

U.N. peacemakers linked to disastrous military offensive

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(GIN) - United Nations peacekeepers are facing criticism for supporting a military offensive against Rwandan Hutu rebels in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo.

Several international aid agencies said the government offensive against ethnic Hutus had had "disastrous" humanitarian consequences, including killings and rape.

According to the Congo Advocacy Coalition, for every rebel who has been disarmed this year, one civilian has been killed, seven women or girls raped, and 900,000 people made homeless.

The coalition urged diplomats and UN officials to discuss the situation during a scheduled meeting in Washington DC this week.