



**COMMUNIQUE SE/N04/JUL/2003**  
**Simulation of rebel attacks by the Rwandan Government**

The Democratic Liberation Forces of Rwanda (FDLR) have been informed that on June 25, 2003, the Head of Rwandan Delegation to the JMC, Brigadier General Munyakazi, wrote a confidential memo to the Chairman of JMC Kinshasa and to the Force Commander of MONUC Kinshasa with copies to the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General in the DRC and to Rwandan Government Forces and political officials accusing Rwandan rebels of preparing attacks in the so-called "*operation tempete*".

The FDLR are profoundly disturbed by these despicable maneuvers by the Rwandan Government aimed at massacring the population accusing them of being rebels.

In fact, in the memo the Rwandan Government accuse the DRC government of arming the so-called Interahamwe and ALIR. The Memo adds that the combination of DRC government forces, Ugandan Army, Mai-Mai, Masunzu Group, Interahamwe and ALIR have conjointly conducted offensive in South-Kivu and North-Kivu with the goal to attack Rwanda by three axis:

- Bunia-Butembo-Masisi-Kanyabayonga –Rucuro-Rwanda (Gisenyi-Ruhengeri);
- DRC-South-Kivu-Rwanda (Cyangugu-Gikongoro-Butare)
- DRC-South-Kivu-Burundi-Rwanda (Cyangugu-Gikongoro-Butare).

The FDLR believe it is this memo that has led to the recent warnings issued by some Western governments against traveling to Northern and Southern Rwanda.

The FDLR categorically deny these baseless allegations and would like to call on the International community to witness of the Rwandan Government hidden motives. These Machiavellian manipulations and dilatory maneuvers hide a more sinister plan of massacring the Rwandan population and continuing the plundering of the Congolese resources.

These maneuvers, well timed to coincide with the instauration of the Congolese transitional institutions stemming from the Lusaka Accords and the Inter Congolese Dialogue, have not other motives that to torpedo the peace process in the DRC and to perpetuate insecurity and tragedy in the entire Great Lakes sub-region.

The FDLR call on the MONUC and the international community to look through this manipulation and intoxication and ask the unconditional and complete withdrawal of the Rwandan troops from the Congolese territory.

In fact the FDLR have learned that in the last three months Rwandan Government troops conducted the following operations in the DRC:

- Three battalions of Rwandan troops crossed the border between Rwanda and the DRC by Kibumba and headed to Kanyabayonga. These troops conquered Lubero on June 19, 2003. Among the commanders who led the attack to conquer Lubero is Major Gasana, formerly based at Rwindi Hotel.
- On May 30, 2003 in South Kivu, five battalions were sent from Rwanda to Kamitunga by plane in 3 rotations. These battalions included about 200 Congolese from the Babuyu ethnic group who just

concluded training in Kigali, Rwanda and in Goma, DRC. They had the mission to reoccupy all the territories occupied by FAC, Mayi-Mayi, and their allies. They later pushed forward to Salamabila and Kabambare. In early June 2003, two companies commanded by Captain Ndayambaje were seen in Penemende, 20 miles from Kabambare.

- Further South, on the shores of Lake Tanganyika, reinforcements of the Rwandan Government Forces were sent to Fizi from Baraka with the mission to attack Minembwe, the stronghold of Masunzu. A coordination meeting was held at the Church of Baraka on May 30, 2003 to prepare the attack of Ubwari-Fizi-Karemie. As of the end of June 2003, two brigades occupied the axis Uvira-Baraka- North Katanga.
- One brigade, under the command of Colonel Mutebutsi of the Rwandan Government Forces, is headquartered in Uvira
- Another brigade led by Rwandan Government Forces Colonel Cyuma is based in Baraka.
- Near Bukavu, a mix of Rwandan and Congolese forces occupy the positions of Walungu-Burhare and Idjwi, the latter serving as a transit point of Rwandan troops.
- The fifth battalion of the 551<sup>st</sup> Rwandan Brigade commanded by Major Rutayisire from Mabanza Kibuye is deployed in Masisi, zone of Katoyi-Ntota. The battalion includes a company commanded by Emmanuel a.k.a Tete à Gauche from Ruhengeri Rwanda and a section led by Sergeant Zinda, who was captured along with Colonel Bemera and later sent back to DRC as an RPA soldier. The second in command of the battalion is RPA officer Albert Kinyana.
- The fifth company of the Rwandan Government Forces, led by Adjudant Jean Marie Vianney Ntambabazi a.k.a Sheriff from Muhungwe, Karago, Gisenyi, is deployed in Masisi. Adjudant Ntambabazi was also captured with Colonel Bemera and later sent back to DRC as an RPA soldier.

The FDLR once again warn the International community, especially the MONUC against being fooled by these dilatory and fantasist claims. The FDLR take this opportunity to resolutely insist on the necessity to organize an inter-rwandan dialogue as the only process which will bring lasting peace, democracy, justice and security in Rwandan and the Great Lakes region. Rwandan government's claims, issued by a dictatorial, warmongering, plundering and criminal regime constitute yet another scheme to nip legitimate aspirations of the Rwandan citizens in the bud. This behavior of the Rwandan Government is even more serious as the Rwandan people are being forced into an electoral process the objective of which is to legitimize a criminal regime.

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