

Election Violence in Rwanda and Burundi, Refugees in Uganda

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Violence, repression, and human rights abuse continues to increase as 2010 elections approach in the East African neighbor nations of Rwanda and Burundi, whose ethnicity, politics, and conflicts are closely intertwined.

This week [Burundi ordered Human Rights Watch's researcher out of the country by June 5th](#), after she published her report on political violence "[We'll Tie You Up and Shoot You.](#)"

Neighboring [Rwanda did the same thing several weeks ago](#), and Rwanda's President Paul Kagame has continued to demand the forced repatriation of a million Rwandan refugees from Rwanda's northern neighbor Uganda.

Didas Gasana, Editor of Rwanda's [banned African language newspaper Umuseso](#) says that Rwandan President Paul Kagame is demanding that Rwandan political refugees be forcibly repatriated from Uganda so as to prevent them from joining militias to invade Rwanda as he himself and his militia did from 1990 until they seized power in 1994.

Rwanda presidential candidate [Victoire Ingabire Umuhuza](#) agrees and says that Kagame most likely wants to repatriate those young enough to join a rebel militia, possibly one led by [General Kayumba Nyamwasa](#) and Rwandan soldiers who followed him into exile in Uganda:

Ingabire reaffirms her conviction that there is no military solution for Rwanda, that only opening of political space to all Rwandans will bring lasting peace, even as she prepares to stand trial for crimes against the state which many say she has been charged with simply to prevent her from running against President Kagame.

For a [KPFA](#) Radio News report, including an interview with Victoire Ingabire Umuhuza about the refugee issue, click [here](#).

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