

ICTR Legacy Risked by Failure to Charge Rwandan Patriotic Front

By [Ann Garrison](#)

Global Research, January 30, 2010

[Digital Journal](#) 29 January 2010

Region: [sub-Saharan Africa](#)

Theme: [Crimes against Humanity](#)

In-depth Report: [CRIMINALIZE WAR](#)

On January 15th, 2010, Human Rights Watch warned that the legacy of the International Criminal Tribunal on Rwanda is jeopardized by the prosecutor's failure to bring charges against members of the Rwandan Patriotic Front which became the Rwandan Army.

On January 15th, 2010, Human Rights Watch (HRW) released its 500 page "Genocide, War Crimes and Crimes Against Humanity: A Digest of the Case Law of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda," which it said had "enriched the law on genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity."

HRW's press release, however, included this caveat:

"Human Rights Watch said that it was unfortunate that the Rwanda tribunal's prosecutor did not charge those accused from all sides in the conflict, as the Yugoslav tribunal and the Sierra Leone Special Court did in the conflicts they addressed. The Rwanda tribunal's prosecutor failed to bring charges against members of the Rwandan Patriotic Front, which became the Rwandan Army, who had been implicated in war crimes. This failure jeopardizes the tribunal's long-term legacy, Human Rights Watch said."

Their statement is especially noteworthy now, with the argument over disputed histories of the [Rwanda Genocide](#) intensifying as opposition parties attempt to register and field candidates in Rwanda's 2010 elections. See Digital Journal, "[Rwanda's 1994 genocide and 2010 elections.](#)"

On September 9th, 2009, former President [Bill Clinton presented a Global Citizenship Award to Rwandan President Paul Kagame](#), who led the Rwandan Patriotic Front which HRW believes the ICTR should have charged with war crimes. The RPF seized power in Rwanda in 1994, at the time of the [Rwanda Genocide](#), and Kagame is now the country's President and Commander-in-Chief of the Rwandan Army, the [Rwandan Defense Force \(RDF\)](#).

The United States has no stronger ally in Africa than Rwanda, and its leader, President Paul Kagame. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, speaking at the [African Growth and Opportunities Act conference](#), in 2009, pointed to Rwanda as a "beacon of hope for Africa." Here is the full [Human Rights Watch release, published on Common Dreams](#)

The original source of this article is [Digital Journal](#)
Copyright © [Ann Garrison](#), [Digital Journal](#), 2010

[Comment on Global Research Articles on our Facebook page](#)

[Become a Member of Global Research](#)

Articles by: [Ann Garrison](#)

Disclaimer: The contents of this article are of sole responsibility of the author(s). The Centre for Research on Globalization will not be responsible for any inaccurate or incorrect statement in this article. The Centre of Research on Globalization grants permission to cross-post Global Research articles on community internet sites as long the source and copyright are acknowledged together with a hyperlink to the original Global Research article. For publication of Global Research articles in print or other forms including commercial internet sites, contact: publications@globalresearch.ca

www.globalresearch.ca contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving it for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

For media inquiries: publications@globalresearch.ca