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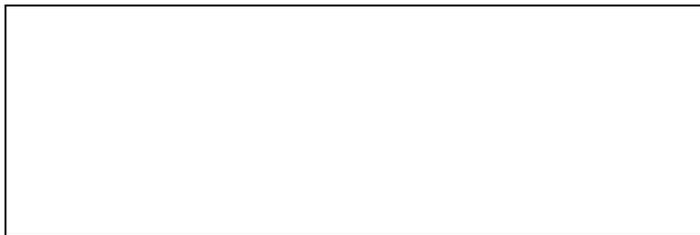
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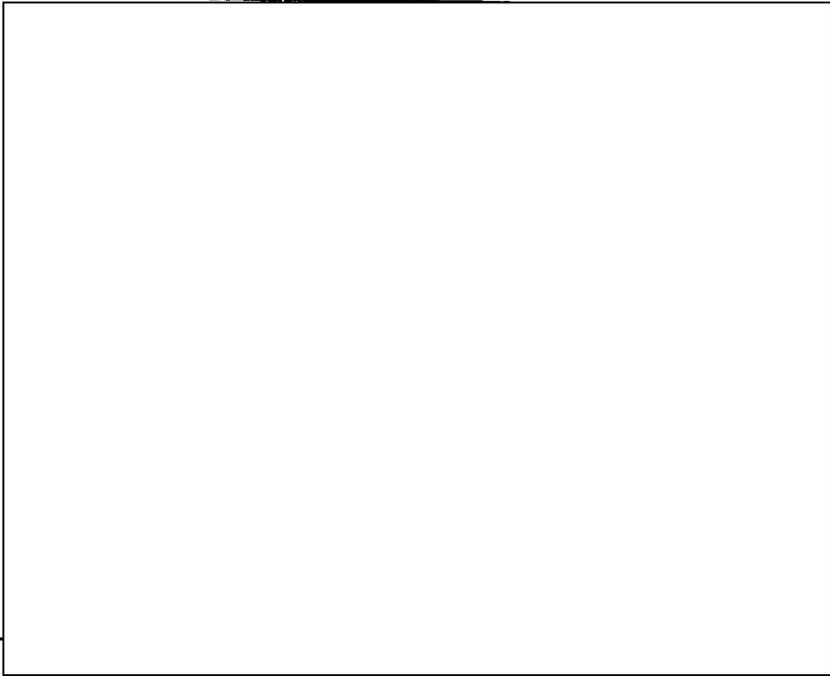
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Rwanda: Hutu Hardliners Challenge Peace Process

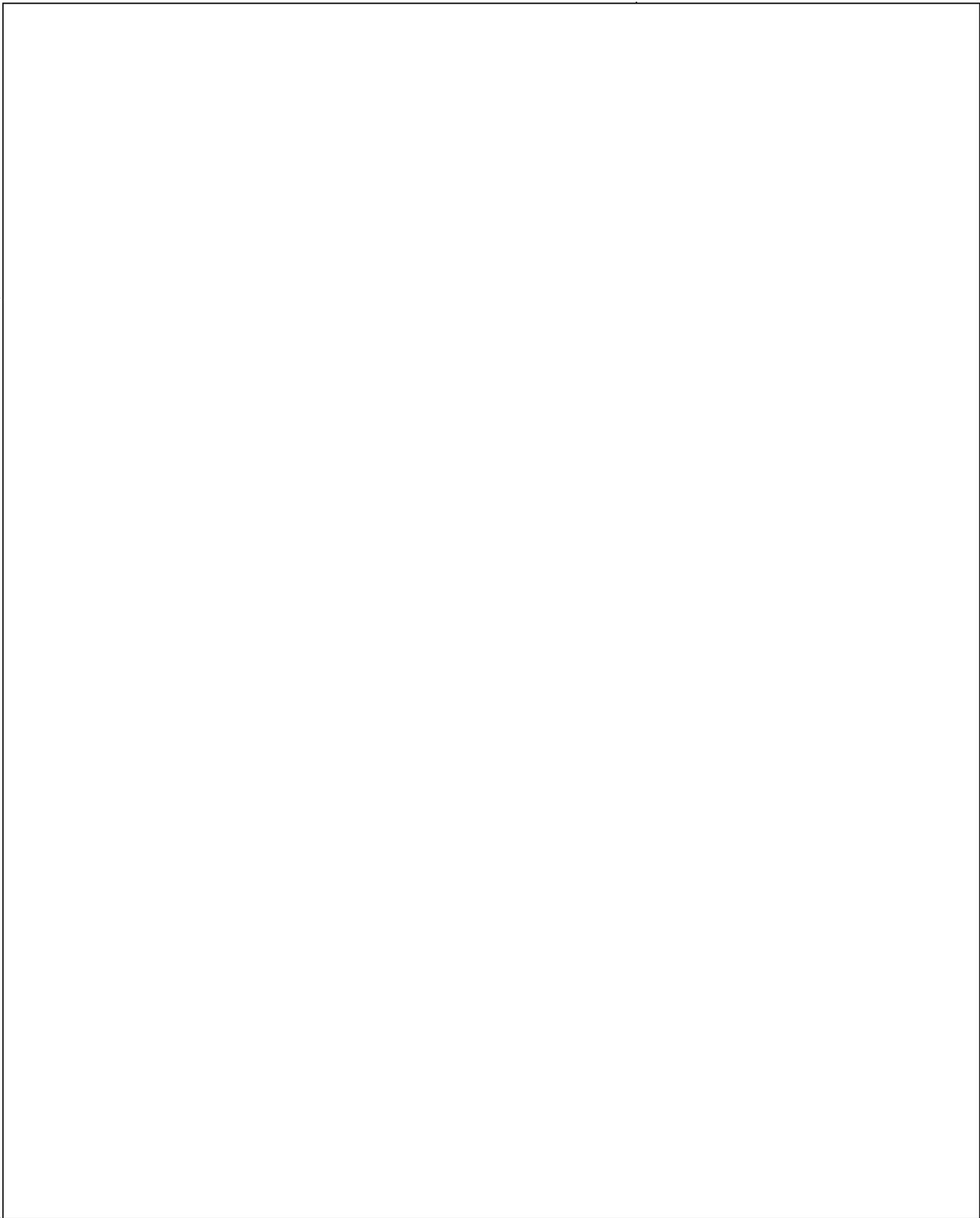


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A new ethnic Hutu supremacist party, the Coalition for the Defense of the Republic, is turning to violence and mass action to stop ethnic powersharing that it fears will erode the Hutus' political power.



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Rwanda: Hutu Hardliners Challenge Peace Process

A relatively new ethnic Hutu supremacist party, the Coalition for the Defense of the Republic (CDR), is turning to violence and mass action to stop ethnic powersharing under negotiation that it fears will erode the Hutus' political power. The CDR has focused on the peace talks in Arusha between the ethnic-minority Tutsi rebels of the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) and the Hutu-dominated coalition government. Last December, the Arusha talks deadlocked over including the CDR in the new transition government. Earlier this year, the CDR—which has close ties to northern Hutu hardliners in President Habyarimana's coalition faction—initiated clashes with Tutsis, opposition party supporters, and southern Hutus in which at least 80 people were killed,

[redacted] In our judgment, this ethnic violence triggered a major attack by the RPF in February against government forces that broke a six-month cease-fire, interrupted the Arusha talks, and displaced nearly 1 million Rwandans. We believe the CDR will continue to provoke violence to oppose any powersharing agreement that would give Tutsis a stake in the government. [redacted]

CDR—A New Political Force

The CDR was formed in March 1992 by ethnic extremists seeking to maintain Hutu dominance in the government. The party draws its support from northern Rwanda, a Habyarimana stronghold. Although the CDR is not supported by all Hutus, it reportedly is allied with the youth wing of Habyarimana's ruling party—the Interhamwe—and could even attract followers from the major Hutu anti-Habyarimana opposition groups by playing on longstanding ethnic hatreds. Earlier this year, CDR hardliners denounced a cease-fire agreement between the rebels and the ruling party that called for rebel troops to retreat to precease-fire positions and for French troops, who were sent in February to protect Kigali, to depart. [redacted] the CDR may be a mouthpiece for the ruling party because Habyarimana's wife is believed to be one of the group's staunchest supporters. Last summer, CDR President Bucyana drew approximately 4,000 people to a rally at which he criticized the ruling party's conciliatory

Rwandan Political Parties

Movement for Democracy and Development (MRND) . . . ruling party, founded in 1975 . . . has some roots in countryside . . . continues to control administrative apparatus in most parts of country . . . has always represented the northern Hutus.

Interhamwe . . . MRND youth movement . . . feared by opposition members, who believe group is more a militia than simply a youth wing . . . said to be receiving paramilitary training from police.

Rwandan Democratic Movement (MDR) . . . formed in 1970s . . . has strong claim to democratic legitimacy from preindependence victory in the only free election held in Rwanda . . . resents coup that brought Habyarimana to power in 1975 . . . particularly strong in south.

Liberal Party (PL) . . . three top leaders are Hutu but its following is primarily Tutsi . . . appeals to Tutsi while maintaining alliance with MDR . . . one party Habyarimana feels would help ruling party vote in national government . . . strong in south.

Social Democratic Party (PSD) . . . offshoot of old MDR Parahutu . . . no particular ideological place in spectrum, but has flirted with alliance with MRND . . . most strength in south.

Alliance for Reinforcement of Democracy . . . formed last November, includes five small political parties allied with the ruling MRND—Ecologist party PECO, MRND, CDR, the Rwandese Democratic Party, and the Rwandese Republican Party . . . no group has strong following but stated commitment to peace talks when initially formed.

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approach toward the Tutsi rebels, [redacted]
[redacted] The CDR called on Habyarimana and the Prime Minister Nsengiyaremye—the government's representative to the talks—to resign, urging CDR supporters to press for their resignations, [redacted]
[redacted]

Flexing Its Muscle

When dialogue has failed, the CDR has used mass action to push for a role in the negotiations. In March, it announced its withdrawal from the pro-Habyarimana Alliance for the Restoration of Democracy, probably to express opposition to the talks and to pursue its goal of preserving Hutu supremacy. CDR leaders have said there can be no unity between the Hutus and the Tutsis. The CDR organized a number of mass actions to protest the Arusha peace talks. On New Year's Day, the CDR and the ruling party youth held demonstrations blocking all roads out of the capital, [redacted]
[redacted]

Impact on Peace Process

In our judgment, the CDR will probably try to undermine the Arusha peace negotiations further with

sporadic acts of violence that heighten Hutu-Tutsi animosities, putting at risk efforts to peacefully create a multiethnic government. Moreover, its withdrawal from the pro-Habyarimana alliance indicates the CDR's unwillingness to compromise if it believes Hutu supremacy is at risk. The CDR will almost certainly attempt to create problems for any transitional government that may emerge from the Arusha accords.

[redacted]

In a worst-case scenario, the CDR's rhetoric and violence could escalate beyond Kigali's ability to control it. In such an event, bloody anti-Tutsi communal violence could be unleashed. [redacted]

[redacted]