

UK court grants Rwandan spy chief Karenzi Karake bail



© MONUC, AFP | Rwanda's Karake Karenze (pictured left) on February 28, 2001

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Rwanda's intelligence chief Karenzi Karake was granted bail by a court in London on Thursday, nearly one week after he was arrested on a Spanish-issued warrant over his role in killings in the wake of the 1994 Rwanda genocide.

British police arrested (<http://www.france24.com/en/20150623-uk-rwanda-spy-chief-karenzi-karake-arrested-london>) Karake, 54, at Heathrow airport on Saturday and have since held him in custody.

Dressed in a green and yellow track-suit, Karake acknowledged the cheers of his supporters who packed the public gallery at Westminster Magistrates' Court.

Asked whether he consented to extradition to Spain, Karake said from the dock: "I do not."

Cherie Blair, the barrister wife of former prime minister Tony Blair, advised Karake's defence team as they successfully applied for bail ahead of a full extradition hearing in October.

District Judge Quentin Purdy set conditions on bail, including a one million pound surety, restrictions on Karake's movements and the surrender of his passport.

Rwanda (<http://www.france24.com/en/tag/rwanda/>)'s foreign minister has described the arrest as an "outrage" and accused Western countries of siding with those behind the genocide, particularly the "genocidaires" from the extremist FDLR Hutu militia.

About 800,000 people were butchered in three months of ethnic killings in 1994, most of them from Rwanda's Tutsi minority, as well as moderates from the Hutu majority.

The genocide was halted by the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF), then a rebel force led by Paul Kagame, who is now president.

Karake, director general of Rwanda's National Intelligence and Security Services, was among 40 military and political leaders indicted by a Spanish judge in 2008 over alleged RPF reprisal killings of hundreds of thousands of civilians, including some Spaniards.

(FRANCE 24 with REUTERS)

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