

Campaign against Genocide War (May)

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Recap...

- RPA CMF in Kigali: Alpha, Bravo, 59th, 21st, 101st and 7th
- Frontlines: Kacyiru, running along RN3 past CND and east towards Remera
 - Mt Rebero & Nyanza Hill under RPA control
 - Gisozi partially under Bravo CMF
- Fierce battles in: Gikondo, Kicukiro, Kanombe & Mt Jali/Kigali
- RPA humanitarian operations:
 - Guerrilla tactics by squads or platoons to save people
- FAR rid itself of moderate Hutus



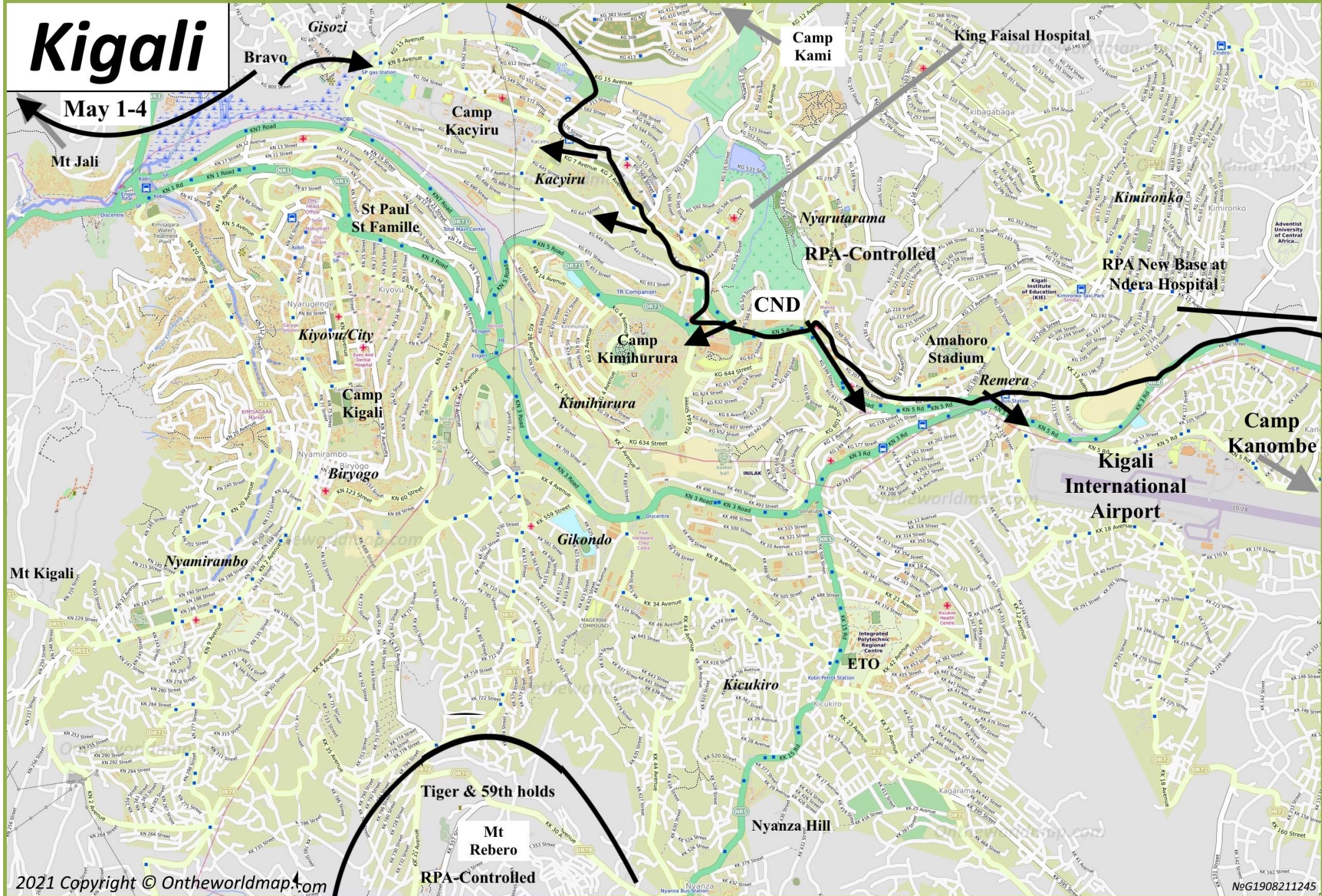
May 1-4:

- UNAMIR's base is still protected by an RPA platoon
- 1st: Small gains by capturing Egyptian embassy in Kacyiru
 - 100 wounded in shelling at St Famille
- RPA's 157th and 101st gains in east/south (Bugesera and Gato)
- 2nd-5th: FAR launching shells/mortars at RPA position (CND)
 - The warfare is similar to WW1 in terms of barely changing frontlines
 - Fighting increased in Kisimenti & airport
 - RTLM announces 'clean-up day'
- 7th CMF reached Kigali proper



Kigali

May 1-4



May 5-11:

- 7th: RPA had largely swept across the Nyabarongo River
 - 101st focus is rooting out *Interahamwe*
- Fighting and rescue operations in Gikondo, Kicukiro and Rwandex
- Pressure on Camp Kanombe
 - FAR brings heavy artillery from Gitarama
- Roughly a fourth of Kigali has been liberated
- Lt General Mubarakh:
 - “the *akazu* wanted their soldiers to focus more on killing Tutsis than the war effort. There was the belief that if enough Tutsis died, the RPA would give up.”
- 9th: RPA’s 59th and 21st CMF begin taking positions around Nyamirambo
 - UNAMIR loses Pte Mensah Baidoo of Ghana from a FAR shell
- 10th: New RPA operation in Remera
- 11th: Battles throughout the city and fighting in Bugesera (and north of Gitarama)
 - Some FAR commanders begin to desert after failures to stop the RPA’s 157th CMF from crossing the Akanyaru River
 - 21st CMF shelling of Nyamirambo and Bravo focusing on capturing western parts of Kigali



Kigali

May 5-11

7th Battalion Assists

59th & 21st Battalions begin taking positions around Nyamirambo 9 May

Tiger & 59th holds

Mt Rebero
RPA-Controlled

Bravo

Gisozi

Camp Kacyiru

Kacyiru

Camp Kami

King Faisal Hospital

Nyarutarama

RPA-Controlled

CND

Kimironko

RPA New Base at Ndera Hospital

St Paul
St Famille

Kiyovu City

Camp Kigali

Camp Kimihurura

Kimihurura

Amahoro Stadium

Remera

Camp Kanombe

Kigali International Airport

Biryogo

Gikondo

Mt Kigali

Nyamirambo

Kicukiro

Nyanza Hill

ETO



May 12-18:

- RPA's capture of Kabuga in eastern Kigali (a few km from Camp Kanombe)
 - Lt Colonel Tumwine receives orders from General Kagame to allow a humanitarian corridor for civilians to escape before the upcoming battle for Camp Kanombe.
- General Bagasora attempts to take Mt Rebero from RPA on 16th
- RPA cut most links between Kigali and Gitarama (Augustin Bizimungu is cut off from the genocide government which causes confusion)
- Fighting at Kimihurua Circle continues with greater intensity
- In France, Minister Marizamunda hears about the Genocide
- RPA's 101st and 157th CMF reaches outskirts of Gitarama
- 18th: New FAR recruits (10,000) come into Kigali but most are *Interahamwe*.
 - The recruits were relatively unsuccessful in displacing the RPA despite vicious battles across Kicukiro, Remera and eastern parts of Kigali



May 19-25:

- Kigali is nearly encircled and the battle for Camp Kanombe ramps up
- FAR begin using a 37 mm anti-aircraft guns for ground warfare
- 20th: RPA's 7th CMF, along with Bravo, capture Mt Jali
 - They effectively take control over the hill and the surrounding north-western neighbourhood
- Simba Company blocks southern roads from Kanombe to Kiyovu
 - Prevents FAR's resupply of Camp Kanombe
- Prunier (1997, 255) estimated around 60,000 bodies have been picked and buried of genocide victims in Kigali
- RPA attempt to take the southern Kigali hill of Mt Butamwa but are unable to with 59th CMF losing up to 50% of its troops
- Capture of Camp Kanombe on May 22/23rd
 - After the capture, Tiger Company (Under Andrew Kagame) travels to western part of the city near Mt Kigali
- 24th: While most of the frontlines remained the same, the attacks on Mt Rebero ceased but *Interahamwe* attacks against RPA increase
- 25th: Changes within the RPA's structure
 - Kayonga is transferred to Bravo CMF



Capture of Camp Kanombe

- Fighting for the area really began taking place on April 30th
 - Heavy fighting around the plane crash site
- 18th May: UNAMIR notices that fighting is intense in the Kanombe area
- Two Companies from the 3rd Battalion (Eagle and Tiger) and the 7th CMF (from the east) meet to take over the Busanza road.
 - Alpha and 21st CMF are also involved in taking Camp Kanombe and the airport
 - RPA's Andrew Kagame is ordered to take KN 3rd to Kanombe
 - 7th CMF was the lynchpin in dislodging the Para-Commandos
- May 21st: FAR attempts a counterattack to break the RPA's control in order to gain supplies, troops and move FAR family members.
 - The passageway remained open from before but only for civilians.
 - "This was done because it lessened the troops [suspecting *Interahamwe* or civilian clothed soldiers would flee as well] the RPA would have to fight later, the FAR left equipment behind, caused confusion and chaos that demoralised the enemy soldiers" –Lt Colonel Tumwine
 - UNAMIR establishes a temporary cease-fire for the evacuation of 156 injured persons from the military site (800 soldiers and thousands of civilians flee)
- May 23rd: Camp Kanombe is taken
 - FAR leave behind: 37MM anti-aircraft guns, Browning Machine Guns, 60MM mortars, small arms ammunition and vehicles



Camp Kanombe Capture Response:

- Officially, the military response was to FAR shelling of CND, Meridien Hotel, UN HQ and King Faisal Hospital. However, the RPA's capture of Camp Kanombe led to different expressions of anger.

- *Interahamwe:*

- 1.) Disorganisation in eastern Kigali with theft beyond what was before.
- 2.) Attacking Mille Collines and other parts of the City
- 3.) Kacyiru: More daring in attacking civilians

Important to note that much of the Interahamwe were called by the RTLM radio of the need to speed up the killings.

- FAR troop morale collapses:

- 1.) Booh-Booh writes of how UNAMIR saw the troop morale collapse after the fall of the military camp.
- 2.) FAR focus on consolidating their current holdings (specifically in the tactical important Camp Kimihurura) in other parts of the city but are moving civilians out.
- We see the difference between 'civilian' militias from the military establishment who within a few weeks would lose the defacto capital city of Gitarama.



May 26-31:

- 3rd Battalion is for the most part dissolved and brought into other CMFs.
 - Most were either taken by Alpha, Bravo or independent such as Andrew Kagame's company
- Securing of Gisozi and pockets of resistance at Mt Jali and battles in western Kacyiru
- Beginning to plan the rescue for St Paul & St Famille
- FAR's only operational response was shelling RPA locations at the CND, Meridien Hotel, KFH and Amahoro Stadium.
 - Vicious fighting at Kimihurura Circle continues
- Temporary cease-fire on 27th May for a prisoner exchange
 - Group of Neutral Military Observers (GOMN) join UNAMIR to talk to refugees at different sites (St Paul, St Famille, Mille Collines, etc) about where to be sent
 - 28th: Trucks of refugees from Hotel Des Mille Collines leave for RPA territory
- Lt General Muhire's 101st CMF sends three companies to seize the Mugina to cut the FAR supply lines from the south
- 30th: *Interahamwe* leaders visit Kiyovu to promote genocidal killings
- 31st: Alpha CMF gains territory in Kimihurura in its encirclement tactic
 - Capt Mbaye Diagne of Senegal dies by the Kigali Night Club on KN 7 RD



Kigali

May 26-31

Kigali-Gitarama Road
Controlled by RPA
30 May

Evacuation
Route from Hotel
Des Mille Colline
27 May

Alpha Battalion
Attacks

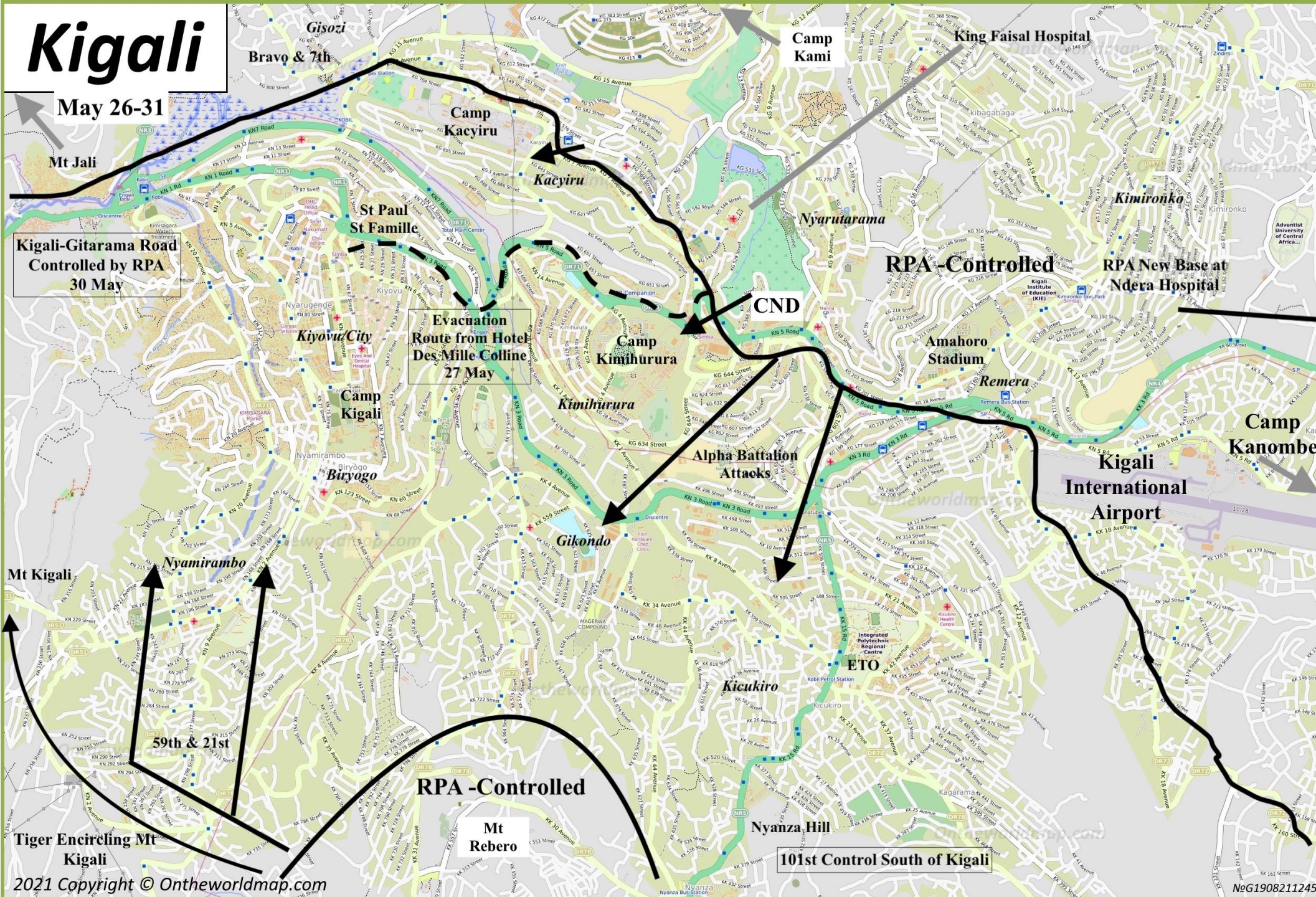
RPA -Controlled

RPA -Controlled

RPA New Base at
Ndera Hospital

101st Control South of Kigali

Tiger Encircling Mt
Kigali



Questions?



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