

However, the technical assistants meet regularly and thus ensure an informal co-ordination. A round table meeting was organised in Geneva in June 1996. This should have been followed at the end of 1997 by a consultation process on specific themes that would have again brought the Rwandan government together with representatives of all the donor countries. This would have been an excellent opportunity to review the international effort and examine it in the perspective of government policy.

Unfortunately, this section cannot conclude without mentioning the failure of the mission conducted by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. A team of over 100 was deployed in Rwanda until July 1998. Part of its mandate was to support the justice system. Although the difficulties faced in carrying out observation and assistance missions merit analysis, that is not the object of this report. Suffice it to say that the failure of this mission to provide technical support for the first judicial bodies responsible for human rights protection is much to be regretted.

4. Arrests, 'provisional' detentions and releases

Between July 1994 and September 1998 arrests took place at a rate varying between one and three thousand per month. All those arrested were suspected of participation in the genocide and massacres. The government has now relaxed its policy and arrests are rare, although it is acknowledged that many people compromised in the massacres remain free.

The total number of detainees is now decreasing; according to the Ministry of Justice there are now just over 123,000. Arrests, carried out by the army in the first months, later by the administrative authorities and security services, still do not conform to legal requirements. The charge files opened on several thousand detainees arrested by the army in 1994 and 1995 have still not been completed.

In 1995 and 1996 committees were set up to denounce suspects (*comités de délation*). These denunciations were systematic and indiscriminate and inevitably aroused a great deal of suspicion. Some alarming statistics have been mooted, including a claim that 50% of those detained are innocent. However, this would seem unlikely as the special courts have, in fact, acquitted around 17% of suspects. There were certainly a large number of abuses in relation to the arrest of suspects, but there is nothing to indicate that they are on the scale that might have been feared. Investigations still underway reveal that a large number of people detained for several years without charge were very certainly deeply implicated in the genocide.

Up until 1996 the army was very reluctant to allow any detainees to be released. Although this reluctance remains, it has become less marked. Survivors' groups exert a great deal of pressure and this has to be taken into account. Apart from some very rare exceptions, the government and the international community have disregarded them, except when they are required as a symbolic reference. It is easy to understand the resentment and the strong desire for genuine justice that now motivates some of the survivors. They are suspicious and systematically critical of everything