

British push Burundi to the brink; more genocide in Africa feared

by Linda de Hoyos

Burundi President Sylvestre Ntibantunganya warned on Jan. 30 that his country could soon become the next Rwanda. "Today Burundi is in danger; she is following the same path which led Rwanda to an unprecedented fratricidal war." Despite escalating violence since September 1994, the President has declined to compare Burundi to Rwanda until now.

The roots of this violence are the same as those that caused the horrific slaughter in Rwanda last year: a relentless drive by British intelligence, using the services of Ugandan President and warlord Yoweri Museveni to push the region into genocidal war. In Burundi, this operation is being protected by United Nations special representative Ahmedou Ould Abdallah.

EIR has documented that Museveni, with the full sponsorship of British intelligence represented on the scene by Overseas Development Minister Lady Lynda Chalker, financed the formation of the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF), headed by the top echelons of the Ugandan Army, to invade Rwanda in October 1990. With the murder of Rwandan President Juvenal Habyarimana on April 6, 1994, the RPF carried out a blitzkrieg invasion which resulted in their taking the Rwandan capital of Kigali by the end of July. In the path of the RPF invasion, hundreds of thousands of Rwandans—Hutu and Tutsi—were murdered, either by militias organized by the Habyarimana government or by the RPF itself. Today 2 million of Rwanda's population of 8 million are dispersed in refugee camps in Zaire, Burundi, and Tanzania; 1 million are dead, including 300,000 children, according to Unicef; and another 2 million are displaced within the country.

Burundi is now primed for the same annihilation.

The organized pretext for destruction is the power struggle in Burundi between the military, which is 99% composed of members of the Tutsi class; and the civilian government, which is based on the ruling party, the Frodebu, which is mainly composed of Hutus. In Rwanda, an uprising of the Hutus in 1959-61 had led to governments led by Hutu elected Presidents; in Burundi, the increasingly Tutsi-dominated military clung to power, although only 15% of the country is Tutsi. The Burundi military, in turn, has close ties to Museveni, himself a member of a Tutsi subgroup, the Hima. The

Burundi military receives Libyan arms through the offices of the Ugandan and Tanzanian military.

Procession into war

After a series of military dictatorships, the U. S. Project Democracy operation managed to force the Burundi military to agree to elections in June 1993. Predictably, the vote resulted in the election of a Hutu President, Melchior Ndadaye. In October 1993, an attempted military coup, believed to be orchestrated by outgoing President Pierre Buyoya, ended in the murder of President Ndadaye and another 100,000 Burundians. This convulsion, which was scarcely taken note of the western press at the time, was a major contributing factor to the subsequent violence in Rwanda. Although the coup did not totally succeed, the next President was accompanying Rwandan President Habyarimana when their plane was gunned down while entering Kigali airport last April.

The new President Sylvestre Ntigantunganya, whose wife was murdered by the military in October 1993, has been steadily losing power to the Tutsi military, through contrived negotiations. As he noted in an interview in the London *Guardian* on Nov. 3, 1994: "The past year, Burundi's different Presidents have had difficult problems, like death."

The first major concession was made with the Sept. 10, 1994 agreement. Although the ruling Frodebu party won the 1993 national elections with a wide majority, the government coalition, it was determined under the guns of the military, would be composed of 23 ministers and two secretaries of state—only 12 of whom would be from the ruling party. Eleven cabinet members would be from the opposition Uprona party, the Tutsi-dominated party of former President Buyoya. The negotiations, overseen by the U.N. representative Abdallah, among others, took place against the backdrop of the Rwandan mass slaughter and a rising tide of violence in Burundi and its capital, Bujumbura. The President denied that there had been a military attack on the presidential palace, but, according to Frodebu chairman Isidore Ndayirinde, speaking in Brussels, the military forced the signing of the agreement and forced the President to sign an order to disarm the people of Kamenge, a Bujumbura suburb where troops

had battled Hutu-majority residents.

Then, in December, the Uprona and the military demanded the ouster of the elected speaker of the assembly Jean Minani, charging that he had incited Hutus to violence during the upheavals of October 1993. "All I said," Minani told Burundi radio, "was that Hutus are united today and will not be killed one by one as they were in 1972 and 1965." On Dec. 28, President Ntibantunganya announced that Minani would be given another job, and stated that Burundi would not become another Rwanda.

This concession, too, was wrung from the President against a backdrop of escalating violence. On Dec. 18-20, 1994, troops and Tutsi youths organized into a militia called the *Sans Défaites* (Invincibles) slaughtered hundreds of Hutu residents and burned their homes in the Bujumbura districts of Bwiza and Musuga, in what the Belgian newspaper *De Standaard* reported on Dec. 22 as "systematic ethnic cleansing activities."

In addition, since September, five provincial governors have been murdered, and numbers of parliamentarians have been gunned down. The British press and Abdallah have targeted any attempt on the part of the Hutus to organize and arm themselves against Tutsi repression, and especially targeted former Interior Minister Leonard Nyangoma, who is believed to be in Paris.

The crisis that has now prompted the President to warn of a "new Rwanda" in Burundi opened on Jan. 29, when the two opposition parties, the Uprona and the Party for National Recovery, led by former military dictator Jean Baptiste Bagaza, held a rally in Bujumbura and demanded the overthrow of the Ntibantunganya government. The Tutsi parties claim Ntibantunganya is "commanding the Forces for the Defense of Democracy." This group apparently was organized by Frodebu members opposed to the concessions to the military.

On the same day, U.S. Ambassador to Burundi Robert Kruger reported that at least 67 people, believed to be Hutus, had been murdered in their homes in an area north of Bujumbura.

When Ntibantunganya called an emergency cabinet meeting on Jan. 30, two of Uprona ministers failed to show, and the President went through with his threat to remove them. Uprona Chairman Charles Mukasi declared that the firings were "null and void." Mukasi is demanding the resignation of Prime Minister Anatole Kanyenkiko, a Tutsi from his own party who had refused to back the campaign against Minani in December. On Feb. 1, government workers, many of them Tutsis, announced they were going on strike.

The Burundi coalition government, despite the blandishments of U.N. representative Abdallah, is now effectively destroyed, with both sides now preparing for civil war.

British marcher lords

Since summer 1994, the United Nations, the non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and the western press have

been fulminating non-stop against the Hutu militias of Rwanda, whom they charge with the murder of up to 1 million Rwandans. The U.N. has set up a prosecutors' office in Kigali to press charges against Hutus for "genocide," and has literally refused food and water to Hutu refugee camps in southwestern Rwanda, to force the Hutus to submit to rule by the Ugandan occupation under the cover of the Rwandan Patriotic Front.

The same outfits have been silent on Burundi, permitting the Tutsi military to carry out a campaign of terror against an elected government and its constituents. Behind the silence is the British policy, directed by Lady Lynda Chalker, to create a Tutsi-"Nilotic" warlord domination over the entire East African region and to slaughter its majority inhabitants. The history of independent Burundi shows why the Tutsis have been chosen for this task.

In Burundi, the stage for Tutsi-Hutu warfare was set by the 1961 assassination of Burundi Prince Louis Rwagasore, who had been designated as the head of state for post-independence Burundi. The royalty had tended to act, in Burundi, as the balancer of class interests. The assassination of Rwagasore removed that fulcrum of stability. In 1965, Hutus within the military attempted an unsuccessful coup, leading to widespread repression and the physical elimination of the first generation of Hutu leadership. Hutus were successively expunged from the military. The monarchy, officially abolished in 1966, was another victim of Burundi's law and order regime under military leader Michel Micombero.

In 1972, another Hutu uprising resulted in the 1972 massive repression against Hutus, in which hundreds of thousands were murdered. Most significant, from the standpoint of the British oligarchy, was the Tutsi campaign to liquidate any educated Hutus or potentially educated Hutus, in the same style as the genocidal Pol Pot of Cambodia.

According to Jeremy Greenland, a western observer, "The government radio broadcasts encouraged the population to 'hunt down the python in the grass,' an order which was interpreted by Tutsi in the interior as license to exterminate all educated Hutu, down to the level of secondary, and in some cases, even primary schoolchildren. Army units commandeered merchants' lorries and drove up to schools, removing whole batches of children at a time. Tutsi pupils prepared lists of their Hutu classmates to make identification by officials more straightforward."

U.S. deputy chief of mission in Burundi at the time, Michael Hoyt, reported: "In area after area, no educated male Hutu is believed to be alive. This is particularly true in the south where we have word from growing number of villages that no Hutu males remain at all."

The "second republic" regime of Jean Baptiste Bagaza (1976-87) nearly extirpated the Catholic Church from Burundi, because of the church's longstanding role in educating the population, including Hutus. All church schools and organizations were shut down, and churches were permitted to

open their doors only on Sunday, for several hours. When Bagaza was overthrown, he fled through Museveni's Uganda to Libya, where he lived in exile for six years. He is now back in Bujumbura, openly calling for the overthrow of the Ntibantunganya government.

Since 1972, Burundi has seen two orgies of massive bloodletting—in 1988 and in 1993. Now, today, Burundi stands on the verge of civil war, as the Tutsi military makes its move to take the place assured to it by British intelligence. As U.N. representative Abdallah told the British press: "It is better to have one army than no army or two armies. Because the army is the only guarantee for the Tutsis and ruled the country for so many years, we cannot ignore it. I have to be more practical."

From Burundi: U.N. is stoking the crisis

The following is an interview with a Burundi parliamentary source, conducted on Jan. 15 by EIR's Douglas DeGroot. The source wished to remain anonymous, given the recurrent assassinations of politicians by the Burundi military in the past six months.

EIR: What are the Tutsi military doing now in Burundi?

A: You know that the Burundi Army is composed essentially of Tutsis. This Army was always habituated to giving power, and taking it back, giving it to another team, taking it back again, giving it to another team. That's what this Army did on Oct. 21, 1993, when they killed [newly elected President Melchior Ndadaye, the first Hutu President of Burundi], and the others.

Even now today, the Army has distanced itself much further, by organizing other Tutsi militias to aid them in these foul deeds of extermination of the leaders of the parties which won the elections in the month of June 1993. So the Army continues to kill, continues to organize killers, continues to protect the killers, and up till now, refuses to turn in its members who participated in the putsch of October 1993. Therefore, the Army continues to sabotage, and destabilize those elected in June 1993. Those who were elected are destabilized, the elected deputies are killed. Two deputies were killed with President Ndadaye, the president of the National Assembly, and the vice president of the National Assembly. There were deputies who were assassinated recently, in the month of September; the homes of deputies are ransacked.

Someone they intended to assassinate, is in a Swiss hospital, attacked by the militias. Ten bullets. At the end of De-

ember, several Hutus were killed, is another example of the same thing. In December, they ransacked [the Bujumbura] suburb of Bwiza. They also attacked Mwenga in the interior.

You see, often the press covers the killings that happen in Bujumbura. But in the interior of the country, the Army kills every day, yes, every day. They have a plan to kill as many Hutus as possible, to weaken the resistance, to tell them to give up, you must give up the initiatives to have power one day, you must abandon your projects to liberate yourselves of the domination of the former ruling military.

EIR: Are they receiving the support of the new government in Rwanda now?

A: Certainly. Because we have had infiltrations which came from Rwanda. They have killed many Rwandan refugees in Burundi, in the North, and have killed also Hutus from Burundi. We learn also that the Ugandans are behind it.

EIR: What are the United Nations monitors doing now? Are they rendering any service?

A: I can affirm that one sees nothing significant in their actions. If they were doing something, they could have already mobilized to show the reality, and mobilize the international community, as they should do. Unfortunately, they are organized by a certain Ahmedou Ould Abdallah, a Mauritanian, who is the special representative of the secretary general of the U.N. It is he who organizes badly, orients badly, the monitors. He has been in Burundi since December 1993. He has just spent an entire year in the country, but he has never said, "I've seen the real problem." But he sees it. But he never wants to say it.

The Burundi government, since October 1993, has continuously asked that the international community send troops to protect the citizens. Abdallah has done everything to ensure that the Burundi Army doesn't have any difficulties posed to it by the arrival of foreign troops. In this difficulty, Abdallah tries to convince those elected in June 1993, to accept to work with the Burundi forces of order [the military], which have killed the institutions, and cannot protect the institutions, and cannot protect the citizens as a whole. In other words, they cannot protect the majority of the Burundi population, because in Burundi the Hutus are more than 85%. That is his mission. I cannot see why the U.N. maintains Abdallah in Bujumbura.

EIR: What non-governmental organizations [NGOs] are in Burundi, and what are they doing there?

A: Since the beginning of the crisis, the NGOs of an international character have aided in food and medicines. But, in point of fact, I don't see what they are defending in the country. But the Burundi NGOs are essentially constituted by the members of the military-civil class, which have run the country for a long time. These NGOs work, therefore, to maintain the Burundi people under domination.