

# Invasion of eastern Zaire leads to death of thousands of refugees

by Linda de Hoyos

The international press has portrayed the current war in eastern Zaire as an instance of Zairean Tutsi “rebels” who are resisting provocations against them from the Zairean military, and hence took arms and, between Sept. 27 and Nov. 1, managed to place two entire provinces of eastern Zaire under their control.

On Oct. 22, the Archbishop of Bukavu, Muzihirwa Mwene Ngabo, declared that the armed rebellion in eastern Zaire is an *invasion* of Zaire by an alliance of three military forces: the Ugandan National Resistance Army of Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni, the Rwandan Patriotic Army (RPA) of Rwanda, and the Burundi military, which took power in a coup in Burundi on July 27 led by former World Bank adviser Pierre Buyoya. All three of these military groupings are officered and dominated exclusively by Tutsis, whose upper-caste and murderous mentality has turned them into the most useful killing machine for British intelligence goals in the region. The archbishop was murdered on Oct. 30, when the RPA took Bukavu.

Amid the debate and discussions in the Organization of African Unity, the United Nations, and the leading capitals of London, Paris, France, Berlin, and Brussels, no protest against the *invasion* of Zaire has been heard.

The United Nations has exposed itself as a global enforcer for British geopolitical goals in the region, with its derelict abandonment of more than 1 million refugees in eastern Zaire. Against all international law for the protection of refugees, the Rwanda-Uganda-Burundi forces assaulted the refugee camps in Goma, Bukavu, and Uvira, forcing refugees to flee for their lives. Since the end of October, there has been no photographic attention paid to these refugees, as was the case with the flood of more than 1 million Hutu refugees fleeing the Rwandan Patriotic Front blitzkrieg of Rwanda in the summer of 1994.

It is the estimation of relief agency workers in the area, corroborated by Africans who know the terrain well, that those hundreds of thousands of refugees fleeing the Rwandan invasion of Zaire are now dying at the rate of thousands a day. More than 80% of the refugees are women, children, and the elderly. “We know from experience that these people are already dying by the hundreds,” Dr. Jacques Bemilliano, a physician with Doctors Without Borders, told the press in the border town of Gisenyi in Rwanda on Nov. 2. Another relief

agency worker added that “thousands of people will be dying every day in eastern Zaire. After years of experience in the region, where cholera and dysentery are endemic, you don’t need a scientific survey to know that the refugees are dying.” Refugees who have managed to arrive in Rwanda or Tanzania report that the major cause of death is thirst, as the refugees were forced west into waterless volcanic areas.

A military cordon has been drawn by the Rwandan Patriotic Army between the Rwandan-controlled towns of Goma, Uvira, and Bukavu, and the refugees, according to Scott Strauss, writing from Goma for the *Houston Chronicle*.

The refugees not only include Rwandan Hutus, but also Zaireans who have been forced to flee their homes in eastern Zaire in the face of the invasion, and Burundians, who had mostly been encamped around the town of Uvira on the Zaire-Burundi border.

For the refugees, the choice is between trying to survive in the forests of eastern Zaire, or what they perceive to be certain death. Already, it is known that when the invading force took Goma, it rounded up all the men—who have not been seen since in a scene reminiscent of the Serbian war crimes in Srebrenica, Bosnia. The women and children were separated out and forced-marched back to Rwanda, where their fate is unknown.

Burundian Hutu refugees trying to get back to Burundi have been massacred by the Burundi military, according to aid agencies. The Burundi military has denied the charge, but by Nov. 6, dozens of bodies of men, women, and children were washing up on the shores of Lake Tanganyika at the south end of the border between Zaire and Burundi.

## Conspiracy of silence

Other than the Zairean government of President Mobutu Sese Seko, the Burundian National Council for the Defense of Democracy (CNDD), and the Rwandan Rally for the Return of the Refugees and Democracy in Rwanda, no other governmental force is protesting the Rwanda-Uganda-Burundi military invasion of Zaire.

The governments of France, Britain, Belgium, and the United States, all of whom sponsor various players in the East Africa region, have so far not lifted a finger to bring relief to the refugees.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Sadako

Ogata has revealed herself to be strictly an agent of British intelligence—the primary sponsoring agency for the Tutsis in East Africa. As a condition for relief, she is demanding that a “neutral force” sent by the international community be sent into eastern Zaire to disarm and arrest Rwandan Hutu militias! “I would like to see them empowered to do just that, that should be one of their functions if such a force goes in,” she said from Brussels on Nov. 7.

According to diplomatic sources at the United Nations, a plan put forward by France and supported by Spain and Italy, for a multilateral UN military force to go in to provide relief to the refugees, has been stalled at the UN by Britain and the United States.

On Nov. 7, State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said that the Clinton administration is reviewing proposals, some of which would “require logistical support by the United States Armed Forces.” The United States will not contribute any ground forces, he emphasized.

If the United States appears to be willing to play a stalling game on behalf of the Tutsi invasion of Zaire, it is dancing to a British melody. Ugandan President Museveni is the chieftain of the Tutsi war machine, but he himself, as *EIR* has thoroughly documented, is directly under the thumb of Baroness Lynda Chalker, British Minister of Overseas Development.

And Britain’s partner in the Entente Cordiale, France, is dancing to the same tune—albeit with different rhetoric. Despite the fact that French troops are stationed close by in the Central African Republic, France says it cannot possibly provide relief to the refugees, except under American command. In a diatribe directed at Washington, the Paris daily *Le Figaro* cites an expert to charge: “The Americans are letting the situation rot, because that serves the interests of the Tutsis. The Americans will end up getting involved, but only when 300,000 to 500,000 refugees will have died. Rwanda will open its doors to the remnants, making an effective decision of triage, between the ‘good’ and ‘bad’ ones.”

This is mere intramural bickering. It is likely that covert agreements exist among London, Paris, Brussels, and at least the U.S. State Department, that Zaire is to be dismembered. As the London *Times*, mouthpiece of the British Foreign Office, said it plainly in an editorial Nov. 1: The “salvation” for Zaire may “eventually lie in the autonomy which Shaba (ex-Katanga), and diamond-rich Kasai already exercise de facto, and which the Tutsi rebels [sic] in the east are grabbing by armed force.”

This is the next stage in the cataclysmic disintegration of eastern Africa. To accomplish the full exploitation of this region, the people living there—the Hutus—must be cleared away. Unity on this point was signaled by the Sept. 1 lifting of the arms embargo on the Rwandan Patriotic Army by the UN Security Council, while maintaining the arms embargo on all other Rwandans—a vote for the Tutsi invasion of Zaire and the murder of hundreds of thousands of refugees now taking place.

---

## Interview: Burundi Parliamentarian

---

# Britain pushes plan for ‘Greater Rwanda’

*The following is an interview with a Member of the Parliament of Burundi. The interview was conducted by L. Chamberlain on Oct. 22, 1996.*

**Q:** Your part of the world seems to be coming apart, country by country. How do you explain this?

**A:** We know, for example, that the British Empire is also behind the Burundi coup, because we know that there is a plan for a Hima Empire, which is led by Ugandan President [Yoweri] Museveni.

They want to make a kind of empire from Uganda, across Rwanda, across Burundi and eastern Zaire. They want to make such a Tutsi Empire. Hima is a clan from the Tutsi ethnic group. Museveni is a Hima; [Rwandan President] Kagame is a Hima, and [Burundi coup leader] Buyoya is a Hima. Now we learned that in Zaire, Himas are beginning to fight in eastern Zaire.

We had already said it before; we know this is a plan which was put together in Britain. We know that there is a kind of international conspiracy against Hutus, which is led by Britain. Now it is clear; we’ve been asking for the UN Intervention Force to solve this; and the UN did not react; did not respond, because there is this conspiracy.

**Q:** When did you start asking for intervention from the United Nations?

**A:** On Oct. 25, 1993. We asked for a United Nations foreign intervention to come to restore democracy. We have always asked for it; but there is no reaction, because no one cares about it.

Sometimes we think that attacking Rwanda or attacking Burundi—these are two small, poor countries—maybe they are targetting Zaire, which is a very rich and powerful country. . . . We share the same border. They took first Rwanda and Burundi, so they could easily attack Zaire.

**Q:** What is the composition of Zaire with respect to this Hima group? How is Zaire composed ethnically?

**A:** The vast majority of the Zairean people are from Bantu people, but there are some Tutsis who fled from Rwanda, and went to live in Zaire. This latter grouping is estimated to be from 300,000 to 500,000 people. They predominantly came from Rwanda. They are called Banyamulenge—they