



Rwandan Refugees Watch — Weekly Briefing

1. The Forgotten Massacre of Rwandan Refugees 29 October 1996
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All For Rwanda is a global movement committed to supporting Rwandan refugees, defending their rights, and working toward dignified solutions that will one day allow their safe and massive return home. Through this weekly newsletter, we share key updates on Rwanda and its region, the situation of refugee communities, and a snapshot of our own actions. All of this is guided by a clear vision: a better Rwanda, a peaceful Great Lakes region, and a future where prosperity is shared by all. Our goal is to keep you informed, engaged, and part of a community that believes in justice, protection, and hope for Rwandan refugees worldwide.

1. The Forgotten Massacre of Rwandan Refugees 29 October 1996

On 29 October 1996, forces of the Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo (AFDL) and the Rwandan Patriotic Army (RPA) captured the Rumangabo military camp in North Kivu, Zaire (now the Democratic Republic of Congo), before launching a devastating assault on nearby refugee camps at Mugunga and Lac Vert. According to the **UN Mapping Report (OHCHR, 2010, paras. 152–155)**, these camps sheltered hundreds of thousands of Rwandan Hutu refugees mostly women, children, and the elderly who had fled the 1994 conflict in Rwanda. The attacks resulted in the shelling and burning of the camps, killing large numbers of refugees and forcing survivors to flee westward. Many were later hunted down and massacred along the routes from Goma to Walikale, Shabunda, and Mbandaka. The UN report concludes that these widespread and systematic killings could, if proven before a competent court, amount to **crimes of genocide**. Nearly three decades later, this tragedy remains unacknowledged and unpunished. Today, we honor the memory of the thousands of Rwandan refugees massacred at

Mugunga and Lac Vert and renew the call for truth, justice, and accountability.

(Source: UN Mapping Report, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, August 2010)

2. Community Cries for Justice After Church and School Destruction.

A local community living in Kintele refugee settlement in Republic of Congo is raising alarm over ongoing threats and destruction targeting their properties and institutions. It began with the demolition of a Pentecostal church, followed by the destruction of homes belonging to thirteen families acts that drew the attention of the Minister of Lands. Community members say they had earlier blocked access to the primary school to protect it, leading to the intervention of Madam Romère and the municipal council, who later demolished a wall that had been erected to control entry to the classrooms. However, the situation worsened when land buyers returned and completely destroyed the school, forcing it to relocate. During the school year, the school office was also broken into, and essential documents were damaged. According to residents, Madam Romère is fully aware of these incidents. Today, the community continues to live in fear of further demolitions and loss of their remaining property. **All for Rwanda** expresses deep concern over the plight of the affected families and urges the host country's authorities to address the situation promptly and fairly, ensuring justice, protection, and respect for the community's rights and places of worship.

(Source: Community testimonies collected by All for Rwanda, October 2025)

3. "What solution for the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR)?"

In his insightful article, Norman Ishimwe explores the enduring controversy surrounding the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR) specifically whether the group should be neutralised militarily or engaged through dialogue. Ishimwe outlines the history of the FDLR, tracing its roots to Hutu refugees and militia in eastern DRC, and highlights how the group's continued existence remains a major point of tension for both the Rwandan government and regional stability. According to Ishimwe, the choice between force and diplomacy is complex: while military operations have weakened the FDLR's capacity, decades of conflict and displacement reveal that the group cannot be eliminated by force alone. At the same time, dialogue poses risks potentially legitimising the group, undermining justice for victims, and empowering splinter factions. Ishimwe ultimately proposes a **hybrid approach**, combining targeted military pressure with structured political engagement as a sustainable path toward peace and regional

security.

All for Rwanda supports the perspective presented in Ishimwe's article and urges all concerned parties including regional governments, international actors, and human rights institutions to examine this matter critically and pursue lasting, justice-oriented solutions that prioritise the protection of civilians and the rights of refugees.

(Source: Norman Ishimwe, "Neutraliser ou dialoguer : quelle solution pour les Forces Démocratiques de Libération du Rwanda (FDLR) ?", Jambo News, <https://www.jambonews.net>)

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