

*Translation into English of the interview to Abdul Joshua Ruzibiza, made by the journalist Margarita Sáenz-Diez Trias and published in El Periódico Spanish journal on March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2006.*

**Abdul Joshua Ruzibiza, Rwandan soldier, born in Rwanda in 1970, he belongs to the Tutsi ethnic group, he was sergeant and currently he has three children.**



**« The crimes of Rwanda require justice »**

**He has testified that the nine Spaniards had been assassinated because they knew too much.**

He has witness the attack of missiles against the plane where the presidents of Rwanda and Burundi were travelling in 1994. This attack has driven unjustified massacres on the Great Lakes Region. Devastated in front of these massacres, he has decided to cooperate with international justice in order to punish the real offenders. His parents, his brothers, his grandparents and his uncles were murdered. Last Wednesday he has declared before the « Audiencia Nacional » (*Spanish National Court competent to investigate and pursue according to the principle of universal justice*) for the murder of nine Spaniards, two Catalan among them, Joaquim Vallmajó and Flors Sirera, and then he has accepted this interview. Ruzibiza lives isolated in Norway and he has published in France « Rwanda, l'histoire secrète » (*Rwanda, The secret history*), (Published by Editions Panama).

**¿What have you declared before the Audiencia Nacional?**

- I had explained the slaughter of nine Spaniards and in general the crimes committed in Rwanda and the connexion between them. They had been murdered because they were witnesses of the massacres against the civil population. They saw. They knew. The crimes of Rwanda require justice.

**You have accepted to come ....**

- Because the "Audiencia Nacional" proceeds accordingly with the universal justice principle, in this case, for the crimes against nine Spaniards committed in Rwanda.

**¿Who shut the plane where the presidents of Rwanda and Burundi were traveling on 1994?**

- They were soldiers of the Rwandan Patriotic Front political party (RPF) in order to provoke a chaos and to achieve by this way the taking of power by RPF.

### **¿Have you seen every thing?**

- I only was an accidental witness. At the moment in which the shooters had prepared the weapons, I was located in a place by where I was able to see them. As a Sergeant, I was the responsible of this area.

### **¿When did you know the plans?**

- The commando was composed of four people. And two days before, someone talked to me about the possibility of producing an attack, but I didn't receive any more details.

### **¿Did you know that the current president of Rwanda, from Tutsi ethnic group, was in the plan?**

- Yes.

### **¿What was its involvement?**

- He was the number one of the Army, the one who gave the orders and those who had thrown the missiles were from its own guard. Nobody could give the order to use these weapons, only Kagame. Later, I knew that he had leaded the meeting in which the attack against the plane was decided. At this time he was also the vice-president of RPF.

### **It seems obvious that the following genocide was provoked.**

- I want to emphasize that Kagame had planed the attack to cause the chaos and to carry out a military offensive in order to take the power. Yes, the attack had provoked the genocide.

### **It might be economic interests?**

- The second big massacre was done for the pillage to take profit from gold, coltan and diamonds.

### **¿Why the version that the Hutus were the main protagonists of those massacres had been imposed?**

- A whole ethnic group can not be accused. Not all the Hutus were concentrated to commit all these crimes. Indeed some Hutus committed genocide. The RFP has been successful in the manipulation of the international community persuading it that the Hutus are the baddy.

### **¿Why have you take the initiative to cooperate with justice?**

- I was aware that the Rwandan people were still plunged into an enormous risk and I wanted to avoid it. It is a society that can break out again. Someone wants to use the weapons again, but I prefer the justice.

### **You have a lot of courage?**

- I act as a witness contributing to clarify the genocide of the Tutsis from the South and the massacres of the Hutus during the war. I want that Rwandan and international community know the true about what happened, because the only version that has been given is from the RPF. Rwandan people are led by a criminal, and considering that every time a change is intended bloodsheds appears again, I have chosen the justice.

### **At this moment, we do not see the end.**

- Those who are at the top of our society are criminals. The democracy does not exist, only the oppression exists. To me, and this is not a political opinion, the way I have decided to act is legitimate. If I blame the president Kagame is because I have the elements that evidence that he has committed these crimes or he has given the appropriate orders. He must appear before justice, and if he is found guilty he has to be punished.

### **¿Do you know that you are taking risks choosing this option?**

I know there are some risks and I assume them. Simple. This is the way to save my country.