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ACC. 1983/023

TO : DCOS (OPS), FHQ  
HAC, FHQ  
DCMO MILOBS GP HQ


DATE : 18 MAY 95

FROM : HQ SECTOR 3

SUBJECT : KIBUYE PRISON

1. PLEASE FIND ENCLOSED A REPORT ON PRISONS IN KIBUY PREFECTURE  
PREPARED BY SUB SECTOR 3A.

2. BEST REGARDS.

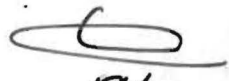
  
S BANERJEE  
MAJOR  
OPS OFFR

G3OPS

For info.

FEO

Have we carried out a recce of  
this prison. I thought we could assist  
if another organisation provided the  
finance. P/s speak.

  
19/5

Copy sent to FEO  
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REPORT ON PRISONS AND DETENTION CENTRES  
IN THE KIBUYE PREFECTURE

Introduction

1. At present there are approximately 2500 prisoners in the prisons and detention centres in Kibuye Prefecture.

Official Prison in Kibuye

2. There is one official prison in Kibuye. The number of inmates as of this date is 1112. The prison was originally built for 250 prisoners. The population is expected to rise to 2000 within the next month. Despite the extreme lack of space, there is enough food and medical care provided by ICRC and the local hospital run by MSF.

3. The male and female prisoners are kept in separate parts of the jail. Three small rooms of 10m<sup>2</sup> house the estimated 50 female prisoners. All other rooms, with the exception of one which has no electricity, are used for the male population. ICRC is to provide plastic sheets to cover one of the two courtyards to gain some additional space. The doors of the rooms are not locked and the prisoners are free to move about during the day. It should be emphasized that the space problem is acute as all the prisoners cannot lie down at the same time.

4. The hygienic situation is already critical. There are six toilets and three showers that attempt to fulfill the sanitary requirements of these 1112 inmates. These prisoners produce 22 tons of sewage within one month; this is already difficult to remove and will only become worse as the prison population increases.

5. The deputy director of the prison assures us that the soldiers are not allowed to enter in the prison area where the prisoners are kept; nevertheless, ICRC reports that soldiers are coming in during the night and harassing inmates.

Commune Prisons

6. Apart from the official prison in Kibuye there are two types of transit centres in every commune. One type of prison, the commune prison, run by the civilians(?), is normally located behind

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the commune office or in the vicinity. The other type, the numerous "gesho militaire", are quite difficult to find and no officials are willing to tell us where they are. They are usually normal houses that are guarded by RPA. ICRC even has difficulties locating some of these "RPA prisons". The number of inmates in these two types of prisons vary due to movement of prisoners and size of commune. However, the average number of prisoners at the commune level is approximately 125. ✓

7. While prisoners are supposed to be transferred within three days records show some prisoners are being kept for as long as six months. The overall situation in these prisons is far worse than that in the official prison in Kibuye. The families supply food and even when medical dispensaries are near by, medical assistance is rarely given. For example, in Mabanza, after the local medical assistant from MSF provided medical treatment at the commune detention centre he was arrested. ICRC is attempting to provide some food and at least water jerry cans at these sites but nobody is cooperating. ✓

Other Detention Centres

8. As recent information is now showing, individuals do not only get detained in the abovementioned facilities. We are finding, with the help of ICRC, that some people are simply being locked in houses or huts without guards. The number of such places appears to be quite large and is predominantly in the communes of Gisovu and Rwamatamu. No exact sites have been located so far. Though officials deny their existence, transferred prisoners tell of such places when they are interviewed and questioned. ✓

9. The other type of detainment facility is much more sinister and inhumane. We have learned of some locations where prisoners are kept in holes in the ground and are guarded by soldiers. We have been made aware of two such locations, one in Mabanza commune and the other in Gishyita commune. We have attempted to gain access to the camp in Mabanza commune but have been denied. We have flown over the area and can confirm the existence of holes in the ground but are unsure as to whether they are trenches or are used to hold people.

Cooperation with Local Officials

10. Although we have no mandate to visit prisons we have managed to gain access into the Kibuye prison and the commune prisons at

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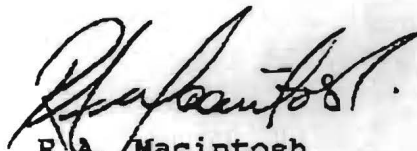
Bwakira and Mabanza. This is usually done by accompanying Human Rights or another official visit(i.e. FC). When attempting to gain accurate information regarding numbers of inmates and location of prisons we are always met with blank stares and excuses.

Recommendations

11. While these recommendations are probably redundant and obvious they must nevertheless be stated.

i. In an effort to alleviate the space problem in Kibuye prison a wall should be built surrounding the prison to give the prisoners space to lie down and move about. It is highly unlikely the government will have the resources or even provide them if they were available so this project would have to fall on the support of UNAMIR or the international community.

ii. UNAMIR, specifically MILOBS, should be given clearance from the Rwandan government to locate the prisons, not to enter, but simply to locate them.

  
R.A. Macintosh  
Captain  
Operations Officer  
Sector 3A - Kibuye