

Minutes of hearing of the Prime Minister Faustin TWAGIRAMUNGU on 04 May 1995 by an International Rogatory Commission in Belgian Rwanda

Comprising :

- ❖ Damien VANDERSMEERSCH, investigating magistrate for the urban district of Brussels
- ❖ VER ELST REUL, substitute for the public prosecutor
- ❖ Michel WATERPLAS
- ❖ Michel STASSIN                    )       Brussels police
- ❖ Francoise MOIJENS            )

File no 57/95 Huyahaga [ ?] case

Report of 1<sup>st</sup> to 13 May 1995, continued

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We had the impression that there was someone who had a task that he had to finish as quickly as possible.

Eustache MUNYANSHONGORE personally heard RUGGIU calling to the people to rise up against the enemy. By enemy, we understood FPR, moderate Tutsis and Hutus who were not part of the MRND.

As regards Seraphin RWABUKUMBA, he was someone close to the President who looked after the progress of the affairs of the President's family, of his clan.

He drew the money.

He had a sort of monopoly on import – export trade.

It was also said that he worked in the arms trade. This arms trade began flourishing at the time and as RWABUKUMBA enjoyed a certain monopoly on international trade, he also had the power to bypass the classical control circuits.

The ambassador having finished his private interview with Prime Minister Faustin TWAGIRAMUNGU, we were introduced to him with Mr VER ELST-REUL at 12.30 hours.

We explained the reasons for our rogatory commissions. Mr Faustin TWAGIRAMUNGU told us that he had been present at the time of the events and that he himself only just escaped death.

We discussed with him in the various files with which we were charged. Mr Faustin TWAGIRAMUNGU made the following comments.

As regards Simon BIKINDI, he was a great poet and the message that he put forward through his songs was clear: it was addressed to the Tutsis telling them “we shall overcome, you must exterminate everyone”

As regards Georges RUGGIU, Mr Faustin TWAGIRAMUNGU was insulted numerous times by him on the radio. According to the Prime Minister,

what he said was not believable, to the point that he thought that questions should be asked about his mental state.

As regards Theoneste BAGOSORA, according to Mr Faustin TWAGIRAMUNGU, it was he who immediately decided to make the interahamwe and the militias “work”.

The Prime Minister stated that he met Mr BOOH-BOOH, special representative of the Secretary-General of the UN, on the night of 6 to 7 April around one in the morning. He told Mr Faustin TWAGIRAMUNGU that he had met BAGOSORA, who had held a crisis committee with NDINDILYIMANA, General DALLAIRE and Mr KHAN of the UN. Mr BOOH-BOOH had asked BAGOSORA to calm down but the latter refused.

Mr BOOH-BOOH then proposed that the Prime Minister should go on television to appeal for calm but BAGOSORA did not want this.

He also said he was opposed to an organisation being put in place to re-establish peace. Mr BOOH-BOOH also added that BAGOSORA and his soldiers had treated the Prime Minister very badly.

They then wished to put GATSINSI as a screen.

According to the Prime Minister, the presidential guard (GP) immediately began the massacres after the crash of the aircraft. BAGOSORA had become master of everything after the disappearance of the aircraft passengers.

James GASANA, who was the Minister for Defence, for which BAGOSORA was the Cabinet director, was a civilian and weak, such that BAGOSORA could take all the military operations into his own hands.

As regards NDINDILYIMANA, he was a general and was the highest rank in the country after the crash of the presidential aircraft.

Mr Faustin TWAGIRAMUNGU was asked the question of why he had tolerated the actions which followed on 6 April.

He was, as chief of police, in charge of security. But he allowed his actions to be dictated by a retired colonel, in this case BAGOSORA.

If he had said that he was afraid of the people from the north, then he should not accept these functions.

Prime Minister AGATHE had told Faustin TWAGIRAMUNGU that she had tried to contact NDINDILYIMANA the night of the events, but he had gone to ground at his headquarters and they were not replying.

For Mr Faustin TWAGIRAMUNGU, it was inadmissible that NDINDILYIMANA had not put things in hand at that time.

As regards Mr RUHIGIRA, he claimed to Mr Faustin TWAGIRAMUNGU that he knew nothing of the plan however, according to the Prime Minister, he should have been aware of a lot of things.

He was a scared man, but extremely intelligent.

He was a member of the Central committee of the MRND and was in the service of the President. He said to Mr Faustin TWAGIRAMUNGU that he and the President wanted to hold back the extremists who wished to carry out massacres.

He had an extraordinary fright and claimed that his job was to contain the people and prevent them from going on massacres. According to Mr Faustin TWAGIRAMUNGU, that meant that he knew about the massacre plans.

After the airplane crash, he disappeared first because the President could no longer protect him. He was not from the North.

Mr Faustin TWAGIRAMUNGU does not think that RUHIGIRA would have approved the “plan” and actively corroborated in it but he knew about it.

For Mr Faustin TWAGIRAMUNGU, the real power was held by President HABYARIMANA, Elie SAGATWA and RENZAHU