

MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

STATE PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

PRO JUSTITIA

1st sheet

Report n° 0020 /Case n°
/CRIM/KK/KGL/95

Case n° 37 /95 J.I. VANDERMEERSCH

PRO JUSTITIA

CHARGE :

Genocide
Crimes against humanity
(Decree-Law 08/75 of
12/02/1975)

The year nineteen hundred and ninety five, on the ninth day of the month of May, at 12.30 hours before us, KAMANZI Kibibi Inspector from the Criminal Investigation Department at the Regional Court of Kigali, the Inspector from the Criminal Investigation Department is competent acting in this capacity in accordance with articles 1 and 2 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, duly authorised by the Minister of Justice for the purpose of investigating the district of Butare.

ACCUSED:

HIGANIRO
Alphonse, NTEZIMANA
Vincent and cts

Within the context of the international request for judicial assistance of Mr. Damien VANDERMEERSCH, Examining Judge at the Regional Court in Brussels (Belgium) in the presence of:

Mr. Damien VANDERMEERSCH, Examining Judge at the Regional Court in Brussels (Belgium)
Mrs. MOIJENS, Registrar of the Examining Judge VANDERMEERSCH also present Mr. Jean-Baptiste UWEMEYE, born on 26 October 1966 in Butare, resident of Butare;

Complainant:

State Prosecutor's
Office

who in his capacity as witness, states the following to us, in the language of his choice.

[signed]

[signed]

I have lived in Butare since I was born.

On 6 April 1994, I left for Kigali for personal reasons.

During the night, at 20.30 hours, the President's aeroplane had been shot down. Since then I had been in Remera. There was someone who was called Charles NIYIBIZI and who was the younger brother of Mr. Tadée, the Bishop of Gitarama.

This Charles, I personally heard him say "I have just telephoned Butare, to the younger brother of the President who has just told me that the Head of State has just died." In fact he had telephoned BAGOSORA.

He continued by saying that the death of the President had been caused by some Tutsis". Then he said "we have to get up very early in the morning with our weapons to wipe them out".

In fact he used a radio transmitter because I heard the replies.

Bagosora's replies were along the same lines.

BAGOSORA said "we have to telephone RTLM to announce the death of the President and I think that RTLM is going to help us."

Following this Mr. Charles telephoned RTLM. He said "shit he is not there". He was talking about a journalist who worked there and who was not there, KANTANO.

It was now 20.50 hours on 6 April.

Immediately, I was afraid. I went to hide.

On questioning, I confirm that at 20.50 hours, they already knew about the death of the President.

They started killing people in all districts of Kigali. I heard firing from 20.30 hours, i.e. just after the accident.

With regard to Alphonse HIGANIRO, he was the great pioneer of the CDR in Butare.

I am handing a copy to you of the "synoptic overview of the massacres in Butare" with effect from 7 April 1994, drafted by Pie-Joseph NGILIMANA.

[signed]

[signed]

I confirm that everything that is written in this document is correct.

I went back to Butare in the month of July, after Kigali had been taken and all the people who experienced the events confirmed the sequence of events described in the "overview".

In the evening of 5 April, I personally saw that the Presidential guards were housed at Mr. HIGANIRO's, some at his house, that I can show you, others having been enlisted to protect the factory. The residence of HIGANIRO is in the BUYETABA district.

Previously it was not guarded by soldiers. It was only when the tension began to increase that he made them come.

5 April was a Tuesday. 4 April was Easter Monday. On 5 April in the evening, I went into a café "la Perle" at about 19.00 hours. I saw three individuals in sports clothes with cords and pistols. They settled down next to me and asked me to buy them a beer. I did not want to. One of them nearly slapped me across the face. I had to move seats. I followed one of these men and I saw him meet HIGANIRO. I followed him through curiosity.

I also know, because I was an eyewitness, that on fourth April, Easter Monday, with effect from 10 in the morning until midnight, HIGANIRO, his wife, the Chief Education Officer of the University and his wife, Doctor Ignace BIGILIMANA, met at GAKWAYA Vénaste's house.

This interested me and I watched them to see what would happen. It surprised me to see these people together.

There was significant tension in Butare. It was said that there were interhahamwe present and members of the CDR. We feared an attack on Butare.

I also know that HIGANIRO only employed people who were members of the CDR at his factory.

I had been told this and I saw them being recruited. The recruitment was carried out in the street and he publicised his CDR party.

HIGANIRO also provided the link with the people from the north, from the akazu.

[signed]

[signed]

He was the coordinator of these people in Butare.

He held an Interhahamwe CDR and MRND meeting once a week in Butare. He participated in these meetings chaired by the President's younger brother and his wife. This meeting was held on Thursday.

He also chaired another meeting which brought together people from the North in premises of the 'Frères de la Charité'. This meeting did not take place on a set day.

I do not know anything about NTEZIMANA. I do not know him but I found documents in the prefecture, in the old building, documents relating to watches.

This was a matter of a meeting held on 26 April 1994. I am showing you the originals of these documents (NDR - exat.) I am handing over a copy to you.

On questioning, I do not know who drew up these documents.

The name NTEZIMANA appears in group 4 of the watches. These watches, which before 19 April were carried out to protect people against FPR attacks were then used to organise massacres.

There is another person in Belgium who can give you some information, Janvier NGOGA. His wife is called Christine CUISINIER and lives in Brussels.

If I find other documents that come from the former prefecture I will send them to you.

I would like to point out to you that the former magistrate of NGOMA (BUTARE) is one of the main perpetrators of the massacres in Butare. He currently lives in Belgium. He is called Joseph KANYABASHI.

There are many witnesses and documents relating to his actions.

In Belgium, there is also Pierre MUGABO who was the worst.

Hearing ended at 13.30 hours. Having been read out, he maintains his statement and signs.

The inspector of the Criminal Investigation Department,

[signed]

[signed]