

Rwanda leaders vow to punish 'genocide'

KIGALI, Rwanda — Leaders of this war-ravaged nation yesterday said they will execute those responsible for the slaughter of up to 500,000 Rwandans in ethnic fighting.

"Those who willingly carried out genocide deserve no less than the death penalty," Rwanda's President Pasteur Bizimungu told the Daily News yesterday at his villa near the capital, Kigali.

"We need a fair and transparent justice as a pillar of the government of national unity," he said. "We don't have to wait two or three years before we start."

Bizimungu said trials and executions must begin soon to avoid revenge atrocities.

Speaking from his makeshift office at the Meridien Hotel in Kigali yesterday, Prime Minister Faustin Twagiramungu agreed.

"We do not want to be involved in retribution, revenge, reprisals. The law must be followed," he said.

The former government and ousted Rwandan Army, which triggered the civil war in April, primarily were composed of radical, ruling class Hutus. The Hutus, however, were defeated by Tutsi rebels in the Rwandan Patriotic Front.

Bizimungu and Twagiramungu are moderate Hutus appointed by the Tutsi government. Among the issues causing a rift within the fledgling government is when elections will be held.

Asked by the Daily News yesterday when he would be putting himself up for election, Bizimungu became agitated.

"There has been a tragedy in our country," he snapped. "If you were sensitive to our tragedy you would not be asking for an election."

In sharp contrast, the bespectacled Twagiramungu smiled easily as he sat in his

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IN RWANDA

office yesterday. Room 519 was neat and furnished with a dining room table and four sofas arranged around a coffee table. It does not give the appearance that the business of governing a nation of seven million people is being conducted here.

But it was here Twagiramungu met with George Moose, the U.S. assistant secretary of African Affairs, and assured him he welcomes America's help in the daunting task of rebuilding the nation.

Yesterday, U.S. Army convoys delivered more than 100,000 gallons of water to Rwandan refugees, bolstering their chances of surviving in crowded, disease-infested camps in Zaire. But much more will be needed to defeat the cholera, dysentery and simple dehydration that have killed more than 20,000 people since the refugee crisis began two weeks ago.

Also yesterday, representatives of about 60 countries meeting in Geneva pledged more than \$430 million for relief efforts, but UN officials said more is needed.

— With News Wire Services



PORTRAIT IN PAIN: Refugee children wait, watch and suffer in makeshift orphanage at Munigi Refugee Camp yesterday. The child at bottom died moments after the photo was taken.