

SPAIN

South Africa harbouring a Rwandan Military Officer Wanted for the Murder of Spanish Citizens

Faustin Kayumba Nyamwasa is wanted by Spanish National Court for the murder of a missionary and three cooperants

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This Rwandan ex-army chief is under international arrest warrant for crimes against humanity, war crimes and genocide during massacres committed against Hutu refugees following the power takeover by Tutsis in Rwanda. He is also accused by Spanish National Court Judge Fernando Andreu for ordering and supervising the murder of the Catalan Missionary Joaquim Vallmajó in 1994 as well as members of Doctors without Borders Flors Sirera, Manuel Madrazo and Luis Valtueña in 1997. However, the Rwandan Lt. General Kayumba Nyamwasa has been living in South Africa for two weeks and South African authorities did not arrest him.

This senior Rwandan Government official and former close collaborator of President Paul Kagame - recently purged and wanted for terrorism in Rwanda - has a history of large scale massacres. During his investigation of genocide committed against Hutus following genocide committed against the Tutsis in early 1990s (in which about 800,000 people were massacred) Judge Andreu reported how under his order "Kayumba kidnapped and later murdered Joaquim Vallmajó and other Rwandan Hutus.

According to witnesses from Rwandan Patriotic Army (RPA) under Kagame command, which controlled the northern part of



The general Kayumba Nyamwasa and Rwanda's president, Paul Kagame, the 2000. REUTERS

Rwandan, Vallmajó was kidnapped and assassinated on April 26, 1994 two days after he requested explanations on the death of one of his collaborators. According to former guerrilla's members, he is alleged to have been murdered "with machetes instead of wasting and bullets" and to have been incinerated later. According to Judge Andreu's detention order, Nyamwasa has also "decided on, ordered and supervised the assassination of three Spanish volunteers in January 1997 in Ruhengeri (North of Rwanda). Sirera, Madrazo and Valtueña were helping survivors of 50 Hutus massacred by RPA and a villager showed them a mass grave containing corpses of victims of other massacres perpetrated by the guerrillas in previous days. Two days after witnessing this horrendous crime, four Tutsi soldiers entered their residence apparently with a friendly attitude and shot them dead a few minutes later. This attack was planned in a meeting attended by one of the witnesses and a member of the Secret Services who appeared before the Spanish Judge. He testified before the Judge that Nyamwasa was the highest military officer involved in this enterprise and that he ordered the assassination because the "whites had sensitive information on recent massacres committed by RPA". Nyamwasa is also accused of having planned massacres of other Hutus from 1992 to 1996. This Rwandan military officer was Rwanda's ambassador to India until two weeks ago. He returned to Rwanda to attend a diplomatic meeting. In late February, he was interrogated by the police about February 19 grenade attacks. He later fled to Uganda and moved to South Africa. On Thursday, Judge Andreu sent a request to Interpol reminding them that his detention order issued in February 2008 was still in force. Judge Andreu also accused President Paul Kagame as well as 38 other senior military officers of genocide and of having planned a systematic extermination of Hutu from 1994 to 2000.

A Haven for Alleged War criminals

LC/MA
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Kayumba Nyamwasa is not the only deserter of Kigali regime who fled to South Africa. Rwandan General Attorney, Martin Ngoga, linked Nyamwasa to Patrick Karegeya, another former Rwandan senior military officer and deserter and former head of secret services who fled to South Africa after spending 18 months in jail. According to Ngoga, "the two individuals worked together to launch acts against state security." The Attorney General stated, "Rwanda is working with South Africa to ensure that these two individuals are brought to justice for terrorism in Kigali. However, South Africa has simply indicated that they have a non extradition treaty with Rwanda, therefore they won't arrest Nyamwasa

However, South African authorities did not explain why an individual who is alleged to have committed war crimes and crimes against humanity and wanted by a Spanish court has found refuge in South Africa. The Rwandan army officer has allegedly participated in in the attack in which the plane carrying former Rwandan Hutu President Juvenal Habyarimana on his return to Rwanda after attending negotiations between his government and Rwandan Patriotic Army 1994 was shot down (a version dismissed by current Rwandan Government). However, Nyamwasa is not the only accused individual who can move freely in South Africa. General James Kabarebe was arrested in October 2009 and release 24 hours later without an explanation. Kabarebe is also wanted by Judge Andreu for genocide crimes and crimes against humanity.