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Note to the Secretary-General  
(Through the Deputy Secretary-General)

**REPORTS OF ALLEGED DISTRIBUTION OF WEAPONS TO THE  
IMBONERAKURE YOUTH WING**

*APR - 4 2014*  
*14-02819*  
**EXECUTIVE OFFICE  
OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL**

1. On 3 April, we received a code cable from BNUB reporting on apparent systematic efforts to provide weapons and firearm training to members of the youth wing Imbonerakure, which is affiliated to the ruling Hutu political party CNDD-FDD.
2. The Imbonerakure has increasingly been active in politically-motivated violence in the country and has recently expanded their reach and presence as a de facto substitution of local security authorities in the country side, where they work with complete impunity, reportedly under no central command, and according to allegiances of various generals. The reports of distribution of weapons and equipment could be corroborated by recent information from BNUB of disappearances of uniforms, 9mm pistols and AK-47 assault rifles from military and police installations.
3. According to informants, the training has been supervised with an instruction to "remain vigilant" and "to be ready". One of the reported locations of this training is the province of Bururi, a traditional stronghold of UPRONA, a Tutsi-dominated party whose power in the coalition government was recently undermined by the CNDD-FDD. DPA also received information from a normally reliable NGO source that the radio is being frequently used to spread "ethnic messages" (which was also repeated in the BNUB code cable), which is an eerie echo of the Rwandan Genocide.
4. Given the gravity of the situation, I intend to brief the Security Council under AOB on Tuesday, 8 April. I am also seeking to meet with the Burundian Minister of the Interior and the Permanent Secretary of the Foreign Ministry, who will be in New York next week, to underline my concern. DPA has coordinated information and messages with your Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide, who will travel to Bujumbura next week and is scheduled to meet with President Nkurunziza on 10 April. We have also updated key member states (US, Belgium, France and Rwanda) at the working-level in New York while both SRSB Menkerios and I will keep relevant AU member states aware of latest developments. We have also updated the talking points that we had prepared for the Secretary-General's call to Presidents Kikweti and Zuma. We will also be contacting Mr. Kofi Annan to make a call to President Nkurunziza.
5. We are closely following the situation and will keep you duly informed of further steps we might take.



Jeffrey Feltman  
4 April 2014

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