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sitrep nr.4  
msfb rwanda

strictly confidential

=====  
from: [redacted]  
to: task force rwanda  
cc: kampala/ bujumbura/ msfh  
date: 06-07-1994  
ref: 94/by/32  
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General:

Alk

When the deployment of french troops in rwanda, the atmosphere in rpf territory changed dramatically. rpf prepared their defense lines and moved big numbers of population. the attitude towards ngo's became more aggressive, suspicious and the cooperation diminished day by day. passports were checked, searching for french nationals and those present were intimidated. i sent a french logistician back to bujumbura upon arrival in ruhango and another was sent to kampala, changed with a belgian national. both evacuations were done for security reasons. on june 23, rpf ordered the evacuation of the population in the zone between gitarama and butare, meaning all displaced, residents and relief workers. everybody would be directed to nyamata and surroundings. we were asked to assist with the evacuation of hospital patients and orphans, medical and logistical. i agreed to assist and arranged a team of 7 persons with 3 vehicles to go to ruhango in the early hours of June 24. msf bujumbura + nyamata were asked to join with human resources, vehicles and supplies. an incredible task was waiting for us, taking the maximum input of the personnel involved.

evacuation:

evacuation zone:	kabgayi/gitarama/nyanza/ruhango
population of zone:	70.000-100.000
from which displaced:	<u>35.000</u>
evacuation ordered by:	rpf
<u>explanation:</u>	<u>preparation of defense zone</u> incase of french attack.
hospitals in zone:	msfb ruhango (700) icrc nyanza (285) disp. kinazi (200)
orphans in zone:	ruhango (500) nyanza (700)

msfb staff input (expat): 23  
msfb vehicles: 15 cars. (handtop/pickup)  
12 trucks  
2 water tanker trucks  
- assisting ngo's: atlas, logiserv, caritas

official rpf figure of  
displaced in resettlement  
area (temporary): rilima 5.000  
ruhuha 25.000

patients that arrived in  
rilima hospital: not exactly known yet.  
estimated on 700.  
rest is 'missing' or dead.

death rate per trip/truck: 1 average.

objectives: evacuation of all patients of  
the hospitals. evacuation of  
orphans. transportation of old,  
sick, pregnant and stranded  
civilians. health services and  
survival assistance in the re-  
settlement area.

objected destination: nyamata + rilima.

rpf attitude:

general disinterest for the well being of the population.  
terms like 'natural selection' and lines like 'nobody will die  
your trucks, not even the worst ones' were used by military  
personnel. our operation, although requested by the rpf has  
been supported by them.

main problems:

- 1) arresting the msf identified trucks, and the drivers at  
the border with burundi.
- 2) intimidation of msfb personnel by rpf escorts, military and  
civil personnel.
- 3) lack of communication between different commanders.
- 4) refusal of authorizations to explore the rilima hospital  
and deliberate delay of our preparation activities for the  
reception of patients.
- 5) stepped up bureaucracy in times that flexibility is  
crucial.
- 6) rerouting of trucks with patients by rpf.  
changing of orders from msf personnel towards drivers by  
rpf.

- 7) adding and removing persons on msf trucks by rpf.
- 8) unavailability of authorities when needed (civil/ military)
- 9) rpf efforts to split up cooperation icrc/msf for rilima.
- 10) general rude and demanding attitude of rpf officials towards us without the slightest appreciation.
- 11) attack on and victory over kigali and butare, bringing the soldiers in cheerioo mood, being drunk, careless and aggressive. this resulted in security problems in rilima.
- 12) armed threats towards icrc delegate ferry alaame combined with impossible deadlines for the evacuation of nyanza hospital.

rilima hospital and public health structures:

the hospital, newly built by the italian cooperation, was a centre for handicapped orphans. it has a double operation theatre and x-ray equipment. although damage has been done to the structure, it is generally in a good condition.

icrc has moved from nyanza to the same location, but will move out next week. for the time being, they will assist msfb with personnel and logistics to get started. management is improving day by day, but big expat presence will be needed in order to keep tight control. the structure can absorb up to 400 inpatients. in order to avoid overcrowding, health facilities have been set up outside of the hospital compound:

- 1) therapeutic feeding centre.
- 2) supplementary feeding centre.
- 3) rehydration centre.
- 4) dispensary with daycare inpatient department.

human resources:

placements and reinforcements needed:

rilima:

- |                       |                       |                 |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| 1) field coordinator. | repl. lieven.         | departure 12/7  |
| 2) nurse post op.     | vacancy               | (urgent.)       |
| 3) nurse block op.    | repl. for alessandra. | departure 12/7  |
| 4) nurse rehydr.ctr   | repl. for veronique.  | departure 15/7  |
| 5) med. field coord.  | repl. lisette.        | departure 05/08 |
| 6) doctor paediatrics | repl. valerie         | departure 14/08 |

general:

- |                        |            |                |
|------------------------|------------|----------------|
| 1) general coordinator | repl. pim. | departure 05/8 |
|------------------------|------------|----------------|

nyamata:

- |                |             |                 |
|----------------|-------------|-----------------|
| 1) nurse       | repl. mania | departure 07/08 |
| 2) doctor      | repl. gaddo | departure 07/08 |
| 3) logistician | repl. peter | departure 15/08 |

organigram:

general coordinator: (byumba/ rilima)  
medical coordinator: (byumba/ rilima)

byumba + camps:

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medical doctor:  
nurse  
logistician

nyamata:

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medical doctor:  
nurse:  
logistician:

rilima:

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field coordinator:  
med. field coordinator:  
hospital manager:  
logistician:  
logistician:  
surgeon:  
aneastesist:  
nurse instrumentist:  
n. use post operative:  
doctor med. Intern:  
or dispensary:  
nurse th. feeding ctr:  
nurse suppl. feeding ctr:  
nurse paediatric ward:  
doctor paediatric ward:  
nurse rehydration/ disp.:

kampala:

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administrator:  
logistician:  
fin. controller:

security:

apart from the attempted bombing of our vehicle by a helicopter of the far, (shot down around gitarama) we had no contact with government troops. french troops had already 30 seconds fire exchange with rpf, and we don't know what will happen incase rpf will not stop at 'mitterand's last defence line'.

*no displacements?*

\*in the rpf controlled zones there is no general security problem (for expats), although incidents are taking place. there is a curfew now, from 19.00 till 06.00, over the entire rpf zone. generators have to be off after 19.00 hrs and light should be dimmed.

biggest problem is still the disrespect for our rules cc weapons in msf cars/ buildings. especially in rilima, infiltrations in the hospital by armed personnel is common. a woman and her child disappeared after a soldier entered the hospital by force. before msf/icrc expats were on the spot, the trio had vanished. intimidation/ interrogation of our local staff is very common, just like the entire civil population. one night we had to evacuate all expat personnel from their bedrooms into the canteen of icrc, because threats we received from armed personnel that was drunk.

our expats and a local secretary would be 'punished' they had said. since that night we hide the secretary in a windowless store room next to the ot during the night, because she is not safe and the intimidations towards her are non-stop. arrangements are made with the icrc for her protection by means of icrc employment, submission to family reunion program or by other ways. rpf wants to have control over the local staff, and claims the right to select who are 'non desirable'. sofar we (icrc msf) have refused their influence on our staff policies, but it is clear that we face mayor problems for the future. (rpf assigned staff/ intimidation of non rpf staff/ etc)

latest news: [redacted] (icrc rilima) who i met today in kabale, told me that two cars were leaving nyamata to start to work on the restoration of the water supply for the bugesera. [redacted] car msfb accepted an armed escort, while the two expats took the other (icrc) car. the msfb car driven by local driver, with the escort on board, went first on the road. they saw two persons going of the road, getting into the bush. the escort jumped out of the msf car, ran behind them and shot at the two unarmed persons. both were killed.....

i didnot hear anything from my own teammates yet, but most likely peter has allowed this escort with weapon in the car. please advise.

other ngo's (like mdm and care) are confirming the picture i gave you cc rpf attitude. planned killing, ethnic cleansing and so on. let eric come for sure on saturday, please. i want to be replaced asap, because it is getting really rough fro me now. my name seems to circle as anti rpf. i could fairly well be targetted with the blame that i brought the news to europe.

please advise. (send from msfh standard c in kabale)

xoxo from paradise, pim