

## **2. CURRENT SITUATION: CRISIS AGAIN**

### *Trouble in the camps*

A new phase of the central African crisis looms, as a Hutu invasion of Rwanda from Zaire, or at least new Hutu efforts to de-stabilize the new Rwandan government, seem increasingly probable. Reports of Hutu rearmament, of intense anti-RPF/Tutsi propaganda being circulated in the Zaire camps, and of assistance from Zaire forces all point in this direction. New massacres would likely accompany renewed military actions. The refugee camps in Zaire and elsewhere are acknowledged as being effectively under the control of forces responsible for the massacres in the spring and summer of this year, and aid and human rights workers describe the situation as "critical."

### *Unravelling in Rwanda*

Inside Rwanda, the government is hobbled by a lack of reconstruction assistance (which hardliners use to argue that the "soft" line taken so far by the government has failed to produce results). New problems are developing as Tutsi exiles of the 1960 expulsion return and take up land vacated by fleeing Hutus. Thousands of detainees are being held and the suspicion is that many have been falsely accused of war crimes. UNAMIR/GOR relations are increasingly strained. UNAMIR and the RPA are now engaged in a difficult operation in the "Zone Turquoise" to disarm the militias and facilitate the return of 350,000 displaced which, even if successful, will put new strains on the country as it tries to reabsorb this population.

### *Fragile Burundi*

In Burundi, a fragile and incomplete peace holds - just. Hutu extremists from Burundi may be joining the Rwandan Hutu extremists in the camps to plan together their next round of violence. The inter-relatedness of the two countries is such that there cannot be full resolution of one country's crisis in the absence of resolution of the other's.

### *Confusion and Uncertainty*

Relief assistance has stanchd the problems of starvation and disease in the camps. The RPF victory has halted the fighting for now but there are no signs of political reconciliation. The UN is establishing a war crimes tribunal for Rwanda (which, once operating, may serve to promote justice but may or may not promote