

French accused of role in Rwanda genocide

by UPI

KIGALI, Rwanda - A Rwandan commission alleges French troops took part in the rapes of refugee women during the tribal genocide that racked the African nation in 1994. The commission, which France has called a kangaroo court, also contended that France actually trained members of a Hutu militia that is blamed for the deaths of thousands of members of the rival Tutsi tribe. The British newspaper The Independent said Friday that France's support for the Hutu regime at the time is widely known, however the commission's findings are the first evidence that French troops, who were part of a U.N. peacekeeping force, actually took sides in the conflict. A commission member told the newspaper that while the panel was established on the premise that France was "guilty" of supporting the Hutu regime, the investigation had turned up documents and witness accounts of the level of that support. The formal report will be issued in October.

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