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Gendarmerie
Legal detachment
[illeg] military
Palais de Justice
Brussels
02/508.60.11
Minutes no 1010
In the case
X...
Under the heading of
Assassinations and
Hearing of Ruhigira Enoch
Follow up to file no. 02 02545
N94 C8 of the Military Investigator
in Brussels
Ver Elst - Reul
MILITARY HEARING
BRUSSELS
27 JUNE 1994
[illeg] Brussels

PRO JUSTITIA

Today thirteenth of June nineteen ninety four at 11.00 hours
We the undersigned Artiges, Guy, Adjutant, OPJ

Resident in Brussels- military hearing in civilian clothes (1)

We report that we have been to the Hotel Delta in Brussels where we met and heard, at the date and time as above:

Ruhigira, Enoch
Born in 1951 at Bwakira – Kibuye (Rwanda), (Rwanda) on 22.05.47
Domiciled at Bwakira – Kibuye
Residence Kacyiru – Kigali

who states to us:

“I wish to express myself in French.

I was the Cabinet chief of President Habyarimana for 2 years.

President Habyarimana never confided to me that he feared or was expecting an attack against him. What I can say was that he had enough of all these problems and that he was determined to apply the ARUSHA accords. Before going to Dar Es Salaam on 06.04.94 he asked me to send him the United Nations resolution and to meet Mrs Prime Minister to prepare the implementation of the institutions. He added that he “was frustrated with it”. He left Kigali around 07.00 – 07.30 hours by air. He was accompanied by Sagatwa, d’Akingeneye, Renzaho (political adviser) his orderly officer and perhaps another person. As for me, I sent the United Nations resolution by fax and I met the Prime Minister, Agathe Uwilingiyamana at the office. She was in agreement with the President’s project.

1st continuation to minutes no. 1010 dated 13.06.94 Legal Detachment of Brussels

She told me that she was going to make contact with the FPR for the case of the CDR deputy. Afterwards I prepared the press release that the President had to make. The President was due to come back from Dar Es Salaam around 17.30 I tried to contact Dar Es Salaam but I had no communication, the Rwandan embassy was not replying. From the secretaries of the President I learnt that the aircraft would arrive around 20.30 hours. I was told of that at my house. That surprised me little because the security rules said no flying at night. In any case I went to the airport around 20.15 hours. I had got as far as Remera (\pm 2 km from the airport) when I saw the aircraft arrive. When I presented myself at the entrance, I was told by the policeman on guard and then by the Presidential Guard that someone had shot down the aircraft. I replied that I was going to see it and I did not want to believe what they were telling me. I had access to the airport and I saw the Presidential Guard in disarray. I made contact with the control tower who told me that they were in radio contact but that they had lost this contact. They had nothing further to say. To your request, I can reply that I did not notice if the runway lights had been extinguished. For my part I very quickly went home to analyse the situation. Leaving the airport towards my house in Kimihurura, I did not meet any roadblocks.

Around two hours later the army came to my house. They wanted to evacuate the ministers to the barracks of the Presidential Guard. For my part I refused as I thought that in the event of attacks by the FPR, it would be with the barracks that they would begin. I then contacted my friend Alain Vigneron in order then he might put me up. He agreed and I went to his house without meeting any roadblocks. Alain Vigneron lives within the compound of the Rwandex company. There I was under the protection of the Belgian blue helmets. I stayed with them until 09 April before going to the house of the Belgian Ambassador, Johan Swinnen. I stayed with him with my family, until the day of the evacuation, the 11th for my family, the 12th for me. As regards radio 1000 collines, I listened to it occasionally before the attack. I can tell you that this radio used language which was not in favour of reconciliation. I discussed several times with Ambassador Swinnen the anti-Belgian campaign carried out from the end of 1993. I know that the President wished to remove the person responsible for this RTLM radio, Phocas Habimana as he did not appreciate. [illeg]

2nd continuation to minutes no. 1010 dated 13.06.94 Legal Detachment of Brussels

As regards the assassination of the ten Belgian paras, I found out about the anxiety of the Belgian paras in the Rwandex enclosure, during the day of 07.04.94. These paras had had no more news of their colleagues since the morning. They knew that they were prisoners. At 11.00 or midday on 07.04.94, Miabanzi, my brother-in-law, contacted me to tell me that he had learned that Agathe Uwilingiyamana was dead as well as the soldiers of MINUAR who were guarding her. Mr Vigneron himself told me that they were prisoners but not dead. Contradictory views circulated. A rumour ran that there were fights between the Presidential Guard and FAR. I believe that it was during the afternoon that Ambassador Swinnen told me of the death of the Belgian blue helmets. I have nothing further to say.

After reading, signs our information file

Information

Ruhigira did not give us the impression of being very much at his ease.
He seemed to be afraid of telling what he ought to have known from his position as head of the Cabinet of the President that was his post.

Signature

1/1206