

MIR

STATEMENTS OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
AND THE SRSG

16 DEC 1994 - 12 APR 1995

[1 CONFIDENTIAL]

EL/WG APR 2009

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PRESS RELEASE

12 April 1995

**THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED NATIONS
SECRETARY-GENERAL ANNOUNCES THE FORTHCOMING
ARRIVAL OF JUDGES FOR RWANDA COURTS**

The Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General, Ambassador Shaharyar M. Khan, held today his weekly press briefing, in which he spoke on the current commemoration of the genocide anniversary, the expansion of prisons and restoration of the national judicial system as well as the assistance for the reopening of secondary schools.

Having observed that the ceremonies marking the unleashing of last year's tragedy had revived great anguish among the Rwandese people and deep sorrow in the international community, the Special Representative deplored the fact that some officials had added their voices to yesterday's demonstration, held at UNAMIR's Headquarters, to protest against the UN Assistance Mission. "The speeches made by Rwanda's President and Vice-President should remain the guidelines for the country's normalization process," said Ambassador Khan.

On the issue of overcrowded prisons and poor state of the judicial system, the Special Representative pointed out that UNAMIR has just launched, in cooperation with the Government authorities, an operation to help ease congestion in certain prisons and to improve conditions in some others. This entails the transfer of prisoners from overcrowded prisons to ease congested jails and plans to expand some of the prisons.

Ambassador Khan also said that the first trial having been opened, it is important that courts start functioning even though the judicial system is not yet fully operational. He further indicated that expatriate judges are expected to start arriving in Kigali by mid-May to supplement the efforts of the Rwandese judiciary. The majority of those judges will come from African countries.

Concerning the assistance to secondary schools, the Special Representative showed that UNAMIR had helped in the reopening of some schools, adding that a lot of work remained to be done, especially with regard to repair of school buildings, installation of electricity and food supply to students, who are almost exclusively school boarders.

In answer to a question from one journalist, Ambassador Khan stressed that the reconciliation to be genuine and durable, it must permeate through the whole Rwandese society and, especially, at grassroot level.

For more information, please contact the Office of the Spokesman in Kigali: Ext.: # 11075 or 11066.



PRESS RELEASE

SG/SM/5611
11 April 1995

**SECRETARY-GENERAL, DEPLORING INFLAMMATORY SPEECHES AGAINST
UNAMIR, URGES ALL SEGMENTS OF RWANDESE SOCIETY
TO EXERCISE RESTRAINT**

The following statement on Rwanda was issued today by the Spokesman for the Secretary-General:

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has been informed by his Special Representative in Rwanda of a demonstration held outside the headquarters of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR) today.

The Secretary-General deplores the fact that speeches of a highly inflammatory nature, and containing completely unfounded allegations, were made against UNAMIR and the United Nations. He particularly regrets that some responsible officials in Rwanda attended the demonstration and are reported to have made unfortunate statements.

The Secretary-General calls on all segments of Rwandese society to exercise restraint at this critical time in order not to exacerbate tensions further. He also hopes that the Government of Rwanda will do everything possible to ensure that UNAMIR receives, at every level, the cooperation necessary for carrying out its mandate.

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UNITED NATIONS

ASSISTANCE MISSION FOR RWANDA



NATIONS UNIES

MISSION POUR L'ASSISTANCE AU RWANDA

UNAMIR - MINUAR

6 April 1995

Statement of the Secretary-General on Rwanda

"Today, I share with the Government and people of Rwanda the pain of commemorating the first anniversary of the genocide that has gravely shaken the foundation of your nation.

"On behalf of the United Nations family, I wish to convey my deepest sympathy and condolences to the survivors of this tragic nightmare that has left a deep scar on the conscience of mankind. Never should the world allow such a tragedy on our planet. Never should the perpetrators of such crimes be permitted to get away with impunity.

"While there has been no world war in the half century since the United Nations was created, today's ceremony reminds us, sadly, that humanity continues to see much sorrow, violence and injustice. Let us, therefore, recommit ourselves and rededicate our efforts to the objective of a better world as envisaged in the Charter of the United Nations, and to this end, reaffirm our collective faith "in the dignity and worth of the human person.

"The deep expression of grief and the demonstration of solidarity with the people of Rwanda constitute a ray of hope for the future. The International community, including non-governmental organizations and United Nations agencies and the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR), have been working side by side with the Government and people of Rwanda, to rebuild a society torn apart emotionally, morally and physically by the tragic events we are today remembering.

"The tasks for reconstruction and reconciliation are formidable and demanding, but we must intensify our efforts to that end. This effort would be the most fitting and enduring tribute that we can pay in memory of those who lost their lives. As Secretary-General of the United Nations, I pledge the continued support of the Organization to all endeavours aimed at building a new Rwandese society based on tolerance, harmony and justice."

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