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# HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH/AFRICA

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## REPRESENTATIVES OF RWANDA'S GENOCIDAL GOVERNMENT EXPECTED IN NEW YORK; MILITIA GROUPS ORDERED TO HALT THE SLAUGHTER DURING KIGALI VISIT BY UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

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Human Rights Watch/Africa has learned that the National Committee of the MRND Youth Wing (Interahamwe) has ordered militia groups to stop killing Tutsi and members of opposition political parties. In a communique broadcast May 9 over the national Radio Rwanda and the private Radio des Milles Collines, leaders of the Interahamwe said that ending the killings would be "their contribution to the new government," referring to the regime created by the Rwandan military forces in early April. The leaders also directed their members to assist in stopping killings by others, presumably the militia belonging to the allied Coalition pour la Defense de la Republique (CDR) party. On May 10 the number of civilians killed by the militia appeared to diminish somewhat.

The decision to halt the slaughter of Tutsi and political opponents was taken 48 hours before the anticipated arrival of Jose Ayala Lasso, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, in the national capital of Kigali. Mr. Ayala Lasso has undertaken a fact-finding investigation to Rwanda and Burundi as his first mission in the newly-created post devoted to protecting human rights.

The self-proclaimed government of Rwanda is apparently concerned about the impression that would be made upon Mr. Ayala Lasso and world public opinion if the widespread killings continued during his visit. The regime, which is seeking to win international acceptance, has sent abroad teams of representatives to make the rounds of European, African and North American capitals. Belgium has refused them visas, denying them access to the European Union, and the United States has withheld permission for them to visit Washington, D.C., although it cannot prohibit them from visiting the United Nations in New York.



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The Foreign Minister of the rump government, Jerome Bicanumpaka, is expected in New York on May 12. He may be accompanied by Jean Bosco Barayagwiza, leader of the CDR party whose militia is responsible for many of the killings. Bicanumpaka and Barayagwiza were received by a number of officials in Paris, including Bruno Delaye, chief advisor on African affairs for French President Francois Mitterand. Mitterand has been a long-time backer of the government of the late President Juvenal Habyarimana. Other representatives of the self-appointed government have been received in Egypt.

The privately-owned radio station, Radio des Milles Collines (RTL) has been used to incite Rwandans to kill Tutsi, members of the political opposition and human rights activists. On May 4, the United Nations peacekeeping force attempted to evacuate 62 of the several hundred civilians stranded in a Kigali hotel. Although in possession of a safe-conduct signed by the Commander-in-Chief of the Rwandan army that was supposed to protect it, the convoy was attacked by militia ordered into the streets by Radio des Milles Collines. Directed to prevent passage of the convoy, the militia wounded nine of the civilians and forced them to return to the hotel. The Rwandan government has reportedly sought to trade the civilians for Rwandan army officers captured by the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF).

At the time of a previous massacre of Tutsi in March 1992, the national Radio Rwanda also encouraged Hutu to attack Tutsi. The director of the radio at that time, Ferdinand Nahimana, who holds a doctorate in history from the University of Paris, resigned in the face of intense criticism of his role by local and international human rights groups. More recently, Nahimana has served as head of the Radio des Milles Collines.

The private station is owned and operated by intimates of former President Habyarimana. A major stockholder and Chairman of the board is Felicien Kabuga, an important businessman whose son is married to a daughter of Habyarimana. Among other stockholders are Alphonse Ntivamunda, a son-in-law of Habyarimana; Andre Ntarugira, Minister of Postal Services and Communication; Tarcisse Renzaho, prefect (governor) of the province of Kigali city; and Jean-Bosco Barayagwiza, the head of the CDR.

In a separate development, the Rwandan ambassador in Washington has sent Rwandans resident in the United States details on how to make contributions to the Rwandan armed forces, should they be so inclined. The account to which they are to send money is at the Riggs National Bank in Washington, D.C.

Human Rights Watch/Africa commends the U.S. and Belgium for their decisions to refuse visas to representatives of the self-proclaimed government, and deplores the decision of France and Egypt to grant hearings to representatives of a government engaged in genocide. Human Rights Watch/Africa urges the United States to take the lead in encouraging other nations to refuse diplomatic courtesies to those who try to justify the unjustifiable killings of some 200,000 unarmed civilians. They should refuse visas to these representatives and should also refuse to meet with them at the United

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Nations.

Human Rights Watch/Africa calls on President Clinton to encourage other heads of state to follow the example set by a White House press release April 22, drawing attention to the identities of those with the power to stop the killing, such as: Colonel Bagosora, the military officer in charge during the first days of the massacre; General Augustin Bizimungu, Commander in Chief of the Rwandan Armed Forces; and Captain Pascal Simbikangwa, who is reportedly directing the killing of the Tutsi by the militias.

Human Rights Watch/Africa calls on the international donor community, whose assistance is vital to the existence of any Rwandan government, to issue a clear, firm, public statement that no regime built upon the bodies of 200,000 civilians will ever receive international assistance, either through bilateral aid or through a multinational entity. The donors have taken joint action in the past, such as when they pressed successfully for the signing of the August peace accords ending the war between the Rwandan government and the RPF. They must once more act together, promptly and unequivocally, to halt the slaughter.

Human Rights Watch/Africa urges the United States to play a leading role in getting more U.N. troops sent to Rwanda to protect civilian lives and to assist in the distribution of humanitarian aid. Once the decision is made to send these soldiers, the U.S. must assist in transporting the troops and their needed materiel as quickly as possible to Rwanda.