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# Rwandans Say the Victors Kill Many Who Go Back

Accounts Are Blow to Efforts to End the Crisis

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KADUHA, Rwanda, Aug. 4 — For weeks, tens of thousands of Hutu, forced from their homes by the war, have been struggling to survive here in one of the harshest regions of Rwanda, selling cattle and clothes to buy small amounts of food and receiving minimal aid from international relief organizations. Recently, hearing from the new Government in Kigali that it was safe to go home, some have tried.

And now they are coming back to the wretched refugee camps with reports that some Hutu returning to their villages are being killed by Tutsi villagers and soldiers of the Rwandan Patriotic Front, the Tutsi-dominated organization that is now the Government.

"I saw so many dead bodies," said Charles Murera, 43, who told how he had escaped from a mud-brick house where he and 19 other Hutu men were detained by soldiers from the Rwandan Patriotic Front.

Mr. Murera, who returned to Kaduha today, said that as he entered

his village of Gisare, in Ntongwe district, he had been seized by six Tutsi, who tied his arms behind his back and led him to a military base about half a mile away.

Mr. Murera rolled up the sleeves of his filthy, torn shirt to show festering scabs on the inside of both elbows. He said the wounds had been caused by the ropes.

In separate interviews, other Hutu men and women in this remote refugee camp in the hills of southwestern Rwanda, where the French have established a security zone, gave similar accounts of men being tied up and led away by Patriotic Front soldiers and of men, women and children being killed when they returned to their villages in southeastern Rwanda.

There have been persistent rumors of atrocities by the Patriotic Front but no confirmation until now. But two reporters who spent several hours today in separate interviews with refugees found their accounts credible.

It is impossible to know whether these are isolated incidents by some Patriotic Front units out of control or whether they reflect broader activities.

"I saw with my own eyes," said Louis Nywandi, 25. "I am not telling lies." He made a partial list of the women, children and men who he said were killed in his village at the end of July.

His father was among them. "I witnessed with my own eyes," he said. "They beat him on the head with a hoe."

Mr. Nywandi said the soldiers rounded up a large group of men. "They tied us with ropes, like this," he said, putting his arms behind his back. On the insides of both elbows were distinct marks that he said were rope burns.

He said the men were led to a military camp, where the soldiers began shooting the Hutu villagers. Mr. Nywandi said that in the confusion, he and 19 other men escaped, running with their arms tied behind their backs.

The accounts of Tutsi atrocities will deal a serious blow to efforts of the United Nations and international relief organizations to cope with the refugee crisis caused by the civil war, which ended with victory for the Patriotic Front in mid-July.

This is important because United Nations officials acknowledge that when the French troops pull out of the area — on Aug. 22 if their presence is not prolonged — there could be a huge new exodus by the 500,000 or so Rwandans, mostly Hutu, in the secu-

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# Rwandans Tell of Killings by Victors

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rity zone. The French are supposed to be replaced by a United Nations force drawn from African nations, but this force has yet to be assembled. If not persuaded to go back to their homes, the refugees could pour into Zaire, adding to the crisis there.

In the final days of the war more than a million refugees moved into the Goma area of Zaire, where thousands have died of cholera, dysentery and other diseases. As the relief organizations go about building what amount to rudimentary cities in the area, laying water pipes and trucking in hundreds of tons of food, they acknowledge that the only real solution is for the refugees to return home.

The office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has said that it is safe for the refugees to go home. But within the agency there has been a debate about how aggressive to be in encouraging a return. There have been fears of incidents like those the villagers here recounted today.

### Horror Stories Circulate

In the camps near Goma, northwest of Rwanda, there has been an organized campaign by partisans of the former Rwandan Government to persuade refugees not to go back home. Stories are circulated that returning Hutu have had their eyes gouged out and worse. There has been no confirmation of these accounts, nor any eyewitness reports of returning refugees in the north being killed.

French military officials and relief workers say they will not allow any propaganda efforts among the displaced in the security zone. They say that for the most part, the former Rwandan militia and Government soldiers have been chased out of the area by the French.

There are an estimated 500,000 displaced people in the security zone, but very little food aid has arrived. At the makeshift refugee village here, 40

## Now the reports are of Tutsi attacking Hutu.

percent of the children under 5 are malnourished.

"The situation is deteriorating fast," said Jack Soldate, director of operations in southwestern Rwanda for CARE, which was distributing food to refugees at Kaduha today.

Mr. Soldate said that about 10 days ago, it was thought that the displaced would begin trickling back to their villages, that they would then send back reports that all was well, and that greater numbers would then return home. But that has not happened, he said.

### Behind the Refugees' Fear

The villagers' accounts explain the refugees' fear.

Colette Mukandamutsa went back to her village, a two-day walk east of here, a week ago with her husband, two of their children, 12 and 9 years old, and a large group of others. Along the way they met Patriotic Front soldiers, who said it was safe.

But when they reached their village, in Ntongwe district, they found several bodies, Mrs. Mukandamutsa said. And three times at night during the week she remained, soldiers searched houses.

Mrs. Mukandamutsa, who sat on the grass near the hospital here today holding a black umbrella to shield her from the sun, said that she saw men taken away and that they did not come back.

One day a man came to her house and asked for her husband, she said. "Let us hide ourselves," her husband said, and that night they hid in a banana grove. About 9 P.M., a group of about 15 men came to the house; they had flashlights and a few had guns, she said. She said that her husband ran and that she had not seen him since.

### Four Men Don't Return

Another peasant farmer, 28-year-old Gakwandi — he was never baptized and so has no first name — is from a different village in Ntongwe district.

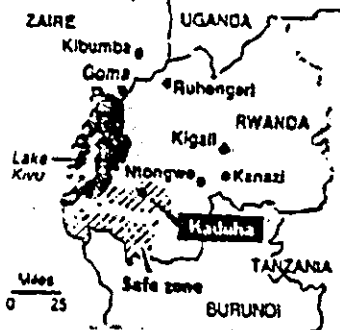
He went home last Friday and stayed only three days. "I wanted to see how the situation was," he said. He said he saw six men, one of whom was in a military uniform and carried a gun, seize four village men and take

them away. "They had their hands tied behind their backs," Mr. Gakwandi said. He said the men never returned.

Mr. Gakwandi said he also saw another man, named Nyandwa, taken from his home by several men, led to a bridge and killed with a hoe.

It was in another village, Gisari, that Mr. Murera, the man with the bad rope burns on both arms, was seized. "We left this camp for our village because the R.P.F. told us we could return home and regain our houses," Mr. Murera said. He lived in a mud house and cultivated two acres

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Rwandans at a camp in Kaduha describe reprisals against Hutu who tried to return home.

of land, with 660 coffee trees.

He said he had wanted to make sure it was safe before returning here to get his six children, 6 to 16 years old. He said he had not seen his wife since they first fled Gisari in May.

Mr. Murera arrived back in Gisari last Saturday, after walking for a day, with two of his brothers and another brother's wife. When they saw a group of Tutsi in the village, they grew frightened and ran.

"They were younger," Mr. Murera said, explaining why the others had escaped. "I could not run like them." He said that the men who seized him were all Tutsi and that they had no weapons. He said that he did not know any of the men, but that he knew the father of one of them. His name was Biraro, Mr. Murera said.

### Escape Is Described

He said his arms were tied behind his back and he was taken to a Patriotic Front military camp at Kanazi, where he was put in a mud-brick house with 10 other men.

Mr. Murera said the men untied each other, using their teeth. He said they then managed to make a small hole in a wall by removing a few bricks. Mr. Murera, a short, slight man, said it was only big enough for him and two other men to crawl through.

When he was running away, he saw other bodies. "I could not count them," he said. "I had lost my head."