamamoto, the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary who represented the Department of State noted that on the day, names of the lives that were tragically ended should be read, if justice was to be done to them and to make their "aspirations and goals ours, we have to create an environment that provides opportunities so that every child can live their dreams".

The event was characterized by Never Again memorial songs and testimonies from survivors who included Valentine Iribagiza, who survived the massacres at the Church in Nyarubuye.

In her testimony, she revealed her nightmares and the role played by the then government leaders such as Sylvestre Gacumbitsi who incited the militias to kill Tutsi in Nyarubuye Church while commending the current government of Rwanda for caring for the survivors.

## **Genocide**

### **Rwanda: 'Never Again' - We Shall Not Be Silenced**

The New Times

Kigali — the world's attention is once again focused on Rwanda and the calamity she suffered 16 years ago, heads hang in shame, at the reminder of not having done enough to stop the massacre of innocent people - marked by ceremonial repetitions of the vow 'Never Again'. Statements and affirmations of the 'Never Again' vow reverberate throughout the world. Rwandans are reminded just for this part of the calendar that the world knows the injustice they suffered and perhaps - it cares.

However, it is simply disingenuous on the part of our world leaders, to continue vowing 'Never Again' without dealing with underlying challenges, which might keep that vow from being a lasting reality in the lives of Rwandans.

Recent weeks have seen Rwandans suffer unimaginable abuse by those who claim to be champions of their human rights, groups of individuals who have no shame, as attack after attack, descended into an all time moral low of just a matter of sour- grapes.

So desperate in the incessant attacks that many have known no peace, in both covert and overt operations, from malicious emails being circulated, to hurriedly set up blogs meant to achieve a set objective of undermining anyone who is suspected to be agreeing with Kigali.

The brutality of the war that was unleashed in cyberspace, waged by those who have failed on other platforms to push the revisionist/negationist agenda, claimed its victims in the traumatised Rwandans. Once again the world remains silent.

Sour grapes -- in relentless attack after attack on any hard won gains by the Rwandan leadership, from belittling the women's majority in parliament -so far the highest in the world - to attacks on the reality that Rwanda has emerged from a dark hole of despair, of ethnic hatred and poverty to being a leading country, a beacon of hope in the East African community and indeed the African continent if not the whole world.

That is why, as part of the 16th Commemoration of the Genocide against the Tutsi, as we reflect on the trauma suffered by Genocide survivors on a daily basis, we should seek accountability from irresponsible individuals and international organisations, who with impunity continue to violate the very values they claim to be championing.

However, the desperation in seeking to silence us speaks volumes about this moribund group of people and their pointless agenda, for indeed we shall not be silenced, neither will we be cowed by people who have decided in the most highly suspect fashion to personalise politics in Rwanda.

For it is written: "Judge not, that ye be not judged. For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged."

As President Paul Kagame, reminded us while paying respect to Genocide victims at the Kigali Genocide Memorial centre: "As we pray and as we express our sorrow and sadness, we also have to come out with our heads high and raised, and with absolute commitment that we can shape our future - a better future that our people deserve and it is within us to achieve."

The President further asserted: "We have no power to change bad international politics, but, we as Rwandans have the power to change bad politics of our country and that is where we should concentrate."

However, taking a cue from the President's message, indeed, the future of Rwandans and our future collectively as Africans lies in our hands, but more often than not those who contribute to messing us up never shoulder the blame, neither do they ever experience the pain or trauma associated with their words or political irresponsibility.

We know the complicity of many international players in the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi and other conflicts on the continent; but we also live with the pain of never seeing them brought to book.

These cyber activists' favourite pastime is to fan the flames of ethnic hatred, the consequences or harsh reality of which they and their children never live to experience, but only watch from the comfort of their homes.

It is us who have to pick up the pieces and move on, be it in building shattered nations again, or simply burying the hatchet and forgiving as part of our healing process.

In a self fulfilling prophesy whatever conflict that may arise from their irresponsible behavior becomes an 'African' phenomenon, one from which the 'primitive' Africans need to be rescued, more blogs and organisations are set up and the cycle repeats itself.

In the most vile fashion, Rwanda is fertile ground for fly-by-night activists, whose call to fame are heroic acts of having rescued Africans from themselves, in this case the tired colonial stereotype of 'hutus' and 'tutsis' brandishing machetes against each other.

Ethnic differentiations that were abused by previous colonial regimes led to the massacres we remember today.

It is these very differentiations that have provided a fresh impetus for those who fail to deal with the reality in Rwanda, as they launch a fresh onslaught meant to achieve precisely what the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi achieved.

The reality being that while today, they cannot arm groups of militias, they have resorted to words in achieving the very same purpose.

### **Rwanda: ICTR Blames Country for Harboring Key Genocide Suspect**

The Citizen (Dar es Salaam)

Arusha — The International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) has once again pointed fingers at Kenya for harboring key suspects of the 1994 mass slaughter in Rwanda.

Hassan Bubacar Jallow, the Prosecutor of the Arusha-based United Nations Tribunal said Kenya must arrest and hand over the fugitives for prosecution for their role in the genocide.

The most sought after fugitive among eleven remaining key suspects is Felicien Kabuga, the businessman who owned a radio station which is claimed to have fuelled the massacre of over 800,000.

"Kenya must arrest and transfer Felicien Kabuga and other ten fugitives to the ICTR for trial," he said during the 16th commemoration of the genocide in Arusha, the headquarters of the Tribunal which started trials of the key suspects of the horrific massacre in 1996.

He said 92 suspects who played a leading role in the genocide have since then been indicted by the court, except eleven including Kabuga have not been arrested and brought to the Tribunal.

According to him, trials of 50 accused have been concluded, with 42 convictions and eight acquittals while cases of 19 others remain pending for judgement. Trials of two remaining detainees will commence later this year.

But Mr Jallow stressed that tracking and arrest of the remaining eleven fugitives was the top priority for the Tribunal which is expected to wind up anytime from next year.

Addressing a congregation held in Arusha to mark the day the genocide started in April 1994 following the killing of the former Rwandan president Juvenal Habyarimana, Mr Jallow said the fugitives would be pursued "more vigorously."

"Whenever they are arrested they will be prosecuted; either at the ICTR or at any residual mechanism following the closure of the Tribunal or in a competent national jurisdiction to which the case will be referred," he pointed out.

He specifically expressed concern over the failure by some countries in the region to cooperate in arresting the most wanted fugitives, including Kabuga whom the ICTR has consistently claimed was hiding in Kenya.

The Prosecutor, who has been to Kenya several times to plead with the authorities to arrest the Rwandese businessman who sought refuge there in the late 1990s, reiterated his call to the Kenyan government to cooperate on the matter.

He said East African states, just like other countries in the world, have the obligation to assist the UN in arresting the perpetrators of the Rwanda genocide which he described as one of the most misfortune incident in the modern times.

Claims that Kenya was hiding Mr Kabuga, who has a \$ 5 million bounty on his head, had been made many times by the UN and the Rwandan government but Nairobi has consistently refuted the reports.

The latest salvo was thrown to Kenya only two weeks ago but the country's Foreign Minister Moses Wetangula denied the presence of the Rwanda's fugitive and promised to cooperate with anybody who would show them where in Kenya the fugitive was holed up.

Speaking at the same event, a senior Rwandese official Alloys Mutabingwa said it was unfortunate that 16 years after the massacre Mr Kabuga and other key suspects were still on the run.

He noted that some of the alleged perpetrators of the genocide, targeting mainly the Tutsis, were supported by some greedy and mediocre politicians in the countries they are hiding.

"They are busy tormenting genocide victims by their contemptuous speeches, possibly they want to see Rwanda going back to the genocide," said Mr Mutabingwa the deputy secretary general (Infrastructure and Planning) of the East African Community.

His remarks were echoed by Ms Geraldine Umugwaneza, the chairperson of the Rwandese-in-Diaspora, Arusha Chapter, who said the misguided individuals and groups spend millions of money abroad on public relations campaigns and lobbying that there was no genocide against the Tutsi.

## **Rwanda: UN Was A "Serious failure" In Country, Chief of UN Inquiry Says**

The New Times

Kigali — Former Prime Minister of Sweden and Chairperson of the UN mandated Inquiry into the organization's actions during the 1994 Genocide, Ingvar Carlsson, on Wednesday said that the UN betrayed Rwandans during some of the "worst brutality humanity has ever seen".

"The overriding failure in the response of the UN can be summarized as a lack of resources and a lack of will to take on the commitment which would have been necessary to prevent or stop the Genocide", Carlsson said.

He was speaking at the 16th commemoration of the Genocide against the Tutsi hosted at the Swedish Parliament in Stockholm.

"It is not possible to excuse the international community or UN", he said before a packed Parliament chamber constituting MPs, diplomats, civil society and the Rwandan community in Sweden.

Citing what he said was one of the most moving experiences he has ever had, Carlsson retold his encounter with Genocide survivors who felt the UN had abandoned them.

"They said it would have been better if UN had not been there at all. Now they had been given the impression that they were secure thanks to the blue helmets. But then they had seen the UN soldiers leave and allow the murderers to start the slaughter. These facts cannot be changed by other events where UN soldiers played a role and saved lives.

"Members of the Security Council have a particular responsibility, morally if not explicitly under the convention, to react against Genocide. That is why key states avoided to use the term 'Genocide'. It is my opinion that this was a serious failure by the Security Council. It should have acted earlier and with stronger responsibility", he said.

Alluding to cynicism in the international community, Carlsson pointed out that he was certain that the world would have been "more active if Rwanda had been an oil-producing country".

Carlsson also said that the shooting of President Juvenal Habyarimana's plane-while not the cause of the Genocide-had been carried out by Hutu extremists opposed to the peace talks.

The Ambassador of Rwanda to the Nordic Countries, Jacqueline Mukangira, said that while most of the world had understandably written off Rwanda in the immediate aftermath of the genocide, Rwandans had a resolve to turn around the fortunes of the country.

Pointing at surveys ranking Rwanda among the fastest growing economies in Africa; one of the least corrupt countries on the continent; sharp increases in life expectancy; literacy rates and one of the most investor-friendly environments in Africa; Mukangira said that Rwandans had chosen to "honor the legacy of our beloved ones by ensuring that future generations will live in a safe, stable and prosperous nation".

Rwandans, she said, had "demonstrated that catastrophic tragedy is not a guarantee for perpetual human failure".

The Secretary General of Radiohjalpen, a Swedish public fundraising organization, Finn Norgren spoke about Rwanda today. Norgren, who has worked in Rwanda in various capacities since the genocide, highlighted the achievements and remaining challenges.

Lizbeth Palm, the widow of assassinated Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palm also attended the commemoration. Mrs Palm was a member of the AU's inquiry into the 1994 genocide.

The genocide commemoration at the Swedish Parliament marks the highest level of hosting for the event in a Nordic country.

The Rwandan community in Norway and Denmark will hold their commemorations on April 10th and 11th respectively.

### **Rwanda: International Community Urged to Establish Laws to Combat Genocide Ideology**

The New Times

The Rwandan Diaspora in the Netherlands, yesterday during a ceremony to commemorate the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi, urged the International community to enact laws that prevent and combat genocide ideology that is manifested through denial and negation.

Speaking at the event that took place at the International Institute of Social Studies (ISS) in The Hague, Parfait Gahamanyi, the Charge d'Affaires a.i at The Rwandan Embassy in The Hague, urged the community to differentiate between those who participate and perpetuate Genocide or violence.

"The international community is urged to put in place in all states, an adequate legal framework for preventing and combating genocide ideology that manifests itself through the denial and negation. In order for us to eradicate the culture of impunity, to reduce causes of trauma and bring about true reconciliation, the perpetrators of genocide must be brought to justice," Gahamanyi is quoted in a statement.

"The best way to honour the victims of the Genocide against the Tutsi is to combine our efforts to banish forever the ideology of genocide wherever it may come from so that Never Again becomes a reality," he added.

The ceremony was attended by the Rector of the ISS University, Prof Louk de la Rive Box, Rwandan students at ISS, the Rwandan Diaspora and several other dignitaries, among them Government officials.

The participants were further encouraged to be at the forefront of spearheading the development efforts and management of trauma that emerged after the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi.

### **Rwanda: Gov't Unhappy With West's Failure to Arrest Genocide Suspects**

The New Times

Kigali — As the nation commemorates, for the 16th time, the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi, many western countries are still reluctant to pursue Genocide suspects living in their countries.

Augustin Nkusi, the Spokesperson of the National Public Prosecution Authority (NPPA), listed six known and already indicted suspects who still roam free in the USA.

"We issued seven indictments for people who committed crimes here and fled to America, but only one, François Nambajimana was arrested," said Nkusi.

According to Nkusi, the list that was forwarded to the US action includes Oswald Rukemuye, Benoit Kabayiza, Leopold Munyakazi, Vincent Nzigiyimfura, and Michael Twagirayesu, former president of the Presbyterian Church and vice-president of the world council of churches in Rwanda.

In its report; "Suspected War Criminals and Genocidaires in the UK: Proposal to strengthen our Laws", a UK-based campaign organization, Aegis Trust, last year estimated that over 200,000 suspected perpetrators of the 1994 Genocide were believed to be freely moving in several parts of the world.

Twagirayesu is alleged to have worked closely with killers in the Presbyterian stronghold of Kirinda, Kibuye, currently in the Western Province.

Oswald Rukemuye supervised interahamwe militia as they slaughtered people in Kigali, while Benoit Kabayiza, who, like many others, has obtained US citizenship, is charged with Genocide related charges.

Kabayiza's charge sheet includes having stabbed to death an eight-year old child, as well as raping and brutally murdering female students at the National University of Rwanda, but he has been referred to as a 'success story' especially as a family man who arrived the

US as a refugee a decade ago, not knowing a word of English, but later graduated from two colleges before becoming an accountant.

Last year, human rights watchdog, Africa Rights, noted in a report that Vincent Nzigiyimfura, a key architect in the massacres in Nyanza town, was freely operating a business in Malawi, under the name Vincent Nzigiyiye before he fled to the US.

## **Rwanda: Remembering the Unforgettable**

The New Times

United Nations — Sixteen years after the genocide in Rwanda, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon vowed that the international community would never again sit by while mass atrocities are committed against innocent civilians.

"Together, let us pledge our determination to prevent genocide as the best way to remember those who lost their lives so tragically in Rwanda," he said as the United Nation observed a global day of remembrance for the tragedy Tuesday.

On Apr. 6, 1994, the presidential guard, the army, police, and prominent businessmen started calling for the death of Tutsis and moderate Hutus in Rwanda. During a period of less than 100 days, 800,000 people were killed with machetes, guns, clubs, and pure brute force.

The resistance of numerous U.N. Security Council members hampered the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda from the outset and caused an international failure to save hundreds of thousands of lives.

"How different it would have been, had we, the international community, acted properly at the proper time," Ban said.

This year's commemoration, organised in cooperation with the Permanent Mission of Rwanda, featured a candle-lighting ceremony with music performed by young Rwandan and international musicians and a film screening of the documentary "As We Forgive".

Speaking at the ceremony, Permanent Representative of Rwanda to the U.N. Eugène-Richard Gasana stressed that even 16 years later, the effects are still felt by genocide survivors and Rwandans everywhere.

"The need still remains for expanding the capacity of existing mental health treatment programmes and investing in new programmes to outweigh the underlying trauma," he said. "We have undertaken the challenges of reconciling our people and rebuilding our economy and restoring our dignity and self-respect."

Edward Luck, Special Adviser on the Responsibility to Protect, underlined that the international community must learn from its failures in Cambodia, Srebrenica and Rwanda.

"We need to understand that the responsibility to protect is a continuing one, borne by governments, armed groups, international organisations, and individuals alike," he said. "It is still sobering to acknowledge that we are still struggling to find surer ways of preventing genocide and promoting the responsibility to protect."

In order to implement the Responsibility to protect (RtoP), Ban released a report that outlined the three pillars of RtoP in January 2009.

The pillars include the protection responsibilities of the state, international assistance and capacity-building, and timely and decisive response.

"Debates will continue on the three pillars of responsibility that I outlined in my report. But the international community stands firm and in solidarity against genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and ethnic cleansing," Ban said.

Mentioning those pillars, Gasana told IPS that before prevention, there is a need to establish monitoring systems and early warning mechanisms to intervene immediately.

"It's all a matter of leadership. We have to engage people since we are living in a global village. Just sit down and talk - as simple as it is - without prejudgments," he said.

The International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, Ban noted, delivered the first-ever verdicts in relation to genocide by an international court.

"These and similar actions from the halls of justice have sent a clear message to the genocidaires and would-be genocidaires. Simply put, their heinous crimes will not go unpunished," he said.

That gives hope to atrocity survivors like Jacqueline Murekatete, who lost her family in the Rwanda genocide at the age of nine.

At the commemoration, she shared her experiences as a Tutsi in a country that believed that her ethnicity was a crime deserving of death.

"Today I remember the unforgettable day when I learned that my own entire family had been taken from their homes and dragged to a nearby river, where they were butchered as if they were animals," she said.

"And today I recall the nights that I used to listen to the cries of infants whose arms and legs have been hacked off," she said.

As a result of the massacre, there are more than one million orphans in Rwanda.

After the genocide, Rwanda had among the highest proportions of child-headed families in the world - some 42,000 households struggling to raise an estimated 101,000 children.

In Rwanda, an estimated 100,000 to 250,000 women were raped during the three months of genocide, and many were infected with HIV/AIDS.

### **Rwanda: The United Nations Should Walk the Talk**

The New Times

Kigali — Rwandans and friends of Rwanda, on Wednesday met at various venues, both in the country and around the world to commemorate for the 16th time the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi.

In his message, on the occasion, the UN Secretary General reiterated the need to dispense justice, mainly in the interest of the survivors.

This is a welcome gesture from the global top diplomat, given the fact that, the institution he heads failed the Rwandan people at their hour of need.

The way UN walked out on Rwandans at the time they needed it most is well documented. What the survivors need today, as part of the healing process, is justice.

It's true the United Nations instituted the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR), which has seen some of the key perpetrators of the Genocide tried and sentenced, most notably the notorious Theoneste Bagosora and the former Prime Minister Jean Kambanda.

To Rwandans, however, the ICTR has not done enough, it has for example acquitted some of the people who, in broad day light, incited and supervised the killings. The list is too long.

Needless to say, is the fact that 16 years down the road, they have failed to apprehend the most notorious genocidaire, Felicien Kabuga.

As the tribunal winds up its activities, the UN should back Rwanda's proposal to have the residual cases transferred to Rwanda and also have the remaining few convicts sent to do their time in Rwanda.

The UN should also ensure that the archives that the tribunal has accumulated over this whole period are brought to Rwanda.

This is where it all started, therefore, it only makes sense that all the records and references should be kept at the crime scene - in 1994, the whole country became a crime scene.

This would make it much easier for future generations of scholars and researchers to conduct their studies in the subject of Genocide.