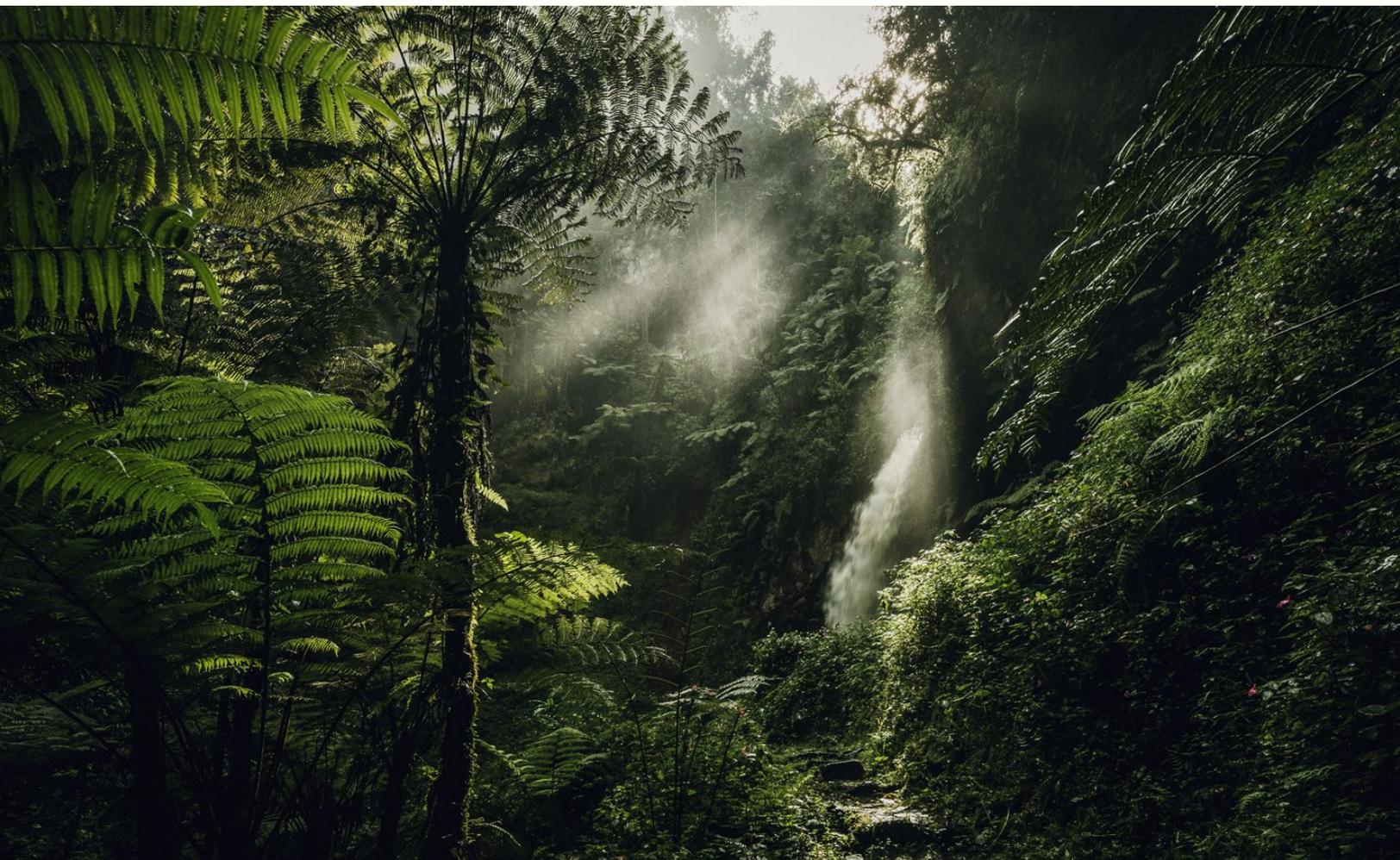




Embassy of the Republic of Rwanda - Washington D.C.

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER 2021



IN THIS ISSUE

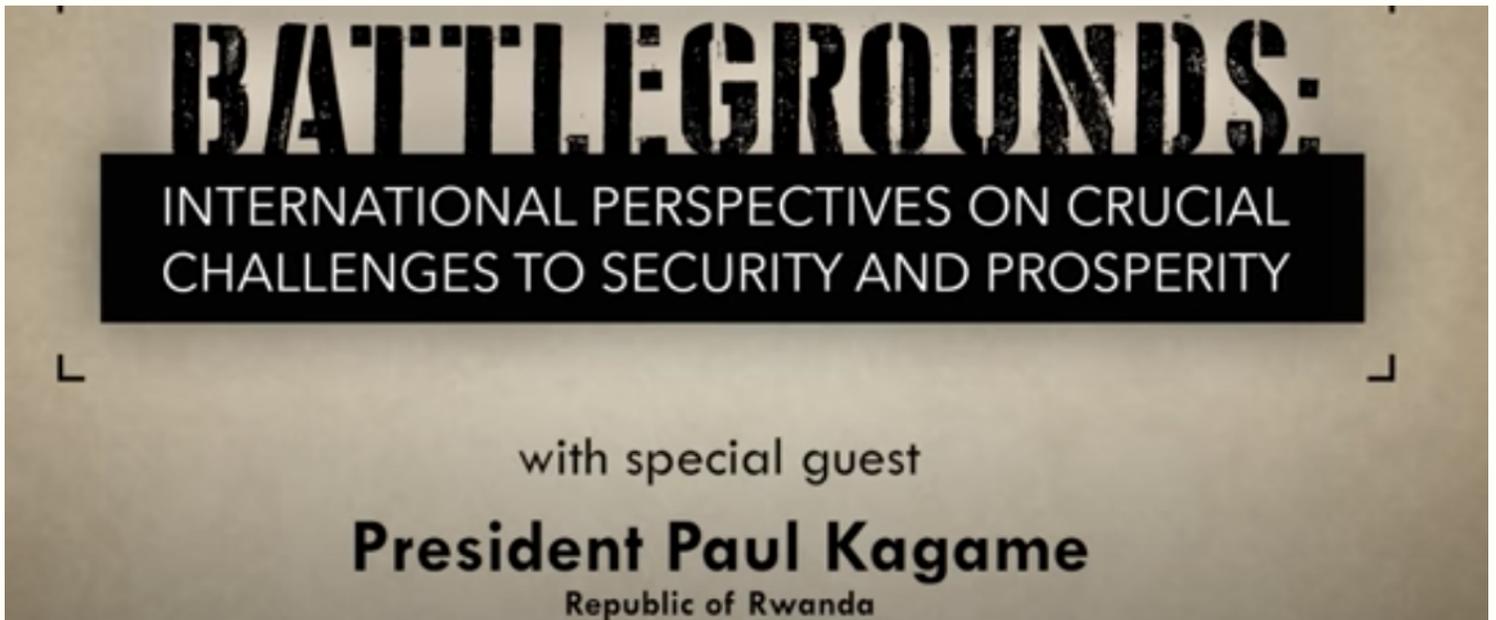
BI-MULTILATERAL RELATIONS
PAGES 1-4

THE EMBASSY
PAGE 8

RWANDA IN THE NEWS
PAGES 5-7

THE RWANDAN COMMUNITY IN THE U.S.
PAGE 9

BI-MULTILATERAL RELATIONS



February 3rd, 2021

H.E. President Kagame sat down with Senior Fellow Hoover Institute, Lt. General Herbert Raymond McMaster (Retired) for a conversation on nation-building, leadership, and US-Africa relations among other topics. During their discussion, President Kagame touched on a common misconceptions about Africa, and in his own words “they come with this mind-set that Africa is indifferent to human rights, to democracy, to freedom, so they come to do it for us. And we’re saying no. No human being anywhere would want to live by dictates from somebody else.” You can watch the full discussion [here](#).



February 6th, 2021

H.E. President Kagame participated in the 34th Ordinary Session of the African Union Assembly where he presented a report on the Institutional Reform of the African Union as well as an update on Domestic Health Financing. President Kagame took the opportunity to emphasize the importance of the continent’s domestic health financing agenda, particularly in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, and that without strong national health systems in every country, the continent will remain vulnerable to pandemics.

BI-MULTILATERAL RELATIONS



February 6th, 2021

Minister of Foreign Affairs, Vincent Biruta and Secretary-General of the Commonwealth Patricia Scotland exchanged on CHOGM 2021, fair and equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines, and the climate crisis among other things.



February 19th, 2021

H.E. President Kagame met with Gianni Infantino, President of FIFA. Later that day, Foreign Affairs Minister Vincent Biruta together with Mr. Infantino participated in the inauguration of FIFACOM Regional Development East Africa Office and signed the Host Country Agreement.

BI-MULTILATERAL RELATIONS



February 23rd, 2021

High Commissioner of the Republic of Rwanda to the U.K, Yamina Karitanyi, and Senior Director of Governance and Peace at the Commonwealth Secretariat, Luis G Franceschi chaired a virtual Liaison Committee Meeting with representatives from all Commonwealth member states discussing Rwanda's preparedness for CHOGM2021.



February 25th, 2021

Foreign Affairs Minister, Vincent Biruta received Prof. Luis G Franceschi, Senior Director of Governance and Peace at the Commonwealth Secretariat, for a courtesy call. This was an occasion to discuss CHOGM2021 and to reiterate the Secretariat's support of Rwanda as it prepares to welcome the Commonwealth family in June 2021.



February 27th, 2021

H.E. President Kagame chaired the 21st Ordinary Summit of the EAC Heads of State. The summit was held virtually. The aim of the Summit was to appoint a new Secretary-General and judges to the East African Court of Justice. President Kagame emphasized that the focus now should be on rebuilding stronger than before, with closer regional cooperation as a pillar of the region's resilience and prosperity.

BI-MULTILATERAL RELATIONS



On the same day, H.E. President Kagame held a meeting with Lord Evgeny Lebedev, followed by a signing ceremony alongside Mr. Max Graham, CEO of Space for Giants. The ceremony marked Rwanda's official membership in the Giants Club, an initiative to promote responsible conservation.

RWANDA IN THE NEWS



February 1st, 2021

Rwandans all over the country and abroad celebrated **National Heroes' Day**, honoring the sacrifice of Rwanda's heroes and recommitting to selfless dedication to Rwanda.



February 6th, 2021

Dr. Monique Nsanzabaganwa, Rwanda's candidate, was elected Deputy Chairperson of the African Union Commission, elected by 42 votes out of 55 member states.

Congratulations to Dr. Nsanzabaganwa!



February 9th, 2021

Celebrated CNN news anchor Richard Quest of *World of Wonder*, was in Rwanda for a week-long working visit where he trekked in the National Volcanoes Park and visited the King's Palace Museum.

RWANDA IN THE NEWS

February 10th, 2021

Ambassador Mathilde Mukantabana responded to a misleading article in the Foreign Policy Magazine and cautioned readers “when it comes to Rwanda don’t believe everything you see in the movies”. In the article, Ambassador Mukantabana draws the attention of the media “to an often neglected side of the story. According to numerous accounts from survivors, the popular portrayal of Rusesabagina—the erstwhile manager of the Hotel des Mille Collines, or “Hotel Rwanda”—is patently false” and highlights the fact that the article failed “[...] to discuss the facts surrounding the trial, including Rusesabagina’s admission that he helped found the National Liberation Front (FLN), which the Rwandan government regards as a terrorist group.” You can read the full article [here](#).



February 13th, 2021

A bilateral meeting on Defence and Security between Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo was convened in Kigali to review security matters, and forge a way forward in dealing with security threats affecting both countries and the region. You can read more about the meeting [here](#).

RWANDA IN THE NEWS

February 15th, 2021

Michael Rubin, Resident Scholar at American Enterprise Institute and former Pentagon official, published an article in the National Interest Magazine “Hotel Rwanda’s Rusesabagina Deserves Prison”. You can read the article at length [***here***](#).

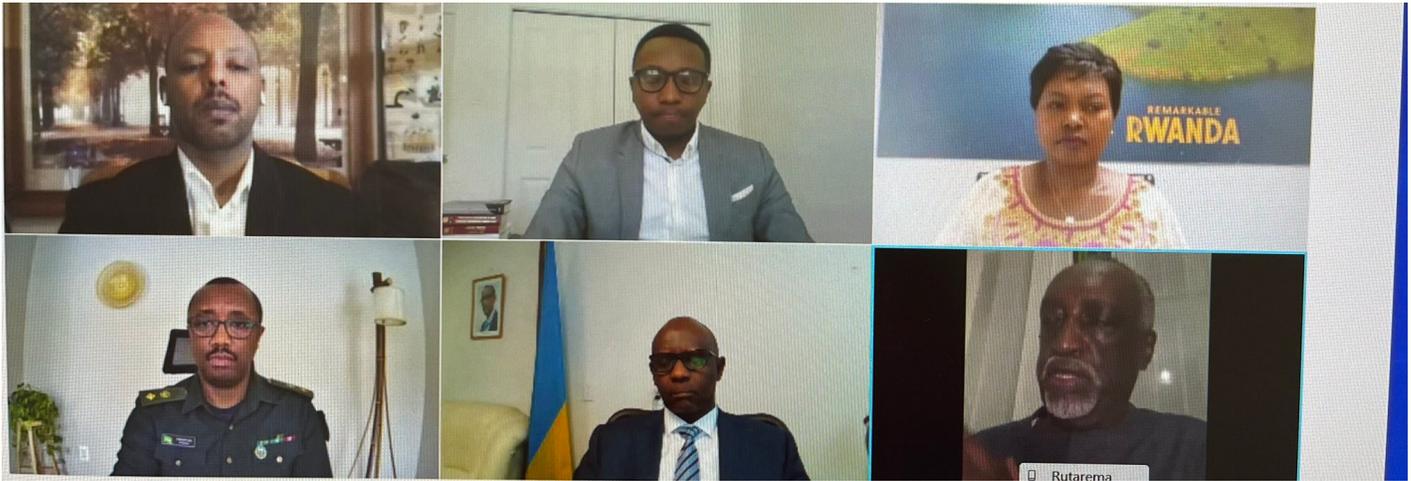
February 16th, 2021

The Parliament of Rwanda issued a Resolution in response to the European Parliament Resolution of 11 February 2021 on Rwanda, on the case of Paul Rusesabagina (2021/2543(RSP)). Read the resolution at length [***here***](#).

February 19th, 2021

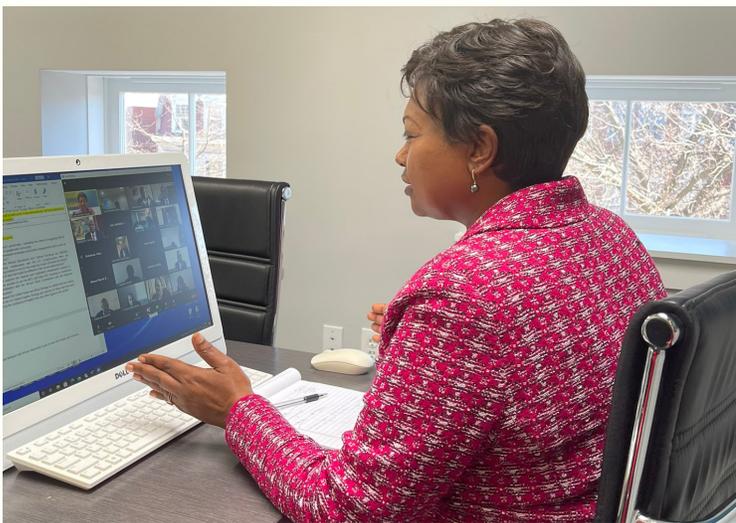
Michael Rubin, a Resident Scholar at American Enterprise Institute and former Pentagon official, published an opinion with the Washington Examiner Magazine, “Easy narratives and lazy journalism betray Rwanda”. You can read the full article [***here***](#).

THE EMBASSY



February 7th, 2021

The Embassy of the Republic of Rwanda in Washington D.C., in collaboration with the Rwanda High Commission in Ottawa, Canada virtually hosted the National Heroes' Day celebration. The event discussions were educational on the history of Rwanda's heroes led by Honorable Tito Rutaremara and moderated by Defense Attaché, Lt. Col. Raoul Bazatoha, as well as an exchange between the audience and panelists that included Amb. Mathilde Mukantabana, Amb. Prosper Higiroy, Canada Diaspora member, Mr. Moses Gashirabake and US Diaspora member, Mr. Felix Ruhiri.



February 24th, 2021

As the Vice Dean of the African Ambassadors Group, Ambassador Mathilde Mukantabana chaired a meeting to discuss ways they can collectively strengthen and cultivate their partnership with the U.S. The African Ambassadors Group was also joined by Representative Karen Bass and President and CEO of Global Engagement Strategies, Ambassador Capricia Penavic Marshall.

RWANDAN COMMUNITY IN THE U.S.

GLOBAL
VIRTUAL
CONFERENCE

19TH ANNUAL
RWANDA
PRAYER BANQUET USA

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2021

AMBASSADOR
PROFESSOR
MATHILDE
MUKANTABANA

KEYNOTE
SPEAKER:
PASTOR
RICK WARREN

RWANDAN
SPEAKER:
ARCHBISHOP
LAURENT MBANDA

February 7th, 2021

The Rwanda Prayer Banquet USA hosted its 19th Annual Banquet. The annual event usually held in Washington D.C. was held virtually with speakers Pastor Rick Warren, Archbishop of the Anglican Church of Rwanda, Laurent Mbanda, and Ambassador Mathilde Mukantabana.
