

Rwanda

External Relations

(RWA_2) The Telegraph – 24/11

Former Rwandan soldiers tell David Blair of their time fighting a war across the border, inside the Democratic Republic of Congo. Their accounts contradict Rwanda's repeated denials of any role in Congo's conflict.

The orders given by the Rwandan general were clear and stirring. "Now the time has come when you must fight for your country," he told a gathering of soldiers at the national military academy. But this new campaign would not be waged on Rwanda's territory. Instead, this specially formed battalion of the Rwandan Defence Forces was about to be dispatched over the north-western frontier and into the Democratic Republic of Congo, where it would inflame one of the world's bloodiest civil wars by fighting alongside a brutal rebel movement, led by an indicted war criminal.

A former NCO with this Rwandan unit has given The Daily Telegraph a detailed account of how he fought in support of M23 insurgents in eastern Congo between July and September, joining assaults on two towns and a border crossing.

Another Rwandan separately told how he was detained by his country's army in June and sent to Congo, where he served as a battlefield porter. He was based in a military camp run jointly by M23 rebels and Rwanda's army.

Together, their accounts contradict Rwanda's repeated denials of any role in Congo's conflict. They provide independent confirmation of a United Nations report that has accused Rwanda of helping M23's campaign.

Read the entire story under :

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/africaandindianocean/democraticrepublicofcongo/9700471/Rwandans-fighting-an-illegal-war-in-the-Congo.html>

Read also under :

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-20542846>

(RWA_3) Telegraph – 25/11

David Himbara, who was President Paul Kagame's right hand man until he fled the country two years ago, said: "Britain is not funding Rwanda. It is funding a dictator. It's sustaining a bad regime by any measure. Let no British taxpayer flatter herself or himself that they're helping Rwanda. No, you are merely extending their misery."

Despite ever-more serious allegations of human rights abuse at home and war-mongering abroad, the UK is planning to give **The** £270-million to Rwanda over the next three years. By then, aid to the country will have nearly doubled since the Conservative-led coalition came to power. Half of that aid will be given directly to the Rwandan government, to spend as it sees fit.

Rwanda relies on foreign aid for nearly half its budget and Britain is its biggest bilateral donor, providing about five per cent of the national budget – more than the Rwandan government allocates to defence spending.

"The United Kingdom's aid to Rwanda is misplaced. It's wrong. It cannot be justified," said Mr Himbara, who now lives in South Africa and is on an alleged Rwandan government hit list. Speaking to Channel 4's Dispatches in an exclusive interview to be broadcast on Monday Nov 26 he added: "How do you hold people accountable where there is no media, where there is no opposition party, where parliament is answerable to one man?"

The international development secretary, Justine Greening, is to decide next month on whether to hand over the next tranche of aid, totalling £21 million. Her predecessor, Andrew Mitchell, suspended payment of a £16 million instalment after evidence first surfaced that Rwanda was backing the violent rebellion in neighbouring Congo.

Read the whole story under:

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/africaandindianocean/rwanda/9700913/Britains-aid-to-Rwanda-is-funding-a-repressive-regime-says-former-Kagame-official.html>

Read also under :

<http://www.jambonews.net/actualites/20121123-la-surete-belge-evoque-la-crispation-du-regime-rwandais/>

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201211270182.html>