City grenade attack again

One person died and 4 others sustained minor injuries during two separate grenade attacks in Kigali on Saturday night. (April 10, 2010) The simultaneous blasts, one in Nyabugogo Taxi Park and the other at Cyahafi, near Kigali Central Prison, took place between 6:30 p.m. and 8 p.m. respectively. Police spokesperson, Eric Kayiranga, confirmed the attacks and said that investigations have begun.

“We are still working on the evidence collected and we shall compare with previous attacks and come up with an analysis which we shall communicate,” Kayiranga said.

Saturday’s grenade attack is the third to rock Kigali in less than two months. On February 19, two people were killed and several others wounded in two grenade attacks and on 4 March, two near-simultaneous grenade explosions occurred in the capital injuring 16 people.

Major changes in the military

President Paul Kagame carried out changes in the military and named General James Kabarebe as the new Minister of Defence replacing Gen. Marcel Gatsinzi.

Kabarebe has been the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) of the Rwanda Defence Forces (RDF).

Former Army Chief of Staff, Lt. Gen. Charles Kayonga is now the new CDS and will be replaced as head of the land forces by Maj. Gen. Caesar Kayizari.

Air Force Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Charles Muhire was made the Commander of Reserve Force while Maj. Joseph Damari was promoted to Colonel and appointed acting Air Force Chief of Staff.

Lt. Col. Dan Munyuza was promoted to Colonel and appointed Director General External Intelligence.

In memory of the victims of the 1994 Genocide

Hundreds of Rwandans and foreigners gathered at Amahoro National Stadium in Kigali Wednesday (7 April) to officially start a week-long national 16th commemoration of the 1994 genocide.

The 16th Genocide commemoration is centered on managing trauma cases. “Over 20% of all Rwandans bear signs of trauma, 50% of whom are in extreme depression due to the effects of the 1994 genocide”, revealed Dr Naasson Munyendamutsa, a researcher at the Rwanda National University.

Kagame ridicules political opponents as hooligans

Rwandan President Paul Kagame on Wednesday (7 April) accused foreign critics of trying to impose values on Rwanda as well as preferring his political opponents whom he described as mere ‘hooligans’ to govern the country.

In his address to hundreds of mourners at ceremonies to mark the 16th anniversary of the 1994 Rwandan Genocide, Kagame accused the opposition – specifically naming his rival Victoire Ingabire in person, of “political hooliganism”. The President also accused the critics of “abusing me” in the name of freedom of expression,” but said he is “not bothered at all”.

Solitary Confinement punishment abolished

The Chamber of Deputies (Lower House of Parliament) passed a bill to expunge solitary confinement as a punitive measure for people sentenced to “Life Imprisonment with Special provisions”.

The sentence applies to individuals convicted of Genocide, crimes against humanity, murder, torture resulting into death, performing derogatory acts on a dead body, child sexual abuse, and sexual torture.

Studies have shown that human beings are inherently social. Prolonged isolation from the rest of humanity has a negative impact on one’s ability to live a normal life.

UN observes global day of remembrance for genocide victims

Securing justice for the victims of genocide and preventing future atrocities are the best ways to honor the hundreds of thousands of people slaughtered in Rwanda 16 years ago, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon stressed on Wednesday, as the UN observes a global day of remembrance for the tragedy.

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