

Rwanda's Kagame Accused Of Causing 1994 Genocide

by Uwe Friesecke

Ten years ago this April, one of the worst human catastrophes of the 20th Century happened, the genocide in Rwanda. Between April and July of 1994, more than 800,000 people were killed in that East African country. Now, ten years later, a French investigation has brought new facts to the surface which could lead to a long overdue re-evaluation of those events. The report by leading French judge Jean Louis Bruguière, according to a review by the French daily *Le Monde*, concludes that the fateful shooting down of the plane carrying the Presidents of Rwanda and Burundi, Juvenal Habyarimana and Cyprien Ntaryamira, on the evening of April 6, 1994 as it approached the airport of Rwanda's capital, Kigali, was ordered by Paul Kagame. Kagame was then the leader of the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF); today, he is Rwanda's President. This report confirms what *EIR* concluded at the time, and a years-long campaign of the Schiller Institute focussed on: The 1994 genocide in Rwanda was the result of a murderous manipulation by outside actors.

Bruguière investigated for six years because the plane was piloted by a French crew, who died together with their African passengers. The judge heard many witnesses, among them some former high-level officers of the RPF, who pointed to Kagame himself and a group of officers who today are still serving in the Rwanda government. When the report is officially published in April, French authorities will have to decide whether to indict those Rwandans—except Paul Kagame, who, for the time being, enjoys presidential immunity. The report also harshly criticizes the United Nations for failure to investigate the shooting down of the plane.

Deliberate Triggering of Massacres

It will be important to see whether the report indicates what connections the RPF had at the time to military and security forces outside of Rwanda and Africa, because the deployment of surface-to-air missiles in Africa was hardly possible without the active support of Western intelligence services. The downing of the plane to assassinate the two Hutu Presidents of Rwanda and Burundi in 1994, functioned as if to throw a hand grenade into an ammunition depot, and ignited the high tension between the RPF and the government it had decapitated, causing the horrible carnage that became known as the Rwanda genocide. Whoever planned the assassination of the two Presidents—after a third Hutu President, Melchior Ndadaye of Burundi, was murdered by government

soldiers six months earlier, in October of 1993—precisely knew the consequences.

The French report rejects the thesis that discontented radical Hutu elements of Habyarimana's government shot down the plane. With that, it undermines the simplistic theory by which the RPF and their international lobby reduced the genocide to an ethnic conflict, in which "Hutu wanted to exterminate Tutsi" and therefore Hutu were the genocidalists and Tutsi the victims. Unquestionably, from April-July 1994 in Rwanda, Tutsi were systematically hunted down and assassinated. This is amply documented through shocking testimonies. But the numerous victims among the Hutu population are also documented.

Bruguière's report confirms the unscrupulous character of the RPF leadership. They wanted power in Kigali at any price, even the killing of many of their own people. They began a war against Rwanda's government in October 1990, which clearly was against international law. In their march towards Kigali between January 1991 and March 1994, the RPF forces also killed many civilians. The publication of the French report may now lead at least to the indictment of RPF members for their crimes. So far, under Rwandan and Anglo-American pressure, the United Nations Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda in Arusha, Tanzania, has not done so. Last year, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan dismissed Carla del Ponte as chief prosecutor for the tribunal, precisely because she intended to indict high-ranking RPF members, including those who serve today in the Rwandan government or military.

Such indictments are important to reappraise the truth of the Rwandan genocide. They could bring to the surface how the British, American, and Ugandan governments and intelligence services were involved in the war. Paul Kagame's usurpation of power in Kigali in July 1994 was only the first step in a far-reaching change of power in nations of Africa's Great Lakes region, in favor of Anglo-American raw material interests. The second step was the putsch in Zaire (Democratic Republic of the Congo), which again was organized by a rebel movement that in reality was steered by the governments of Rwanda and Uganda, and brought Laurent Kabila to power in Congo.

To this day, the dictators Kagame of Rwanda and Yoweri Museveni of Uganda are the most reliable puppets of Washington and London in the region. During the wars in Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, and Congo, more than 6 million people died during the last 15 years. And the end of the loss of human lives in this troubled region is not yet in sight. This is the uncomparable dimension of the genocide in Central/East Africa.

The French report may not only contribute to bring to justice the conflicts' perpetrators in Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda, and Congo, but also those in London, Washington, Brussels, and other Western powers who, out of their neo-colonialist desires, organized the geopolitical upheavals in Africa, knowing full well how high the price in human lives would be.