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Rwanda National Congress Applauds UK Government's Strong Leadership Against Rwanda's Role in DRC Conflict and Resource Exploitation

PORTLAND, Maine – July 22nd, 2026 — The Rwanda National Congress (RNC) commends the United Kingdom for its principled and decisive stance against Rwanda's sponsorship of violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and the associated looting of Congolese mineral wealth.

In a significant development, the United Kingdom actively co-sponsored the latest additions to the United Nations Security Council's 1533 Sanctions List in July 2026. These sanctions target individuals and entities linked to armed groups, including the Rwandan-sponsored Alliance Fleuve Congo (AFC) and M23.

The UK has also implemented a series of robust bilateral measures, including:

- Suspension of direct bilateral aid to the Rwandan government, while continuing to protect humanitarian support for the poorest and most vulnerable. Rwanda had previously received approximately £32 million (around \$40 million) annually in such aid.
- Cessation of high-level UK attendance at Rwandan government-hosted events.
- Limitation of trade promotion activities with Rwanda.
- Suspension of future defense training assistance to Rwanda.
- Review of export licenses related to the Rwanda Defense Force (RDF).
- Signaling willingness to coordinate on further sanctions with international partners.

The RNC views these actions as a strong demonstration of the UK's commitment to regional stability, accountability, and respect for international law and the territorial integrity of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

About the Rwanda National Congress (RNC)

Founded in 2010, the Rwanda National Congress (RNC) is a democratic political organization dedicated to promoting peace, unity, freedom, justice, and genuine democracy in Rwanda. The RNC advocates for accountable leadership, respect for human rights, national healing, and the establishment of transparent institutions that serve the well-being of all Rwandans.

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