

UNVEILED
by JOSEPH EARNESTNewscastMedia.com
An Investigative Docu-series

June 10, 2014

Newscast Media WASHINGTON—An interesting dynamic is happening in the Great Lakes region of Africa as tensions between the West and Rwanda continue to rise of what has been categorized by the United States as the "arrest and disappearance of dozens of Rwandan citizens in Rwanda " by President Paul Kagame's government.

The tone taken by the West including Great Britain and France, over Rwanda is now different, as one journalist Andre Vltchek seven months ago wrote: *"The situation in Kigali is very tense right now...The atmosphere is also very confusing... Security is beefed-up and it is clear that something may happen any moment. There are rumors that the West may let Kagame fall soon ..."* [he wrote on RT](#) and also [his personal blog](#).

The defeat of the M23 rebels was a very big game-changer, since all we've been hearing about is the Tutsi genocide, yet there is also the Bantu/Hutu genocide of an estimated five to eight million people that have been killed by the M23 Tutsis.

The BBC insists that [Rwanda is protecting M23 rebels in this report](#).

What triggered the recent fireworks was a letter written by the Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Edward Royce, to Secretary John Kerry on March 11, 2014.

In that letter, Chairman Royce said in part:

"...Paul Ruseabagina, the well-known Rwandan humanitarian and anti-genocide activist, has told me of attempts to intimidate and threaten him. Karegeya's murder and the numerous assassination attempts on Kayumba are just the most recent examples of the many Rwandan dissidents who have been killed, exiled, tortured, and unjustly imprisoned over the years.

"Rather than condemning targeted attacks against popular opposition figures, President Paul Kagame publicly celebrates them, many times falling just short of taking personal credit. Even while denying accusations of official involvement in the Karegeya assassination, President Kagame told the press, 'I actually wish Rwanda did it. I really wish it.' Consistently in public remarks, President Kagame indicates that there will be 'consequences' for those who question his authority.

During an official visit to Rwanda by Maina Kiai, a U.N. Special Rapporteur tasked with examining a country's freedom of peaceful assembly, found that 'peaceful public disagreement with the [Rwandan] government is equivalent to criminality.'

Last Wednesday on June 4, the State Department issued a statement condemning the conduct of the Rwandese government:

"...We are also concerned by credible reports that individual journalists were threatened, and that the Government of Rwanda ordered the suspension of a call-in radio program that provided citizens with a platform to discuss current events.

"...The United States calls upon the Government of Rwanda to account for individuals arrested over the past two months and currently in custody, and to respect the rights under Rwandan law and international human rights law of the individuals detained and arrested," the statement read.

Kagame himself perhaps realizes the winds are changing since the US is now demanding accountability, and has now implemented a "shoot on the spot" policy upon his adversaries.

"Those who talk about disappearances... we will continue to arrest more suspects and if possible shoot in broad daylight those who intend to destabilise our country" [he said, in response to the State Department's statement.](#)

However, should Kagame be forced to step aside, it is likely to cascade to other leaders in the region who have been implicated due to their connection to Kagame, or not being able to account for state funds—that is to say, corruption.

Below are the letters written to the U.S. State Department and the response issued on Wednesday June 4, 2014:

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March 11, 2014

The Honorable John F. Kerry
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am writing to express my deep concern over the numerous attempted attacks and killings of Rwandan dissidents living outside that country. Any functioning and responsible democracy allows the voices of opposition to be heard. Yet in Rwanda there is a systematic effort to silence - by any means necessary - the voices of those who question the regime in Kigali.

As you know, Patrick Karegeya, a prominent Rwandan opposition figure and former high ranking government official, was killed in South Africa earlier this year. Last week, armed gunmen attacked the home of another popular Rwandan opposition figure in South Africa, Faustin Kayumba Nyamwasa. This latest attack marks the third assassination attempt against Kayumba in recent years, and has led to the expulsion of Rwandan diplomats from South Africa. Paul Ruseabagina, the well-known Rwandan humanitarian and anti-genocide activist, has told me of attempts to intimidate and threaten him. Karegeya's murder and the numerous assassination attempts on Kayumba are just the most recent examples of the many Rwandan dissidents who have been killed, exiled, tortured, and unjustly imprisoned over the years.

Rather than condemning targeted attacks against popular opposition figures, President Paul Kagame publicly celebrates them, many times falling just short of taking personal credit. Even while denying accusations of official involvement in the Karegeya assassination, President Kagame told the press, "I actually wish Rwanda did it. I really wish it." Consistently in public remarks, President Kagame indicates that there will be "consequences" for those who question his authority. During an official visit to Rwanda by Maina Kiai, a U.N. Special Rapporteur tasked with examining a country's freedom of peaceful assembly, found that "peaceful public disagreement with the [Rwandan] government is equivalent to criminality."

The Honorable John F. Kerry
March 11, 2014
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I appreciate the State Department condemnation of President Kagame's remarks and expressions of concern about the "succession" of politically motivated murders of prominent Rwandan exiles. Yet, President Kagame's actions are louder than our words. Legitimate opposition figures rightly fear for their lives. Allowing President Kagame's violent rhetoric and the slaying of dissidents abroad to go unchecked will only embolden the regime. Toward that end, I encourage you to closely reevaluate U.S. engagements with Rwanda and take into account these troubling actions when considering future assistance.

While I am cognizant of the strategic role Rwanda's security forces play in peacekeeping missions throughout the continent, this should not blind us to the regime's attempts to violently close the political space for opposition voices. As we prepare to mark the twenty year anniversary of the genocide in Rwanda – which claimed the lives of over 800,000 people in just three months and sparked a regional conflict that has yet to be resolved – the friends of Rwanda must ensure that we do not, once again, miss the warning signs of political dysfunction and repression. I appreciate your attention to this matter and look forward to working with you to ensure that Rwandan dissidents can speak freely without fear for their lives.

Sincerely,



EDWARD R. ROYCE
Chairman

Below is the response from the State Department:



The screenshot shows the official website of the U.S. Department of State. The header features the department's seal and the text "U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE" and "DIPLOMACY IN ACTION". Navigation menus include "SECRETARY KERRY", "MEDIA CENTER", "BLOG", "TRAVEL", "CAREERS", "BUSINESS", "YOUTH & EDUCATION", and "MYSTATEDEPARTMENT". A secondary menu lists various policy areas like "ABOUT STATE", "POLICY ISSUES", "COUNTRIES & REGIONS", etc. The main content area displays a breadcrumb trail leading to a press statement titled "Ongoing Detentions and Arrests in Rwanda". The statement is dated June 4, 2014, and is attributed to Marie Harf, Deputy Department Spokesperson. The text of the statement expresses concern over the arrest and disappearance of Rwandan citizens and calls for respect for human rights and due process. A sidebar on the right offers social media links and a "Stay Connected with State.gov" section. The footer contains a comprehensive list of links for various services and information.

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Ongoing Detentions and Arrests in Rwanda

Press Statement
Marie Harf
Deputy Department Spokesperson, Office of the Spokesperson
Washington, DC
June 4, 2014

The United States is deeply concerned by the arrest and disappearance of dozens of Rwandan citizens in Rwanda over the past two months. Rwandan authorities held individuals incommunicado for periods up to two months before presenting them to a court of law. We are encouraged that Rwandan authorities have recently taken steps to bring a number of these individuals before a court. Nonetheless, the United States remains concerned that additional individuals may still be held incommunicado and without due process of law. We are also concerned by credible reports that individual journalists were threatened, and that the Government of Rwanda ordered the suspension of a call-in radio program that provided citizens with a platform to discuss current events.

The United States calls upon the Government of Rwanda to account for individuals arrested over the past two months and currently in custody, and to respect the rights under Rwandan law and international human rights law of the individuals detained and arrested. We also call upon Rwanda to fully respect freedom of expression, including for members of the press so that they can investigate, report, and facilitate discussion on issues of public concern.

The United States supports all lawful efforts to identify individuals who seek to use violence against the Rwandan people and government, but stresses that, in democratic societies, individuals may not be arbitrarily arrested or detained and are entitled to due process of law to certain minimum guarantees, including to challenge the legality of their detention before a court of law and to be informed of charges and examine witnesses against them.

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We will revisit the Rwanda situation, but first let us talk about how the West was able to pin Liberia's ex-president Charles Taylor on several charges including crimes against humanity.

In Taylor's case, he was arrested for embezzling \$1,000,000 of government funds. The theft happened in May 1983, which he sent to an American bank account, and among the charges he faced was "pillage" or "looting", and was found guilty, including ten other charges. Essentially, the embezzlement of

government funds was used as a pre-text to try him for all the crimes he and his regime has committed against humanity since 1989 when he started a guerilla war.

The West kept a tab on every crime he had committed against his fellow Africans, since the citizenry itself was also taking notes and forwarding them to the relevant officials who eventually prosecuted and found Taylor guilty in April 2012. The sixty-six year-old former president was sentenced to 50 years in a maximum security prison in Britain.

After almost 30 years of keeping tabs on him, the West finally pulled the rug from under his feet, and as it is with most African presidents, Taylor is going to die in exile a pauper, and will not be able to enjoy his loot. His son Emmanuel got 97 years of hard time, for his association with his father during his presidency.

When a person commits a crime or breaks the law with "orders from above", a legal doctrine called ***Respondeat Superior*** is often invoked, which means, "**let the master answer.**"

We currently see a somewhat similar situation with Kenya's Uhuru Kenyatta who is being charged by the ICC for offenses that were allegedly committed by his supporters but he is the one to answer the case. The ICC alleges that Mr. Kenyatta is criminally responsible as an indirect co-perpetrator pursuant to article 25(3)(a) of the **Rome Statute** for the **crimes against humanity** of:

- murder (article 7(l)(a));
- deportation or forcible transfer (article 7(l)(d));
- rape (article 7(l)(g));
- persecution (articles 7(l)(h)); and
- other inhumane acts (article 7(l)(k)). [Kenyatta's trial is scheduled for October 7, 2014 according to the ICC calendar.](#)

Whether or not he wins his case, a message is being sent to the Continent that there is hell to pay for behaving badly and abuse of power for those in office and aspiring to run for office.

It is self-evident as we've seen in Africa, that the longer a leader stays in power, the more he becomes a liability to himself, family and country because his rap sheet continues to grow as each day passes by. Even the crimes that he himself did not commit, but were committed under his leadership are eventually attributed to him as we saw with Laurent Gbagbo of Ivory Coast who was forcefully removed from office, Charles Taylor, whose rap sheet went back to 1983 as he led a rebel movement, even short-term leaders like Zambia's ex-president Rupiah Banda (no relation to Joyce) was [arrested for robbing his country while in office for three years, as announced by the BBC.](#)

We remember that Joyce Banda who finished a distant third in Malawi's election attempted to nullify the results by claiming her loss was due to election fraud or rigging. There is no doubt she got a very important phone call asking her to do herself a favor and step aside or she might face what Charles Taylor was subjected to.

Banda faced embarrassment in the "Cashgate scandal" of last year in which more than [\\$100 million of state funds were said to have been embezzled.](#)

Tanzania just happens to be one of those lucky and rare African countries where the leaders are willing to walk after they serve their two terms. President Jakaya Kikwete will be making his exit next year as Tanzania votes for another president.

Tanzania also hasn't rushed to fully embrace the East African Community, and appears to be exercising caution. Tanzania's minister for East African Affairs, Samuel Sitta and Zamaradi Kawawa, deputy director of Information Services rejected the single visa system and said a single visa system will compromise Tanzania's security because the country will be forced to surrender its control of who enters the country. The Tanzanians are well aware of the government corruption, rebel operations, land grabbing and the random acts of terrorism in neighboring countries, therefore one cannot blame Tanzanian officials and the Wanainchi for being cautious.

Tanzanians furthermore, played a big role in defeating the M23 Tutsi rebels whose intentions they appeared to distrust.

"Do they want to create another community?" An angry President Kikwete asked. "Are they angry with our country or me, or do they want push us out?" Mr. Kikwete said in parliament. He then urged Rwanda's Kagame to enter talks with the M23 rebels, but [Kikwete's suggestion was dismissed according to the BBC.](#)

The result was swift. Tanzania joined its fellow Bantu presidents in South Africa, Malawi and Zambia covertly joined, because they weren't about to allow "another community" which is code-word for "Tutsi empire," to be forged in Congo at the expense of their fellow Bantu, who have faced a genocide that has killed almost seven million Congolese. Tanzania insisted that the invaders were of "Tutsi origin," in fact [Tanzania's Foreign Minister Bernard Membe said he would resign if proven wrong.](#)

The Tanzanians, apparently were serious about protecting the Bantu bloodline, and within days, a Force Intervention Brigade (FIB) made of Malawi, South Africa and led by Tanzania, did a "clean sweep" operation and mopped up the M23 rebels. The rebels attempted to surrender their weapons and asked for talks, but the FIB wasn't having any of that. The result was a rapid and resounding victory and total defeat of the M23 rebels who had wreaked havoc on the people and area for decades.

As we can see, Tanzania, Rwanda, Congo and Kenya are tackling the challenges of the Great Lakes, but that's not all.

If it is true that another community or empire made of ethnic Tutsis was the main reason behind the rebels' occupation of Congo, or the Great Lakes, then that plan started to come undone less than a year ago.

If the West itself is fighting against what it sees as the oppression of Africans by African leaders, and is demanding accountability, then it is safe to say that when the colonialists left, the African leaders who followed did not dismantle the system—they simply used it to stay in power and acquire more power for themselves.

What we see right now from Libya, to Egypt, to Ivory Coast, Sudan, Nigeria, Malawi and now the Great Lakes, is the West embarking on an undertaking to dismantle an imperialistic system operated by Africans wearing a Black face—which means Africa did not really achieve independence in the 1960s and beyond. It was a hoax!

Independence can only be celebrated when the African leaders themselves dismantle what their colonial masters left in place to control Africans, and allow the citizenry to debate openly, enjoy a true democracy without having to tamper with the Constitution to gain an unfair advantage, restore property rights including the return of stolen properties, and to allow a free press to flourish.

Barack Obama, who probably understands Africa better than his fellow Democrats appears to be removing the remnants of the methodologies that are keeping Africa in a form of arrested development, since African leaders appear to be oblivious to the cries of their own people. That's why we are seeing these changes sweeping across the Continent, that are meant to set the stage for an African renaissance.

The natives and indigenous Africans are tired of the endless unnecessary wars that their leaders drag them into, since these same wars account for much of the poverty in Africa. For once, they want leaders whose interests benefit the people and not just a small clique of connected individuals at the top. Boys and girls want to have grandmothers and grandfathers, while parents want to experience raising children to adulthood. With rampant preventable diseases, endless wars, and the lives lost fighting them, it is almost an impossibility for some sections of the indigenous population to live to a ripe old age. Some natives just die of broken hearts.

Citizens who are fortunate enough to attain an education want to use their expertise to develop industries without being considered threats by government agents since an educated African is considered a dangerous one. Mothers would like to have childbirths without having to worry about dying in hospitals, yet those deaths could be prevented if the governments invested an adequate percentage of funds in health institutions and training of medical practitioners.

Yet these basic necessities of society are too much to ask from an African leader who has a sense of entitlement. Why should the citizens have that level of liberty, he asks? Why should employment opportunities be availed to the youth? Why should crime be eliminated, since crime keeps people in fear and makes the oppressive government and its officials relevant. Why should elections be fair, he continues to ask himself. Why should the Constitution be upheld and why should people live in harmony with one another?

To allow these freedoms, these African leaders believe, is political suicide, so crises are manufactured. Strife is encouraged behind the scenes to create divisions between one ethnic group and another. Public funds are squandered by public officials to deny the citizenry delivery of services and their inherent right of reaching their fullest potential. Election laws are not respected, to prevent the next generation from leading their countries with innovative nation-building ideas.

The young and old die of preventable diseases, and the population that is left is worn out from grief, poverty, broken dreams and despair. Even the rich are wary about enjoying their hard-earned money lest they become targets of robberies or victims of crime. Landowners are hesitant to develop large-scale income-generating projects out of fear that the land will be grabbed from them and given to foreign investors for pennies on the dollar.

The result is a majority population filled with apathy, that lacks ambition and drive...then the puppetmaster responsible for creating the oppressive conditions says to himself, "Now I have them where I want them."