

## 5.1 Human Rights Monitoring and Determination

Even a cursory examination of NGOs such as Amnesty International<sup>3</sup>, Human Rights Watch<sup>4</sup>, le Federation International des Droits de l'Homme, l'Union Inter africaine des Droits des Peuples, and the International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development<sup>5</sup>, confirms that for years they have been actively reporting on Rwanda and advocating action by the UN.

While NGOs are increasingly effective and comprehensive in reporting human rights violations, there is an undeniable importance to the UN providing its own comprehensive and reliable human rights intelligence. Inter alia this would make it harder for countries and the UN to deny the veracity of human rights violations if their own in-house agency had gathered its own information or had validated NGO reports of human rights violations. Such UN human rights monitoring and assessing would facilitate the SG, the SC, and subsidiary UN agencies in more effectively carrying out their tasks by factoring in necessary and factual human rights intelligence.

There were several glimmers of hope inasmuch as there were a number of UN ongoing reviews of Rwanda that should have triggered greater international debate on the degree of such violations and the possible need to take or be prepared to take active protective initiatives. For example, Rwanda had been considered under the 1503 confidential procedure for both the 1993 and 1994 sessions of the Commission on Human Rights. This actually served to shield Rwanda from more public scrutiny and does highlight several

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<sup>3</sup> ie. the AI report entitled "Rwanda, persecution of Tutsi minority and repression of government critics 1990-1992" (Afr 47/02/92) which talked of more than 1,000 extrajudicial executions, and the over 8,000 political prisoners following the October 1990 invasion by the RPF. They also reported RPF abuses such as the killing of prisoners and 'traitors'.

<sup>4</sup> see "Rwanda, Talking Peace and Waging War: human rights since the October 1990 invasion", pp. 33 Feb. 27 1992, or "Beyond The Rhetoric: continuing human rights abuses in Rwanda", pp. 29 June 1993, or "Arming Rwanda: the arms trade and human rights abuses in the Rwandan War", pp. 66 January 1994. The latter report was particularly enlightening about those prepared to sell arms to an unelected regime of an impoverished African country in the midst of a civil war. This included France's role in facilitating the sale of \$6 million in arms by Egypt to Rwanda as well as its own arms transfers to Rwanda combined with the provision of military advisors and up to 680 troops who by many accounts actively participated in the conflict with the RPF.

<sup>5</sup> ICHRDD along with the previous three, UIDH, FIDH, and HRW, combined to produce the March 1993 "Report of the International Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights Violations in Rwanda Since 1 October 1990". The commission created at the request of a consortium of Rwandan human rights organizations, visited Rwanda 7-21 January 1993. After hearing extensive testimonies and carrying out on-site visits to mass graves, they concluded that the government had participated in or sanctioned the killing of over 2,000 individuals (predominantly Tutsi but also Hutu moderates), and that in turn the RPF had killed and kidnapped civilians and had looted and destroyed property.