

Britain's Baroness Chalker defends massacres in Rwanda

by Linda de Hoyos

Alone among the world's governments, Britain has come out defending the murder of thousands of Hutu refugees at the Kibeho refugee camp on April 22, carried out by troops of the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF), now in power in Kigali. As reported by Reuters on April 25, Baroness Lynda Chalker, British minister of overseas development, "backed the Rwandan government policy of trying to clear the refugee camps. In remarks lending support to the government version of events [that only 300 people were killed], which U.N. officials say led to the deaths of up to 8,000 people, Chalker told BBC radio in an interview: "These camps are full of Hutu extremists with weaponry who were breaking out at night, terrorizing the villages where people have gone back and settled. It was in trying to empty these camps that some breakouts took place organized by Hutu extremists and that's what started the stampede. The government troops panicked, undoubtedly, over the weekend, which added to the deaths and injuries. . . . It must be for the government of Rwanda to restore order.' "

Chalker promised more bloodshed: "I'm afraid we have a long way to go and probably some more tragedies on the way, but we'll try and prevent them."

Chalker's defense of the RPF was applauded by the London *Times*, speaking for the British Foreign Office, which intoned on April 25: "Britain's reaction to the weekend massacre, unlike that of France and Belgium, has been a measured one. Baroness Chalker of Wallasey . . . was correct to emphasize the wider context of events."

Chalker's defense of the RPF constitutes Britain's admission of its own role in instigating the ongoing horrific bloodletting in East Africa, as *EIR* has documented. The RPF is but a section of the Ugandan Army, equipped, armed, and financed for its invasion of Rwanda by Ugandan President

Yoweri Museveni, the British warlord of the region and personally close to Chalker. Chalker's brazen defense of the RPF claim of only 300 killed—in contrast to statements from eyewitnesses—is also testimony to Britain's newfound confidence, after the March 29 conference at the Royal Institute of International Affairs on "Britain in the World," at which Chalker was present.

Apart from Chalker, the massacre in Kibeho earned universal condemnation, including from South African President Nelson Mandela, who called it "beyond genocide," and U.N. Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali who "condemned it energetically." However, it accurately signifies British policy for the region: the unleashing of multiple wars using Museveni, his Ugandan National Resistance Army (NRA), and the Tutsi-dominated militaries of Rwanda and Burundi to push for a "final solution" to what Baroness Chalker claims is "the population problem" in central Africa.

Uganda is also being built up as a base of operations against Sudan, and possibly Kenya and Zaire—two other targets of the Britain-Uganda combine. It is not clear to what extent British or other forces are slated to become directly involved in the military operations in the region. On May 3, Reuters reported that Assist U.K., a "Scottish-based transport and logistic agency," plans to establish a base in Kampala, Uganda, as "Africa's first professional quick-reaction base for aid missions." Such an operation can have an obvious dual use. *Africa Analysis* already has reported that there are American "military advisers" in Uganda, a report corroborated by Ugandans in the country.

Museveni is also getting a financial boost. In March, Uganda became the first country to win a two-thirds reduction in debt owed to the Western creditors, cutting the amount owed by Uganda to the Paris Club from \$235 million to \$100

million. Britain is further demanding that Uganda be given a "super-Esaf" facility, to aid in its large debt to multilateral institutions. The money saved will not go to the population, whose death rate continues to soar, even under Museveni's "peace," but more likely to financing military operations.

Targets: Sudan and Kenya

With this backing, Museveni severed relations with Sudan, Uganda's neighbor to the north, on April 23. Earlier in the month, Uganda and Sudan had attempted negotiations in Tripoli, Libya, but any progress made there has since been nullified. At issue is Uganda's backing—with financial and logistical encouragement from Britain, Sweden, the United States, and the United Nations Development Program—of the Sudan People's Liberation Army insurgency led by Museveni's close friend John Garang. According to both Ugandan and Sudanese forces, Garang's last holdout—the town of Nimrule, right on the Sudanese border with Uganda—is now being defended by Ugandan troops. Without direct Ugandan military intervention, well-informed sources observe, Garang's insurgency would be militarily finished.

In preparation for a buildup against Sudan, Museveni broke relations with Sudan, ordering his troops to seal off the home of the Sudanese military attaché in Kampala. Museveni charged that Sudan was behind a major attack on Ugandan forces by the Ugandan Lord's Resistance Army, which has been fighting Museveni in northern Uganda since 1986.

Uganda is also marauding Kenya. Kenya is one of the three African countries from which British investors are now retreating, reported the *Financial Times*, the other two being Nigeria and Zimbabwe. "We hope to sever relations with Kenya soon," the Ugandan representative to the May 3 conference of the National Endowment for Democracy in Washington told *EIR*.

In March, relations between the two countries—never excellent—reached a nadir, when the "February Eighteen Movement" [FEM]—an organization with the "leftist" tinge Museveni likes to wear—began raids into Kenya. Kenya immediately demanded that Museveni extradite FEM's head, John Odongo, a Kenyan refugee. According to Kenyan Home Affairs Minister Francis Lotodo, there are three FEM guerrilla bases now operating against Kenya from Uganda. Kenya has moved up its Armed Forces to the Ugandan border. The FEM, reported the *Kenyan Nation* on March 21, is mostly comprised of southern Sudanese in Uganda—the same base from which Idi Amin sprang to power in 1971.

Uganda is the thug for operations to fracture Kenya, steered by London. The human rights mafia has launched a systematic campaign against Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi, and now international donors are planning to meet in July "to discuss their mounting concerns about political and economic trends" in Kenya, Reuters reported on May 2.

While the world was being shocked by stories of starved refugees being gunned down by the RPF at Kibeho, the kill-

ing has proceeded more quietly in Burundi. In this country, the Ugandan-armed military, 99% of which is Tutsi, is seeking to overthrow the elected, primarily Hutu, government, under the protective coloration provided by the U.N.

'Final solution' to the Hutu problem

Since the afternoon of April 24, the Kamenge district of Bujumbura was sealed off by the military, with no one permitted to leave, while fighting was reportedly going on in the district during the day on April 25. The Tutsi military has carried out a systematic campaign to remove all Hutus from the capital city—thereby surrounding the Hutu civilian government—since February 1994. The first district to be forcibly "cleansed" was Nyakabiga, close to the university. Hutus were killed and their homes burned. In March 1994, the military began operations against Kamenge, but this proved to be resistant.

In January 1995, the military assaulted the Bwiza district, in massacres which were denounced by U.S. Ambassador Robert Krueger. At the end of March 1995, the Buyenzi district was "cleansed," and 50,000 Hutus fled to neighboring Zaire. Now, the military is finishing the job in Kamenge district. Between 150,000 and 200,000 Hutus have either fled Bujumbura or been killed.

Rwanda itself is being turned into a death camp. There are more than 60,000 people incarcerated in Rwanda today, according to former Rwandan Ambassador to Washington Alois Umivama, who have been charged with "genocide." None of these people has been brought to trial; none has been handed over to the U.N.-sponsored tribunal.

New York Times correspondent Donatella Lorch reported on April 14, with pictures to prove it, that prisoners are stacked so close together that they "cannot lie down or sit because there is no room. . . . There is no protection against the daily downpours, and many of the prisoners' bare feet are rotting from gangrene. Every day 5 to 10 die and many more are taken to a local hospital with pneumonia and dysentery. . . . An unchecked military carts 2,000 people to jail each week."

Meanwhile, the RPF on April 14 stopped all food convoys from crossing from Rwanda into Zaire, to feed the 1 million refugees from Rwanda there. Even so, the French press agency AFP reported April 16 that people are returning from the camps who had earlier gone back to Rwanda, out of fear of death at the hands of the RPF.

As for the charge that "Hutu extremists" are responsible for the massacre at Kibeho, as proclaimed by Lady Chalker, Ray Wilkinson, spokesman for the U.N. Commission on Refugees, told AFP that people first started running out of the RPF military cordon, where they had been for five days, on April 22, to get out of a torrential rain, and were greeted with mortar attacks by the RPF. Another member of the Unamir team told France Inter-Radio Network: "There are mountains of dead children there."