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Canadian-Rwandan student faking identity, testimony

Date: 20th-February 2008

The Rwandan student in Canada who claims to have been tortured by two Rwandan Generals who are among those indicted by a Spanish Judge, was not in Rwanda at the time, RNA can exclusively reveal.

Last week, Mr. Jéan de Dieu Hakizimana, 40, currently a student at the University College of the Fraser Valley, told a Canadian newspaper that "Col. Fred Ibingira and Col. Charles Kayonga" personally tortured him in Kigali after the RPF rebels had taken over the city.

He said he was tortured by the two Officers in a military camp in Kigali when he was "falsely arrested for being a spy". Mr. Hakizimana also alleges that he is prepared to testify that he witnessed "innocent murder victims buried in a mass burial site in Rwanda".

However, in a separate profile of him published by BC Christian News (BCCN) in the March 2001 Issue Vol. 3, he narrated that he was in Tanzania during the war and the subsequent Genocide from April to July 1994. He said he had been in Tanzania studying there. In 1996, he moved to Canada from Tanzania.

"During the horrific Rwandan genocide of 1994, Hakizimana's parents and siblings were killed. He was spared, because he was in neighbouring Tanzania. In July 1996, he moved to Canada as a political refugee.", journalist Victoria Goodman of BCCN writes.

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In another article about him by Abbotsford News on January 31 2008 reads "He is a survivor from the horrors of the Genocide in Rwanda. When the violence of the early 1990s began, he was a student in neighbouring Tanzania."

Abbotsford News is the same agency that ran the story containing Mr. Hakizimana's allegations against the Rwandan Generals.

Terrorist

RNA has also established that Mr. Hakizimana was declared Persona non Grata by the U.S. Government in 2003. The U.S. Government suspected he is a member and prominent funder of the Army for the Liberation of Rwanda (ALIR) - which had been declared a terrorist group under the Homeland Security Act.

ALIR is an armed group that according to intelligence officials rose from the DR Congo with links to the Rwandan Monarch Kigeli Ndahindurwa - who has been living in the U.S. since he was kicked out of Rwanda four decades ago. The monarch has dismissed any links to the group.

According to campaign group African Rights, ALIR evolved into the FDLR militias - most of who stand accused in Kigali of being part of the massive Genocide machine - later to flee into Congo. They are to be forced out next month from DRC.

Following the aftermath of the Genocide, the subsequent years would be marked by bloody military campaigns by ALIR in North Western Rwanda. They were attacking Rwanda from bases in Zaire (now DRC).

"So confident was ALIR/PALIR in its hold over the northwest that a year later, by mid-July 1998, the leadership had set up a base and a training centre for non-commissioned officers in cellule Cyanika, sector Cyanika in commune Nyamutera, Ruhengeri", writes African Rights in a recent report.

Maj. Gen. Paul Rwarakabije and Brig Gen. Jérôme Ngendahimana were among the top five commanders of ALIR. The two surrendered to government forces in 2003

along with other junior soldiers.

Maj. Gen. Paul Rwarakabije is now Vice President of the Demobilization and Reintegration Commission, and Brig Gen. Jérôme Ngendahimana is a top aide to the Army Chief of Staff.

Humanitarian?

Through his purported humanitarian project 'Rwanda Hope Society', Mr. Hakizimana received massive funding from U.S. and Canadian organisations since he moved to Canada in 1996. He claims the project is supporting orphans in Rwanda.

With the same humanitarian cover, Mr. Hakizimana raised funds, lectured at seminars, and had previously been invited as guest speaker in numerous functions in Canada and the United States.


Since the allegations against the two Rwandans officers who are now Lt. Gen. Charles Kayonga and Maj. Gen. Fred Ibingira, RNA has tried several times to contact him but he has not responded.

Mr. Hakizimana has also been turned back at various U.S. border posts as he tried to enter the country from Canada. On October 26, 2003 he was denied entry and detained in Washington by security personnel who informed him that they had 'confidential information' that bars him from U.S. soil.

In April 2004, he also tried to enter the U.S. through New Jersey, apparently for a seminar but was nabbed and held for 14 hours. He would later be escorted back to the Canadian side of the border post.

Last week, when RNA put the allegation against the two Generals by Mr. Hakizimana to Foreign Minister Dr. Charles Murigande, he just laughed off.

"You know some people do not even know how to lie. Maybe if he had said that the Generals ordered other junior soldiers to do that .Generals in our army are not known to torture people", Murigande said.



Sources that have followed up this issue also tell RNA that since Mr. Hakizimana came out with his faked testimony last week, the accusations have caused bitter internet exchanges amongst the Rwandan community in Canada.

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