

Mass murder of refugees in Zaire revealed

by Linda de Hoyos

An eyewitness report submitted to the United Nations Security Council, the Belgian government, the United Nations High Commission on Refugees, and Amnesty International, supplies evidence that hundreds of thousands of refugees, left stranded in Zaire since October 1996, are dead. According to the eyewitness, a Belgian who has lived in the Kivu area of Zaire for the last four years, most of the refugees were massacred or died of starvation and disease.

The eyewitness account was the topic of a press conference Feb. 25 by a spokesman for Belgian Minister of Development Reginald Morsels, and was featured that day in the French daily *Le Soir*, and on Feb. 26 in the French daily *Le Monde*.

The report has barely been mentioned in the British press, however, and has been totally blacked out in the United States. Furthermore, according to the French news agency, Agence France Presse, on Feb. 25, the Geneva office of the UN High Commission on Refugees claimed it had “no information on the killings.”

The Belgian report fully confirms the warnings of American statesman Lyndon LaRouche in November 1996, that unless the United States joined in a bilateral effort with the government of Zaire to carry out a military aid effort for the Rwandan, Burundian, and Zairean refugees roused by the October invasion of eastern Zaire from Rwanda and Uganda, hundreds of thousands of refugees—most of them women, children, and the elderly—would face death by starvation, thirst, and disease.

Deliberate campaign of extermination

The Belgian eyewitness account provides a coherent framework of evidence, confirming the isolated stories that have appeared from Zaire over the months, that a deliberate campaign of extermination has been carried out against the refugees.

Le Monde further reported on Feb. 27, in an article by defense correspondent Jacques Desnard, that French intelligence services “have been accumulating, for several weeks now, information . . . which indicates generalized killings, massacres on a grand scale, mass graves, and acts definable as ‘ethnic purification,’ ” which corroborates the Belgian eyewitness account. *Le Monde* also reported that mass killings are taking place in Rwanda against Hutus returning there, corroborating the accounts of murders that *EIR* has received.

The massacres in eastern Zaire are being carried out by

Rwandan, Ugandan, and Burundian troops, which are the actual military force behind the so-called “rebels” of Zairean mercenary Laurent Kabila. The Lord’s Resistance Army of Uganda reported as of Feb. 24, that there are 17,000 Ugandan troops in eastern Zaire. Knowledgeable American sources point to two divisions of Uganda’s military in Zaire, or 20,000 troops. *EIR* has confirmed that the supply line for the invasion of Zaire runs from Uganda, using military equipment that was originally dumped in Uganda for the United Nations multilateral force to aid refugees—aid which never materialized.

The Ugandan military is not acting alone, but under the orders of the British Minister of Development and Cooperation, Baroness Lynda Chalker. Chalker, according to the official spokesman for the British monarchy’s Privy Council, is deployed directly by that Council, and is the self-avowed mentor of Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni. Whatever fantasies Museveni and his counterparts, such as Paul Kagame, defense minister of Rwanda, might possess of a Tutsi empire in central Africa, in reality they are the stormtroopers for the British recolonization of East Africa. This includes the extermination of East Africa’s population as a land-clearing operation to make way for full British control of the land and the strategic raw materials lying underneath it. Sir George Bush’s Canadian firm, Barrick Gold, which holds dominion over 83,000 square kilometers of territory in eastern Zaire, is exemplary.

Hundreds of thousands unaccounted for

The Belgian report states that nearly half a million Rwandan refugees are unaccounted for in eastern Zaire, in addition to 117,000 Burundian refugees whose whereabouts are also undetermined. Out of a total of 1,103,000 Rwandan refugees in Zaire, at most only 450,000 have returned to Rwanda (at gunpoint, driven by the Kabila-Ugandan forces), the report says. The reporter estimates that 653,000 Rwandan refugees remained in Zaire. Yet, only 200,000 to 250,000 of these refugees are accounted for in the camps at Tingi-Tingi, Shabunda, and Amisi. The latter two camps have since been taken over by Kabila, et al. What has happened to the 450,000 other refugees?

“If it were only a matter of fighting between Zaire rebels and the government army,” the report says, “the Rwandese refugees would not have any more reason to flee than the local populations. But the Rwandese Hutu refugees are fleeing from the massacres committed against them by Tutsi rebels; they are a military target.”

The refugees are being gunned down under the international media cover that all Rwandan refugees are “genocidalists,” the report argues—“whereas the UN High Commission on Refugees estimates that only 7% of the refugees took part in the 1994 killings” in Rwanda, after the British-backed Rwandan Patriotic Front blitzkrieged through the country.

The report then corroborates the Feb. 16 communiqué of

Bush told Robertson, 'Get into Zaire'

Televangelist Pat Robertson, whose diamond mining adventures in Zaire were criticized in Virginia's *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, responded in a Feb. 1 guest column in that paper. Robertson explained that his Zaire operation was undertaken on President George Bush's request, and that besides looking for a big killing in the world diamond market, he worked as an agent of Bush's politics against Zaire's government. Around 1991, Robertson said, he received an invitation to bring over "Christian television programs" for broadcast in Zaire.

Robertson wrote, "Before a visit to Zaire, I met with George Bush in the White House and asked his advice." Bush told him he should go into business in Zaire—allegedly, according to Robertson's story, in order to save Zaire's President: "Bush told me that, in his opinion, without Mobutu, Zaire would be plunged into chaos."

Robertson was not just in the religion and diamond businesses; he was enforcing the International Monetary Fund-new world order austerity and privatization regime.

"I brought with me a former undersecretary of state from the Bush administration for the purpose of advising Mobutu on fiscal and monetary issues. . . . I personally met

with the Cabinet of Zaire and warned them that if they continued printing money there would be runaway inflation with rioting and looting in the streets. I went on television . . . to say that leaders must be 'servants of the people, who do not abuse the people or take bribes,' " Robertson said.

Robertson "evangelized" with advice to lay off workers and to give away the national patrimony to foreign looters. "I . . . analyzed the . . . Gecamine copper mines, where I discovered 16,000 surplus workers . . . [and] the government-owned Kilomoto gold mines, where 3,300 workers produced a pitiful [quantity] . . . of gold . . . and the government-owned industrial diamond facility in Mbuji-Mayi, where I discovered production limping along at 50% of peak capacity."

The nation's poverty does not come from speculators and looters, such as himself. Robertson explained, "In all my visits to Zaire, I found a nation terribly mismanaged with endemic greed and corruption. . . .

"My own company, African Development Co. . . . secured the concessions from the government." The giant diamond operation failed because of "American dredging equipment that was poorly constructed . . . and . . . the internal chaos in the country." Yet, "one thing really worked," Robertson claimed. "Through our television, radio and evangelistic meetings, more than 4 million people in Zaire have accepted Jesus Christ as their Savior."

—Anton Chaitkin

the Zairean government, which tells of mass graves in the areas taken by the Ugandan-Kabila forces. The report states: "Calling every Hutu refugee a 'genocidalist' is tantamount to legitimizing in the eyes of international opinion and also the rebels, the use of force, or worse, the elimination of these refugees. . . . The number of mass graves betrays a systematic will to finish off the refugees. These graves are everywhere." It cites mass graves in Mugunga (a camp taken over by Kabila), Kibumba camp, and Katala camp. "On the lava plain, behind the Katala and Kahindo camps, toward the West, one can see thousands of skeletons," the report states.

The report relates that "on Dec. 24, two young Zairean Hutus from R. village, were kidnapped and tortured. They came back two days later, having been forced to become the guides for a group of about 100 Tutsi rebels they were leading to three small camps in the forest where 'they killed everybody,' one of them told me. These were three camps with about 100 refugees each."

The reporter states that he regrets that he was unable to go to the Masis and Walikale zones, which are zones that Kabila has forbidden to foreigners, but "where reliable eyewitnesses reported that tens of thousands of refugees had been eliminated."

Roger Winter covers for genocide

The Belgian account notes that the battle over the number of refugees inside Zaire "is strategic," because it "is meant to prevent any foreign intervention on behalf of the remaining refugees." Here, this puts the spotlight on Roger Winter, director of the U.S. Committee of Refugees. In November, Winter, along with Robert Gribbin, U.S. ambassador to Rwanda, claimed that only a few refugees remained in Zaire—a position used to scuttle the UN multilateral force. Winter, who was with Kabila most of November, when refugees were driven at gunpoint out of their homes, told the *Washington Post* on Nov. 22, "Those who have gone further west are either family [of the Hutu militias] or other very bad people. If they are in a bad position, so be it." In testimony before the House Subcommittee on International Operations and Human Rights on Dec. 4, Winter happily stated, "The threat of an international military deployment in eastern Zaire was helpful in mid-November," because it prompted Kabila to attack the Mugunga camp. The Belgian eyewitness reports: "Above Mugunga, at one and a half hour's walking distance, I saw three graves with 10, 12, and 30 bodies. They were men, women, some with a baby on their back, old people. They all had been shot in the head, including the infants."