

British pick new targets, as Africa quagmire deepens

by Linda de Hoyos

Under the banner headline “Massacres Were a Weapon in Congo’s Civil War,” the June 11 *Washington Post* reported that the self-appointed President of the new Democratic Republic of Congo, Laurent Désiré Kabila, carried out a systematic campaign to massacre Rwandan Hutu refugees. The *Post* stated that the evidence of atrocities carried out by Kabila’s forces during the entirety of the seven-month march across Zaire “taken together, . . . suggest the massacres were not isolated instances of unruly troops, but rather part of Kabila’s war of liberation. Their goal appears to have been twofold: vengeance and security.”

The *Post* further reported that Kabila’s army is “closely controlled by Rwandan officers who dominate its upper echelons. Kabila relied heavily on the well-trained Rwandan officers who dominate its upper echelons. Kabila relied heavily on the well-trained Rwandan officers, along with Rwandan, Angolan, and Ugandan troops, to push [Zairean President] Mobutu’s army aside.”

The *Post* elaborated: “UN officials and Congolese officers in Kabila’s army say its highest priorities—which have remained prominent—were to remove the Hutus from the border with Rwanda and to crush the radical Hutu movement by killing as many Hutu refugees as possible.”

The *Post* also gave a glimpse of the command structure of Kabila’s forces, which have been a well-kept secret up to now: “In interviews, Congolese soldiers fighting for Kabila indicate that the massacres were ordered by the Rwandan army officers who dominated Kabila’s officer corps. In Mbandaka, for example, [where Kabila forces mercilessly shot and clubbed to death 500 refugees in mid-May], Congolese soldiers said the order to slaughter unarmed refugees came from two men—identified as Colonel Wilson, the head of a brigade of Kabila’s troops, and Colonel Richard, the brigade’s opera-

tions chief. Both were identified as Rwandans. A Congolese, Gen. Gaston Muyango, has the title of military commander in the area but has no real power, they said.”

For readers of *EIR*, the *Washington Post* charges of Kabila’s systematic slaughter of Hutu refugees—including women, children, and elderly—are not a revelation. Nor is the news that Kabila’s forces are in fact led and dominated by officers and troops from Rwanda, Burundi, Angola, and Uganda. Beginning with the October denunciation by the Catholic archbishop of Bukavu of the *invasion* of Zaire by Ugandan, Rwandan, and Burundian forces, *EIR* has consistently covered that *invasion*, while the rest of the U.S. press was insisting upon the existence of a sudden and extremely powerful “Banyamulenge rebellion.” At the same time, the U.S. press has consistently acted to deny the American public the truth about the systematic slaughter of refugees by the forces for which Kabila is the nominal leader.

But this press pattern in the United States began to break with the May 21 report by the Associated Press on the April 22 massacres at Biaro refugee center. This was followed by a series of articles appearing in the *New York Times* on May 22, the *Boston Globe* on June 1, the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, and the *Washington Post* on June 8 and 11, documenting not only the mass murder of Hutu refugees, but also the massive effort launched to destroy the evidence of this killing—the burning of bodies and placing of ashes in the river (see *Documentation*).

This last, most ignominious phase of the extermination of the Rwandan Hutus is being perpetrated, as Kabila comes under pressure from the United States to permit United Nations and other forensic and human rights investigators into eastern Zaire to probe the charges of mass murder. In mid-May, Roberto Garreton, the primary investigator of the

FIGURE 1

Battleground Africa: London’s marcher-lords, and their intended victims



United Nations human rights office, was denied this access — since at that very time, Kabila and his men were killing hundreds of refugees, including women and children.

Raising questions

The coverage of the atrocities has cast a definite pall over celebrations that might otherwise occur over the downfall of

the “corrupt dictator” Mobutu Sese Seko. More to the point, the acknowledgment of the mass murder perpetrated by the new regime of the Democratic Republic of the Congo raises major questions: Has Mobutu been replaced by something far worse? What is the actual character of the regimes of Uganda, Burundi, Angola, and Rwanda, if their governments deploy their troops for such an enterprise? Is there any guarantee that



Rwandan strongman Paul Kagame (left) at the cathedral in Mainz, Germany, in May, with Kurt Beck (right), the governor of the state of Rhineland-Pfalz.

the Hutu refugees who were repatriated to Rwanda forcibly in November 1996, when Kabila stormed the giant Mugunga refugee camp, are any less in danger than the refugees, now dead, who remained in Zaire? Is there any guarantee that the up to 35,000 Hutu refugees who managed to walk across the entire country and now face forced repatriation, are not being sent directly to their deaths?

Additional questions beg to be raised, that go beyond the events on the ground in East and Central Africa. What are the implications of the fact that throughout Kabila's drive, he has enjoyed the support and confidence of the major British Commonwealth mining companies, including DeBeers, which forked over large sums of money to Kabila in early May, and the Lubumbashi conference of "investors" on May 9, which handed Kabila his cash requirements for the final march to Kinshasa? Such backers also include Barrick Gold Corp., the crown jewel company affiliated with Sir George Bush.

Furthermore, the British press has hailed Kabila and his most immediate mentor, Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni, along with Eritrean President Isaias Afwerki, Ethiopian President Meles Zenawi, and Angolan President Dos Santos, as the leadership of a "new Africa." As Sam Kiley of the *Times* of London heralded Kabila's entry into Kinshasa on May 20: "The fall of Zaire to the Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire completes a network of friends and allies stretching from Angola to Eritrea who are expected to reshape the continent in an image of their own, and scrub out the colonial map of Africa drawn up at Bismark's Berlin conference of European powers in 1884." What are the guarantees that an Africa "in the image of" the killers of eastern Zaire—in the image of Kabila, Museveni, and Kagame—will not be a nightmare of death and destruction, in which mercenary troops, not national armies, are de-

ployed against entire populations, as British Commonwealth mining companies, many of them directly attached to the Monarchy's Privy Council, reap the profit?

The questions raised by the murderous activities of Kabila et al. may be one reason why a hold has been placed on funds to Kabila's new regime from the United States. On June 7, U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Bill Richardson met with Kabila, along with a delegation of representatives from various sections of the U.S. administration. The U.S. press reported that Richardson had handed over \$50 million to Kabila, as a show of good faith.

But on June 9, State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns angrily denied that there had been any channeling of funds to Kabila. He said that Secretary of State Madeleine Albright had made no such decision; that any flow of money to Kabila's government was contingent upon the meeting of certain requirements. This includes that full access be granted to human rights investigators in eastern Zaire. Kabila has agreed to this in principle, but by the time the investigators arrive on July 7, the evidence may already have been disposed of. Money to Kabila is also contingent on economic reform, and moves toward democracy, Burns said. Exonerating the press for the false story, Burns instead blamed "bad backgrounding," implying efforts to stampede a decision on the issue.

The Africa quagmire

In an editorial in *EIR* on Feb. 7, entitled "Africa: Today's 'Indo-China Quagmire,'" American statesman Lyndon LaRouche warned that the "danger is that President Clinton's second term could be virtually sunk in an Africa quagmire that is shaping up fast to become even worse than the Johnson administration's Vietnam debacle." LaRouche noted that the Clinton administration "did not launch these ongoing crimes against humanity, the British Commonwealth did: but, unless

President Clinton intervenes against 'our ever-loving British imperialist ally,' soon, to force a halt in the British Privy Council's invasions of Zaire and Sudan, the Clinton administration, not the British Commonwealth, will be set up to take the blame for what will become within months, or even weeks, the worst genocide of the Twentieth Century, raging throughout sub-Saharan Africa."

LaRouche's prognostication has been borne out completely. The United States told Ugandan President Museveni not to invade Zaire; the State Department publicly told Museveni during the Ugandan President's visit to Washington in February that Ugandan and Rwandan troops must get out of Zaire. However, with the backing of the British Empire behind them, Museveni et al. did not listen.

Now, Zaire has been gobbled up into the British Privy Council's holdings, its people mercilessly attacked, the refugees on its soil slaughtered. And not even one month since Kabila's inauguration, the British marcherlord force of Museveni, Kabila, Kagame, Dos Santos, Afwerki, Zenawi, and Mkapa of Tanzania is on the march again:

To the west: As *EIR* had warned, Congo-Brazzaville now faces "early ingestion," by Kabila forces. A bloody civil war has broken out in this neighbor to Kinshasa, with provocations coming from the "cobra" militias of former Marxist and President Denis Sassou Nguesso. Since the Congo-Brazzaville armed forces surrounded Nguesso's house in an attempt to coral his "cobra militias," the country has been torn by civil war, and reportedly Nguesso's forces are in control of major sections of the capital.

Nguesso, of the same Maoist breed as Kabila et al., is reportedly being funded and aided in other ways by Kabila. In an indication that Rwandan-Ugandan troops might soon be in Congo-Brazzaville itself, Kabila claimed that a shell landed across the river in Kinshasa, which was cited by Kabila et al. as a deliberate provocation against Congo. There are also reports that Angolan troops may enter Congo-Brazzaville on Nguesso's behalf.

France has sent 800 troops to the country, but with little effect so far. The United States and France are calling for a cease-fire between Nguesso and current President Pascal Lisouba.

To the northeast: In the first week of June, the Sudan government declared that it was fully prepared for expected new attacks coming from Eritrea, citing a buildup of Eritrean forces on the border of the two countries. *EIR* has also learned that Ugandan armed forces have cleared out the northern border area of Uganda, in preparation for another Ugandan invasion of southern Sudan, with the aim of capturing the key city of Juba. The ultimate aim is to embroil Sudan in a two-front war that could ignite a far greater conflagration.

The on-the-ground movements suggest that LaRouche was right; and there is not a moment to lose for the Clinton administration to take the steps required to stop the spread of the African quagmire.

Documentation

Nobody can now deny Kabila's genocide

The following are excerpts from articles appearing in the world's press on the genocide of the Rwandan and Hutu refugees and also displaced Zaireans in eastern Zaire. The articles are listed in reverse chronological order.

June 12, Massimo Nava, "Kabila? He Studied Maoism with Me in Albania," *Corriere della Sera*, Italy.

"The end of the Cold War provoked a colossal recycling of a generation grown 'on the other side.' Laurent Désiré Kabila, the conquerer of Zaire . . . today promises democracy and a free market. He gained the support of the U.S., making people forget his revolutionary past. . . .

"Kabila was so taken by the dream of revolution, that he was prepared to implement it in that sanctuary of Marxism-Leninism that was the Albania of the '60s, the beachhead of Maoist China in Europe. A presence almost buried in the archives of the Albanian regime, but brought to the surface by a man who knows many secrets, Abdi Baleta.

"In 1964, Abdi Baleta, the same age as Kabila, was asked by the university 'cell' of the Communist Party to 'accompany a Congo student,' who had arrived in Tirana with a visa from the Albanian embassy in Warsaw. The young Congolese had been previously at the Patrice Lumumba University in Moscow. . . . He said his name was Paul Kabongo, and confessed his 'disappointment with the "revisionism" of the Kremlin,' and asked to be enrolled in classes on Marxism in Tirana. . . . The relation between the two lasted for six months."

The group of foreign students trained in Albania, Nava writes, included Marxist-Leninists from France, Belgium, and Italy; for their training and expenses was used "the so-called 'Solidarity Fund' financed by Maoist China. . . . After that stay in Albania, Kabongo-Kabila returned to Zaire and began to conceive the dream of conquest that was realized 30 years later. In the meantime, he dedicated himself to trading in gold and diamonds. . . ."

June 11, John Pomfret, "Massacres Were a Weapon in Congo's Civil War—Evidence Mounts of Atrocities by Kabila's Forces," *Washington Post*.

"Taken together, [the reports] suggest the massacres were not isolated instances of unruly troops, but rather part of Kabila's war. . . . In mid-April, urged on by military

officers loyal to Laurent Kabila, the Kasese villagers tore through a camp of mostly Rwandan Hutu refugees, hacking and spearing groups of men, women and children. . . . A day later, Kabila's rebel forces stepped in and, according to survivors and local residents, ravaged the refugee community of 55,000 for seven hours, firing wildly into the encampment. Again local villagers joined in the fray, wielding spears and machetes. . . .

"In interviews Congolese soldiers fighting for Kabila indicated that the massacres were ordered by the Rwandan army officers who dominated Kabila's officer corps. . . .

"On Saturday [June 7], after meeting with Bill Richardson, the U.S. ambassador to the UN, Kabila agreed to cooperate with a UN investigation into reported massacres. . . . But the first team is due in the Congo in two weeks and the investigation is scheduled to begin July 6. Already, *Kabila's forces appear to be destroying evidence.* . . . [emphasis added].

"On Monday [June 8] this reporter saw more than 40 men moving through the Kasese camp, picking up spent cartridges and dropped machetes and spears. Two of the men said the team would later go to the mass grave site and begin burning cadavers. Piles of firewood had been collected. . . . This reporter went to the site but was chased away by several soldiers. . . . A similar clean-up operation already has been reported at the Biaro refugee camp. . . . On April 20, Kabila's forces banned UN aid workers from the Kasese and Biaro camps. . . . The next day villagers, clutching knives and spears, attacked the [Kasese] camp, cutting a few refugees and pillaging the camp's infirmary. . . .

"At 4 the next morning, according to one account . . . the rebel [Kabila's] military surrounded the vast camp and began firing on the just-awakening refugees. For seven hours. . . . 'It lasted for hours, tat-tat-tat, tat-tat-tat, the soldiers were just killing and killing,' said a local farmer who spoke on condition of anonymity because Kabila's officers have warned people not to speak. . . . A student, Ndizeye, hid in the bush. . . . Thousands among the camp's population fled into the thick jungle. Hundreds could not move. According to Peter Kessler, a spokesman for the UN High Commissioner on refugees, 9,000 were considered 'extremely vulnerable,' meaning they could not walk. . . . Near nightfall of April 22, Ndizeye came out. . . . 'I passed over the bodies of many people; some were still crying. There was everyone there—women, children, men, brothers, boys, girls.' She spent the night . . . and she awoke at the sound of a bulldozer pushing a mound of corpses in a large pit. Amid the corpses was her brother Nkerabahizi . . . his head open in five places . . . holes in his left leg. He had been left for dead. . . .

"Nkerabahizi described the pile of corpses as approximately 5 feet high, 40 feet long and 20 feet wide. He said he lay near the bottom of the pile. . . . 'When the bulldozer driver took a break, I moved like a snake into the forest,'

he said. 'I lived there for a week. Then, when I heard UN people calling us with megaphones, I decided to find them'

"In the village of Wenji, Red Cross workers buried 116 people and pushed dozens more bodies into the river, [witnesses said]. . . . About 280 refugees had assembled on a barge at the port. . . . A longshoreman described the scene he saw. . . . 'The army came onto the docks and started spraying the port with bullets. All of the soldiers just loaded their guns and shot at the boat, killing everybody. Bodies fell into the river. Bodies fell onto the quay, into the barge. . . . I was in the warehouse and saw it all. The smell, all the blood, the crying. And the soldiers were so cold. Then *they called the Red Cross, to clean up the mess.* They came and they pushed the rest of the bodies into the river.' . . .

"UN officials worry that thousands more refugees are alive in the Congo's dense jungle and *risk extermination by Kabila's troops.* . . . A UN team found a group of 300 over the weekend in swamps two days by boat from Mbandaka. But Congolese authorities denied the team permission to remove the refugees. [Kabila's men claimed that] the area would be closed because of military operations. 'We are worried that *we are being used by the military to identify where the refugees are. The military will then go in and kill them,*' a UN official said" (emphasis added).

June 1, Colin Nickerson, *Boston Globe*.

"As the world rushes to congratulate Kabila for overthrowing Mobutu, the continent's most spectacularly venal dictator, terrible things are happening in the deep bush of this ruined country of 46 million people and more than 200 tribes." A Red Cross worker who buried women and children with their heads crushed in by rifle butts is quoted saying: "'The alliance fighters told us they only killed former soldiers guilty of murder, but with my own hands I buried small children and women, too.' . . . [A Belgian missionary said]: 'This was like something planned, not a spontaneous spasm. The soldiers acted as if they were just doing their job, following orders. They didn't seem out of control.'

"Meanwhile, Western diplomats, UN officials, and workers for major relief organizations are increasingly fearful that an organized campaign of killings is occurring in hinterlands, where the military has encircled tens of thousands of refugees. Alliance troops have declared many of these zones off-limits to aid workers. 'The situation is ominous and becoming more ominous,' said Kris Janowski, a spokesman for the Geneva-based UN High Commission for Refugees. 'We have no access to huge areas of Zaire. We are very, very alarmed.' "

May 30, editorial, "Order Rules in Kinshasa," *Le Monde*, Paris.

The "order" referred to is, first, that of Kabila, politically,

assigning to himself dictatorial powers, and second, the brutality with which the post-Mobutu military/security forces have cracked down on demonstrations, and bullied foreign journalists and photographers, including confiscating some of their equipment. Hence, the military is making it be understood, that order will reign in Kinshasa.

But there is something much more ghastly going on, *Le Monde* writes, also a sign of “order”: “Another order, the order of death, continues to strike, in the east of the country, against the Rwandan refugees. The only question that the new masters of former Zaire seem to be asking themselves, is a question of frightening simplicity: Will hunger and disease suffice, to decimate a population of pariahs that nobody wants, or will it be necessary to accelerate the process, by carrying out further massacres?”

May 26, statement by the World Food Program, Bonn, Germany.

“There are no longer any refugees in Zaire who could be supported with food and medical aid,” a spokesman of the Bonn office of the World Food Program told *EIR*. “All the camps have been destroyed, and many, if not most, of the refugees have been slain by the Kabila forces,” the source said, adding that it is “entirely unclear how many of them are still alive, after having returned to Rwanda.”

There is no access for the relief organizations to Rwanda, as the government there has not requested any international aid for the refugees after their return. All international aid was linked to the existence of the camps in eastern Zaire, and to the transfer of the refugees—those that survived the massacres and the exhaustion—back to Rwanda. Whether they survived, after their forced return, is entirely unknown.

May 23, John Moore, Associated Press, *Washington Post*.

An Associated Press photographer was led to a scene of mass graves outside the former Biaro refugee camp, 25 miles south of Kisangani, despite the fact that the area has been cordoned off by the Kabila forces. Led by a soldier appalled at the massacres he had witnessed, the AP photographer found seven irregular areas of freshly turned earth, each about 10 feet long by 10 feet wide, about 50 yards from the Biaro camp. The soldier said that 200-600 refugees were buried there, who had been killed by Kabila’s forces. The *Post* reports: “The soldier said the Tutsi soldiers ‘captured the refugees coming out of the woods. Sometime they bound their hands before grouping them for execution.’ He said that as many as 30 refugees were being killed daily, and that he had recently seen 43 people hacked to death one by one, to the horror of refugees waiting their turn. He said he did not participate in the killings, but helped remove the bodies for burning. ‘There is much work to do—digging up bodies and burning them. When the UN eventually comes to investigate, there will be no evidence left.’ ”

What will Italy do to stop African genocide?

by Publio Fiori

On June 9, Publio Fiori, a member of the Italian Parliament, submitted the following parliamentary interrogatory to the Italian external affairs minister. It has been translated from Italian by EIR, which also supplied the headline.

I would like to know, given that:

- in Zaire, a true genocide of the Hutu population and refugees in the Kivu and Shaba provinces is taking place, aimed at disintegrating that state and bringing about an unending series of wars of extermination;
- after the denunciations by American UN Ambassador Bill Richardson, information gathered by German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel, as it was reported to the EC foreign ministers meeting in Luxembourg on June 2, 1997, as well as the denunciations made by European Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid Emma Bonino, by former French Cooperation Minister Jacques Godfrain, by Father Giulio Albanese, the revelations which appeared in the main European dailies, including *La Stampa*, *Le Figaro*, and the *Times*, as well as coverage on German television and in the English and American press, there is a well-founded suspicion that the Hutu populations residing in the Great Lakes region are victims of a genocidal depopulation war, fomented by a “world raw materials cartel,” at whose service cruel mercenaries operate;
- that the aim of this depopulation operation is that of dissolving the African nation-states, proceeding, through the recolonization of the African continent, to new forms of control over natural resources and promoting to power new “masters of war,” all of this with the aim of taking over, before the feared collapse of the financial markets happens, a strategically decisive quantity of resources in some among the richest mining areas in the world;
- that Emma Bonino, in particular, in *La Stampa*, accused General Kabila of having exterminated 460,000 Rwandan refugees, and French Minister Godfrain compared Kabila to Pol Pot;
- that Kabila is supported by Uganda’s President Museveni, by the President of Angola, the former Marxist Dos Santos; Kabila’s visit to Luanda, the capital of Angola, seems to reveal a combination of interests within which President Museveni seems to occupy a central position, together with Gen. Paul Kagame in Rwanda, Buyoya’s regime in Burundi, Afwerki in Eritrea, and Ethiopian President Meles Zenawi;