

Coincidentally with the 1990 invasion, internal and international pressures had forced President Habyarimana to initiate internal political reform through power sharing and allowing other political parties. Ongoing jockeying amongst the Hutu élite led in April 1992 to a government of cohabitation which drew members from the 4 main political parties. The Prime Minister and the Foreign Minister both from the Republican Democratic Movement (MDR) were hostile to President Habyarimana, while President's Habyarimana support came increasingly from hard line Hutu chauvinists, in particular the Defence Minister.

The President was also forced to respond to international pressure for some accommodation with the RPF. There were a number of attempts to negotiate ceasefires and resolve the conflict, with meetings in Dar-es-Salaam, Gbadolite, Paris, and Arusha. A ceasefire was signed at Arusha in July 1992 which led to protocols on power sharing signed on October 30 1992 and January 1993. President Habyarimana repudiated the agreements, and the RPF in turn violated the ceasefire on February 8 1993 resulting in heavy fighting, hundreds of deaths, and 650,000 Rwandans displaced. During this whole period, hardline Hutus regularly harassed and occasionally massacred Tutsi in order to forestall peace and block any power sharing agreements. It is estimated that over 2,000 Tutsi were massacred during the period 1990-92.

A new ceasefire was agreed on March 9 1993 which inter allowed alia for a neutral OAU to monitor a demilitarized zone.

## **CRISIS CHRONOLOGY from March 1993 to September 1994**

Crisis refers to the events leading up to and following the April 6th crash of the presidential aircraft.

### **2-17 March 1993**

On behalf of the UN Secretary General (SG) and in response to a request from the Ugandan and Rwandan governments to monitor their common border, Macaire Pedanou led a UN goodwill mission to the region and then subsequently observed talks in Arusha between the Rwandan Government (RG) and the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF).

### **4 March**

France and Rwanda lobbied the SC to authorize a new peacekeeping mission to act as a buffer between the Rwandan Government Forces (RGF) and RPF. The initial reaction was cool and at the Permanent Five (P5) meeting the UK suggested that the OAU should deal with situation and the US agreed. This proposal was distinct from the UN goodwill mission

The French were quite fixated by the perception that the RPF were rapidly advancing and threatening the relative tranquility of the situation. However, the Belgians felt that the RPF advance to within 27 km of Kigali had halted.