

Rwanda Runup to Elections: Grenade Attacks, Arrest and Assassination Threats

By [Ann Garrison](#)

Region: [sub-Saharan Africa](#)

Global Research, February 28, 2010

[Digital Journal](#) 26 February 2010

On Feb. 19, grenades exploded at a bus station, a restaurant, and a building site in Kigali, Rwanda, in the tense run up to Rwanda's 2010 presidential election on August 9th. Opposition candidates reported threats of arrest and assassination.

Since this [KMEC](#) Radio News report, leading presidential candidate [Victoire Ingabiré Umuhoza](#), of the [FDU-Inking Party](#), has [requested temporary refugee status](#) at the UK Embassy in Kigali. [Frank Habineza](#), President of the [Democratic Green Party of Rwanda](#), has also [asked the Rwandan Government to protect him](#) from an assassination plot reported on Feb. 22 by Umuseso, one of the last Rwandan newspapers independent of the Rwandan Government. Umuseso publishes in [Kinyarwanda](#), the African language shared by all Rwandans, who are otherwise largely divided between French and English speakers.

During the same week, Paris-based Reporters without Borders protested state repression of Umuseso, whose [publisher and acting editor were, with an Umuseso reporter, sentenced to prison terms and fines](#) for reporting on an alleged romantic affair between two senior government officials.

French President Nicholas Sarkozy was, at the same time, on a diplomatic mission to Rwanda, so Reporters without Borders called on him to call for press freedom there, [as reported by the Voice of America](#). Sarkozy instead turned his attention to [restoring ties that France and Rwanda severed over disputed histories of the Rwanda Genocide of 1994](#).

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](#)

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