

CHRONOLOGY OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS
~~UNCLASSIFIED~~ Rwanda Conflict
1990-92

(12)

1990

RELEASED

- Jul. 5 President Habyarimana announces a package of political reform initiatives including separation of church and state and the preparation of a new charter under which multiple political parties could be recognized.
- Oct. 1 Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) forces, mainly Tutsi refugees in the NRA, invade Rwanda from Uganda and attack Rwandan government forces (FAR) at Kagitumbe. The initial force of 2,000 Rwandan exiles is soon joined by other Tutsis and disaffected Hutu's, bringing the number of attackers to 4,000. Fierce fighting follows. (See TAB H1. for RPF's political program announced in October 1990 and amended March 1991.)
- Oct. 2 Major General Fred Rwigyema of the RPF dies in the second day of fighting.
- Oct. 5 Belgium and French military contingents arrive in Kigali. Zairian troops assist FAR.
- Oct. 17 Tanzanian President convenes summit with Museveni and Habyarimana at MWANZA in order to resolve conflict in Rwanda peacefully (See TAB C1.). GOR agrees to dialogue with opposition under OAU auspices. Tanzania and Uganda undertake to persuade RPF to observe ceasefire.
- Oct. 23-24 Heads of state of CEPGL countries (Burundi, Rwanda, Zaire) meet in GBADOLITE, decide to establish a peace-keeping force (PKF), and note Mobutu's efforts to facilitate GOR-RPF dialogue.
- Oct. 26 Mobutu convenes another summit (GBADOLITE II), this time including Museveni. Mobutu becomes OAU mediator between GOR and RPF. Military Observer Group (MOG) established, comprising officers from FAR, RPF, Burundi, Uganda, and Zaire, under supervision of OAU. OAU Chairman Museveni asked to consult on PKF. (Communique at TAB C2.)
- Nov. 12-19 MOG (including FAR, RPF) deliberates in GOMA, Zaire; drafts ceasefire; GOR objects to certain provisions.
- Nov. 20 Summit at GOMA (Burundi, Rwanda, Zaire, Uganda). Kenya and Tanzania are absent, but RPF attends.

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Regional Assembly fails to reach agreement on a peace plan. Rwanda argues that it cannot support a wholesale repatriation and that it does not accept the RPF as spokesman for the refugee population. (Communique at TAB C3.)

In subsequent weeks, the OAU tries to get GOR and RPF to agree on ceasefire and deployment of MOG.

Nov-Dec.

Original
= 13 of FAR

Heavy fighting. In response to the intensive attacks along the Rwandan-Ugandan border, the FAR swells from 5,000 to 30,000 soldiers over the course of the next year.

1991

Jan. 23

in case of
emergency
SOE?

RPF mounts a major attack on RUHENGARI and captures the town for a day. The GOR responds by arresting thousands of suspected RPF supporters, primarily Tutsis, bringing the number arrested since the invasion to more than 8,000. All arrests are made under the state of emergency powers (SOE) of October 1990. Ethnic violence against the Tutsi residents living near the Ugandan border, known as Bagogwe, follows. Both civilian and military forces are involved in the attacks, and between 200-300 civilian lives are lost. GOR officials are suspected of condoning or inciting ethnic violence.

Feb. 17

Summit in ZANZIBAR with Habyarimana, Museveni, and Mwinyi. Habyarimana accepts principle of a cease-fire. (Communique at TAB C4.)

Feb. 19

Regional Conference on refugees in DAR ES SALAAM. Mobutu asked to mediate ceasefire within two weeks. (Communique at TAB C5.)

Feb.

Rwanda reaches an agreement with the World Bank and the IMF over a structural adjustment program, but no economic growth is stimulated. Economic recovery seems predicated on ending the conflict.

March 14

Habyarimana delivers a speech inviting RPF combatants to take advantage of a presidential amnesty to return to Rwanda; few respond.

Mar 11-16

Ceasefire talks between GOR and RPF at N'Sele, Zaire; Mobutu informs OAU that GOR and RPF have initialled a ceasefire agreement.

March 29

→
no initial
what is function

Ceasefire agreement signed at N'SELE, Zaire. (Text at TAB C6.) OAU to supervise ceasefire with multi-national military observer group (MOG); Brig. Mbita assigned as OAU representative. Accord stipulates that a political dialogue must begin within 15 days. The cease-fire is violated almost immediately. The MOG is never fully successfully deployed, although it makes visits to FAR positions.

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- March The commission on national unity submits its report. The GOR begins releasing unconditionally the 8,000 suspected RPF supporters arrested since the invasion.
- April HJC attends COM conference in Bujumbura. Establishes principles on regional conflict and refugee right of return. (Press Statement at TAB 11.)
- April The GOR announces a limited pardon program for those already tried and convicted for being RPF sympathizers.
- May 4 Formal signing of agreement on Status of Neutral Military Observer Group. GOR and RPF reps excluded to speed deployment.
- May 17 MOG formally deployed, but GOR imposes restrictions on movements. GOR mistrust of Uganda and Burundi reps. Other problems encountered.
- June A new constitution is promulgated to allow for democratic reforms. On June 18, the CND passes the Political Parties Law which legalizes multipartyism but stipulates that parties not be organized along regional or ethnic lines. Five political parties are organized by end of July.
- July 27 HARARE initiative. At the request of the GOR, DAS Hicks organizes a meeting between RPF and GOR representatives in Harare. Discussions are not productive but initiative convinces France to mediate in the future.
- Sept. 7 Mini-Summit held at GBADOLITE. Regional heads of state meet under the auspices of the OAU and call for both sides to respect the cease-fire and engage in political dialogue to end the conflict. Babangida, Mobutu, Habyarimana, Buyoya, Ssemogerere (Ugandan FM), and Malecela (Tanzanian FM) participate. RPF reps. are present in Gbadolite but do not participate. MOG is restructured.
- Sept. 17 A new round of talks at GBADOLITE is suspended. The only positive accomplishment is that the N'sele Accords are modified to formally approve the reorganization of the MOG. The Zairian Foreign Minister, mediating on behalf of Mobutu, breaks off the talks after becoming exasperated with the RPF delegation and instructs them to go back to their leadership and return with negotiable points. (Communique at TAB C7)
- Sept.-Dec. Heavy fighting. RPF increases infiltration and penetration into northern Rwanda.

225/51
PK

major
middle

France

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Oct. 23 Minister of Justice Nsanzimana named PM by Habyarimana; negotiations begin to form a coalition government.

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1991

Oct. 23-25 French Director for Africa Dijoud makes first attempt to mediate negotiations between GOR and RPF in Paris. Despite expectations that the meetings would involve direct negotiations between Rwandan Foreign Minister Bizimungu and RPF Military Commander Paul Kagame, neither Kagame nor RPF president Kenyawenge attends and Bizimungu subsequently declines to participate.

Nov. Accusations against the Liberal Party (PL) and others as agents of the RPF lead to serious ethnic violence in the Bugesera and Murambi areas.

Dec. 15 Two amnesty laws are passed; one provides amnesty to exiles and refugees; the other (internal amnesty) provides amnesty to persons arrested, convicted, or under investigation for infractions of the law. Persons accused of assassination or other violent crimes against persons and prisoners of war are not covered under the legislation.



Dec. 30 After two and one half months of negotiations to form a coalition government stall, Prime Minister Sylvestre Nsanzimana is sworn in, along with a new government containing only one non-MRND member.

1992

Jan. 14-15 Second round of GOR/RPF negotiations in Paris led by Dijoud.

Jan./Feb Church representatives restart dialogue between GOR and opposition parties on forming a coalition government.

March The formation of a new Hutu supremacist group (CDR) and accusations against the liberal party as an agent of the RPF exacerbate ethnic tensions further. Attacks against Tutsi in Bugesera follow. At least 60 are killed and 10,000 displaced. The threat of continued ethnic violence grips the whole nation.

April 16 Habyarimana allows opposition parties to join the GOR, finally creating a coalition government.

May 8-9 HJC visit to Kampala. In meetings w/ RPF and Museveni he offers U.S. technical assistance for ceasefire negotiations and urges an end to conflict. (See memo on commitments TAB H2.)

May 10-11 HJC visit to Kigali. In meetings with Habyarimana, PM, and GOR ministers, he offers US assistance. (See memo on commitments TAB H2.)

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- May 24 At Lusaka, Zambia, US facilitates direct talks in Kampala between FM Ngulinzira and RPF Commissioner for Diplomacy Mazinhaka.
- May 27-28 Soldiers in Ruhengeri and Gisenyi mutiny in response to rumors of demobilization.
- June 5 Major RPF attack on Byumba on day that peace talks are scheduled to begin in Paris. France deploys an additional company to protect foreigners in the Byumba region. Talks are delayed because of travel difficulties.
- June 6 Peace talks begin in Paris between GOR and RPF while fierce fighting continues in northeastern Rwanda. DAS Davidow attends opening of talks as an observer and meets representatives of both sides. Both parties agree to resume talks on July 10 and reaffirm Mobutu's role as mediator. 12-21-80
- June 22-30 During OAU session, FM meets RPF Chairman Kanyarwenge for direct talks in presence of Senegalese FM; talks with other RPF representatives lead to joint communique (TAB H9.) and decision to hold July 10-12 talks in Arusha.

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