

## **De Volkskrant**

### **Genocide suspect works for the UN**

Interview. By our reporter Leen Vervaeke  
published June 05, 2008

THE HAGUE – After the genocide in Rwanda, Tutsi took revenge. The perpetrators of the mass murder on Hutu are still at large.

A Spanish lawyer coming to the Netherlands to asks support for a lawsuit against Rwandese. It looks far-fetched, but Jordi Palou-Loverdos (42) has good reasons for his visit, on Wednesday and today, to the Parliament and the ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Palou represents the victims in a lawsuit against 40 high-ranking Rwandese military who are suspected of genocide, war-crimes and crimes against humanity. After the Rwandese genocide in 1994 during which especially Tutsi were killed by Hutu, the Tutsi-military allegedly have reversed the roles

In revenge, about 100.000 people were killed, especially Hutu. And Congolese, because in the meantime, the conflict had been extended to the neighboring country Congo (then Zaire), to which thousands of Hutu had fled and where, above all, are innumerable mineral resources.

The crimes committed between 1994 and 2000 are not covered by the mandate of the International Criminal Court, that tries only crimes starting from 2002. Also, the UN-Tribunal for Rwanda that tries crimes of 1994, did not do anything with it. Partly, because crimes committed after 1994 are not covered by the mandate of the Tribunal.

So, the crimes stayed without treatment for years. Until Palou was associated with the case by the relatives of 9 Spanish victims – murdered missionaries and relief workers. He lodged a complaint at the Spanish High Court, also on behalf of some Rwandese victims. This was possible thanks to the principle of universal jurisdiction, on which plaintiffs in Western countries more frequently ground there cases, the last years, to persecute foreign war criminals.

In the Netherlands and Belgium also the universality principle is applicable, but Spain is front runner, not in the last place because of the pioneer work by the famous investigating judge Baltasar Garzón, who persecuted the Chilean dictator Pinochet.

The complaint of Palou was successful. In February the judge Fernando Andreu, a colleague of Garzón, issued 40 international arrest warrants. Since then, the Rwandese military are target of Interpol and Europol.

If they will ever be extradited, is not sure. The military hold high offices. Kayumba Nyamwasa, who has allegedly headed the mass murder of 2.500 Hutu refugees, is

ambassador of Rwanda in India. Karenzi Karake, who is held responsible for massacres in refugee camps, is second in command of UNAMID, the UN-force in Sudan. "A genocide suspect who is supposed to help prevent an other genocide", Palou says. "Incredible."

Rwanda itself will surely not extradite the men. "For that reason we ask countries that help Rwanda, to make development assistance dependant of cooperation with the Spanish Court", Palou says. For example, the Netherlands, an important donor of Rwanda.

Even if there will be no extraditions, Palou stays optimistic. "We shall make the truth come to the light, and in this respect it already starts working. People begin to put questions. The UN is studying the arrest warrant".

(Translation: Congo-Ned)