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BOX 37

FILE 3

ACC. 1998/0278

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UNAMIR MINUAR

TO : MILOB GP HQ

DATE : 17 OCT 94

FROM : SECTOR 3 HQ

REF : SEC3/OPS/5

INFO : FORCE HQ (OPS)
FORCE HQ (INFO)
TAC HQ BUTARE
MILOB TEAM BUTARE

SUBJECT: ALLEGED HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS BY RPA IN BUTARE AREA

1. Forwarded herewith is an investigation report submitted by MILOB team BUTARE.

2. I agree with the conclusions and recommendations therein. However, I intend to see the local RPA, Bde Commander and request access to the KA-BUTARE for investigations. He will be told in plain language about the allegations.

3. Submitted for info. Please wait for final report after the intended investigation.



BK GBORGLAH
Lt Col
Sec Comd

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INVESTIGATION REPORT ON ALLEGED REPRISALS
PERPETRATED BY THE RPA SOLDIERS

1. Following a report (UNHCR letter dated 27 Sep 94) that a returning HUTU family in KINYERERE Secteur (7500) of NDORA Commune, BUTARE Prefecture had run away to the NGOZI refugee camp in BURUNDI due to RPA soldiers' reprisals, a team was sent to the location to carry investigations. The report made the following allegations.

a. Some returnees from GIKONGORO to BUTARE were taken to KABUTARE (7212) in NGOMA Commune by the RPA where the those identified as HUTUS were killed by blows to the back of their necks with small hoes and machetes in Aug 94.

b. In KINYERERE, where the remnants of the family eventually moved to, there are very few people there because of the reprisals.

c. The men sleep mainly in the bush for fear of being picked up at night.

d. On or about the 18 Sep 94, three men were picked up on their hill and killed with machetes.

e. There are still random arrests of suspects and summary killings.

2. A team of 2 MILOBS was tasked to investigate the allegations as mentioned above. The team went with a native, fairly fluent in English language who after detailed briefing was dropped off to talk with as many people as he could. The MILOB team went on a parallel investigation with a view to comparing notes later.

3. The investigation was carried out on 9 Oct 94 between 1400-1700 hrs.

4. Findings. Following findings were made after comparing notes between the MILOBs and our guide.

a. RPA arrested some people in the KINYERERE Secteur (figure unknown) after a communal meeting they called for sometime in Aug 94.

b. Some persons who were arrested by the RPA at the communal meeting are claimed to have been publicly killed with machetes, while others were taken away and have not been seen again.

c. The men sleep in the bush for fear of being picked up by RPA soldiers at night.

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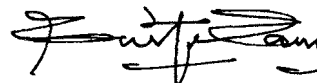
- d. There are many people living in the secteur.
- e. There have been no arrests in the area since the deployment of UNAMIR troops in BUTARE.
- f. The case of two men killed on their hill could not be confirmed as there was nobody who knew the hill.
- g. There was no presence of RPA in the area.
- h. There appears to be a mass grave in the primary school compound. The team saw parts of human skeletons showing out in what appears to be a mass grave.
- i. The claims that returnees were killed at KA-BUTARE by RPA soldiers could not be verified as no-one is allowed in the area.

5. Conclusion. Reports of reprisals by RPA soldiers seems to be on the increase in recent times. This has made some would-be returnees not want to go home, while some of those who have returned have been forced to flee back to DPC or refugee camps. Refusal of access to KA-BUTARE, claimed to be a military camp, is disturbing as there have been several reports about killings by RPA in the place.

6. Recommendations. It is recommended that:

- a. RPA high command be requested to investigate reported cases against its soldiers, so that, those found culpable could be punished as a lesson to others.
- b. RPA be directed to allow human rights staff access into the KA-BUTARE to investigate the several reports about RPA soldiers' reprisals in the area.

12 Oct 94



E ESSIEN
Maj
Snr Team Ldr

12 Oct 94



CK DRAH
Sqn Ldr
Team Member