

LAWSUIT FILED AT SPAIN'S NATIONAL COURT AGAINST HIGH-RANKING OFFICIALS OF THE STATE OF RWANDA¹

The **International Forum for the Truth and Justice in Africa of the Great Lakes Region** will file a lawsuit in February 22nd 2005 at the Audiencia Nacional (Spanish Courts) in Madrid against high-ranking officials of the State of Rwanda.

Plaintiffs in this legal action are **victims and relatives of Spanish and Rwandan victims**; exiled Hutu and Tutsi witnesses who have been under protection until now; **Nobel Peace Prize winner Adolfo Pérez Esquivel**; the **African-American U.S. Congresswoman Cynthia McKinney**; the **City Councils** of Manresa, Figueres and Navata; **Nobel Peace Prize nominee Juan Carrero Saralegui** and non-governmental national and international organizations (see list below).

Nine Spanish nationals among the victims

The **International Forum for the Truth and Justice in Africa of the Great Lakes Region** demands the investigation of the deaths of nine Spanish nationals in Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo. The Spanish victims (a medical doctor, a nurse, a journalist and missionaries) had all been providing assistance primarily to the local population and had become inconvenient witnesses of the killings of Hutu people in both countries.

Exceptional testimonies and evidence have been obtained, proving that the **top political-military leaders of the RPF (Rwandan Patriotic Front) is responsible for having planned and carried out systematic and selected killings, not only of the above-mentioned Spanish nationals, but also of Rwandans and Congolese between 1990 and 2004**. Almost seven million people, mainly women and children, have died during this period. According to the organization International Rescue Committee, almost four million people lost their lives since 1998 as a direct or indirect result of this conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Within the scope of the investigation conducted, it has been possible to **identify one of the members of the secret RPF "Network Commando" which attacked the aircraft boarded by the Presidents of Rwanda and Burundi, Juvenal Habyarimana and Cyprien Ntaryamira respectively, both ethnic Hutus**. The **International Forum for the Truth and Justice in Africa of the Great Lakes Region** has handed over this important piece of evidence to the French courts investigating the attack, as was reported by Le Monde in its wide coverage of March 10 2004. This revelation falls in line with the two classified reports by U.N. inspector Michael Hourigan which directly incriminate the President of Rwanda, Paul Kagame. U.N. ICTR prosecutors held the report as classified, yet the latter was partially leaked to a reporter from the National Post in Canada who denounced the deeds while the inquiry was going on. A disclosed part of this report mentions the death of the three Spanish volunteers.

The fight over coltan and other strategic minerals

This conflict is not merely the story of a power struggle between extremist and criminal forces. It is also, and above all, the **story of the pillage and struggle for the control and exploitation of the great wealth of natural resources** (gold, diamonds, and primarily coltan, used to manufacture cell phones, missiles, etc.) that exist in the western part of the Democratic Republic of Congo. According to the U.N., **many large western multinational corporations, mainly from the United States, Canada and Europe, as well as local players**, have participated in this pillage. A large part of this human and ecological drama has been deliberately covered up and, often, strategically manipulated. The quest for justice of this legal action aims to put an end to the impunity that exists, to disclose the truths that have been covered up in this conflict and to contribute to the peace-making among the people and societies of Central Africa.

¹ See website with all the information: www.veritasrwandaforum.org

International Forum for the Truth and Justice in Africa of the Great Lakes Region

The Spanish victims who worked with these people were:

- a) **JOAQUIM VALLMAJÓ SALA**, missionary in Africa was abducted, tortured and murdered by the RPF in Byumba (Rwanda) on April 26 1994.
- b) **SERVANDO MAYOR GARCÍA, JULIO RODRIGUEZ JORGE, MIGUEL ÁNGEL ISLA LUCIO** and **FERNANDO DE LA FUENTE DE LA FUENTE**, Marian brothers assassinated by the RPF in Bugobe (Democratic Republic of Congo) on October 31 1996.
- c) **MARIA FLORS SIRERA FORTUNY, MANUEL MADRAZO OSUNA** and **LUIS VALTUEÑA GALLEGO**, members of the NGO Médicos del Mundo, assassinated by the RPF in Ruhengeri (Rwanda) on January 18 1997.
- d) **ISIDRO UZCUDUN POUSO**, missionary from the Diocese of Donosti, assassinated by the RPF in Mugina (Rwanda) on June 10 2000.

The following individuals and organizations are plaintiffs in this legal action:

- **Cynthia Ann McKinney**, African-American Congresswoman (USA)
- **Adolfo-María Pérez Esquivel**, Nobel Peace Prize winner 1980 (Argentina)
- **Juan Carrero Saralegui**, Nobel Peace Prize nominee; President of Fundació S'Olivar (Mallorca)
- **Josep, Martí, Núria, Pilar and Maria Antonia Vallmajó Sala**, siblings of Joaquim Vallmajó
- **Josep Maria Sirera Fortuny**, brother of Flors Sirera
- **Fernando Valtueña Gallego**, brother of Luis Valtueña, photojournalist of Agencia COVER
- **Fernando Madrazo Osuna**, brother of Manuel Madrazo
- **Edesio Rodríguez de la Fuente, M^a de los Ángeles Jorge de la Fuente** (parents of Julio Rodríguez Jorge)
- **Jesús Mayor García** (brother of Servando Mayor)
- **Cipriano Isla Lucio** (brother of Miguel Ángel Isla Lucio)
- **Águeda Uzcudun Pouso**, sister of Isidro Uzcudun
- **Marie Béatrice Umutesi**, sociologist, writer and Rwandan victim and refugee (in exile)
- **5 Rwandan victims**, witnesses under protection (in exile)
- **Assistance Aux Victimes Des Conflits en Afrique Centrale** (Belgium)
- **Association of Victims Pro Iustitia** (The Netherlands)
- **Centre de Lutte contre l'Impunité** (Belgium)
- **Organization for Peace, Justice And Development in Rwanda** (USA)
- **Ayuntamientos** (City Councils of) **de Figueres, Manresa and Navata**
- **Federación de Comités de Solidaridad con el África Negra de España** (12 committees)
- **Centro de Recursos de la Coordinadora d'ONG Solidàries** (47 associations)
- **Associació Drets Humans de Mallorca**

The lawsuit accuses the following high-ranking RPF officials:

General Lt. KAYUMBA NYAMWASA (head of military intelligence at the Directorate of Military Intelligence – the Rwandan secret services), Colonel Lt. RWAHAMA JACKSON MUTABAZI (member of the DMI in Byumba), General JAMES KABAREBE (Commanding Officer of the High Command Unit of the RPA and chief commander of operations during the Rwandan invasion of Zaire), Colonel Lt. DANY MUNYUZA, (member of the DMI), Captain JUSTUS MAJYAMBERE (Brigade Intelligence Officer, Brigade No. 408), Subtenant EVARISTE KABALISA (second commander of the Gendarmerie of Ruhengeri), Brigadier-General FRED IBINGIRA, Bde. General JACK NZIZA, director of the G2 police-military operation, Subtenant Colonel DAN GAPFIZI, M. General CEASER KAYIZARI, among others.

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