

## Part 4: Radio and Genocide

### *Radio in Rwanda*

The major source of the spread of propaganda and hatred in Rwanda was RTLM - Radio Télévision Libre des Mille Collines. It was supported by the government controlled Radio Rwanda. It has been largely blamed for spreading the violent hatred and anti-Tutsi ideology to the Hutus in Rwanda. This topic is one that is central to the study of the Rwandan Genocide. Many believe that it was the RTLM who are to blame for the incitement of violence in Rwanda, and many were tried for crimes against humanity based on their broadcasts. However, since this is such a new topic, there are not many English translated transcripts of RTLM broadcasts. As the years pass, more and more will be translated and available to the public.

Some important information RTLM:

- RTLM was especially popular among the youth, because it played up-to-date music from Zaire.
- RTLM was especially effective in Kigali, where it issued instructions to be violent at roadblocks, gave names of escaped Tutsis and their hiding places, issued threats to Tutsi youth, issued lists of “accomplices” to kill and encouraged listeners to “get rid of the dirt.”
- During the genocide, RTLM was used to coordinate the movement of police, army and militia units.

Below are some translated broadcasts for students to analyze.

Tutsi are nomads and invaders who came to Rwanda in search of pasture, but because they are so cunning and malicious, the Tutsi managed to stay and rule. If you ally the Tutsi-Hamites to come back, they will not only rule you in Rwanda, but will also extend their power throughout the Great Lakes region.

December 2, 1993  
(Mironko)

At RTLM, we have decided to remain vigilant. I urge you, people of Biryogo, who are listening to us, to remain vigilant. Be advised that a weevil has crept into your midst. Be advised that you have been infiltrated, that you must be extra vigilant in order to defend and protect yourself. You may say: “Gahigi, aren’t you trying to scare us?” This is not meant to

scare you. I say that people must be told the truth. That is useful, a lot better than lying to them. I would like to tell you, inhabitants of Biryogo, that one of your neighbors, named Manzi Sudi Fadi, alias Bucumi, is no longer among you. He now works as a technician for Radio Mahuabura. We have seized a letter he wrote to Ismael Hitimana, alias Safari... Ismael Hitimana, alias Safari, heads a brigade of Inkotanyi there the in Biryogo area, a brigade called Abitganda. He is their coordinator. It's a brigade composed of Inkotanyi over there in Biryogo.

Our investigations indicate that brigades like this one exist in other parts of Kigali. Those living in the other areas of Kigali must also be vigilant. But, for those who may be inclined to think that this is not true – normally, I'm not supposed to read this letter on RTL M airwaves, because we respect the confidentiality of those documents – but let me tell you that in this letter – I'll read you a few excerpts just to prove that the letter is not something I made up – Manzi Sudi Fadi, alias Bicumi Higo, wrote: “The young people within Abatiganda brigade, I, once again, salute you..., you the young people who aspire for change in our country, and who have come together in the Inkotanyi FPR family, I say to you, “Love one another, be ambitious and courageous.” He asks: “How are you doing in Biryogo?”...Such is the greeting of Manzi Sudi Fair, alias Bicumbi to the young members of the brigade in Biryogo. As you can see, the brigade does exist in the Biryogo area. You must know the man called Mazi Sadi is no longer among you, that the brigade is headed by a man named Hitimana Ismael, co-coordinator of the Abatiganda brigade in Biryogo.

March 14, 1994

(Transcript of Tape 0340e )

\*You can also get a sense of the hate speech by watching clips from Hotel Rwanda. The opening credits are run while a broadcast from the radio is played, for example. It is translated into English, but it is a good example of the kinds of things they were saying on the radio. The movie is easily accessible through libraries. You may even be able to find a clip online, depending on the security of your server.

### ***Radio during the Holocaust***

Feeling that the radio would be an invaluable asset to the spreading of Nazi ideals (including but not exclusive to racial ideology), the Nazis created a new radio that could be easily and inexpensively purchased by the average German citizen.

- In 1933, Goebbels aligned all radio broadcasts according to the new ideology in the country.

- The Nazis determined that a simple radio device was all that was needed to receive the major broadcasts over the entirety of Germany.
- The Nazis created and distributed a cheap radio set, called the Gemeinschaftsempfänger, at about half the price of a normal, cheaper radio at the time. The price decreased over the next several years.
- In some cases, radio sets were given on loan by the Dr. Goebbels Radio Fund for families who could not afford a radio.
- Listening to foreign radio stations was strictly forbidden.

On August 18, 1933, Joseph Goebbels made a speech concerning the radio and its place in the Nazi regime. This speech can be accessed from the Calvin College Propaganda Archive - <http://www.calvin.edu/academic/cas/gpa/goeb56.htm>. (This is copyrighted, so it is not included in this packet.)

- This document could be used as a great discussion tool.
- Have students read through the speech and make note of the things that Goebbels believes the radio will improve or highlight in the Nazi regime.
- What are the positive things the radio can accomplish?
- How could the radio be used in a negative way?

Also available on the Calvin website are numerous radio speeches made by Goebbels. Although they do not use the radio to blatantly call for action against the Jews, the rhetoric is most definitely apparent.

- Have students read through some of the Christmas Eve speeches. What is Goebbels' intent?
- How does the radio become an integral part of the rallying of Germans to the side of the Nazis?

Students can analyze the Rwandan and Nazi speeches and complete the following chart.

### Nazi and Rwandan Radio – Compare and Contrast

	<b>Rwanda</b>	<b>Nazi</b>
What is the tone of the radio speeches?		
What is the intent of the speeches?		
Who was the targeted audience of the speeches?		
How did the regime target the people they wanted to hear the message?		
How did the radio play a part in the genocide?		

