

Defeated Army Vows to Retake Rwanda

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By Sam Kiley in Sake, Zaire.

RWANDA'S defeated former government army is training and reorganising to attack and retake the country from the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF), senior United Nations sources reported yesterday.

Augustin Bizimungu, Chief of Staff of the Rwandan army camped along roads leading into Goma on the shores of Lake Kivu, has issued warnings that his men are preparing to return home and that many of his officers did not want to go back with "hanging heads".

Sources in the UN disclosed that a senior officer in the Rwandan army had told them that it would be impossible to establish an internment camp for the between 20,000 and 30,000 men because they were being trained for an attempt to retake Rwanda from the new Tutsi-dominated government.

The International Committee of the Red Cross has insisted that it would provide aid to troops in Zaire only if they are disarmed and put in camps guarded by Zairean armed forces. The UN High Commissioner for Refugees and other agencies are also refusing to feed the soldiers or give them aid.

Further fighting in Rwanda, or neighbouring Zaire, would add to the catastrophic horror of the exodus of a million refugees from fighting in the west of the country earlier this month or the murder by the Rwandan army and civilian militias of hundreds of thousands of Tutsi and Hutu moderates. Renewed fighting could also bring Rwandan troops into conflict with Zairean soldiers. But the defeated Rwandan army appears now to be gripped by a stronger hand than previously, and their spirits seem high.