

**INTER-AGENCY STANDING COMMITTEE
WORKING GROUP XVIIITH MEETING
8 May 1995, IOM, Geneva**

**RWANDA
Information Note**

I. MAIN UN INITIATIVES

1.1 The Secretary-General has publicly condemned the indiscriminate killing of thousands of unarmed civilians in the Kibeho camp for internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Rwanda. His personal message to the Government of Rwanda (GOR) was conveyed by his Special Envoy, Mr. Aldo Ajello who has just returned to Headquarters. Mr. Ajello was requested, among other things, to urge the Government to allow unhindered and safe movement of humanitarian convoys as well as to ensure adequate protection for IDPs leaving camps and at their home communes. His report is not yet available.

1.2 The welfare of IDPs as well as that of other affected groups remains a central humanitarian concern. The efforts of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) in Rwanda and those of his collaborators have resulted in the obtaining of access for humanitarian organizations to camp areas in the south-west of the country. Transport facilities are now being made available to those IDPs who wish to return to their home communes. Strenuous efforts are being made to ensure that such assistance can continue to be provided as long as it is necessary. In this regard there is guarded optimism about the continued display of flexibility on the part of the Government.

II. INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY

2.1 The President of Rwanda announced that an Independent Commission would be established on 3 May 1995 for a period of two weeks to examine the killing at Kibeho IDP camp. GOR has asked Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, the Netherlands, the UK, the USA, OAU and UNAMIR to participate in the Commission. The Commission would seek to determine why the IDP camps were closed down, if there was sufficient consultation with UNAMIR before the closures, if ethnicity was the

root cause of the problem, how the camps were closed, who was responsible for the vents in Kibeho and what was the role of the army and militia in the camps.

III. CONSOLIDATED APPEAL

3.1 As of 12 April, for the Rwanda segment, \$56 million had been pledged against the total requirement of \$219 million. For the sub-region, the pledges amounted to \$254 million against the total requirement of \$587 million.

IV. TRUST FUND

4.1 The total contribution received from some dozen countries and many individuals is \$6,335,739.96. Of this amount, the Netherlands has contributed more than \$5 million for a UNDP programme to support the Government. The balance has been allocated to a home commune rehabilitation programme and the procurement of materials/equipment for the Ministry of Rehabilitation.

V. ISSUES

5.1 International Support

(i) The international reaction to the Government's action at Kibeho has been one of unequivocal condemnation - Belgium, Canada and the Netherlands decided to suspend direct assistance to the Government of Rwanda.

(ii) While the immediate actions of the operational agencies and their partners are aimed at the provision of humanitarian assistance to IDPs and towards a peacefully organized closure of IDP camps, they are keenly aware of the negative impact that the recent killings have had on Rwanda refugees in general. In this context, the continued involvement of the international community with the humanitarian and political endeavour is imperative, if the problems of the sub-region is to be addressed successfully.

5.2 Home Communes

(i) Following the closures of the remaining IDP camps in south-west Rwanda, there is an urgent need to begin exclusive rehabilitation programmes in those communes targeted for IDPs and eventually refugee returnees. The agencies have been working towards the first stage of such rehabilitation programmes at the Butare level and through the Integrated Operation Centre (IOC) in Kigali.

(ii) Agencies are requested to review their programmes to ensure that the recovery and rehabilitation support needed in the target home communes will be available.

(iii) At the same time, the efforts of the human rights monitors along with UNAMIR Military Observers and participating non-governmental organizations should be intensified in order to provide a modicum of stability in the home commune areas where IDPs have returned. The overall pattern of IDP reception is that in some communes the IDPs have settled peacefully, but in others there has been harassment, beating and even killings. HRFOR have greater capacity now that additional European Union monitors have arrived in the country. However, in the final analysis, stability will depend upon the full cooperation of GOR which must provide clear instructions and sufficient manpower to the RPA in order to promote safety and stability in the commune areas.

5.3 UNREO Transition

(i) Given the strengthened field coordination capacity to handle humanitarian assistance to Rwanda, DHA has begun a review of UNREO.

5.4 Regional Information Network

(i) DHA is examining the establishment of an integrated regional information network.

5.5 Prisons/Detention Centres

(i) Progress remains slow due to the Government's insistence that permanent rather than temporary sites be created for the increasing numbers of people being detained. To date, the compromise that is being worked out is that brick walls are to be built around a site that will contain temporary accommodation, viz, tents. UNAMIR and ICRC have begun work on site preparation in Nsinda. The Nsinda site will accommodate 5,000 people, but the overall prison population is continuously rising. Now figures are over 30,000.

(ii) Efforts are now being made to transfer prisoners from Giterama, the most densely populated prison, to Byumba, Kibuye and Nyanza prisons. This solution, though, is of marginal consequence at best.

