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Up to 800,000 people were killed by militias

By the BBC's Helen Vesperini in Kigali

Letter From A Rwandan Roman Catholic priest wanted on charges of genocide and crimes against humanity has given himself up to America the international tribunal for Rwanda based in the Tanzanian UK town of Arusha.

> Athanase Seromba, who had been living in Italy sheltered by the Catholic Church for the past five years, was placed in detention when he arrived in Arusha on Wednesday night.

Human rights associations say he was behind one of the most horrifying incidents in the Rwandan genocide - the destruction by bulldozers of the church at Nyange and the 2,000 Tutsis who had taken refuge inside it.

African Rights Watch says that Father Seromba worked tirelessly at organising the genocide, encouraging Tutsis to take refuge at the parish of Nyange and then bringing militiamen and civilians to attack them.

On the third day of the attacks, the killers were frustrated because they were not able to reach those who had barricaded themselves inside the church, and so Father Seromba allegedly bulldozers.

The prosecutor of the Arusha tribunal, Carla del Ponte, tried to have Father Seromba extradited on 12 July last year.

But the Italian Government refused to co-operate.

The next day, the church authorities helped the priest to go into hiding at an unknown location in Tuscany.

African Rights Watch has published a list of 17 people



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Vesperini

"African Rights Watch says that Father Seromba worked tirelessly at organising the genocide"



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ready to testify against Father Seromba.

Del Ponte criticised the church's actions

The list includes the driver of one of the two bulldozers that demolished the church.

The driver has been in prison for his role in the massacre since 1995 and has consistently pointed an accusing finger at Father Seromba.

The priest denies all charges, saying he had already left Nyange when the massacres took place.

Rwanda updates genocide list

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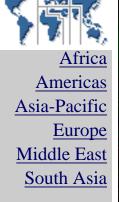
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At least 800,000 Rwandans died in the genocide

By Helen Vesperini in Kigali

Carla Del Ponte, the woman who took on the Mafia and Switzerland's financial institutions, is now applying herself to the America Herculean task of making the International Criminal Tribunal for UK Rwanda less inefficient.

> In the seven years since its creation, the tribunal, which judges the organisers of the 1994 Rwandan genocide has judged just nine cases, handing down eight convictions and one acquittal.

Health An estimated 800,000 people, mostly ethnic Tutsis and moderate Hutus, were killed in

> A further 15 suspects are currently being tried and another 31 are awaiting trial at the detention facility in Arusha, Tanzania.

It's better than nothing, but one verdict a year is on the slow side

Rwandan man

B B C SPORT The Rwandan Government recognises that Ms Del Ponte has made some progress in the right direction, but still thinks the B B C Weather tribunal could do better.

winter *olympics* Inefficient ▶ FULL COVERAGE

President Paul Kagame in a recent interview said: "Given the resources at its disposal and given so far the cases that have been concluded, one can say they're doing relatively less than is otherwise demanded by the situation or should be expected."

But he was quick to add: "But the existence of the tribunal itself in my view is very important", and he suggested those responsible for running the tribunal should do their best to make it more efficient.

Some Rwandan officials not directly concerned with justice, say the tribunal has functioned





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so slowly that they long ago ceased to take any interest in it.

"It's just another UN agency - it works too slowly," one official said.

Carla del Ponte: No nonsense approach

Scandals

Rwandan courts in the period from December 1996 to June 2001 judged almost 6,000 genocide suspects, according to a branch of Liprodhor, a human rights group that monitors genocide trials.

Justice Minister Mucyo, during a recent trip to the United States, asked the United Nations' Security Council to transfer the tribunal to Rwanda.

One thing Ms Del Ponte has done is to try to weed out incompetence among tribunal staff.

She declined to renew the contracts of a group of staff members earlier this year on the grounds they were incompetent and refused to waver when those fired accused her of racial discrimination.



first head of governemnt convicted for genocide

The tribunal hit the headlines again when it was discovered that genocide suspects were working alongside defence teams.

Other scandals have also dogged the tribunal - allegations that some detainees are running web sites and that others are wrongfully declaring themselves insolvent in order to benefit from defence counsel paid for by the taxpayer.

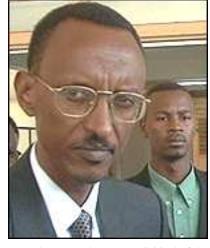
Testimony

Another recent problem has been with the treatment of witnesses in court.

Survivors of Rwanda's genocide tend to find testifying a traumatic experience at the best of times.

One Rwandan witness recently accused a tribunal judge of getting rich on the back of the suffering of survivors.

Ordinary Rwandans tend to feel removed from the tribunal, although the tribunal has done its best to make the information centre at its Kigali headquarters more accessible.



Rwanda PM Paul Kagame: Critical of the tribunal but welcoems its existence

Slow work

"It's better than nothing, but one verdict a year is on the slow side," one man said.

Many who do try to follow the workings of the tribunal are baffled at the time and resources spent on defending people against whom they see overwhelming evidence of guilt.

The fact that the tribunal can hand down a maximum of a life sentence, even in the case of the masterminds of the genocide, is

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also beyond the comprehension of many Rwandans who see their own courts handing down the death sentence to lesser criminals.

"There's nothing complicated about it," said a Kigali student called Jules.

"They know that as long as a case drags on they're still in a job, and obviously it's a well-paid job."

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World Rwanda shocked at Arusha acquittal

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An estimated 800,000 Rwandans died in the genocide

The United Nations court looking into the Rwandan genocide handed down a not guilty verdict for the first time on Thursday.

Letter From Ignace Bagilishema, formerly mayor of Mabanza commune in America western Rwanda, was accused of being instrumental in the UK murder of 45,000 Tutsis.

UK Politics The judges said that the prosecution failed to provide enough Business convincing evidence.

Sci/Tech The Rwandan Government said it is shocked by the acquittal of Health Mr Bagilishema, who it described as one of the most "notorious" criminals from the genocide. Education

Entertainment Reading the judgement, Norwegian Judge Erik Mose spoke of Talking Point the "paucity" of the evidence against Mr Bagilishema, and said that the testimonies of many of the witnesses presented against him were contradictory and unreliable.

> By a majority of two to one, the panel of three judges found that there was insufficient evidence to support any of the seven charges against Mr Bagilishema.

'Tutsi defender'

Throughout the trial, Mr Bagilishema had always maintained that he had tried to protect Tutsis, but had not been able to prevent all the attacks.

He was presented by his defence team as a good mayor dedicated to peaceful co-existence of Hutus and Tutsis.

The prosecutor has already said that he intends to appeal against the acquittal, and has also requested that the tribunal keep Mr Bagilishema in custody for another 30 days, in case he flees or poses a threat to witnesses.

The tribunal's normal procedure is for acquitted suspects to be released immediately.



The slaughter in Rwanda shocked the world

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United Nations Rwanda tribunal

The tribunal has been sitting in Arusha, Tanzania since November 1994 to look into the genocide that left about 800,000 people dead.

There is frustration in Rwanda at how slow the Arusha process has been. The tribunal has found only eight people guilty so far.

Republic of Rwanda

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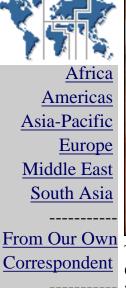
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The government suspects many at the ICTR

One of the former employees of the United Nations tribunal which is investigating the 1994 genocide in Rwanda is himself Letter From being accused of involvement in the massacres.

America Belgian police arrested Joseph Nzabirinda on Friday on four charges of genocide, complicity in genocide, crimes against humanity, extermination and rape, the tribunal said.

> The International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) accuses Mr Nzabirinda, then a youth leader, of helping to kill thousands of ethnic Tutsis in the southern province of Butare.

In particular, he is accused of being involved in the massacre of Tutsis who sought refuge in the hills near the town of Ngoma, and of the rape of three women.

The tribunal says he was working with the mayor of Ngoma commune, Joseph

Rwanda President Paul Kagame says the

tribunal is inefficient

Kanyabashi, who is already on trial before the ICTR.

Mr Nzabirinda, 44, has been working for the ICTR, based in the northern Tanzanian town of Arusha, as an investigator for the defence team of Sylvain Nsabimana, former prefect of Butare, who is on trial with Mr Kanyabashi.

Suspicions

Rwanda's Government said earlier this month that many investigators at the tribunal were suspected of involvement in the genocide and asked the ICTR to act.

It has also accused the tribunal of inefficiency.

President Paul Kagame in a recent interview said: "Given the resources at its disposal and given so far the cases that have been concluded, one can say they're doing relatively less than is otherwise demanded by the situation or should be expected."



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Kingsley Chiedu Moghalu, the spokesperson for the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, told a BBC News Online Forum earlier this week that all investigators suspected of involvement in the massacres have now been expelled from the process.

An estimated 800,000 people, mostly ethnic Tutsis and moderate Hutus, were killed in three months during the 1994 slaughters.

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At least 800,000 Rwandans died in the genocide

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From Our Own Correspondent By David Lewis in Tanzania Letter From The first six prisoners to have been convicted by the

America where they will be serving out their sentences. UK **UK** Politics

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Amongst the six former senior officials are Jean Kambanda, the former prime minister and head of the Rwandan Government and Jean-Paul Akayesu, former mayor of the Rwandan town of Taba. All of the convicts lost their appeals and will serve their sentences in a specially modified jail in the Malian capital, Bamako.

International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda have arrived in Mali

The prisoners will complete their terms in the west African Talking Point country and, while they will be held under Malian law, the International Criminal Tribunal will supervise the sentences.

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According to Kingsley Moghalu, spokesman for the UN tribunal, the security situation and standards of jails in Rwanda meant that the convicted could not serve their sentences in the country where the crimes were committed.

However, he did not rule out the possibility of future convicts being sent back to Rwanda.

SERVICES The tribunal has been criticised in the past for its lengthy and costly system of trying those accused of crimes against humanity in Rwanda.

Deterrence

However, Mr Moghalu told me that this latest move represented a new phase that will see those that took part in the 1994 genocide punished for their acts.

The slaughter in Rwanda shocked the world

Mr Moghalu told me that he felt that this was a historic move in the creation of a culture of accountability amongst those in Africa that, up until now, had considered themselves untouchable.



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Apart from increasing public attention and support for the trials, he feels that these convictions will act as strong deterrents in the future.

The tribunal in Arusha made history in 1998 when it made the first judgement by an international court for the crime of genocide and Mr Kabanda became the first head of government to be punished for genocide.

The process is indeed long and there are still some 20 accused at large but there is a sense that justice is at last, being done.



Sister Julienne Kisito is accused of aiding the genocide

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Father Seromba was based in Florence from 1997

A Rwandan Catholic priest has left Italy to face genocide charges at the war crimes tribunal in Tanzania, officials have said.

Father Athanase Seromba has been sheltering in the diocese of America Florence since 1997 despite calls for him to be handed over.

> "Father Athanase, who has always affirmed his innocence, wanted to go to the tribunal with the intention of demonstrating his innocence before the law," the diocese said.

It said that Interpol officers would escort him to the tribunal building for his own safety.

Massacre allegations

According to the London-based human rights organisation African Rights, Father Seromba - who is a Hutu - is responsible for a notorious massacre at his church in Nyange in 1994.

Survivors claim that the priest helped to herd people into his church before ordering the building to be bulldozed to the ground.

The group says Father Seromba left behind mass graves filled with more than 2,000 bodies.

Father Seromba was moved to Italy soon afterwards to study.

RWANDA GENOC

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Front Page Thursday, 19 July, 2001, 01:30 GMT 02:30 UK World Rwandan priest fights extradition

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Emmanuel Rukundo is accused of crimes against humanity By Emma Jane Kirby in Geneva

Letter From A Rwandan priest who was arrested in Geneva on genocide charges last week has appealed to a federal court in Switzerland to block his extradition to a United Nations war crimes tribunal.

> Emmanuel Rukundo, a former Rwandan army chaplain, is due to be extradited to Arusha, Tanzania, at the request of the UN war crimes prosecutor, Carla Del Ponte.

Mr Rukundo was working as a priest in a Geneva parish when he was arrested last week on suspicion of being involved in Rwanda's 1994 genocide, in which extremist Hutus massacred an estimated 800,000 ethnic Tutsis and moderate

According to the charges, the 42-year-old priest compiled lists of Tutsis for killing and called for their extermination while he was working as an army preacher.

Carla del Ponte demanded Mr Rukundo's extradition

Mr Rukundo faces formal

charges of genocide, complicity in genocide, conspiracy to commit genocide and crimes against humanity - but he denies all four charges.

Fair trial demanded

His lawyer, Nicolas Jeandin, said on Wednesday that he had appealed to the Swiss Federal Court against Mr Rukundo's extradition, on the grounds that Mr Rukundo would not be guaranteed a fair trial in Tanzania.

He added that Mr Rukundo had witnesses to prove that he was not involved with the massacres.

The Swiss military justice system first began investigating Rukundo's links with the Rwandan genocide in 1999.



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But his transfer to the UN tribunal is almost certain to be delayed, as the Swiss court is expected to take several months to issue its ruling in the case.

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Rwanda Government

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Hutus. Thaddee Kwitonda, whose under investigation by the tribunal for crimes allegedly

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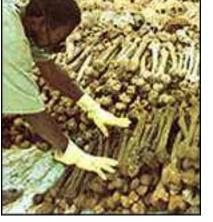
Switzerland arrested a Rwandan priest last week

In an embarrassing blow to the UN's International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, four of its defence investigators have been Letter From found to be suspects in the 1994 genocide.

> The employment contracts of three of the four, which expired in June, will not be renewed, said Adama Dieng, a registrar at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda.

Augustin Basebaya, Aloys Ngendahimana and Augustin Karera are listed as "category one" suspects, for allegedly participating in massacre of minority Tutsis and moderate

contract has been suspended, is committed during the genocide, the registrar said in a statement.



About 800,000 people died in the 1994 genocide

The four investigators, who were hired to help the defence teams prepare their cases, were approved for employment by the tribunal, which paid their wages.

It was not clear whether any further action would be taken against them.

"The tribunal makes no presumption of the guilt of these individuals for the crimes of which they are suspected or accused," the statement said.

"The tribunal stands ready to reconsider them for clearance for employment by any defence counsel in the tribunal should they be cleared of the charges and suspicions against them in the Rwandan judicial system or in the international tribunal."

Italy 'hides' wanted priest

In a related case, a Rwandan priest wanted by the tribunal on



WATCH/LISTEN **ON THIS STORY** The BBC's David Willey

"The church authorities in Florence said that Father Athanase Seromba is not being protected by the church there"



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16 Dec 99 | Africa UN admits failure in Rwanda

charges of genocide, is reportedly being hidden by Italy's Roman Catholic church.

Father Athanase Seromba has been accused of murdering more than 2,000 people during the three-month massacre of Tutsis and moderate Hutus in Rwanda in 1994.

He was scheduled to give a sermon explaining why he was wanted by the UN's International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, but he vanished hours earlier.

Parishioners, who had packed the San Mauro a Signa church to hear his defence, learned he had gone into hiding at a secret location.

The Italian Government has so far refused the ICTR's request to hand Father Seromba over to be tried at the UN court in Arusha, Tanzania.



Carla del Ponte: Unhappy with Italy

The Vatican, in a formal statement, referred to a letter from the Pope to Rwandans in 1996, which said the Church could not be held responsible for the misdeeds of individual members.

Accused

According to the London-based human rights organisation African Rights, Father Seromba - who is a Hutu - is responsible for a notorious massacre at his church in Nyange.

Survivors say that the priest helped to herd people into his church before ordering the building to be bulldozed to the ground.

He was moved to Italy soon afterwards to study, and began serving in San Mauro 18 months ago.

Last week, three Rwandans were arrested in Switzerland, Holland and Belgium in connection with the genocide and were to be transferred to the tribunal in Arusha.

Belgium court officials have said that the former Rwandan Finance Minister, Emmanuel Ndindabahizi, who was arrested in Belgium last week, has been ordered to stay in jail pending his transfer to the tribunal.

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http://news.bbc.co.uk/hi/english/world/africa/newsid_1442000/1442432.stm [2/11/2002 8:04:51 PM]

You are in: World: Africa Front Page Monday, 16 July, 2001, 11:13 GMT 12:13 UK World Church 'hides' Rwandan priest in Italy



Switzerland arrested a Rwandan priest last week

A Rwandan priest wanted by a UN war crimes tribunal to face charges of genocide is in hiding in Italy.

The Roman Catholic church authorities in Florence have denied obstructing his arrest.

They say the priest has simply gone to an unspecified address in the city to escape the attention of reporters.

Sci/Tech Father Athanase Seromba has been accused of the murder of more than 2,000 people during the three-month massacre of Tutsis and moderate Hutus in Rwanda in 1994.

Father Seromba had promised to Entertainment explain in a sermon why the UN's International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda had sought last week to extradite him from AudioVideo Italy to face charges of genocide.

But he vanished hours before he B B C SPORT B B C Weather

was due to celebrate mass in a church outside Florence.

The Italian Government has so far refused the ICTR's request to ▶ FULL COVERAGE hand Father Seromba over to be tried at the UN court in Arusha, SERVICES Tanzania.

> Parishioners, who had packed the San Mauro a Signa church to at a secret location.

Accused

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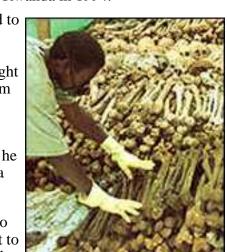
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About 800,000 people died in the 1994 genocide

hear Father Seromba's defence, learned he had gone into hiding

According to the London-based human rights organisation African Rights, Father Seromba - who is a Hutu - is responsible for a notorious massacre at his church in Nyange.

Survivors claim that the priest helped to herd people into his church before ordering the building to be buildozed to the ground.



WATCH/LISTEN **ON THIS STORY** The BBC's David Willey

"The church authorities in Florence said that Father Athanase Seromba is not being protected by the church there"



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Father Seromba was moved to Italy soon afterwards to study, and he began serving in San Mauro 18 months ago.

Last week, three Rwandans were arrested in Switzerland, Belgium and Holland in connection with the genocide and were to be transferred to the UN war crimes tribunal in Arusha, Tanzania.

Carla del Ponte: Unhappy with Italy

However, chief UN war crimes chief-prosecutor, Carla del Ponte, said there should have been a fourth arrest in Italy, but that the Italian authorities had decided to postpone the arrest saying there was no legal basis.

Rwandan Justice Minister Jean de Dieu Mucyo expressed thanks for the countries who did co-operate and called on other countries harbouring Rwandan genocide suspects "to do as much".

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B B C NEWS

You are in: <u>World:</u> Africa

Front Page Thursday, 12 July, 2001, 17:44 GMT 18:44 UK

World Rwandan trio arrested in Europe

Africa Americas Asia-Pacific Europe Middle East South Asia From Our Own Correspondent America UK **UK** Politics Business Sci/Tech Health **Education** Entertainment Talking Point In Depth AudioVideo



The prisoners are accused of crimes against humanity

Three Rwandan men, including an ex-minister, have been arrested in Europe in connection to the 1994 Rwandan genocide and are to be transferred to the UN war crimes tribunal in Arusha, Tanzania.

> During a press conference in Geneva, the chief UN war crimes chief-prosecutor, Carla del Ponte, welcomed the speedy arrests of a former Rwandan minister in Switzerland, a former military chaplain in Belgium, and a Rwandan musician in Holland.



The three men are charged separately with genocide, complicity in genocide, conspiracy to commit genocide, and crimes against humanity.

Their extradition will bring to 50 the number of people in the tribunal's custody.

Belgium arrests minister

The former minister, Emmanuel Ndindabahizi, 51, was arrested by police in an early morning raid on his home in the eastern Belgian town of Verviers.

Mr Ndindabahizi was finance minister in Rwanda from April to July 1994, during the massacre of an estimated 800,000 Tutsis and Hutu moderates.

Officials said that he had applied for asylum in Belgium, but was turned down and will remain in custody until his transfer to Arusha within three months.

Switzerland arrests priest

In Switzerland, the authorities arrested a former Rwandan army chaplain sought for similar charges.

A spokesman for the tribunal, Kingsley Moghalu, detailed the accusations against Emmanuel Rekundo, an ordained Catholic priest who is believed to have arrived in Switzerland in 1999.

66 "I am surprised and

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"He is accused of crimes in Kabgayi, he visited a seminary there and a school where he was always escorted by soldiers and Interahamwe (militia) while allegedly hunting down Tutsi refugees and killing them," Mr Moghalu was quoted as saying by the AP news agency. stupefied, because apparently Italy doesn't know that the obligation to execute our arrest warrant is an international obligation without need of an internal law

Carla del Ponte

"He ordered the killing of a Tutsi

priest, who was a colleague, and participated in denunciation campaigns," he added.

Mr Rukundo, 42, has the right to appeal the extradition decision to the Swiss Federal Tribunal, Switzerland's highest court.

Holland arrests musician

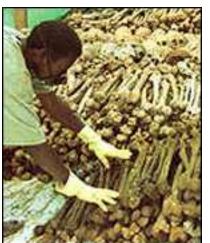
Simon Bikindi, a Rwandan musician, was arrested by Dutch police in the city of Leiden.

A human rights group that has investigated the genocide, African Rights, says Mr Bikindi wrote songs and poems that incited against Tutsis.

Mrs del Ponte said there should have been a fourth arrest in Italy, but that the Italian authorities have decided to postpone the arrest saying there was no legal basis.

Visibly angry at the Italian decision, Mrs del Ponte said she hoped Italy would learn how to cooperate with the International Criminal Tribunal:

"I am surprised and stupefied, because apparently Italy doesn't know that the obligation to execute our arrest warrant is an



About 800,000 are estimated to have been killed

international obligation without need of an internal law.

"In the light of the charges brought against the accused I fervently hope that Italy will prove itself able to meet its responsibilities and that it will agree to co-operate with the ICTR."

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B B C NEWS

You are in: World: Africa

Front PageThursday, 25 November, 1999, 14:34 GMTWorldRwandan priest silent on massacre allegations

<u>Africa</u> <u>Americas</u> <u>Asia-Pacific</u> <u>Europe</u> <u>Middle East</u> <u>South Asia</u>



From Our Own Correspondent African Rights has urged an investigation

Letter From
America
UKA Rwandan priest now working in Italy has refused to
comment on allegations that he caused 2,000 deaths
when a church was bulldozed during the 1994 Rwandan
genocide.UK Politics

Business
Sci/Tech
HealthThe human rights organisation African Rights this week
called on the Italian Government to investigate the
accusations against the Roman Catholic priest, Father
Athanase Seromba.

Sport
EntertainmentAfrican Rights says it has testimony from 17
eyewitnesses naming Father Seromba as the priest who
ordered the bulldozing of his church in Nyange parish.

<u>In Depth</u> <u>AudioVideo</u> More than 2,000 people, most of them Tutsi, had sought shelter in the church during the genocide.

> When a BBC correspondent tracked Father Seromba down at a house in Florence he remained silent as the correspondent put the accusations to him. He eventually shut the door without a word.

When the allegations first emerged at the weekend, Father Seromba said he had left Rwanda before the genocide.

Supportive

Father Giovanni Conti, parish priest where Father Seromba is working, was shocked by the allegations and remains supportive of the Rwandan priest.

"We had absolutely no reason to think any thing bad about him. He was such a calm and serene person."

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- <u>Amnesty International:</u>
 <u>Publications on Rwanda</u>
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- The Vatican
- Fides Catholic News
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Bernardo Cevallera, Director of Fides, the international Catholic news agency, told the BBC there was not much he could say in response to the allegations.

"We should try to listen to the voice of this priest who is well known by other Rwandan and Italian priests, and they say he is a very good priest, very committed to pastoral work," he said.

Witnesses

Witnesses whose testimonies have been obtained by African Rights include former employees of Father Seromba, a former policeman and other local officials, plus seven people who survived the massacre in the priest's Nyange parish.

African Rights accuses Father Seromba of:

- organising and assisting the killings in Nyange
- shooting refugees
- arranging and paying for the church to be bulldozed
- handing survivors over to the killers to be murdered
- manning a roadblock so that Tutsis could be singled out and killed

African Rights has urged the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda "to act urgently" in the case of Father Seromba, and has called on the Vatican to investigate the allegations.

But Bernardo Cevallera told the BBC: "The church does not have the duty of investigating - it has the duty of building up a new Rwandan society."

African Rights director Rakiya Omaar said the group had raised the case in a 10-page letter to the Pope last year, but said it had been "summarily dismissed".

Ealier this year the Catholic church made known its opposition to the trial in Rwanda of Bishop Bishop Augustin Misago, who is also accused of involvement in the genocide.

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BBC	NEWVS	
	You are in: <u>World: Africa</u> Sunday, 21 November, 1999, 17:46 GMT Rwanda priest denies massacre	Search BBC New
Africa Africa Americas Asia-Pacific Europe Middle East South Asia From Our Own Correspondent Letter From America	A Rwandan Roman Catholic priest, wanted on genocide charges, has been tracked down in Italy where he told an Italian newspaper the accusations were baseless. The priest, Father Athanase Seromba, is reported to be working in the Italian city of Florence after his church at Nyange in western Rwanda was destroyed in 1994. He is wanted on suspicion of ordering the destruction of the church and of killing more than two thousand of his parishioners, in one of the most notorious massacres of Tutsis by extremists of the Hutu majority. The priest told the Italian newspaper, La Nazione, that	Advanced s
Monitoring <u>UK</u>	the massacre at Nyange took place several days after he had escaped.	
<u>UK Politics</u> <u>Business</u> <u>Sci/Tech</u> <u>Health</u> <u>Education</u> <u>Sport</u> <u>Entertainment</u>	He said he and three other priests had fled to the former Zaire and then to Kenya, before coming to Italy. The human rights organisation, Africa Rights, is due to publish a detailed report on the Nyange massacre later this week, based on testimony from survivors and accomplices.	
Talking Point In Depth Audio/Video	<i>From the newsroom of the BBC World Service</i> Links to more Africa stories	

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World: Africa **Priests get death sentence** for Rwandan genocide

Saturday, April 18, 1998 Published at 12:57 GMT 13:57 UK



A court in Rwanda has sentenced two Roman Catholic priests to death for their role in the genocide of 1994, in which up to a million Tutsis and moderate Hutus were killed.

It is the first time churchmen have been sentenced to death in Rwanda over the genocide.

The priests were convicted of involvement in two massacres.

In one, they were accused of organising the killing of about 2,000 Tutsis by bulldozing the church in which they were sheltering at Nyange in the western Kibuye region. The bulldozer driver was sentenced to life imprisonment.



Different sections of the Rwandan church have been widely accused of playing an active role in the genocide of 1994 but this is the first time priests have been sentenced to death inside Rwanda.

Pope John Paul II has emphasised that Catholic priests implicated in the killings must be made accountable for their actions.

be made to account for their actions

Rwandan courts have so far Pope John Paul said the priests must convicted about 300 people of

genocide-related crimes, but there have yet to be any executions. The European Union recently appealed for all death sentences to be commuted to terms of imprisonment.

More than 120,000 people are still awaiting trial.

In this section

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19 Jan 98 | World Rwandan Vice-President says executions must go ahead

The UN is holding separate trials in neighbouring Tanzania and the first verdict is expected later this year.

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<u>UK</u>		bribery scandal
<u>World</u>	Priests get death sentences	Burundi camps 'too dire'
Business	for Rwandan genocide	help
<u>Sci/Tech</u>		Sudan power struggle denied
<u>Sport</u>	A Rwandan court has sentenced two Roman Catholic priests to death for their involvement in the genocide four years ago.	Animal airlift planned for Congo
Despatches World News in	They are reported to be the first churchmen to be convicted in the genocide trials.	Spy allegations bug Sout
Audio	They were charged in connection with the murder of two-thousand Tutsis who were crushed to death when bulldozers destroyed a church at Nyange in which they had	Senate leader's dismissa good omen'
<u>On Air</u>	taken shelter. The two priests were also convicted of involvement in a	Tatchell calls for rights probe into Mugabe
粤語產橋 Talking Point	massacre at Nyundo.	Zimbabwe constitution: J a bit of paper?
Feedback	Some churchmen are known to have collaborated with Hutu extremists, and the Pope has said they must face the consequences of their actions.	South African gays take centre stage
Low Graphics	So far Rwanda has convicted more than three-hundred people on genocide charges.	<u>Nigeria's ruling party's</u> convention
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NEWS B

You are in: World: Europe

Front Page Thursday, 7 June, 2001, 11:43 GMT 12:43 UK

World Rwanda nuns await genocide verdict

Africa Americas Asia-Pacific Europe Middle East South Asia From Our Own

Correspondent

Education

Talking Point

The BBC's Janet

"If found guilty

the defendants

could face life

imprisonment"

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Barrie



The two nuns are accused with helping Hutu soldiers

A Belgian jury has retired to consider its verdict on Thursday in the ground-breaking trial of two Roman Catholic nuns accused of Letter From complicity in the genocide in Rwanda in 1994.

America The two women are accused of delivering to their killers UK thousands of people who had sought refuge in their convent.

UK Politics The nuns, Sister Maria Kisito Mukabutera and Sister Gertrude Business Mukangango, and two co-defendants, who face similar charges, have pleaded innocent. If found guilty, they could face life in Sci/Tech prison. Health

The Belgian trial is taking place outside the United Nations Entertainment Rwanda tribunal process in Arusha, Tanzania.

In Depth The Arusha court on Wednesday announced its first AudioVideo not guilty verdict.

> It is the first time Belgium has made use of a law passed seven years ago, allowing its courts to hear cases of alleged human rights violations even if they were committed abroad.

It is not known exactly how many people The prosecution has alleged that died in the genocide

the two women enthusiastically embraced genocide when they handed over up to 7,000 Tutsis sheltering in the convent in southern Rwanda.

In the two months that the trial has lasted, the jury has heard evidence from many survivors of the Rwandan genocide, that claimed as many as 800,000 lives.

Conspiracy allegations

The defendants have maintained their innocence, and their lawyers have argued that they are the victims of a conspiracy.

Human-rights groups hope the trial will set a precedent and make it harder for war criminals to seek sanctuary abroad.

Belgium is the former colonial power in Rwanda, and its

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16 Dec 99 | Africa UN admits failure in Rwanda

willingness to stage this trial may come in part from concerns here that it did not do enough to stop the genocide.

In Arusha, the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) acquitted former mayor Ignace Bagilshema of all genocide charges against him.

He was accused of being involved in the murder of 45,000 Tutsis in the region where he was mayor.

The judges said the prosecution had failed to prove its case.

Since starting proceedings in 1994 the ICTR has found eight people of genocide.

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NEWS B

Front Page Saturday, 19 May, 2001, 12:04 GMT 13:04 UK World Rwanda's slow justice



South Asia

From Our Own Correspondent America UK **UK** Politics **Business** Sci/Tech Health Education Entertainment **Talking Point** In Depth AudioVideo



You are in: World: From Our Own Correspondent

People's memories of Rwanda's horrors run deep

The International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, based in Arusha, Tanzania, was the first court to prosecute a head of Letter From government for genocide. It has had its problems in the years since the 1994 bloodbath in Rwanda, and as Andrew Harding reports, it is still hard work.

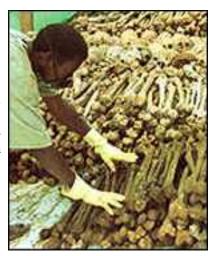
> I have started scribbling this down in the visitor's gallery of court number three. There is a thick sheet of bullet proof glass in front of me, and beyond it a brightly lit, air conditioned room full of lawyers, judges, and three slightly bored looking defendants.

The defendants were brought in about 20 minutes ago - shuffling past me in handcuffs and smart suits. Two former Rwandan politicians and soldier. One was wearing a bullet-proof vest.

I felt myself flinch when they suddenly walked in. I had never seen a genocide suspect before. They may be innocent until proven guilty, but the stench of their alleged crimes soils the air.

It is an odd feeling sitting in this modern, expensive courtroom in a shabby building, in a remote corner of Tanzania.

On the street outside, safari touts chase German tourists, hoping to tempt them with deals for the nearby Serengeti national park.



The exact number killed in the genocide is still unknown

Upstairs, there are three courtrooms working at the moment - and 44 defendants, all Rwandan, sitting in a specially built jail on the outskirts of town.

There are ministers in there, newspaper editors, bureaucrats, a doctor - even an Anglican priest.

These are the suspected ringleaders of a killing spree so huge, so fast, and so well organised that almost a million people died in little more than three months.

One of the accused is a woman - a former minister for family and

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women's affairs. She is accused of genocide and of rape.

After half an hour watching the court proceedings, I found myself stifling a yawn. The wheels of justice here turn very slowly.

The Rwandan culture itself complicates matters

The court's official languages are French and English. But most of the witnesses speak Kinyarwandan.

A prosecutor asks a long, complicated question in English, it gets translated into French, then into Kinyarwandan. The confused witness says "what?" - that gets translated back into French, then into English. The question is repeated ... etc.

And that is not the only obstacle. There are lawyers here from all over the world. I met a sharp-suited Canadian sexual harassment lawyer, a London QC with a voice like cut glass, a polite prosecution lawyer from Cameroon who was about to be dismissed for incompetence, and many more.

Language difficulties

In court, this can lead to something of a culture clash.

I watched a recording of a solemn African lawyer delivering his opening statement, only to find himself interrupted after about 10 seconds by a table thumping American called John Floyd who seemed to object to, well, just about everything. The OJ Simpson trial meets Nuremberg.

Not surprisingly, most trials here drag on for months, if not years.

The Rwandan culture itself complicates matters. The British QC, Diana Ellis told me how hard it was to get a straight answer out of anyone.

"I'm told that Kinyarwandan is an idiomatic language," she said. "Ask someone yes or no, and they'll reply instead with a series of elegant points, slightly related to the matter in hand."

There is also the issue of hearsay. Like much of Africa, Rwanda has a long oral tradition. Stories have always been passed around without being written down.

As a result, it seems, people tend to blur the lines between what they have seen themselves, and what others have told them.

As one weary lawyer put it, you can waste months finding a witness, checking and rechecking his story, and preparing him to give evidence.

Then after a couple of days of cross examination in court, your star witness admits, without seeming to understand how damaging the revelation is, that he did not actually see the event himself. But his wife's aunt did.



The language used in court is apparently rather idiomatic

Diana Ellis got into trouble with a judge recently for losing patience with a witness during the trial of a genocide suspect the director of a notorious radio station.

"You're not an idiot," she said to the man. "You told me you've been educated."

31 Mar 99 | Africa Rwanda slaughter 'could have been prevented'

24 Apr 01 | Country profiles Country profile: Rwanda

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The judge intervened, asking her not to use insults.

"But your honour," Ms Ellis replied without missing a beat. "I specifically said he wasn't an idiot."

Fear goes on

Her witness, like most witnesses here, had his identity hidden for fear of reprisals back in Rwanda. There is a big curtain behind the bullet-proof glass, which seals off the witness box from the visitors' gallery.

The wheels of justice may be slow - but the wheels of

http://news.bbc.co.uk/hi/english/world/from_our_own_correspondent/newsid_1338000/1338263.stm (1 of 2) [2/11/2002 7:32:47 PM]

NEWS B

You are in: World: Europe

Front Page Thursday, 7 June, 2001, 13:55 GMT 14:55 UK

World Rwanda trial opens Belgians' eyes

Africa Americas Asia-Pacific Europe Middle East South Asia



From Our Own The two nuns are accused with helping Hutu soldiers Correspondent

By Colette Braeckman

Letter From The Belgian public has been captivated by the trial of four Rwandans - two nuns, a professor and a businessman - who have America been found guilty of taking part in the genocide in Rwanda in UK 1994.

UK Politics The eight-week trial has focused on the four individuals, but it Business has also exposed the genocide itself.

Sci/Tech At a deeper level, it has raised questions in Belgium about the Health former colonial power's responsibility for later atrocities.

An opinion poll published by the daily Le Soir shows that almost half of Belgians do not begrudge the trial taking place at the Talking Point country's expense.

AudioVideo

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In Depth More importantly, the poll shows that more than ever, Belgians support sending out troops to intervene in cases of massive violations of human rights.

> Forty-two percent of the respondents criticised Belgium's decision to pull out of Rwanda in the early days of the genocide - a decision that consequently paralysed the UN operation and 69% think Belgian courts have the right, if not the duty, to prosecute perpetrators of crimes against humanity or genocide.



Mr Michel: An active supporter of holding the Rwanda trial in Belgium

Belgian Foreign Minister Louis Michel has been an active supporter of holding the Rwanda trial in Belgium and won the approval of 85% of those questioned.

Betrayal

Could this remarkable change in Belgian public opinion be connected to guilt over 80 years of Belgian colonialism?

It seems more likely that that the highly publicised and much analysed story of Belgium's failure in Rwanda in 1994 has created more guilt than the country's colonial past.

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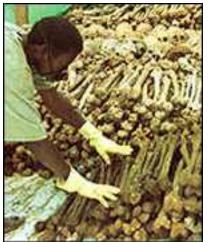
Everybody remembers that the assassination of 10 Belgian UN soldiers, just as the genocide began, triggered the pullout of the entire UN mission.

This is now seen by many Belgians as a betrayal of the Rwandan people.

This sense of guilt has been nurtured by an eight-month commission, during which Belgian parliamentarians examined the country's responsibility and the events before and during the genocide.

Last year, Belgian Prime Minister Guy Verhofstadt went to Kigali himself to deliver a public apology to the Rwandans for having abandoned them.

The parliamentary commission on Rwanda and the trial have exposed the deep connections that were formed after the end of the colonial rule between Rwanda and major power groups in Belgium including the Catholic Church, the Christian Social Democratic party, the army and some intellectuals.



It is not known exactly how many people died in the genocide

The trial has demonstrated how, and to what great extent, the nuns on trial were protected and supported by these groups.

It was a growing public awareness of the issues that finally led to the trial.

The trial was made possible by a law passed in 1993 and never before implemented.

It allows Belgian courts to try suspected perpetrators of crimes against humanity, even if the crimes were committed in other countries.

Colonial past

The public has indeed become sensitive to Belgium's failures and responsibility in the Rwandan genocide.

It might now be ready to tackle the older issue of colonisation, as a parliamentary commission is appointed to examine Belgium's role in the 1960 assassination of the former Congolese prime minister, Patrice Lumumba.

Initial inquiry results show that both Belgium's government and its royal palace wanted Lumumba ousted, and even funded opposition forces that were determined to eliminate the elected leader.

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NEWS B

You are in: World: Africa

Front Page Monday, 17 April, 2000, 18:37 GMT 19:37 UK

World Kagame wins a one-horse race

Africa Americas Asia-Pacific Europe Middle East South Asia



UK Politics

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In Depth

By Chris Simpson in Kigali

At 43, Paul Kagame has finally decided to take on the presidency of Rwanda.

America Mr Kagame's selection by Rwanda's parliament and government was a formality once it had become clear that the vice-president and minister of defence was ready to become head of state.

Charles Murigande, the Secretary-General of the Rwandan Business Patriotic Front (RPF) who received five votes against 81 for Mr Sci/Tech Kagame, was never in contention.

Health His appearance on the ballot-sheet appears to have been a tactical Education ploy by the RPF, which did not want Rwanda's "election" to be Entertainment seen as a fait accompli.

Military priorities

The new president has hinted that he will now give up the defence portfolio. But he remains more of a soldier than a politician and security and military issues are likely to figure prominently in the first stages of his presidency.

Mr Kagame has been a firm defender of Rwanda's military engagement in the Democratic Republic of Congo, where thousands of Rwandan Patriotic Army (RPA) troops have been deployed, both supporting the rebel Congolese Rally for Democracy (RCD) and carrying out hot pursuit operations against Rwandan Interahamwe militia fighters and other groups.

Mr Kagame has strongly backed the Lusaka peace agreement signed in August 1999 and the concept of a United Nations peacekeeping force.

But he has also made clear his contempt for the UN's reaction to the Rwandan genocide of 1994 and will certainly not sanction a Rwandan withdrawal from Congo if Rwanda's security concerns have not been addressed.

Mr Kagame says he has no wish to interfere in Congo's internal politics, stressing repeatedly that "only the Congolese can find solutions to their problems".

Criticism

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But the RCD is widely viewed as a largely Rwandan creation with no real momentum of its own.

More dangerously, the RPA has been strongly criticised by many Congolese nationals as "an army of occupation", with Rwanda accused of harbouring territorial ambitions - something Mr Kagame has always strongly denied.

Rwanda's actions in Congo have reinforced Mr Kagame's image as a "regional strongman", a label he dislikes but has struggled to get rid of.

Ironically, the war in Congo has virtually destroyed Rwanda's once critical alliance with neighbouring Uganda. For years Kagame was a close associate of Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni, both in the bush then later as the head of military intelligence.

Relationship soured

But that relationship has been soured by serious tactical and personal differences, hitting an all-time low when Ugandan and Rwandan troops clashed in Kisangani in August 1999.

Paul Kagame has always been an easy hate figure for hostile Hutus in exile, accused of imposing a new Tutsi elite on a hostile, disenfranchised majority.

Mr Kagame has spoken out strongly against ethnic divisions, identifying himself as a Rwandan, rather than a Tutsi and criticising outsiders for making too much of the supposed Hutu-Tutsi divide.

But the disappearance from public life of Hutu ex-President Pasteur Bizimungu has brought accusations that power is being increasingly concentrated in the hands of a small, mainly Tutsi RPF clique. Paul Kagame's first challenge as head of state may be to show he is the president of all Rwandans.

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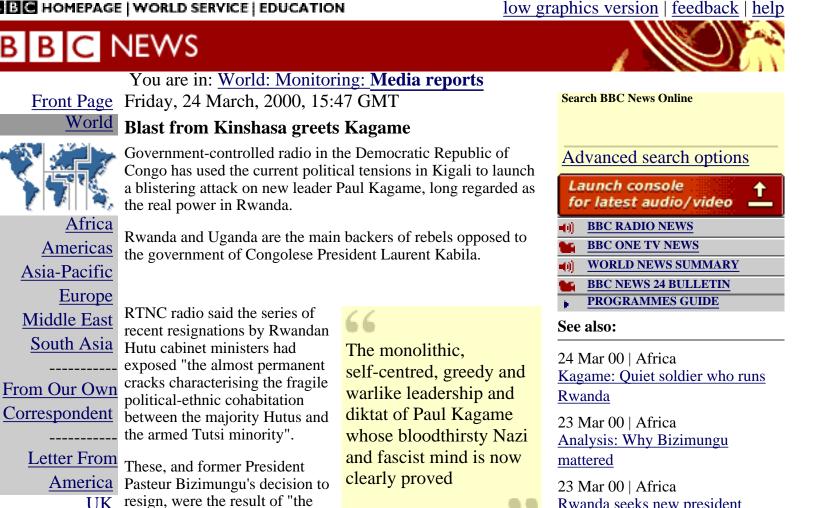
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monolithic, self-centred, greedy and warlike leadership and diktat DR Congo radio

of Paul Kagame whose bloodthirsty Nazi and fascist mind is now clearly proved," the radio said.

Mr Bizimungu's resignation was "linked to the aggression against the DRCongo, especially the forced enrolment of Rwandan children and youths aimed at sending them to war against their will," it said.

It branded Kagame "the African Hitler" and an "agent of war".

Kampala cautious

The changes evoked a more cautious response from Rwanda's ally Uganda.

Ugandan radio quoted an Ugandan presidential spokesman as saying that his country was willing to grant asylum to Bizimungu should he request it.

The spokesman declined to comment on Bizimungu's resignation directly but "expressed concern over the trend of the events in Rwanda".

Uganda's Minister for Regional Co-operation, Amama Mbabazi, told a Kampala newspaper that he hoped the RPF would "sort out their differences amicably" following the resignation.

"If Uganda is approached we will be ready to help. These are comrades," Mr Mbabazi said.

Rwanda seeks new president

08 Mar 00 | Africa New Rwandan prime minister named

06 Mar 00 | Africa 'Assassination' in Kigali

28 Feb 00 | Africa Rwandan PM resigns

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BBC NEWS

You are in: <u>World: Africa</u>

Front Page Tuesday, 14 November, 2000, 12:13 GMT

World Kagame: Quiet soldier who runs Rwanda





Kagame served in both Ugandan and Rwandan liberation armies **By Chris Simpson in Kigali**

Rwanda's President Paul Kagame has been a soldier for most of his adult life.

Born in the western Rwanda region of Gitarama in 1957, he left with his family for Uganda four years later amid growing anti-Tutsi violence in his home region.

He joined Yoweri Museveni's National Resistance Army (NRA) in 1979, and spent years fighting in the Ugandan bush.

Mr Kagame was made head of NRA military intelligence in 1986 and was always viewed as a close ally of Mr Museveni, both as a guerrilla fighter and in the Ugandan military afterwards.

Talking Point
In DepthBut Mr Kagame's first allegiance was to Rwanda. Together with
Fred Rwigyema, a longstanding friend, Kagame was
instrumental in establishing the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF),
drawing heavily on Rwandan soldiers who had fought alongside
him in the NRA.

Military commander

When the RPF first invaded Rwanda from Uganda in October 1990, Paul Kagame was in the United States on a military training programme.

After Fred Rwigyema's death on the second day of the war, Mr Kagame became military commander of the RPF.

On taking power in July 1994, Mr Kagame took on the vice-presidency of Rwanda and the defence portfolio, leaving the presidency to Pasteur Bizimungu, a Hutu who had joined the RPF in Uganda after breaking with the regime of Juvenal Habyarimana.

Paul Kagame has long been viewed as the most powerful man in Rwanda.

The RPF overthrew the previous Hutu extremist government

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Inali III Kwaliua.

Although Mr Kagame often mocks his image as a military strongman and powerbroker, little takes place in Rwanda without his knowledge.

Ascetic

Colleagues hint at an ascetic temperament, presenting the president as an incorruptible teetotaller and strong disciplinarian.

Mr Kagame eschews any form of flamboyance and is a low-key, dry public speaker. He is married with four children. Leisure pursuits include playing tennis and reading.

Like the RPF as a whole, Mr Kagame downplays any ethnic agenda in Rwanda, presenting himself as a Rwandan and not a Tutsi. He is a frank and forthright critic of the United Nations, believing the UN could have done far more to prevent the genocide of 1994.

Paul Kagame is also a firm advocate of Rwanda's continuing military engagement in the Democratic Republic of Congo, arguing that vital security issues are at stake and nobody but Rwandans will protect his country's security.

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You are in: World: Africa Front Page Monday, 6 March, 2000, 16:52 GMT

World 'Assassination' in Kigali

Africa Americas Asia-Pacific Europe Middle East South Asia

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From Our Own President Bizimungu: His adviser was gunned down in Kigali

A senior official has been shot dead outside his home in the Rwandan capital, Kigali, in what correspondents say could be a

A nightwatchman who witnessed the incident said presidential adviser Assiel Kabera was killed by three men in military uniform who were picked up shortly afterwards by a car.

"The adviser was about to go inside his house when there was the sound of gunfire.

"When the shooting stopped we went to look at the car," he said.

Sport "He had been hit by several shots, one of them went through his head," the nightwatchman said.

<u>Talking Point</u> Mr Kabera is reported to have told relatives recently that he feared for his life because he thought he was being linked with In Depth the former parliamentary speaker, Joseph Sebarenzi, who fled the country recently after being accused of treason.

> Mr Kabera and Mr Sebarenzi came from same town, Kibuye, and Links to other Africa stories are at were Tutsi survivors of the 1994 genocide.

Mr Kabera was also a prominent member of the influential local and national genocide survivors associations, which have been forthright critics of the government.

WFP death

A Liberian national working for the UN food agency has also been killed by unknown attackers in Kigali, the World Food Programme announced on Monday.

WFP said Samuel Sargbah, 40, was shot dead in his car late on Saturday night in the Remera neighborhood in Kigali.

WFP Director Catherine Bertini called for a speedy investigation in his murder.

Mr Sargbah is the third WFP worker to be killed in Rwanda in the past three years.

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		<u>graphics version feedback help</u>
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Front Page World	You are in: <u>World: Africa</u> Saturday, 4 November, 2000, 15:17 GMT Rwanda president heads for Vatican The Rwandan president, Paul Kagame, has left for Italy and a visit to the Vatican. The meeting with Pope John Paul will be the first between a	Search BBC News Online Advanced search options Launch console for latest audio/video
Africa Americas Asia-Pacific Europe Middle East South Asia From Our Own Correspondent Letter From America UK UK Politics Business Sci/Tech Health	Rwandan leader and the pontiff since the 1994 genocide in Rwanda. The country is predominantly Roman Catholic and the church has been accused of not doing enough to prevent the slaughter. Rwandan officials say President Kagame who sees the Pope o Monday will also attend a world summit of statesmen and parliamentarians at the Vatican tomorrow.	(i) BBC RADIO NEWS BBC ONE TV NEWS (ii) WORLD NEWS SUMMARY BBC NEWS 24 BULLETIN PROGRAMMES GUIDE Top Africa stories now: Life expectancy still falling in Africa Zimbabwe rejects EU observers Humanitarian crisis looms in Liberia Moi warns boozing officials Angolan police flush out diamonds Child soldiers banned by UN law OAU chief in Madagascar Short 'blasts France over African poverty'
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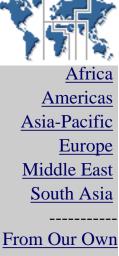
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NEWS B

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Front Page Tuesday, 14 November, 2000, 11:28 GMT

World Rwanda accuses Italy over orphans



Correspondent

Letter From America UK

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Many Rwandans felt betrayed and abandoned by the West

Rwandan President Paul Kagame has accused Italian officials of showing contempt after refusing to hand back nearly 50 children of the 1994 genocide.

Mr Kagame's says the Rwandan children have been adopted in Italy against the wishes of their surviving relatives and he went to Italy last week in an unsuccessful attempt to get the children returned.

Education Forty-one of the children were traced by their Rwandan relatives to the town of Castenedolo near Milan.

Talking Point But an Italian court ruled that they could not be returned to Rwanda.

> During the genocide many children were rescued by aid workers and taken to Europe, and in the past four years, dozens President Kagame of Rwandan children have been returned home.

66 Rwanda could hardly go to war with Italy

Italian officials said the children were legally adopted only after searches for parents or blood relatives proved fruitless.

The mayor of the town says that the children, now aged between six and 10, are now happily settled and a move would be disruptive and unhelpful.

"You can't transfer children who have become accustomed to life in a western country to a country that has nothing," the mayor was quoted as saying.

Family rights

Mr Kagame though is threatening legal action to bring their children home.

He told journalists that Rwanda could hardly go to war with Italy but said he could not understand the attitude of Italian officials.



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"I don't see how somebody can be denied rights to have back his or her child.

"I don't see under what law or international law. I don't know why they put adoption before the rights of a family to have back their child."

'Contempt' for Africa

Rwanda has had to cope with many orphans

The children have become something of a cause célèbre, and their fate is becoming a top priority for the Rwandan Government - which has long been critical of what it sees as the patronising and often unhelpful attitudes of Western governments towards Rwanda.

Mr Kagame suggested the "stay in Italy" camp based its position more on a snobbish contempt for African poverty than a real concern for the children's welfare.

He said that if the whole issue boiled down to Italy being an easier, more prosperous place to live than Rwanda, all Rwandans should go there.

"Nobody needs to tell us how poor we are," he said, but added that Rwanda was pround of how successfully it had coped since the genocide and had provided homes across the country for orphans.

President Kagame's Tutsi-led rebels came to power after Hutu extemists carried out a three month genocidal campaign that led to the deaths of 800,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus.

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