

Pseudonym:

MELVLIN-7

P. 11(b)

Witness Code: MELVLIN

ICTR-98-41-7
Exh. P. 11(b)
Transcription: 9/9/2002.
E.

Melvorn
Linda

"Activite de la presse privee" authored by Col. Laurent Serubuga

DOCUMENT INFORMATION			
Doc Type:	Letter	For Witness Statement:	
Doc Sources:	Melvorn	Signature Date:	
Doc Location:	ICTR	Interviewer 1:	
Doc Original No.:		Interviewer 2:	
Doc Date:	29-Nov-91	DOCUMENT CODING:	
Format:	Typewritten	Document code:	MELVLIN-7
Original language:	French	ICTR Number:	
Translation:	English	ERN Number:	L001-0375-76
ERN Translation:	L001-6685-86	Disclosure Code:	MELVLIN-7
		Disclosable:	Yes
Past Disclosure---Past Disclosure---Past Disclosure---Past Disclosure			
IN	Code Used	Date	Support
Bagosora	MELVLIN-07	09-May-02	No
Kabiligi	MELVLIN-07	09-May-02	No
Nsengiyumva	MELVLIN-07	09-May-02	No
Ntabakuze	MELVLIN-07	09-May-02	No

REPUBLIC OF RWANDA
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
RWANDAN ARMY
HEADQUARTERS
G3

Kigali, 29 November 1991
No. 1404/G2.5.1

TO: The Honourable Minister of Defence,
Kigali.

Honourable Minister,

SUBJECT: ACTIVITIES OF THE PRIVATE PRESS

Since the advent of multi-partism in our country, and even prior to that period, the private press has prospered through criticisms leveled against the authorities in the name of freedom of expression guaranteed by all democratic systems of government. This state of affairs was hailed by national and international opinion as additional proof of democratic freedom in our country.

However, we are aware that the enemy had seized this opportunity to establish newspapers that it controls and manipulates, and at the same time, it finances others to disseminate its messages thereby worsening the political situation in the country. In effect, given that the enemy has practically lost the war on the ground, it is exploiting the political situation to make sure that it evolves in its favour.

It is with this objective in mind that it manipulates the whole press as well as others it also controls by dishing out huge sums of money to them. Consequently, part of the general population, in particular the Officers cadre in the army has started asking questions about the situation.

In effect, they are disgusted by these publications which hide behind the freedom of expression to serve as a propaganda tool for the enemy and in so doing contribute to the worsening of the internal political atmosphere.

The newspapers in question are KANGUKA, the most prominent, but also others such as RWANDA RUSHYA, TRIBUN DU PEUPLE, UMURANGI, KIBERINKA, NYABARONGO etc... Those financed by the enemy include

ISIBO, IJAMBO, IMBAGA as well as others that preach regional or ethnic divisions.

The agents of the enemy include journalists such as Vincent Rwabukwisi and his colleagues of KANGUKA, Jean Pierre Mugabe and one Wilson of TRIBUN DU PEUPLE as well as Kameya of RWANDA RUSHYA.

In view of his situation, the Officers and those who share similar opinions are now wondering if the government does not have the authority anymore to impose law and order and to bring to heel newspapers that collaborate with the enemy or are been used as its propaganda tool. One wonders also why the government does not resort to the use of any law or decree to punish the excesses of the press, which, whilst hiding behind the principle of "freedom of expression", could create public disorder to the benefit of the enemy.

One should also question why in this period of war, agents operating on behalf of the enemy and recognized as such, would continue with impunity to prepare the victory of the enemy through sustained propaganda and insidious tactics perpetrated in its favour.

For all the above reasons, I hereby request you to call upon your colleague, the Honourable Minister of Justice, to assume his responsibilities and to put an end to this state of affairs. If the situation were left to persist, it would get out of control to the benefit of the enemy and to the detriment of the cause we are fighting for, with all the attendant catastrophic consequences.

Please accept, Sir, the assurances of our highest consideration.

(Signed)

Major General Juvenal Habyarimana

a.i. Colonel Laurent Serubuga
HQ Chief